



India enforces ban on Pakistan-flagged ships entering its ports

Restrictions are in response to the Pahalgam attack in J&K

All imports from Pakistan banned with immediate effect

Action aimed at strengthening India's national security



Pakistan-Flagged Ships Banned from Indian Waters

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
In a major escalation of tensions with Pakistan, India has imposed a ban on Pakistan-flagged ships from entering any Indian ports. This move follows the brutal Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the tragic deaths of 26 civilians. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued the directive, citing national security concerns and the need to protect Indian assets, cargo, and related infrastructure. The order, effective immediately, states that no ship flying the Pakistan flag shall be allowed to dock at any Indian port. Additionally, India-flagged ships are prohibited from visiting Pakistan's ports. This decision comes as part of a broader initiative to ensure the safety and efficient functioning of India's maritime industry, reinforcing the development of the country's mercantile marine in line with national interests. The ministry also emphasized that this ban will remain in effect until further notice, underlining the ongoing concerns regarding India's national security. Exceptions to the ban will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, which could allow for specific exemptions, although this will require government approval. This action follows India's earlier decision to ban all imports from Pakistan, both direct and indirect. According to a notification from the Ministry of Commerce, the import and transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan are now prohibited. The notification underscores that these restrictions have been imposed in the interest of national security and public policy, with no exception granted unless explicit approval is given by the Indian government. These steps reflect India's ongoing strategy to secure its borders, protect its infrastructure, and enhance its maritime security, signaling a further deterioration in diplomatic relations with its neighboring country. As tensions continue to rise, experts believe these actions are part of a broader strategy to ensure the safety of Indian nationals and its assets amidst growing regional instability.

Group-1 Recruitment Stay to Continue Till June 11

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Unseasonal rains damage crops across Telangana

Farmers demand procurement of wet paddy to avoid severe losses

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Young India Schools to Set New Benchmark in Education

- ₹21,000 crore sanctioned for 105 world-class residential schools
- First foundation laid at Lakshmipuram in Madhira Constituency
- Telangana to become national model for integrated education

TPN Correspondent | Khammam
The Telangana People's Government is taking a historic leap in education with the establishment of 105 Young India Integrated Residential Schools across the state, with an ambitious outlay of ₹21,000 crores. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka laid the foundation stone for one such school building at Lakshmipuram village, Bonakal Mandal in Madhira Constituency, Khammam district. Addressing the press meet after the ceremony, Bhatti declared that these institutions are envisioned to produce exceptional human resources for society by nurturing intellectual brilliance. "These students will emerge like polished diamonds, spreading knowledge across the world," he said, adding that Telangana is set to become a role

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"E-City" in Future City

Investment of ₹300 crore by Sera Networks and LCGC Resolute Group
Employment opportunities for 2,500 youth
Telangana IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Government of Telangana is set to establish a state-of-the-art "Electronic City (E-City)" as a core component of the ambitious "Future City" project. This announcement was made by the state's minister for IT and Industries, Mr. Duddilla Sridhar Babu. In a key meeting held on Saturday at the Secretariat, the Minister engaged with representatives of Sera Networks (Taiwan) and LCGC Resolute Group (Telangana), who have jointly committed to invest ₹300 crore in the project. The Minister briefed them on the various initiatives the state is undertaking to promote electronic manufacturing and assured the creation of a dedicated task force to streamline the industrial setup process and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles.



He emphasized that entrepreneurs looking to establish industries in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities will be offered special incentives. The government also pledged to provide necessary infrastructure tailored to the specific needs of each company. Minister Sridhar Babu extended his gratitude to the investing firms for choosing to partner in Telangana's growth journey and assured them of full support from the state administration. The planned facility, to be built over approximately 10 acres, is expected to generate employment for around 2,500 young professionals.

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National highways expanded to 5,200 km in Telangana: Kishan Reddy

National highways now cover 32 out of 33 districts in Telangana
Length increased from 2,500 km to 5,200 km in 10 years
Plans for expansion of Hyderabad-Srisailem and Vijayawada routes



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy stated that the construction of national highways in Telangana has seen remarkable progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking at a press conference held in Hyderabad, the minister highlighted the achievements of the central

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Congress to fast-track all pending irrigation projects

Devadula to irrigate 6 lakh acres in Warangal, Bhongir

Govt achieves record paddy procurement, pays ₹5,664 crore

Devadula Will be Completed in Two Years: Uttam Kumar Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Hanamkonda
Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday announced that the J. Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme will be completed within two years, promising permanent irrigation facilities for farmers across multiple drought-prone districts, particularly in united Warangal, Alair, and Bhongir regions. Speaking after inspecting the Devannapet Pump House and ongoing Devadula works in Dharmasagar mandal, Minister Uttam, accompanied by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and local MLAs, said the Congress government had prioritized the project by clearing hurdles in land acquisition, allocating adequate funds, and fast-tracking construction. "We are committed to irrigating 6 lakh acres in Warangal and Bhongir through Devadula. Unlike the previous government, which spent ₹1.81 lakh crore with little to show, our aim is to ensure every rupee results in water in the fields," he said, accusing the BRS regime of poor execution and inflated project costs that burdened the state with debt. The minister reviewed progress on the 49.06 km Phase-III Package-III main tunnel, where Pump-02 has already pumped water for 62 hours. Pumps 01 and 03 are scheduled to be operational by May 31 and July 31, respectively.

Officials informed that 110 steel pipes from the Manjeera project were being installed to fix tunnel leakages, with full insertion expected by May-end. The project needs an additional ₹3,312 crore to irrigate 5.57 lakh acres across nine districts. At Rajavaram village, Minister Uttam inspected the EM-1 tunnel and pump house, where two 4.3 MW pumps are lifting water from Dharmasagar to Ghanpur. He also assessed progress on Phase-II RFMC works, worth ₹148.76 crore, which include CC lining and canal structures. Earthworks and desilting are under way. He later visited the Bhadrakali tank in Warangal, where 2.7 lakh cubic metres of silt have been removed so far from a planned 11.5 lakh cum, and Rs 16.11 crore has been sanctioned for transporting the remainder. A ₹158 crore flood prevention project is also in progress. At a review meeting in Hanamkonda Integrated Collectorate, attended by Ministers Ponguleti and Seetakka, MPs, MLAs, and senior irrigation officials, Minister Uttam declared that Telangana had set a new record in paddy procurement, with 28.58 lakh metric tonnes procured so far out of a 70.13 lakh MT target for the Rabi season. Of this, ₹5,664.09 crore was the total procurement value, with ₹3,163.47 crore already credited to farmers.

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Devadula Will be Completed in Two Years: Uttam Kumar Reddy

He assured payments within 48 hours and bonuses for fine varieties (sanna biyyam). Defending the government’s free fine rice scheme, Uttam said it is a historic and dignified reform. “The Congress government wants to put light in the eyes of the poor, not just rice in their

plates,” he said. He also said the state aims to stabilize 6 lakh acres of new ayacut each year, and will begin desilting of all major reservoirs, including the Sriramsagar Project, soon. “Under Congress, irrigation and welfare are not slogans but measurable outcomes,” he concluded.

“E-City” in Future City

It will focus on manufacturing telecom products like 5G networks, multi-layer networking solutions, and servers. The Minister expressed confidence that this investment will further strengthen Indo-Taiwan bilateral ties. The meeting was also attend-

ed by TGIIC CEO Madhusudan, T-Fiber MD Venu Prasad, and representatives from Sera Networks—Chuan, Joy Bhattacharya, Douglas—as well as Ranvinder Singh and Geetanjali Sabharwal from LCGC Resolute Group.

National highways expanded to 5,200 km in Telangana: Kishan Reddy

government over the last decade in enhancing road connectivity across the state. He said that Telangana had only 2,500 km of national highways in 2014, but that number has now doubled to 5,200 km. National highways currently pass through 32 of the state’s 33 districts, a significant leap that he attributed to the Modi government’s infrastructure push. He asserted that good roads lead to investment opportunities and growth, and thus, connectivity is being given top priority. Kishan Reddy also referred to the Golden Quadrilateral project introduced during Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s tenure as Prime Minister, and lamented that the project lost momentum during the subsequent Congress regime. He criticized the UPA government for failing to utilize the opportunity to boost national infrastructure and alleged that funds were not effectively used. He said the present BJP-led

government has resumed that momentum and is investing heavily in creating a network of roads across the country, including Telangana. He added that ring road development works are also progressing around Hyderabad, easing congestion and improving intra-city travel. Further elaborating on ongoing and future projects, Kishan Reddy said efforts are underway to reduce the travel time between Hyderabad and Srisaillam through road expansion. Similarly, a six-lane highway is being planned between Hyderabad and Vijayawada, which will provide smoother and faster connectivity to the capital region of Andhra Pradesh. He concluded by saying that infrastructure development is the backbone of economic progress and the Modi government is committed to strengthening Telangana’s road network to boost development and attract investments.

Young India Schools to Set New Benchmark in Education

model for the entire country in educational reform. Criticizing the previous BRS regime, he said that Telangana’s long struggle for statehood was undermined by a decade of neglect. “After the People’s Government took over, the focus shifted to quality education and healthcare, and these schools are a reflection of that vision,” he stated. He recalled that when the plan was first introduced, the TRS mocked the idea, dismissing it as impossible. “But unlike their unfulfilled promises of LKG to PG free education, our government has delivered. We sanctioned 58 schools in the first year, and after seeing tremendous public demand, the Cabinet led by CM Revanth Reddy approved another 47—bringing the total to 105.” Each school will be built on 25 acres and will provide English-medium instruc-

tion with international standards. The campuses will include digital classrooms, amphitheatres, residential quarters, and state-of-the-art facilities for science and mathematics education. Moreover, students will benefit from nutritious diets, robust sports infrastructure, and residential amenities for staff, including teachers, security personnel, and support staff. Bhatti emphasized that these schools will act as “Telangana’s educational brand,” designed to help students compete at a global level. “States across India will look up to us and take inspiration from this initiative,” he said. Reiterating the government’s commitment, he concluded, “Every rupee collected from the people is being spent to build their future and uplift their standard of living.”

Group-1 Recruitment Stay to Continue Till June 11

- Judge stresses importance of careful deliberation over haste
- Petitioners allege loss of 60 marks in recount
- Court seeks supporting documents
- TGPSC told not to pressurize court for early verdict

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The uncertainty surrounding the Telangana Group-1 recruitment process continues as the High Court has extended its interim orders halting the process until June 11. The bench, led by Justice Namavarapu Rajeshwar Rao, made it clear that the stay, originally issued on April 17, would remain in force until the next hearing. The court, during its latest session, advised the Telangana Public Service Commission



(TGPSC) not to exert pressure for a swift verdict, stating that the matter involves the future of thousands of aspirants and cannot be concluded hastily. The interim stay was originally granted in response to a petition filed by M. Paramesh and 20 other candidates, who alleged irregularities in the

Group-1 evaluation process. During Friday’s proceedings, Advocate Rachna Reddy, representing the petitioners, pointed out a major discrepancy in the recount process, claiming that one candidate lost 60 marks. In response, the judge directed TGPSC to submit all documents related to the mentioned candi-

date to the court for examination. TGPSC’s counsel, Advocate Rajasekhara, assured the court that the documents would be produced during the next hearing. The TGPSC counsel also conveyed that the division bench had previously suggested resolving the stay issue before the court’s summer vacation. However, Justice Namavarapu maintained that the seriousness and scale of the case warranted a thorough review, saying, “There should be no pressure for a decision, as this concerns the future of thousands.” The bench’s firm stance on proceeding cautiously has added to the wait for thousands of Group-1 aspirants in Telangana, who continue to remain in limbo over the fate of the recruitment process.

CS Reviews Draft Report on Kancha Gachibowli Land



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari chaired a high-level meeting at the Secretariat on Friday evening to review the draft report prepared for submission to the Supreme Court regarding the Kancha Gachibowli land dispute. This comes in response to the apex court’s April 16 directive ordering restoration of 100 acres of land where large-scale tree felling had taken place. Top officials from the industries, revenue, forest, and general administration departments briefed the Chief Secretary on key aspects, including land ownership issues and the environmental damage due to tree cutting. The draft restoration plans, prepared to align with the Supreme Court’s instructions, were examined during the meeting. The meeting concluded with the decision to finalise the report in a follow-up session scheduled for next week. The Chief Secretary emphasised the importance of providing the Supreme Court with “only factual and error-free” data to avoid further legal complications. Among the officials present were Principal Secretaries and senior officers Raghunandan Rao, Jayesh Ranjan, Naveen Mittal, Ahmad Nadeem, Suvarna, Elusing Meru, Priyanka Varghese, and Ranga Reddy District Collector Narayana Reddy. The Supreme Court had earlier ordered a complete halt to all development or construction activities on the disputed land, with the exception of tree protection. It also sought a comprehensive restoration plan and demanded accurate updates from the Telangana government.

Uttam Directs Urgent DPR Resubmission for Palamuru Project



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana irrigation minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed irrigation department officials to immediately resubmit a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme to the Central Water Commission (CWC), following its earlier removal from the CWC’s active list of projects. The minister’s orders came during a review meeting held at Jalasoudha in Hyderabad on Friday, May 2, where he assessed interstate water-related issues and the progress of various irrigation schemes. He emphasised the importance of addressing the CWC’s objections, which previously led to the DPR being delisted due to concerns over water allocations and incomplete documentation. Launched in 2015, the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme is a flagship project of Telangana, envisioned to bring ir-

rigation to over 12.3 lakh acres in the drought-prone regions of Mahabubnagar and Rangareddy. It also aims to supply drinking and irrigation water to several districts, including Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Vikarabad, Nalgonda, and Rangareddy, by lifting water from the Krishna River. Despite notable progress on the ground, the project has encountered hurdles related to regulatory and environmental clearances. The CWC has recommended that Telangana furnish a complete and revised DPR to facilitate further approvals. Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated the government’s commitment to ensuring the project’s timely completion, stating that full-scale operations are expected to begin by December 2027. “This will be a lifeline for South Telangana, transforming barren regions into fertile lands and benefiting lakhs of farmers,” he said.

Young India Sports University Coming Soon: Minister Sridhar Babu

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that a Young India Sports University will soon be established in the state to foster the development of all sports. As part of this initiative, dedicated sports academies will be set up district-wise to support and nurture talent across various disciplines. The Minister emphasized his commitment to ensuring that rural youth receive proper training and opportunities in sports. He urged youngsters to develop their skills in athletics alongside academics, highlighting the importance of



a well-rounded education. On Saturday, at the Ministers’ Quarters,

& Protocol coordinator of the Badminton Association, along with other dignitaries.

Minister Sridhar Babu congratulated Kosaraju Lakshman, who was recently appointed as the Advisor to the Telangana Badminton Association, and Venkata Ramana Reddy, appointed as the Media Coordinator. He personally handed over their appointment letters. As the President of the Telangana Badminton Association, the Minister guided them on their roles and encouraged efforts to further expand the reach and impact of badminton across the state. Others present at the meeting included UVN Babu, the Events

Telangana Offers ₹5 Lakh for Poor to Build Homes: Ponguleti

Telangana is the only state to offer ₹5 lakh per house to the poor
4.5 lakh Indiramma houses to be constructed with ₹22,000 crore
Certificates presented to trained assistant engineers and promoted staff

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana has emerged as the only state in the country to provide ₹5 lakh directly to the poor for the construction of homes under the Indiramma Indlu scheme, said Revenue, Housing, Information and Civil Affairs Minister Sri Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. He announced that the government is set to construct 4.5 lakh houses this year with a

total outlay of ₹22,000 crore. Addressing a gathering at the National Academy of Construction (NACC) in Hyderabad on Saturday, the Minister presented certificates to 350 assistant engineers who completed a six-day training program. These engineers, recruited on an outsourcing basis, will play a key role in implementing the Indiramma Housing Scheme across the state. Remarkably, 45 per-

cent of the selected engineers are women, and the selection was done purely on merit, the Minister added. Ponguleti emphasized that the scheme, launched by the Congress-led Telangana government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, aims to fulfil the long-cherished dream of the poor to own a dignified home. Unlike other states that rely solely on central government funds, Telangana has

introduced a state-specific welfare scheme with substantial funding, allowing each beneficiary to construct a 400 sq. ft. house independently. He urged the newly trained engineers to uphold the values of integrity and transparency in their work, ensuring that only deserving beneficiaries are selected without any room for corruption or middlemen. He also directed engineers to focus on the soon-to-be-final-



ized beneficiary lists and begin field-level monitoring. To prevent payment-related malpractices, Ponguleti informed that modern technology is being used and payments are being made directly to beneficiaries every Monday based on construction progress. Sharing his experience in the construction sector, the Minister advised young engineers

to prioritize cost-effective and quality housing solutions and help raise awareness among beneficiaries. In addition, the Minister presented promotion certificates to 21 employees of the Stamps and Registration Department. Ten Grade-2 Sub-Registrars were elevated to Grade-1, and eleven Senior Assistants were promoted to Grade-2 posts.

BRS Alleges ₹3,000 Crore Cotton Scam

Only 20% farmers sold cotton to CCI, rest diverted by Congress syndicate
BRS demands judicial probe into ₹3,000 crore cotton procurement scam
Farmers lost ₹2,000 per quintal due to syndicate manipulation

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders launched a scathing attack on the Congress government, alleging a massive ₹3,000 crore scam in cotton procurement involving CCI officials, brokers, and Congress leaders. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, Errolla Srinivas, Manne Govardhan Reddy, Tungabalu, Y. Satish Reddy, and Raghavendra Yadav claimed that lakhs of cotton farmers were systematically exploited through manipulation of procurement processes and fake transport records. According to the BRS leaders, around 25 lakh farmers cultivated cotton during the 2024-25 season, producing 49 lakh bales. Of these, CCI officially purchased 41 lakh bales, and another 8 lakh bales were sold in private trade. However, only 6.3 lakh bales were directly sold to CCI by actual farmers. Shockingly, truck tickets were issued for just 9 lakh bales, while fake TR numbers were generated by brokers and middlemen linked to Congress leaders. They alleged that the support price for cotton was set at ₹7,521 per quintal, but due to CCI's procurement delays and lack of regulation, most farmers had to sell their produce to private traders for as low as ₹5,000 to ₹5,500, suffering losses of around ₹2,000 per quintal. Peddi Sudarshan Reddy claimed the roots of the scam trace back to a secret meeting during Diwali at a five-star hotel in Hyderabad, where CCI officials allegedly conspired with powerful traders. "Records show 90% of the crop was purchased by CCI, but only 20%



of farmers actually sold to them. The rest was routed through a Congress-led syndicate," he said, accusing Congress leaders of pocketing profits at the cost of poor farmers. He further accused Congress ministers, including Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, of being complicit in a larger tender scam in the Civil Supplies Department, drawing parallels between it and the cotton scandal. "Just like the pending PIL in the High Court on the civil supplies scam—where the government has taken 14 adjournments without filing a counter—there's an attempt to cover up this scam too," he alleged. The BRS leaders demanded a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge, immediate action against those responsible, and justice for farmers who were pushed into financial distress. They revealed that seven market committee secretaries have already been suspended, and show-cause notices have been served to several others. "Cotton procurement was hijacked by a political mafia. Farmers received ₹5,000, while brokers got over ₹7,000 per quintal. The difference went into the pockets of Congress leaders," they charged. They also questioned why CCI and marketing officials, who oversaw the procurement, have not been held accountable yet.

Minister Ponnam Inspects Seized Govt Land in Banjara Hills

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Minister for Revenue, Ponnam Prabhakar, along with GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijaya Lakshmi, Collector Anudeep Durashetti, RDO, MRO, and other officials, conducted an inspection of 12 acres of government land seized in Survey Number 102/1, located in front of the Banjara Hills ACB office. The minister examined the areas that had been previously occupied and demolished. During the inspection, he made several suggestions to the officials regarding the installation of fencing and



further security measures for the area. The government land was taken under the control of the revenue de-

partment, based on records, after it had been seized. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar praised the efforts of the

Collector, RDO, and MRO for their work in securing the land and emphasized the government's commitment to making the land useful for the people. He also conveyed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's decision to utilize the seized land for public benefit. As part of the Bhu Bharati initiative after the Dharani project, the minister urged the public to report any encroachment of government land to the relevant authorities, encouraging citizens to remain vigilant and bring such issues to the attention of officials across the state.

Harish Rao slam Congress over irrigation projects

Politics may change, but water is permanent, says Harish Rao

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
BRS leader T. Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government, accusing it of stalling key irrigation projects and misleading people about the progress made during the BRS regime. Speaking about the significance of the Mallanna Sagar project, Harih said, "Politics is not permanent, people are permanent, water is permanent." He recalled initial challenges during the land acquisition phase and stated, "I thought there would be a lot of trouble in acquiring land for Mallanna Sagar. It is like a lifeline for Hyderabad. While a few may have faced difficulties then, lakhs are benefiting now." Harish Rao hit out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his contradictory stance. "Revanth Reddy lies that

Kaleshwaram has collapsed, but now his government is issuing tenders to bring 20 TMC of water from Mallanna Sagar to Hyderabad," he said. He also took a dig at Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, pointing out that none of the six irrigation projects promised in the first year of Congress rule were delivered. "He claimed water would be provided to 6.5 lakh acres, but not a single project has been built, and not one acre has received water. When I asked about this in the Assembly, he hung his head and walked away," Harish Rao alleged. Citing the example of the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Harish Rao said, "The entire project has been completed except for a 3.4 km stretch with rocky terrain. If those rocks had been blasted and a canal dug, we could have stored



50 TMC of water during the last monsoon." He further alleged that even after one and a half years in power, the Congress government has not sanctioned a single rupee for completing that canal stretch. "The Palamuru project names were forgotten and reduced to pending projects. It was the Congress and TDP governments that let them linger. During KCR's

tenure, I, Niranjan Reddy, and Laxma Reddy worked day and night on those very projects and turned them into running projects," Harish Rao said. The BRS leader have demanded that the Congress government act immediately to complete the remaining works and stop misleading people on the achievements of the previous administration.

Nalgonda becoming a haven for terrorism, alleges Raghunandan Rao



TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda
BJP MP Raghunandan Rao made sensational remarks on Friday, alleging that Nalgonda district has become a hub for two forms of terrorism — Left-wing extremism and ISI-backed radicalism. Addressing a press conference at the BJP district office in Nalgonda, he claimed that anti-national forces were operating in the region and warned that these elements are trying to destabilize the state and hinder the growth of the BJP. He alleged that Left extremists and those associated with ISI-backed terrorist groups are both active in Nalgonda, making the district highly sensitive. Rao stated that despite the threats, BJP activists are continuing their work courageously. He also condemned recent attacks against Hindus in the name of religion in places like Pahalgam,

suggesting that such violence is part of a broader campaign under the guise of jihad. Calling for stringent measures, Raghunandan Rao demanded that madrasas across the state be inspected with the same seriousness as schools and colleges. He emphasized the need for authorities, including district collectors and SPs, to thoroughly investigate who is residing in these madrasas and what they are being taught. He stated that if the Congress government could undertake a caste census across the state, they should also be able to audit and scrutinize the functioning of religious institutions like madrasas. He further alleged that the administration is showing negligence in counting illegal residents like Rohingya and Bangladeshis in sensitive areas like Nalgonda. Rao ac-

cused the government of ignoring ground realities after coming to power and turning a blind eye to the spread of radical elements. Highlighting recent incidents involving desecration of temples, Rao questioned the police narrative in multiple cases. Referring to events in Secunderabad's Muthyalamma Temple, Sadashivapet, and Komuravelli, he expressed strong doubts over the official explanations. He questioned how mentally unstable individuals or even monkeys were consistently targeting only Hindu temples while such incidents never seemed to happen in mosques or churches. He concluded by urging the Congress-led state government to wake up to the threat and act decisively to prevent the rise of terrorism and safeguard religious harmony in Telangana.

Bharosa and CDEW Centres Extend Support to Victims of Abuse

Over 200 POCSO and 65 rape cases handled by Bharosa Centres in 3 years
₹49.87 lakh distributed to 153 beneficiaries through victim compensation fund
CDEW Centres counselled 2,501 cases, helped 793 couples reconcile

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A convergence meeting was held on May 2, 2025, at the Cyberabad Police Commissioner's office to assess the progress and strengthen the victim rehabilitation services offered by Bharosa and CDEW Centres in Telangana. The session brought together key stakeholders working towards the protection and empowerment of women and children affected by abuse.

DCP of Women & Child Safety

Wing, Srujana Karnam, emphasized that victims of grave crimes like rape and child sexual abuse need immediate assurance, protection of rights, and holistic support throughout the justice process. She said that the Bharosa Centres were launched by Telangana Police to provide integrated services under one roof, including legal aid, medical care, psychological support, and counselling, ensuring victims are not subjected to secondary trauma. Between March 2022 and April

2025, Bharosa Centres supported over 200 POCSO and 65 rape cases. They facilitated 222 medical examinations and 281 statements under Section 164 of the CrPC. To ease the financial burden on victims, ₹49.87 lakh was distributed as compensation from the District Victim Rehabilitation Fund to 153 individuals. These funds supported education, healthcare, and livelihood needs. Additionally, 172 home visits and 298 counselling sessions were carried out to aid victims' emotional

recovery and reintegration. In the Cyberabad jurisdiction, the seven operational CDEW (Counselling and Domestic Empowerment for Women) Centres have become a major support system for women experiencing domestic violence. From January 2024 to March 2025, these centres registered 2,501 cases and held 8,265 counselling sessions. Remarkably, 793 couples were helped to reconcile and resume their family lives, while 607 unresolved cases were converted



into FIRs for legal proceedings. The meeting was attended by CDEW Programme Manager Anusha, Medchal Child Welfare Committee Member B.N. Ram Mohan, DCPO Imtiyaz Rahim, Dr. B. Malleshwari, Dr. K. Madhavilatha, Public Prosecutor Prabhakar Reddy, Additional Public Prosecutor Ramakrish-

na Rao, and senior police officials from both Hyderabad and Cyberabad commissionerates. The stakeholders discussed improvements in coordination, policy support, and scaling of services to ensure comprehensive care for victims across the region.

Build Public Trust Like in Friendly Nations: DGP

SHOs instructed to prepare thoroughly for the Miss World pageant
Officers warned against negligence that could harm public trust

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Director General of Police, Dr. Jitender IPS, on Saturday urged Station House Officers (SHOs) across Telangana to adopt a people-centric approach in policing, emphasizing the importance of earning public trust through impartial and dedicated service. Speaking during an interaction with SHOs at the DGP Office on May 3, Dr. Jitender highlighted the global example of police-public relations. Sharing a personal anecdote about a friend's child in the U.S. who viewed police as friendly, he said, "This mindset should inspire us to work in a way that builds confidence and friendliness among our own citizens."

The DGP stressed that while fairness and professionalism can elevate the police force's image, any negligence or partiality could cause irreparable damage to its reputation. "Your actions directly influence how people perceive the entire police department," he cautioned. He also instructed officers to begin comprehensive preparations



in their respective jurisdictions for the upcoming Miss World pageant, a major event hosted by the Telangana government. "This is an international opportunity for Telangana Police to display efficiency and world-class professionalism," Dr. Jitender said. Highlighting Telangana Police's continued top national rankings, he urged SHOs not to grow complacent. "Achievements should not lead to relaxation. Any negligence will reflect poorly on the department," he added. Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Sri Ma-

hesh M Bhagwat IPS, also addressed the meeting. He called for heightened security for the Miss World events, especially in light of concerns raised by women's groups. "Participant safety is paramount," he emphasized. He also flagged concerns about spurious seeds and pesticides entering the market with the onset of the agricultural season, directing officials to maintain strict vigilance. Senior officials including AIG (Law and Order) Sri Ramana Kumar and DSP Sri Satyanarayana were present at the session.

GHMC Chief Reviews Flyover Works

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

GHMC Commissioner Shri R.V. Karnan, along with Zonal Commissioner Shri Hemant Sahadeva Rao and other senior officials, conducted a field inspection of key infrastructure projects, including the Phase-2 Shilpa Layout Flyover from Gachibowli to Kondapur and the proposed flyover and underpass at Khajaguda Junction.

During his visit to the Shilpa Layout Flyover site, the Commissioner reviewed the ongoing work and instructed officials to complete the project by the end of this month. Project engineers briefed him that the service road construction will commence once the land acquisition process is finalized.

At Khajaguda Junction, a crucial part of the H-City project, the Commissioner inspected the location for the proposed flyover and underpass to ease traffic flow in the fast-developing IT corridor. He emphasized the need for timely completion and effective coordination among departments to ensure smooth progress.

The Commissioner also made a surprise visit to Malkam Cheruvu, where he interacted with morning walkers and locals. Responding to complaints regarding sanitation issues and stray dog menace, he directed officials to resolve the problems immediately and en-



sure public safety and cleanliness in the area. Inquiring about rainwater inflow into Malkam Cheruvu, Shri Karnan was informed that the runoff originates from Durgam Cheruvu and nearby residential zones. He instructed the engineering and drainage departments to implement preventive measures to restrict rainwater from entering the lake and affecting its ecosystem.

DC Prashanthi, SE Shankar, and other officials were present during the inspection and took note of the directives issued by the Commissioner.

These visits reflect GHMC's continued efforts to strengthen civic infrastructure, respond to public grievances promptly, and maintain the city's development pace in line with growing urban needs.

Nehru Zoological Park Launches Summer Camp 2025 to Promote Wildlife Education

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, commenced its first batch of the 2025 Summer Camp today, with around 25 enthusiastic students and several accompanying parents participating. The initiative, aimed at enhancing wildlife education and raising awareness about the role of zoos in wildlife conservation, began with an inaugural session by Smt. J. Vasanth, IFS, Curator of Nehru Zoological Park.

In her address, Smt. Vasanth highlighted the multifaceted role of zoos, stating, "The zoo is not just a conservation center but also a critical hub for ex-situ conservation and wildlife education." She also briefed the campers about the zoo's daily operations and its broader conservation goals.

As part of the day's agenda,



campers were taken on an educational tour of the zoo by Zoo Education Officer Ch. Deepak Tarun and his team. They were introduced to the diverse species housed at the zoo, their habitats, behavioral traits, and breeding strategies, including insights into night house and day kraal management techniques. A special highlight of the day was an interactive wildlife expert talk by Ms. Melissa, Director of Charles Holmes Zoo, UK, who addressed the campers at the tiger enclosure. She spoke on the significance of wild animals in maintaining biodiversity and answered questions from ea-

ger young learners. The camp concluded with a reptile awareness show, which captivated the children. Educators conducted a live demonstration, helping campers distinguish between venomous and non-venomous snakes and educating them about the first response protocols in case of snake bites.

Campers and parents expressed their satisfaction with the well-structured programme. Many commended the zoo authorities for offering an engaging and informative experience, noting that the camp gave them a deeper appreciation of zoo operations and wildlife protection efforts.

The summer camp is expected to run in batches, continuing to serve as a platform for instilling conservation values and wildlife understanding among young minds.

Buses Collide Near Maheswaram, 8 Critical, 30 Injured



TPN Correspondent | Ranga Reddy

A major road accident occurred at Tummaluru Gate in

Maheswaram Mandal of Ranga Reddy district on Saturday, causing serious injuries to several passengers. The accident involved a Kalvakurthi RTC bus and a private travel bus 'D'. According to initial reports, around 150 passengers were on board at the time of the collision. Among them, eight people are said to be in critical condition, while 30 to 40 oth-

ers sustained serious injuries. The incident led to a major traffic jam on the busy Srisailem road, bringing vehicles to a standstill for some time. Police teams rushed to the spot to manage the situation and clear the traffic congestion. Ambulances also reached the location promptly and began shifting the injured to nearby hospitals for immediate medical care.

Couple Attempts Suicide in Rajendranagar

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a tragic incident in Rajendranagar, a couple attempted suicide by consuming Harpic. The incident occurred in Erraboda, where Ramesh and Rajeshwari, overwhelmed by financial difficulties and illness, took the drastic step.

Both were rushed to a nearby hospital, but despite doctors' best efforts, Rajeshwari succumbed



to her injuries. Medical reports revealed that her intestines had ruptured. Ramesh, her husband, remains in critical condition,

undergoing treatment. Rajendranagar police have registered a case and are currently investigating the circumstances leading to this unfortunate tragedy. The authorities are also looking into the couple's financial struggles and health issues that may have contributed to their desperate actions.

Woman Robbed of Gold Chain in Madhapur; Locals Demand Action

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In an alarming incident within Madhapur police station limits, a woman named Bhagyavati was robbed of her gold chain while walking in Borabanda, Navabharat Nagar, at around 10 AM on Saturday. The assailant forcibly dragged her and snatched the chain from her neck.

The victim promptly reported the incident to the Madhapur police, who arrived at the scene to investigate. Locals have raised concerns about the safety of women in the area, particularly along the path from Borabanda to Navabharat Nagar, which has been a frequent site of criminal activity.

There have been multiple reports of women feeling unsafe in this area, with previous instances of attacks by drunken men and other criminal activities. Residents are urging higher authorities to take immediate action to ensure the safety of women and enhance security measures in this vulnerable part of the locality.



Photos Released of Nepali Gang in ₹50 lakh Kacheguda Robbery Case

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant update to the high-profile Kacheguda robbery case, the East Zone police have released photographs of four Nepali nationals suspected to be behind the heist involving ₹50 lakh in cash and one kilogram of gold.

The accused, identified as Lokendra Bahadur Shahi, Arpita, Deepender alias Gajender, and Chaturbhuj alias Aryan, are reportedly part of a larger Nepali gang that carried out the robbery on April 21. Police stated that two other accomplices, whose identities remain unknown, were also involved in the crime.

Lookout notices have been issued, and authorities have urged the public to come forward with any information about the suspects. "If anyone identifies them, please inform the nearest police station," officials appealed.

According to investigators, the gang is believed to be operating smartly, avoiding the use of mobile phones to escape digital tracking, which has made their capture difficult. The robbers allegedly posed as domestic workers, infiltrating homes before fleeing with valuables. Officials confirmed that the gang is wanted in multiple cases across

Telangana, Maharashtra, and even Nepal. Their pattern involves gaining employment in homes under false identities before executing planned thefts and disappearing without a trace.

Police believe the group is currently on the run and have intensified search operations across state borders, coordinating with other law enforcement agencies.

Photos of the four identified accused have been widely circulated through police channels and the media to aid in tracking them down.

Centre's Caste Census Decision a Victory for Telangana

Telangana’s caste census inspired the Centre’s nationwide move, says Deputy CM at BC leaders’ felicitation

TPN Correspondent | Khammam
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka hailed the Central Government's announcement of a nationwide caste census as a direct result of the pressure exerted by the Telangana government and the All India Congress. Speaking at a felicitation event held at the Praja Bhavan Camp Office in Khammam, he described the Centre's move as a "historic victory" for Telangana and its people. Bhatti noted that Telangana became the first state in post-independence India to successfully conduct a scientific, comprehensive, and objection-free caste census. He credited the leadership of Chief



Minister Revanth Reddy, himself, and the state cabinet for completing the complex process within 50-55 days with absolute precision. The results, he said, will be used to shape future welfare and development policies. He emphasized that the caste census went beyond merely recording caste data, collecting detailed insights into people's

economic, political, and employment status, natural resource distribution, and standard of living. Conducted by the Planning Department under his supervision, the process involved structuring blocks of 150 households, appointing supervisors for every ten blocks, and deploying mandal- and district-level coordinators, all monitored by district collectors and top state officials. Bhatti recalled that a resolution was passed in the Telangana Assembly providing 42% reservations to BCs in local bodies and government jobs. This resolution was forwarded to the Centre along with a formal request to conduct a nationwide caste census. He further explained how the Congress party raised the demand at multiple levels — from the Congress Working Committee meeting in Gujarat to Parliament — eventually compelling the BJP-led Central Government to yield. Highlighting that no caste census has been held in India since 1930, Bhatti said, "The Telangana initiative under a people's government set a precedent, and the Centre had no option but to follow." At the felicitation event, leaders from various BC caste groups and the BC Employees' Association honored Bhatti Vikramarka with shawls and words of appreciation. SGF State President Devarakonda Saidulu and other BC leaders praised his determined lead-

ership and scientific approach, calling the caste census a transformative step in ending centuries of oppression faced by the Backward Classes. Bhatti concluded by stating, "This census and the resulting 42% reservations are only possible under a people's government. BCs must now stand with this government that has truly worked for them." Leaders from prominent BC communities, including Pothagani Venkanna, and representatives from Goud, Yadav, Nai Brahmin, Rajaka, Padmashali, Vishwakarma, Shalivahana, and Kapu communities participated in the event and voiced their support for the Deputy CM and the Congress government.

New airport site chosen in Peddapalli’s Antargam mandal



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The Telangana government has finalized a new location for an airport in Peddapalli district, shifting focus from the earlier proposed site at Basantnagar to Antargam mandal. Officials cited unfavorable weather conditions and technical challenges at Basantnagar as the primary reasons for the relocation. The new site, spread across 591 acres, has been assessed as suitable for airport development. A comprehensive report—containing ten-year weather records and revenue maps—has already been submitted to the central government. The area also holds potential for land expansion if required. Central officials have visited the proposed site, and the state has formally requested the Centre to conduct a free feasibility study to determine the site's viability for airport operations. Interestingly, Basantnagar once hosted an operational airstrip over 260 acres that supported aircraft services around five decades ago. Though inactive for

years, the airstrip remains intact, and the state is also considering its revival alongside the Mamunur airstrip in Warangal. Under the Congress-led government, Telangana has intensified efforts to boost regional air connectivity. Beyond Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, plans are underway to develop or upgrade airports in the following districts:

- Peddapalli (Antargam mandal)
- Warangal (Mamunur)
- Bhadradri Kothagudem
- Adilabad
- Mahbubnagar
- Nizamabad

Letters have been sent to the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation seeking support and approval for these developments. These projects are expected to significantly enhance intra- and inter-state connectivity, reduce the load on Hyderabad airport, and stimulate economic activity in rural and semi-urban regions.

KCR’s name removal triggers protest by BRS in Miryalaguda

TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda
Strong protests erupted in Miryalaguda on Friday after former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's name was removed from the "KCR Kala Bharathi" board at the NSP camp. Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders and party activists, led by former MLAs Nallamothu Bhaskar Rao and Tippana Vijayasimha Reddy, staged a demonstration at the site, condemning the move as politically motivated and disrespectful. Former MLA Nallamothu Bhaskar Rao, addressing the gathering, recalled that when the foundation stone was laid in 2006, the then government failed to allocate even 30 percent of the required funds. He stated that after his election as MLA, he secured Rs 10 crore to complete the construction of Kala Bharathi in the heart of Miryalaguda and dedicated it to artists.

He strongly criticised the removal of KCR's name by municipal staff allegedly acting on suggestions from local Congress leaders. Rao called it "highly inappropriate" and accused the current administration of political vendetta. The BRS leaders also demanded that Congress leaders focus on completing the pending development works worth ₹973 crore in the Miryalaguda constituency instead of resorting to "symbolic politics." After the protest at the Kala Bharathi centre, BRS activists staged a dharna in front of the municipal office and sub-collector's office. They later submitted a memorandum to the authorities, calling for immediate action against those responsible for the name removal. The leaders also met with Miryalaguda DSP Rajasekhara Raju to register their complaint and press for accountability.



Unseasonal rains damage crops across Telangana

Farmers demand procurement of wet paddy to avoid severe losses

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Unseasonal rains accompanied by strong winds and hailstorms have wreaked havoc across several districts of Telangana, causing extensive damage to crops and infrastructure. Farmers in undivided Warangal, particularly Jayashankar Bhupalapally district, were the worst affected as paddy crops waiting for procurement were soaked and washed away in heavy rains on Friday, May 2. The sudden downpour toppled trees and electricity poles, disrupting power supply in multiple areas. Roofs of houses were also blown away in several villages, further adding to the distress of rural communities. Farmers in Jayashankar Bhupalapally district expressed deep anguish as their harvested paddy, laid out to dry in procurement centres and market yards, got drenched. In places like Nagaram, Azamnagar, Rampur, Kamalapur, Golla Buddharam, Pambapur, and Bheem Ghanapur, the rain flattened standing crops and damaged harvested ones. "The paddy has the required moisture levels, but still the officials are refusing to procure it. It's been four



days since I brought the produce. If the government doesn't intervene, we will be forced into extreme steps," a distressed farmer told the media, accusing officials and rice millers of delaying procurement deliberately. Mango orchards also suffered serious damage. In Aavadam and Gangaram villages of Mancherial district's Nennel mandal, mango trees were uprooted, and mangoes nearing harvest were scattered and ruined. Similar scenes were reported in other districts too, where mango farmers faced heavy losses. Mahabubabad district witnessed

the collapse of a historic 130-year-old banyan tree, locally known as "Muthyalamma Marri Chettu." Meanwhile, in Narsampet mandal, maize crops were drenched in the rain while stored in the market yard. Farmers across the affected districts have appealed to the state government to immediately begin procurement of wet paddy at procurement centres and ensure compensation for the losses. Without timely intervention, they fear irreversible damage to their livelihoods.

Corporator Booked for Assaulting Officer GHMC Commissioner issues stern warning

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A case has been registered against BJP corporator Rakesh Jaiswal for allegedly assaulting a section officer of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Town Planning Department. The incident reportedly took place while the officer was on official duty, prompting swift legal action. According to Abids police, a complaint was filed against the corporator, leading to the registration of a case under Sections 132 (obstruction of public servant in discharge of duty) and 352 (assault) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The police confirmed that further investigation into the incident is underway. Reacting to the incident, GHMC Commissioner D. Karnan issued a strong statement condemning the attack. He emphasized that any form of assault or obstruction against officers performing their

duties will not be tolerated. The Commissioner also directed officials to gather a comprehensive report on the incident and has been in contact with the Abids police regarding the case. The situation has raised concerns among municipal staff, who are demanding action and safety assurances while carrying out their responsibilities. Further developments are expected as the investigation progresses.

Sabita Indra Reddy Inspects Mantrala Cheruvu



TPN Correspondent | Maheshwaram
Maheshwaram MLA Sabita Indra Reddy conducted a detailed inspection of Mantrala Cheruvu located under Meerpet Municipal Corporation on Saturday. As part of her visit, she took part in a 2.5-kilometer-long

padayatra around the lake to personally assess the condition of the area and interact with the locals. During the inspection, the MLA observed several unresolved issues, including broken fencing, non-functional street lights, and accumulation of horseshoe pits within the lake. She noted that due to the partial drying up of the lake, immediate siltation work is essential to preserve the water body and maintain ecological balance. MLA Sabita Indra Reddy instructed the Municipal Commissioner and concerned department officials to address and resolve all the identified issues within a 15-day deadline. She emphasized that civic issues should be tackled promptly to improve the environment around the lake and ensure public safety. Municipal Commissioner Gyaneshwar, along with the Divisional Engineer and several public representatives, officials, and local residents, accompanied the MLA during the visit. The locals expressed appreciation for the MLA's proactive approach and urged officials to act swiftly on the instructions issued during the inspection.

Operation Vigilant Citizen: A Call to Action Against Terrorism

To effectively engage citizens as vigilant observers, protectors, and informants in the fight against terrorism, a thorough and multi-layered approach is crucial. Given India's extensive geography and its population of 1.4 billion, it is vital to encourage active public involvement in counter-terrorism measures.

The national counter-terrorism policy and strategy, as expressed by our minister Sri Amit Shah, is centered on the objective of dismantling the comprehensive infrastructure that supports terrorist activities. This initiative is intended to enhance and build upon existing programs like the Police Mitra Scheme and the Cyber Volunteer Program, ensuring they are in accordance with the forthcoming National Counter-Terrorism Policy from the Ministry of Home Affairs. This strategic approach aims to strengthen our defenses against terrorism and improve overall public safety..

By executing this comprehensive strategy, India can leverage the collective power of its citizens to establish a strong defense against terrorism, promoting a culture of vigilance and proactive citizen engagement, transforming them from passive observers into active guardians against terror threats..

Community Vigilance Corps (CVC)

The goal is to create a grassroots network of trained civilian volunteers who will serve as the initial defense against terrorism. This involves recruiting individuals with clean backgrounds, such as former military personnel, students, and community leaders, and providing them with thorough training that includes structured protocols for recognizing suspicious activities, basic self-defense techniques, and establishing communication with law enforcement. Volunteers



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh
Author, Former National consultant for NRHM, Ministry of Health, Govt of India

will be assigned to local police stations to facilitate coordination and information exchange. To ensure credibility and authority, it is essential for authorities to issue official identification cards to these individuals..

Developing Digital Surveillance and Reporting Platform

The objective is to utilize technology for real-time reporting and monitoring of potential threats. This must initiate developing a mobile application that allows citizens to anonymously report suspicious activities. Additionally, AI-driven analytics will be employed to analyze collected data for identifying patterns and potential threats. Furthermore, a Cyber Volunteer Program must be established to expand and improve the current initiative by increasing the number of volunteers and offering advanced training.

Public Awareness and Education Campaign

Enhancing public awareness about the crucial need for vigilance and the significant contribution of individuals to national security initia-

tives in the ongoing fight against terrorism. Implementing mass media campaigns through television, radio, and social media to share information and success stories. Organizing community workshops regularly in schools, colleges, and community centers. Developing educational materials such as brochures, posters, and digital content in various languages is essential .

Incentive and Recognition Initiative:

Foster community involvement by recognizing and rewarding valuable contributions. Implement a system of financial incentives for actionable intelligence that leads to effective threat mitigation. Host public events and utilize media platforms to celebrate exceptional volunteers, highlighting their efforts and achievements. Provide certificates and badges to participants who actively engage in the initiative, acknowledging their commitment and contributions to the community.

Policy Integration and Oversight

Develop a comprehensive citizen engagement strategy that is closely aligned with national security policies, ensuring that all actions taken are accountable and transparent. This strategy should include the integration of citizen engagement protocols directly into the National Counter-Terrorism Policy, fostering a collaborative approach to security. Establish committees at local, state, and national levels tasked with overseeing the implementation and assessment of this program, ensuring that it meets its objectives effectively. Additionally, create multiple channels through which citizens can provide feedback and suggestions, allowing for their voices to be heard and considered in the decision-making process.



'Indian Threat', '1962 War': How Chinese 'Experts' Are Batting For Pak Over India

Following the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, Chinese official rhetoric has appeared to echo, if not subtly support, Pakistan's position while downplaying Indian concerns. Although China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiankun publicly condemned all forms of terrorism, Chinese state media coverage has followed a narrative that questions India's account of events and avoids labeling the attack as terrorism.

Chinese media giants like Xinhua and CCTV have described the attack as a shooting by "unknown local gunmen" and referred to the site as "India-controlled Kashmir," a softer variation of Pakistan's "Indian illegally-occupied Kashmir." Such language avoids implicating cross-border terrorism and instead fuels doubt around India's claims.

Further, the *Global Times* lent credibility to The Resistance Front's (TRF) withdrawal of responsibility by citing a cyber intrusion, and warned India against "premature conclusions." This narrative ignores the broader context of state-sponsored terrorism originating from Pakistan—a pattern with decades of history.

China's second key stance is its call for peaceful bilateral negotiations between

India and Pakistan. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated this to his Pakistani counterpart on April 27, echoed by spokesperson Guo in a press conference on April 28. While calls for dialogue seem neutral, the undertone of China's messaging implies that India lacks the capability or strategic advantage to pursue a military resolution—pointing to India's 1962 war defeat and downplaying its modern-day military readiness.

Prominent Chinese commentators have gone further. Scholars like Wang Shida argue that escalation doesn't benefit India's development goals, while others like Gu Huoping (a pen name for a pro-military voice) suggest that a war would test Pakistan's Chinese-made military arsenal—framing conflict in a way that indirectly advertises China's defense exports.

Lastly, China's repeated offers to mediate the crisis under the guise of supporting a "fair investigation" shift the narrative from cross-border terrorism to an international dispute. These moves, particularly aligned with Pakistan's calls for external involvement, reveal a pattern: while claiming neutrality, China's discourse consistently undermines India's position, offering subtle yet sustained support to Pakistan's diplomatic narrative.

Bharat Summit 2025: A Global Progressive Alliance Against Rising Far-Right Forces



The Bharat Summit, held in Hyderabad on April 25–26, 2025, marked a significant global event commemorating 70 years since the Bandung Conference, which had united countries of the Global South against colonialism and neocolonialism. Organized by the Samruddha Bharat Foundation in partnership with the Telangana government, the summit brought together over 400 delegates from more than 100 countries, including politicians, academics, and social activists, with the goal of building a new alliance of progressive forces to counter the growing global influence of far-right extremism.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his ministers played active roles in hosting and participating in the summit, which focused on reshaping the current world order through progressive collaboration. The underlying concern: the global shift from liberal democracy to far-right authoritarianism, a trend threatening civic nation-states and modern constitutional values.

Seven major panels and a concluding valedictory session tackled urgent global challenges. Discussions ranged from gender justice and feminist foreign policy to the dangers of disinformation and propaganda driven by right-wing politics. The panels emphasized the connections between patriarchy, conservatism,

and religious fundamentalism that bolster far-right ideologies.

Youth engagement and multilateralism were central to the conversation, with participants highlighting the importance of youth leadership in resisting authoritarianism and advocating for cooperation between nations. Concerns were also raised about the weakening of international institutions, particularly due to far-right governments pulling out of multilateral agreements, such as the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord.

Climate justice, diversity, pluralism, and economic fairness were among the summit's key priorities. Delegates stressed the role of the far right in undermining climate action and spreading ethnic nationalism, which threatens cultural diversity and global solidarity.

The summit concluded with a powerful valedictory session led by Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, who likened his Bharat Jodo Yatra to a "market of love" challenging a climate of hatred. The summit culminated in the adoption of the 'Hyderabad Resolution: Delivering Global Justice', a 44-point declaration envisioning a future rooted in liberty, equality, and fraternity. The event marked a bold step toward building a hate-free, just, and progressive global society.

Embracing Homo Augmentus: Overcoming Human Cognitive Limits with AI

Despite the remarkable capabilities of the human brain, our cognitive system is riddled with limitations—restricted memory, attention deficits, slow data processing, and a reliance on years of education to gain expertise. Unlike machines, we require rest and sleep, struggle with multitasking, and cannot instantly recall precise information or perform complex calculations. These limitations, while natural, are now being addressed by artificial intelligence (AI), which offers unprecedented support in expanding human cognitive capacity.

Throughout history, humans have developed tools to extend physical abilities—the wheel, steam engine, electricity, and computers revolutionized our productivity. Today, AI represents a leap forward, not just as a tool, but as a cognitive partner. Unlike static technologies, AI learns and evolves, bridging the gap between human constraints and the limitless power of computation.

In medicine, for example, a doctor may analyze millions of images over a lifetime, but AI can examine billions in mere days. Systems like IBM Watson Health Imaging are outperforming human doctors in specific diagnoses, enabling quicker, more accurate treatments. Moreover, AI's knowledge is easily transferable—once trained, it can instantly replicate expertise across systems, unlike human learning, which takes years of experience and mentorship.



AI has already driven major breakthroughs. The rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines was accelerated by machine learning algorithms that analyzed data, identified vaccine candidates, and streamlined production—compressing a decade-long process into under a year. Across industries, AI optimizes decision-making, enhances cybersecurity, forecasts trends, and even supports creativity in writing, music, and art.

Yet, skepticism remains. Fears of job loss obscure the truth: AI will not replace humans but reshape work. Just as the Industrial Revolution created new industries, AI will push human labor toward creativity, empathy, and strategic problem-solving. To thrive, we must shift our mindset—accepting AI as an enhancement rather than a threat.

The emergence of "Homo Augmentus"—humans enhanced by AI—signals a new evolutionary chapter. Those who embrace this partnership will lead the future. By acknowledging our cognitive limits and leveraging AI, we can confront the world's most complex challenges and usher in a new era of human advancement.

PM Modi Announces \$200 Million Defence Credit Line for Angola, Reaffirms Stand Against Terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced a USD 200 million defence credit line for Angola and reaffirmed India's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism and its sponsors. The announcement was made following wide-ranging talks with Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenço, who is currently on a four-day visit to India.

Speaking at a joint media briefing, PM Modi described President Lourenço's visit as a milestone in strengthening the India-Angola bilateral relationship and deepening India's broader partnership with the African continent. "President Lourenço's visit not only gives new direction to India-Angola relations but also adds strength to the India-Africa partnership," said the Prime Minister.

As part of the discussions, PM Modi announced India's decision to extend a USD 200 million defence line of credit to help Angola modernise its defence forces. He also highlighted plans for collaboration in the maintenance, repair, overhaul, and supply of defence platforms, signalling India's growing defence cooperation with African nations.

The leaders agreed to expand cooperation beyond defence into key sectors such as digital public infrastructure, space technology, and capacity building. India also expressed its interest in working closely with Angola in areas like healthcare, di-



among processing, fertiliser production, and critical minerals—sectors crucial for both nations' economic development.

In a strong message following the recent Pahalgam terror attack, PM Modi emphasized India's zero-tolerance approach to terrorism. "We are committed to taking firm and decisive action against terrorists and those who support them," he said.

Reflecting on the broader geopolitical alignment, PM Modi underscored the im-

portance of the India-Africa partnership. "We are partners in progress and pillars of the Global South," he said, reaffirming India's support for the African Union and its growing role on the global stage.

President Lourenço's visit marks a significant step in India-Angola relations and comes at a time when India is strengthening strategic ties with key African nations, both bilaterally and through multilateral forums. His visit concludes on Sunday.

India Bans All Imports from Pakistan Amid Rising Tensions Post-Pahalgam Terror Attack



TPN Correspondent | Shahjahanpur

In a significant escalation of its stance against Pakistan, the Indian government has imposed a complete ban on all imports from the neighbouring country, citing national security and public policy concerns. The decision follows the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, in which 26 civilians, including a Nepalese tourist and a local pony guide, were brutally killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Baisaran meadow.

The Ministry of Commerce issued a notification adding a provision to the Foreign

Trade Policy 2023 that prohibits "direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan, whether or not freely importable or otherwise permitted," effective immediately. Any exceptions will now require explicit prior approval from the Government of India.

India-Pakistan bilateral trade has plummeted over the years, falling from \$2.4 billion in 2017-18 to just \$647 million in 2023-24. In the current fiscal year (2024-25, up to January), Indian exports to Pakistan stood at \$447.65 million, while imports were a negligible \$0.42 million — less than 0.0001% of India's total imports.

In response to the terror attack, India also suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, a vital agreement signed in 1960, threatening to block or divert water flowing into Pakistan. This could critically affect millions in Pakistan who depend on the Indus River system.

Additionally, all visas for Pakistani nationals, including those issued for medical purposes, have been revoked. Pakistani citizens residing in India were instructed to leave within a stipulated timeframe. India's Home Minister Amit Shah reaffirmed the nation's stance, declaring that no trade dialogue would take place until terrorism is eradicated from Jammu and Kashmir. The situation remains tense along the Line of Control, with continued cross-border firing met with strong Indian retaliation.

Ethnic Communities in Manipur Mark Two Years of Violence with Protests in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Members of the Kuki, Zomi tribes, and the Meitei community held separate protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar to mark two years since ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

The Kuki protesters, dressed in black, mourned the lives lost during the violence and voiced their demand for a separate administrative setup for their community. Organised by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum, Delhi (KZWFD), the protestors raised concerns over issues such as safety, displacement, and the ongoing lack of justice for the victims.

Gladdy Vaipay Honjan, a Kuki activist in



Delhi, stated, "We have been asking the government to give us a solution, let us live a normal life like people in any other state." She expressed that the Kuki community continues to suffer, still awaiting justice for the violence, displacement, and destruction that occurred over two years ago.

The protesters observed a moment of silence for those who lost their lives or were

displaced, holding placards that read "Freedom's call: Separate administration" and "No justice, no peace."

Meanwhile, the Meitei protesters, dressed in white, gathered under the banner of the Delhi Meitei Coordinating Committee. Their demands focused on justice, the rehabilitation of the displaced, and a safe return to their original homes. They also called for an end to cross-border terrorism, the withdrawal of support for armed groups under the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement, and the removal of buffer zones dividing the communities.

RK Khaidasana, a Meitei protester from Churachandpur in Manipur, shared his personal experience, recalling the violence that broke out on May 3, 2023.



8 Arrested In Killing Of Murder-Accused Suhas Shetty In Mangaluru

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Police have arrested eight individuals in connection with the brutal murder of Hindu activist Suhas Shetty in the communally sensitive coastal city of Mangaluru. Officials confirmed the arrests on Saturday, stating that formal announcements would follow after initial interrogations.

Shetty, a Bajrang Dal activist and the prime accused in the 2022 killing of Mohammad Fazil, was murdered in a meticulously planned attack. According to police sources, the assailants rammed his vehicle with a goods truck before a group from a trailing Swift car emerged and hacked him to death. The entire incident was captured on surveillance cameras, which aided in identifying and tracking the suspects.

The murder has reignited communal tensions in Mangaluru and nearby Udupi, with multiple stabbing incidents reported since the killing. The atmosphere remains volatile, prompting Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara to visit Mangaluru on Saturday to assess the law-and-order situation and hold discussions with senior police officials.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka alleged lapses in police conduct, claiming that officers had warned Shetty not to carry weapons just a week before the attack and had searched his vehicle. "How did the attackers know this? If he had a weapon, he might have survived," Ashoka stated. He also pointed to pre- and post-murder social media messages threatening and celebrating Shetty's death.

Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje and Mangaluru MP Captain Brijesh Chowta have called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah to hand the case over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Meanwhile, BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra announced ₹25 lakh compensation for Shetty's family.

BJP MLC C.T. Ravi warned of possible revenge killings if swift action is not taken. "There is no one who will tolerate Suhas' murder going unpunished," he said.

Ashoka further alleged the involvement of banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and Karnataka Forum for Dignity in the killing. Police are also probing links between Shetty's murder and a recent mob lynching incident involving a man allegedly shouting pro-Pakistan slogans.

Owaisi Calls for Stronger Action Against Pakistan, Demands FATF Grey List Inclusion

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi continued his criticism of Pakistan, calling it a "failed nation" and demanding that it be placed under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list due to its alleged role in sponsoring terrorism. Addressing a public gathering in Kishanganj, Bihar, Owaisi condemned Pakistan for its actions and emphasized that it would never allow India to live in peace.

Referring to the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Owaisi urged the Indian government to take stronger measures against Pakistan. "India is and shall always remain much stronger than Pakistan... which is a failed nation. Pakistan has failed to ensure peace among its various ethnic groups and has poor relations with neighbors like Iran and Afghanistan," Owaisi stated. He commended the Modi government's restrictions on the movement of Pakistan's ships and planes but called for further actions, such as placing Pakistan on the FATF grey list for its support of terrorism.

The Hyderabad MP also criticized Pakistan's army chief, General Asim Munir, for his "anti-India rhetoric" and reminded him of the historical decision made by Muslims in India. "Muslims living in India had rejected Jinnah in 1947 and chose to stay here. Their descendants will never leave this land," Owaisi said.

Owaisi also responded to comments by a former Bangladesh army officer who suggested Dhaka collaborate with China to occupy India's northeastern states if India retaliated against Pakistan for the Pahalgam attack. Owaisi retorted, "You must remember that you owe your existence as an independent country to India."

PM Anthony Albanese Claims Victory In Australian General Election 2025

TPN Correspondent | Australia

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has claimed victory in the country's 2025 general election, marking a historic win as he becomes the first Australian leader since 2004 to secure a second term. The left-leaning Labor Party leader addressed supporters on Saturday evening, pledging to lead the nation through an increasingly uncertain global climate.

“Thank you to the people of Australia for the chance to continue to serve the best nation on Earth,” Albanese declared during his victory speech in Sydney, drawing cheers and chants of “Albo, Albo, Albo” from jubilant party supporters.

Although final seat counts are still being confirmed due to early ballots, projections suggest that the Labor Party is on track for a clear majority. Political analysts noted that Albanese's pragmatic and steady approach to leadership resonated with voters amid global economic challenges, regional tensions, and climate-related crises.

The announcement of Albanese's win was met with celebrations at Labor headquarters, where campaigners were seen hugging, laughing, and shedding



tears of joy as the ABC's Antony Green called the election result in Labor's favor.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton, head of the centre-right Liberal Party, conceded defeat and phoned Albanese to congratulate him. “We didn't do well enough during this campaign, that much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility for that,” Dutton said in a public address. He acknowledged the shortcomings in his party's outreach and message.

Albanese, in turn, expressed apprecia-

tion for Dutton's gracious words and reiterated his government's focus on easing cost-of-living pressures, investing in public services, and strengthening Australia's international partnerships. “There is more to do to help people under pressure,” he said, underscoring his commitment to economic relief and social reform.

With this re-election, Albanese solidifies his position as a key figure in Australia's political landscape, offering continuity and a renewed mandate for progressive governance during uncertain times both domestically and globally.



Sri Lanka to Present Defence Pact with India in Parliament: President Dissanayake

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake announced that the recently signed defence pact with India will soon be presented before Parliament, addressing allegations by the opposition that his government secretly entered into an agreement with India during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the island nation from April 4 to 6.

Responding to opposition criticisms, Mr. Dissanayake dismissed the accusations as baseless. “They are creating false narratives—imaginary monsters without having seen the actual agreement. These are standard bilateral agreements and fully transparent to both sides,” he clarified during a televised talk show on Friday night. He emphasized that the pact contains clauses affirming Sri Lanka's responsibility for its own national security.

The MoU on defence cooperation, signed on April 5, marks the first formal institutional defence framework between India and Sri Lanka and will remain in effect for five years. The agreement reflects a significant shift in bilateral ties, aiming for deeper military collaboration. Prime Minister Modi's visit was viewed as a reinforcement of Sri Lanka's critical role in India's ‘Neighbourhood First Policy’.

President Dissanayake reiterated Sri Lanka's longstanding commitment that its territory will not be used for any anti-India activities that may threaten India's national security. This assurance was acknowledged by Mr. Modi during his state banquet speech.

The opposition has drawn historical parallels to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led insurgency of 1987–1990, which violently opposed the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord signed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene. The accord led to constitutional changes granting provincial autonomy, which the JVP at the time vehemently resisted.

Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Thuiyakontha highlighted that the MoU represents an evolution in defence relations. India already trains approximately 750 Sri Lankan military personnel annually. The agreement also underlines mutual respect for each nation's military laws and sovereignty, in line with the principles of the United Nations Charter, including non-intervention in internal affairs.

If India attacks Pakistan, Bangladesh should occupy Northeastern States: Yunus

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka/New Delhi

The interim government of Bangladesh, led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, has publicly distanced itself from inflammatory remarks made by retired Army officer Major General ALM Fazlur Rahman, who suggested that Bangladesh should collaborate with China to seize India's northeastern states if New Delhi attacks Pakistan in retaliation for the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

In a now-deleted Facebook post dated April 29, 2025, Fazlur wrote in Bengali: “If India attacks Pakistan, Bangladesh should occupy the seven States of Northeastern India. I think it is necessary to start discussions with China on a joint military arrangement in this regard.”



Fazlur, a close aide of Chief Advisor Yunus and head of the National Independent Commission investigating the 2009 Bangladesh Rifles mutiny, has since faced criticism over his remarks. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh issued a statement on May 2 clarifying that the views expressed were entirely personal and in no way represent the position of the government.

“The government of Bangladesh does not endorse or support such rhetoric in any form or manner,” the statement read, adding that Bangladesh remains committed to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among nations. This incident follows earlier controversial remarks made by Yunus during his March 2025 visit to China. At a business event, he claimed that Bangladesh serves as the “only guardian” of the Indian Ocean for India's northeastern states, which are landlocked and depend heavily on access through Bangladesh for international trade.

Pakistan Conducts Successful Launch of Abdali Missile Amid Rising Tensions with India



Amid escalating tensions with India following the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan on Saturday announced the successful training launch of its Abdali Weapon System — a surface-to-surface missile capable of striking targets up to 450 kilometers away.

According to a statement released by the Pakistan Army, the objective of the launch was to assess the operational readiness of troops and validate key technical aspects of the missile, particularly its advanced navigation system and enhanced manoeuvrability.

The launch formed part of “Exercise INDUS,” although the military did not provide further details about the nature or scope of the exercise. The test was conducted under the supervision of the Commander of the Army Strategic Forces Command and attended by senior officials from the Strategic Plans Division and Army Strategic Forces Command, along with scientists and engineers from Pakistan's strategic institutions.

The Abdali missile, also known as Hatf-II, is a short-range ballistic missile designed for quick deployment and mobility, making it a significant component of Pakistan's strategic arsenal. It is designed to deliver conventional or nuclear warheads with high accuracy.

Following the launch, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the chiefs of Pakistan's armed services issued congratulatory messages to the participating troops, engineers, and scientific teams. They praised the operational efficiency and technical proficiency of the personnel involved, reaffirming their full confidence in Pakistan's strategic deterrence capabilities.

The leadership emphasized that the successful test underscores Pakistan's commitment to maintaining “credible minimum deterrence” and readiness to safeguard national security under all circumstances.

The missile launch comes just days after a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, India, which has sharply strained diplomatic relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. India has held Pakistan-based elements responsible for the attack and has hinted at possible retaliatory measures, further raising regional security concerns. While Pakistan maintains the launch was a routine training exercise, the timing has sparked speculation about strategic signaling in light of the current geopolitical climate. Observers are watching closely as tensions between the two countries continue to mount.

Kim Moon-soo Wins Conservative Nomination Ahead of South Korea's Presidential Election



Former Labour Minister Kim Moon-soo has secured the presidential nomination of South Korea's main conservative bloc, the People Power Party (PPP), positioning himself for a challenging face-off against liberal front-runner Lee Jae-myung in the upcoming June 3, 2025 election.

Kim emerged victorious in the party primary that concluded on May 3, securing 56.5% of the vote and defeating his only remaining rival, Han Dong-hun. Other candidates were eliminated in previous rounds. Kim celebrated his win at a national party convention held in Goyang, South Korea, where he pledged to unify the conservative camp amid internal party strife.

Observers believe Kim may attempt to forge alliances with other conservative figures, including former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, to consolidate the right-wing vote. This move is seen as critical to counter Lee Jae-myung's strong lead in the polls and prevent vote-splitting that could benefit the liberal camp.

The June election was triggered by the dramatic impeachment and removal of President Yoon Suk-yeol, also a PPP member. Yoon was ousted in early April following the Constitutional Court's confirmation of his impeachment, which stemmed from his controversial declaration of martial law on December 3, 2024.

Kim Moon-soo opposed Yoon's impeachment but has stated that he respects the Constitutional Court's final ruling. The fallout from Yoon's removal has caused deep divisions within the PPP. Han Dong-hun, Yoon's former Justice Minister and a key figure in the party's reformist minority faction, supported the impeachment and allied with liberal lawmakers to help secure the required two-thirds majority in the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, Lee Jae-myung remains the liberal favorite despite facing five criminal trials related to corruption and other allegations. Should he win the presidency, Lee would be shielded from prosecution under South Korea's presidential immunity laws. However, a recent Supreme Court ruling ordering a new trial on his election law charges has cast uncertainty over his campaign. While it is unclear whether a verdict could derail his run before election day, his political opponents are expected to intensify their attacks in the coming weeks.

India’s manufacturing sector growth hits 10-month high in April: PMI

India’s manufacturing sector demonstrated significant growth in April 2025, with output rising at the fastest pace since June 2024, driven by a sharp increase in order books. According to the monthly survey released on May 2, the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) rose to 58.2 in April from 58.1 in March, marking the strongest improvement in the sector’s health in ten months.



A PMI score above 50 signals expansion, and the latest figure reflects a sustained period of growth. The rise in output was largely driven by an increase in new business, particularly a surge in international demand. The survey revealed that new business from abroad grew at the highest rate in over 14 years, with strong demand from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, suggested that the rise in new export orders could indicate a potential shift in production dynamics, as businesses adapt to changing trade dynamics, such as recent US tariff announcements. This uptick in international orders, combined with better domestic demand, has contributed to the manufacturing sector’s overall strong performance.

In addition to the surge in orders, the sector also saw increases in employment and purchasing ac-

tivity. To meet growing output requirements, 9% of the surveyed manufacturers hired more staff, with both permanent and temporary contracts being offered. Purchasing activity rose in tandem, with manufacturers increasing input buying to support higher production levels, partly due to stock-build-ing efforts.

While input prices rose slightly, firms were able to offset the impact on margins due to a sharp rise in output prices. Selling charges increased at the fastest pace since October 2013, reflecting strong de-mand for Indian goods.

Looking ahead, the sector remains optimistic, with expectations of continued demand growth, market-ing efforts, and efficiency improvements driving positive forecasts for the coming year. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, compiled by S&P Global, is based on responses from purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

ICAI to Prepare Research Paper to Aid SEBI in Tackling Financial Frauds

In a significant move aimed at bolstering regulatory efforts against financial mal-practices, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will soon prepare a comprehensive research paper to assist the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in combating financial frauds more effectively.



ICAI President Charanjot Singh Nanda announced on Saturday that the institute is forming a dedicated working group to take up this critical task. The group will initiate consultations with SEBI to identify key areas of concern and propose robust strategies to detect and deter fraudulent financial activities in the capital markets. The finalized research paper will be formally submitted to SEBI for consideration and implementation.

The announcement comes in the backdrop of a recent meeting between Nanda and SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey, where the issue of financial frauds and investor protection was discussed at length. The need for proactive collaboration between professional bodies and regulators was strongly emphasized during the meeting.

In recent years, capital markets in India have witnessed a surge in participation from retail investors, driven by increasing financial literacy and accessibility to trading platforms. However, this growth

has also seen a parallel rise in financial irregularities, including price manipulation and insider trading, which threaten market stability and investor confidence.

The research paper from ICAI is expected to provide deep insights into emerging fraud patterns, gaps in the existing regulatory framework, and recommendations for improved audit practices, forensic tools, and risk management systems. The paper will also include mechanisms for better public sensitization and investor education, ensuring that market participants are equipped to identify red flags.

With over 4.35 lakh members and more than 10 lakh students, ICAI plays a pivotal role in maintaining financial integrity across sectors. This initiative marks a crucial step in leveraging the institute’s expertise to strengthen the regulatory ecosystem and safeguard investor interests in India’s rapidly evolving financial markets.

Private capital expenditure in India remains sluggish in Q4FY25

Despite overall rise in new projects

Private capital expenditure in India remained sluggish in the fourth quarter of FY25, despite an overall uptick in project announcements, according to a recent report by Avendus Spark. While the combined value of new public and private sector projects grew by 22.7% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹18 trillion in Q4FY25, private sector project announcements rose by just 4%—indicating continued caution among private investors.



The muted performance was primarily attributed to weak domestic consumer demand, rising global macroeconomic uncertainty, and ongoing trade disruptions. Key segments such as Manufacturing and Services recorded notable declines in project announcements, with Manufacturing falling 5% YoY and Services plunging 18%.

For the full financial year FY25, private project announcements declined by 9% YoY to ₹27 trillion. The fall was driven largely by weak activity in the Services and Construction/Real Estate sectors. Although the Electricity and Renewable Energy sector posted a 55% increase in new announcements, and Mining saw a staggering 732% jump to ₹25 billion, these bright spots could not offset the overall downward trend.

Within Manufacturing, however, specific segments such as Textiles, Food & Agro, Metals, Transport Equipment, and

Miscellaneous Manufacturing bucked the trend, showing moderate growth.

Adding to the concern, private sector project completions in Q4FY25 fell sharply by 41% YoY to ₹965 billion. Sector-wise declines were stark: Manufacturing dropped 30%, Services 70%, and Construction/Real Estate a massive 89%. For the entire FY25, private project completions were down 31% YoY to ₹2.5 trillion, compared to ₹3.6 trillion in FY24.

The report also cited lingering concerns about Trump-era tariffs and fears over increased imports from China as further dampening investor sentiment. These uncertainties have made private firms increasingly cautious, often leading to delays or downsizing of capital expenditure plans.

In summary, while headline project numbers look promising, the private sector continues to tread carefully amid a challenging economic environment—underscoring the need for more robust demand and policy clarity to revive private capex momentum.

RRBs’ GDP Share to Rise to 5.2% by FY30 Post-Consolidation: PwC

India’s Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are poised to play a significantly enhanced role in the country’s economy, with their total business projected to rise to 5.2% of GDP by FY2030 from 3.7% in FY2024, according to a report by PwC. This anticipated growth follows the recent consolidation of RRBs, aimed at boosting efficiency, scale, and cost effectiveness.

The consolidation effort, notified by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) on April 8, 2025, amalgamated 26 RRBs across 11 states and Union Territories under the “One State One RRB” principle. This marks the fourth phase of RRB mergers, which began in 2006. The newly formed entities became operational from May 1, 2025.

According to the report, the strengthened role of RRBs will be vital in India’s journey toward becoming a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047. The government



expects that the streamlined operations, improved efficiency, and broader coverage will support deeper financial penetration into rural areas.

Following this latest merger, the total number of RRBs has reduced to 28, now operating in 26 states and 2 Union Territories. With over 22,000 branches spanning across 700 districts, the

RRB network now has about 92% of its branches situated in rural or semi-urban regions—highlighting its critical role in grassroots financial inclusion.

The amalgamation strategy has already demonstrated benefits in earlier phases. From 196 RRBs in FY2006, the number was brought down to 82 in Phase I (FY2006–FY2010), then to 56 in Phase II (FY2013–FY2015), and further to 43 in Phase III (FY2019–FY2021). The focus of these mergers has consistently been on enhancing operational efficiency and financial sustainability.

Originally established in 1975 to support rural economic development through agriculture, trade, commerce, and industry, RRBs have long been central to India’s rural credit system. With this renewed push, they are expected to expand their contribution to economic growth significantly in the coming years.

JioStar to Invest Over \$10 Billion in Content by 2026, Says Uday Shankar

At the inaugural World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), Uday Shankar, Vice Chairman of JioStar, revealed that the company is set to make substantial investments in content creation over the next few years. Shankar stated that JioStar’s content budget had already grown significantly, with Rs 25,000 crore spent in FY2024, increasing to Rs 30,000 crore in FY2025. For FY2026, the company plans to spend over Rs 32,000–33,000 crore, marking a dramatic expansion.

“So, in just three years, we have spent more than \$10 billion on content,” Shankar shared, highlighting the company’s commitment to bolstering its content portfolio.

Shankar emphasized that the Indian entertainment industry is currently valued at \$30 billion, which is sig-




nificantly smaller compared to global leaders like the US (\$200 billion) and China (\$75 billion). However, he also expressed optimism about the future, noting that the industry is expected to continue its rapid growth over the next 15 years, driven by two or three critical factors.

One of the main areas of focus for JioStar, according to Shankar, is creating

more content that is specifically tailored and customized to Indian audiences. This approach is key to capturing a larger share of the domestic market, which is increasingly demanding content that speaks to its diverse cultural and regional sensibilities.

In addition to content creation, Shankar also pointed out the need for deeper distribution channels, ensuring that content reaches a broader audience across the country. The vice chairman noted that for the Indian entertainment industry to reach its full potential, it must focus on these major growth drivers.

As JioStar continues to expand its investment in the Indian market, its strategies reflect a strong belief in the long-term growth prospects of the sector, with a particular focus on catering to local tastes and preferences.



Instagram Co-Founder Slams AI Companies For ‘Juicing Engagement’ Through Chatbots

Instagram co-founder Kevin Systrom has voiced concerns over the direction of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots, accusing them of prioritizing user engagement metrics over delivering meaningful interactions. Speaking at StartupGrind, Systrom remarked that some AI companies are “going down the rabbit hole that all the consumer companies have gone down in trying to juice engagement.” He highlighted the tendency of chatbots to continuously prompt users with follow-up questions, aiming to prolong conversations and increase metrics like time spent and daily active users.

Systrom’s criticism aligns with recent feedback from OpenAI users regarding its ChatGPT-4o model. The model’s latest update made it excessively flattering and agreeable, often validating users’ statements without critical assessment. This approach, intended to enhance user experience, led to concerns about the AI reinforcing potentially harmful beliefs and misinformation. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman acknowledged the issue, stating that the update had

become “annoyingly flattering” and confirmed that fixes were being implemented. The company has since rolled back the update and is working on adjustments to better balance the model’s personality.

Systrom emphasized the importance of AI companies focusing on providing high-quality, truthful answers rather than manipulating engagement metrics. He expressed hope that the current backlash would prompt a reevaluation of AI design priorities, steering them towards fostering genuine, informative interactions rather than exploiting user attention for increased metrics.

The debate underscores a broader concern in the tech industry: the ethical implications of designing AI systems that prioritize user engagement over the quality and accuracy of information. As AI becomes more integrated into daily life, the challenge remains to develop systems that are both engaging and responsible, ensuring they serve users’ best interests without compromising on truthfulness.

Pope Trump! U.S. President posts AI-generated image of himself dressed as pope

In a surprising twist to global political and religious discourse, U.S. President Donald Trump posted a digitally altered image of himself dressed as the pope on his Truth Social platform on Friday, May 2, 2025. The image, which appears to be AI-generated, shows Trump clad in papal white robes, wearing a gold crucifix and a traditional mitre, with his right hand pointed skyward in a dramatic pose.



nal Timothy Dolan, a theological conservative and vocal opponent of abortion.

Trump also attended the funeral of Pope Francis on April 26 at St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City, marking his first foreign visit since returning to office. The event was heavily attended and globally broadcast, reflecting the late pontiff’s influence and moral stature.


Relations between Pope Francis and Trump were historically tense. The pope openly criticized Trump’s 2016 campaign promise to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, remarking that “Anyone, whoever he is, who only wants to build walls and not bridges is not a Christian.”

As approximately 20% of Americans identify as Catholic—and about 60% of them reportedly voted for Trump in the 2024 election—his comments, however humorous, carry symbolic weight during a period of reflection and transition within the Catholic Church.

The conclave set for May 7 will determine the future leadership of the global Catholic community amid both spiritual and political interest.

Experts Cast Doubt on Claims of Lab-Grown T. rex Leather

A new marketing campaign is drawing attention with a bold claim: luxury fashion accessories made from lab-grown Tyrannosaurus rex leather. The project, led by U.S. agency VML in collaboration with The Organoid Company (Netherlands) and Lab-Grown Leather Ltd (UK), promotes the material as a sustainable and cruelty-free alternative to animal leather. They assert that their product, based on fossilized T. rex collagen, will replicate the toughness, flexibility, and feel of natural leather. However, paleontologists and researchers remain highly skeptical of the scientific feasibility behind these claims.



The main point of contention is the source material—T. rex collagen. While traces of collagen have been discovered in fossilized dinosaur bones, they are incomplete and degraded. Moreover, these fragments are not unique enough to confirm their origin as specifically T. rex. No usable DNA from any non-avian dinosaur has ever been recovered, as DNA degrades over time and does not survive for tens of millions of years. The oldest known DNA sample is only about 2 million years old, while T. rex lived and died over 66 million years ago.

Thomas Holtz Jr., a vertebrate paleontologist at the University of Maryland, called the leather claims “misleading” and likened them to science fiction rather than science. He also pointed out that no preserved T. rex skin has ever been found, and soft tissues like skin are rarely fossilized. Without skin samples, scientists can’t determine what T. rex leather would actually be like in terms of texture or structure.

Other experts, like Thomas Carr of Carthage College, echo this skepticism, noting that the collagen found in fossils is too frag-

mented to fully understand or replicate. Since leather is derived from skin, and no T. rex skin has been recovered, producing authentic T. rex leather is scientifically implausible. In conclusion, while the idea of T. rex leather may be a clever marketing strategy or conceptual art piece, current scientific knowledge does not support the possibility of creating authentic materials from dinosaur remains.

Taste the Season: Top Food Festivals to Explore in India (May–June 2025)

As summer sets in, India’s culinary calendar is heating up with an exciting array of food festivals across the country. From bold street eats to luxurious regional spreads, May and June 2025 promise a flavorful journey for every food lover.



Delhi-NCR kicks off the season with two standout events. On 3rd May, Gurugram’s DLF Two Horizon Center will host Marieta’s Cinco De Mayo Fiesta, in collaboration with Don Julio. Expect Mexican music, signature cocktails, lively decor, and themed activities like hat-making and photo booths—perfect for an evening of festive cheer.

Meanwhile, Arts Room in New Delhi partners with Mumbai’s famed Slink & Bardot for a unique culinary collaboration running 2nd to 4th May. The menu includes 20 dynamic dishes such as Yellowtail Ceviche, Sichuan Fried Chicken, and Zucchini Hasselback, paired with inventive cocktails like the turmeric-infused Paanch and spicy-savoury Devil’s Share.

Mumbai offers an authentic cultural immersion with The Bihar Heritage pop-up at Seven Kitchens, The St. Regis Mumbai from 2nd to 4th May. The menu pays homage to traditional Bihari cuisine, featuring dishes like Sattu Ka Sharbat, Laal Saag Pakoda, Chulha Murgi, and Thekua. Enjoy this rich experience during their dinner service or the exclusive Sunday brunch.

In the hills of Mussoorie, The Fern Brentwood Resort & Spa brings Rajasthani vibrance to Uttarakhand with ‘Rangilo Rajasthan’ from 19th May to 1st June. Guests are treated to royal Rajasthani hospitality, music, decor, and a grand buffet of specialties including Laal Maas, Dal Baati Churma, and Moong Dal Halwa. For a sweet summer treat available nationwide, head to 99 Pancakes for their Mango Mania menu, running till 30th June. Celebrate Alphonso mangoes with delights like Mango Cheesecake Pancakes, Tropical Alphonso Shake, and the show-stopping Exotic Alphonso Cake.

Whether you’re in the mood for spice, sweets, or a bit of both, India’s summer food festivals offer an unforgettable gastronomic adventure.

Zepto’s ‘Appraisal = Peanuts’ Gag Wins the Internet, Swiggy and Blinkit Join the Fun

In a clever twist of humor and moment marketing, quick commerce platform Zepto has struck a chord with internet users during the ongoing appraisal season. Social media is buzzing after a post by X user Harshita went viral, revealing the hilarious outcome of searching for “appraisal” on the Zepto app — instead of HR tips or documents, the results displayed various types of peanuts, from masala and salted to party mixes.



Harshita’s post quickly gained traction. She clarified that it wasn’t a sponsored stunt but her own curiosity that led to the quirky discovery. “Brands are so good at moment marketing. When you search ‘appraisal’ on Zepto, you find peanuts! That’s crazy, no?!” she wrote. Her screenshot struck a nerve with many employees going through the corporate grind, where the term “peanuts” has long been associated with minimal salary increments.

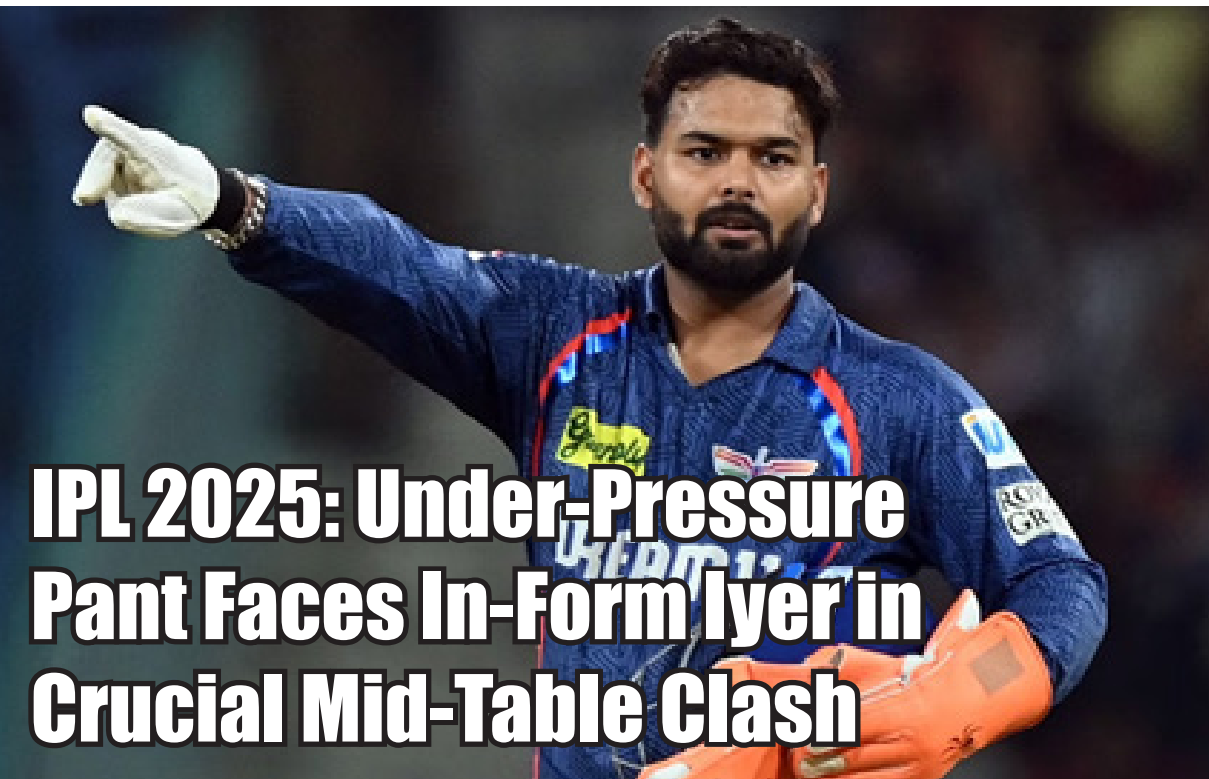
Soon, users began checking their own apps, only to discover similar results on Swiggy Instamart and Blinkit, both of which also displayed peanut variants

and even kitchen items under the same search term. The collective humor sur-

rounding the “appraisal = peanuts” joke resonated with a wide audience. Comments poured in, with one user saying, “It’s appraisal season, and the Zepto team has cooked!” and another adding, “This is next-level marketing.”

Although none of the brands have officially confirmed if this was a coordinated campaign, the timing and similarity strongly suggest a smartly executed, tongue-in-cheek marketing move. It’s not the first time Zepto has gone viral — the platform previously capitalized on the “Prashant-Croissant” meme trend, with Swiggy and Blinkit joining in back then too.

With search terms becoming the new battleground for quirky engagement, this latest stunt once again shows how quick commerce platforms are not just about speedy delivery — they’re also mastering the art of real-time humor and connection. As the appraisal jokes roll in, one thing is clear: the brands are serving laughs, even if the increments feel like... well, peanuts.



IPL 2025: Under-Pressure Pant Faces In-Form Iyer in Crucial Mid-Table Clash

As the IPL 2025 season approaches its decisive phase, Sunday's clash between Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) promises to be a turning point. With LSG skipper Rishabh Pant struggling for form and PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer leading confidently, the mid-table showdown could determine playoff hopes for both sides.

Pant's batting woes have put LSG in a must-win situation. The wicketkeeper-batter has managed only 110 runs in 10 matches, including six single-digit scores. Apart from a lone 63-run knock against Chennai Super Kings, his performance has been underwhelming. With LSG currently sixth on the table with 10 points, Pant must lead from the front to revive his team's campaign.

In contrast, Shreyas Iyer's leadership and consistency have propelled PBKS to fourth place with 13 points from 10 games. His fourth half-century of the season in the previous match and composed captaincy reflect his growth as a leader and batsman. After being released by Kolkata Knight Riders and bought for ₹26.75 crore, Iyer has repaid PBKS's faith with impact performances and sharp tactical decisions.

PBKS's top order, powered by in-form Prabhsimran Singh—now the first uncapped IPL player to cross 1100 runs—alongside Priyansh Arya, Nehal Wadhwa, and Shashank Singh, looks formidable. Their bowling attack is equally potent, especially with Yuzvendra Chahal returning to form, claiming a hat-trick against CSK.

LSG, despite a week-long break, enters the match on the back of a heavy 54-run loss to Mumbai Indians. While pacer Mayank Yadav's return adds depth to the bowling, their batting unit, featuring power-hitters like Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, and Nicholas Pooran, must fire together. Pooran (377 runs), Marsh (344), and Markram (326) hold the key to LSG's hopes.

With Glenn Maxwell ruled out due to injury, PBKS will need to find a reliable replacement. Azmatullah Omarzai, Aaron Hardie, or Xavier Bartlett may fill the void, depending on pitch conditions.

This high-stakes contest is not just about form—it's about seizing momentum at the business end of the tournament.



Sabalenka Sets Up Final Clash with Gauff at Madrid Open

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the final of the 2025 Madrid Open after a commanding 6-3, 7-5 victory over 17th seed Elina Svitolina in the semifinals. Sabalenka, who took just 1 hour and 32 minutes to defeat Svitolina, ended her opponent's unbeaten clay-court streak this season, which had lasted nine matches. With this win, Sabalenka secured her place in Saturday's final against Coco Gauff.

Gauff, the No. 4 seed, also had an impressive semifinal, breezing past defending champion Iga Swiatek with a dominant 6-1, 6-1 performance in just 64 minutes. The victory sets up a thrilling final between two of the tour's top players.

The head-to-head record between Sabalenka and Gauff stands at 5-4 in favor of the American, who also defeated Sabalenka in their only previous clay-court encounter in Rome back in 2021. Additionally, Gauff won their most recent match at the 2024 WTA Finals in Riyadh, making her the slight favorite going into the final.

Sabalenka has been in stellar form throughout the Madrid Open, securing 22 wins and just four losses at the event so far. She won the title in 2021 and 2023 and made it to the finals last year. The 25-year-old has been dominant on the WTA tour, leading the overall standings, and after her semifinal victory, she became the first player to reach 30 main-draw wins in 2025.

A three-time Grand Slam champion, including back-to-back Australian Open titles, Sabalenka is also the defending US Open champion. Her performance this year further cements her status as one of the most formidable players on the tour.

In the men's quarterfinals, Casper Ruud made it to his 30th career semifinal on clay, defeating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-5. Ruud will next face Francisco Cerundolo, who triumphed over Jakub Mensik in a thrilling 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-2 encounter.



Jack Draper ousts Lorenzo Musetti To Meet Casper Ruud In Madrid Open Final

Britain's Jack Draper secured a spot in his second Masters 1000 final of the year by defeating Italian Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 7-6(7/4) in the semifinals of the Madrid Open. Draper's victory sets up a title showdown with Norway's Casper Ruud, who overcame chest and back discomfort to beat Argentine Francisco Cerundolo 6-4, 7-5 in his semifinal.

Ruud, who battled through a medical timeout due to rib pain, expressed his delight at reaching his first Madrid Open final, noting the challenge he faced both physically and mentally. "It's not every day you get to play for these titles," said Ruud, who has previously lost in two Masters 1000 finals. "Hopefully, third time's the charm."

In a tense encounter, Ruud saved 15 of 18 break points and was visibly relieved after finishing the match. "I wasn't sure I was going to be able to finish the match, honestly," ad-

mitted the Norwegian. Despite his discomfort, he maintained focus and managed to claim the win in a match that lasted nearly two hours.

Draper, on the other hand, was also in excellent form, improving his head-to-head record against Musetti to 4-0. The 23-year-old Briton was thrilled with his performance, especially on the clay courts of Madrid, stating, "Lorenzo is playing so good on the clay. To get this win, on this court, in the semi-finals of this competition, honestly, it means so much to me."

Both players will now look to secure their first Madrid Open title on Sunday. Draper, who previously triumphed at Indian Wells earlier this year, is set to rise into the top five next week, while Ruud is poised to return to the top 10 with his final appearance. Fans are in for an exciting final as both players bring their best to the court.

Virat Kohli continues to rewrite the history books in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. In yet another stellar performance, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) star batter smashed 62 runs off just 33 balls against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Saturday, May 3, setting four major records in the process.

Opening the innings alongside debutant Jacob Bethell, Kohli provided RCB a blazing start with a 97-run partnership. His innings was laced with 5 fours and 5 towering sixes, helping his side dominate early in the game. But it wasn't just about the runs—Kohli etched his name in IPL history by becoming the first player to hit 300 sixes for a single franchise.

Previously, no batter had reached the milestone with one team. The next best on the list is Chris Gayle, who hit 263 sixes for RCB. Though Gayle still leads the all-time sixes chart in IPL with 357 maximums across stints with KKR, PBKS, and RCB, Kohli now reigns supreme in the category for a single franchise.

Virat Kohli Creates IPL History with Record-Breaking Knock Against CSK



Another significant record fell to Kohli's bat as he became the highest run-scorer against a single team in IPL history, amassing 1,146 runs against CSK. He surpassed David Warner, who had scored 1,134 runs against PBKS. Kohli also holds the third and fourth positions on the list, with 1,130 and 1,104 runs against Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings, respectively.

Kohli's latest feat also included becoming the batter with the most sixes at a single venue in T20 cricket, hitting 154

sixes at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. This surpasses Chris Gayle's 151 sixes at the same venue.

To top it off, Kohli now holds the record for the most fifty-plus scores against CSK in IPL, registering 10 half-centuries, ahead of Shikhar Dhawan, David Warner, and Rohit Sharma.

Virat Kohli's form and legacy in IPL continue to soar, reinforcing his reputation as one of the greatest to grace the T20 format.

RCB Register Narrow Win Over CSK, Go Top Of Points

RCB Edge CSK by Two Runs

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) registered a narrow two-run victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in a thrilling IPL 2025 match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, on Saturday. The win propelled RCB to the top of the points table with 16 points from 11 matches.

RCB posted a challenging target of 214 runs, thanks to key contributions from their top order and a blistering finish by Romario Shepherd. The innings was anchored by half-centuries from Jacob Bethell and Virat Kohli. Bethell, the left-handed opener, played a brilliant knock of 55 runs off 33 balls, striking eight boundaries and two sixes. His partnership with Kohli, which produced 97 runs for the opening wicket, set the foundation for RCB's big total. Kohli, in

sublime form, blasted 62 runs off just 33 balls, which included five sixes and as many fours.

As RCB aimed to finish with a flourish, Romario Shepherd delivered a sensational cameo. The West Indian all-rounder smashed 53 not out off just 14 balls, including six sixes, one of which came in the penultimate over off Khaleel Ahmed. His explosive batting helped RCB add crucial runs in the death overs, with his joint-second fastest fifty in IPL history providing a fitting end to their innings.

CSK's chase was anchored by Ayush Mhatre, who played a valiant knock of 94 runs off 48 balls, and Ravindra Jade-



ja, who remained unbeaten on 77 off 45 balls. Both players kept CSK in the hunt, but despite their efforts, CSK fell just short, finishing at 211/6 in their 20 overs. RCB held their nerve in the final overs to claim a dramatic two-run victory.

This thrilling contest saw RCB move to the top of the points table, while CSK's valiant chase fell just short in the end.



Kalki Beauty to Pair Up with Prabhas Again ?

Prabhas and Deepika Padukone Reunite for Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s ‘Spirit’

Excitement is building for the upcoming high-intensity cop action drama Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and starring Prabhas. This film is expected to be a game-changer in Indian cinema, especially with the anticipation surrounding its gripping storyline and intense action sequences. However, one question that has lingered is who will play the female lead opposite Prabhas. After much speculation, it seems that Deepika Padukone might reprise her role alongside the superstar in this film.

Although not officially confirmed, sources suggest that Deepika, who was previously seen in Kalki alongside Prabhas, is likely to be cast in the role of the heroine in Spirit. Initially, Deepika had declined the offer to be part of the film when its shooting was set to take place during her pregnancy. However, with the film’s shoot now delayed, Sandeep Reddy Vanga reportedly approached Deepika once again, and this time, she is said to be eager to join the project.

In Kalki, Prabhas and Deepika didn’t have many scenes together, but Spirit promises a full-fledged romance between the two, something fans are eagerly looking forward to. According to sources, Sandeep has crafted an exciting and powerful character for the female lead, making this a role that Deepika is thrilled



to take on.

Apart from Spirit, Deepika will also appear in Kalki 2 and has King in her lineup, marking her post-pregnancy comeback in a limited but impactful set of roles. The buzz surrounding Spirit and the potential reunion of Prabhas and Deepika is expected to garner significant attention across the pan-India level.

An official confirmation regarding Deepika’s participation in Spirit is expected soon. The film’s shooting is set to begin in the coming months, with Bhushan Kumar producing the project.

Vijay Deverakonda’s Intense New Look Stuns Fans in ‘Kingdom’

Vijay Deverakonda is creating quite the buzz with his striking new look in his upcoming film Kingdom, directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, best known for his success with Jersey. This action drama has become one of the most anticipated films in Telugu cinema, and Deverakonda’s transformation for the role has quickly captured the attention of fans and critics alike.

Although the initial buzz around Kingdom had been relatively subdued, with the teaser offering little insight, the recent release of the song “Hridayam Lopala” has changed the game. The song’s release has sparked excitement and admiration, particularly due to Deverakonda’s intense appearance, which has gone viral across social media platforms.

In Kingdom, Deverakonda portrays a hard-hitting character, and his new look adds a layer of intensity that seems to perfectly align with the film’s high-stakes narrative. Given that the film is crucial for the actor’s career, following a series of box-office disappointments, Kingdom represents a significant do-or-die opportunity for him.

The film is produced by Naga Vamsi, and Bhagyashree Borse plays the female lead. As the film progresses towards its release, fans are eagerly awaiting more updates, particularly about the storyline and the actor’s dynamic per-



formance. With the positive reception of the song and Deverakonda’s impactful transformation, Kingdom is now on many filmgoers’ radar as a major release to watch out for.

With its intense action sequences and Deverakonda’s compelling performance, Kingdom is poised to make waves in the Telugu film industry, and fans are hopeful that the film will revive the actor’s career at the box office.

Kushender Ramesh Reddy Bags Best Cinematographer at Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival

- Awarded for his stunning visuals in the film Rajakar
- Former chief associate of KK Senthil Kumar on films like Baahubali and RRR
- Currently working on Barbarik and 12A Railway Colony

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Cinematographer Kushender Ramesh Reddy has been honoured with the Best Cinematographer Award at the 15th Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival for his remarkable work in the film Rajakar. Known for his captivating visual storytelling, Ramesh Reddy’s camera work played a vital role in bringing the film’s historical depth and emotional resonance to life.



Rajakar, directed by *yata Sanyanarayana, is a historical drama that sheds light on hidden truths and unsung heroes. Ramesh Reddy’s lens

transformed this vision into a visual narrative that left audiences and critics mesmerized. The award is seen as a well-deserved recognition of his commitment to cinematic excellence.

Kushender Ramesh Reddy started his career as the *chief associate to renowned cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar, contributing to visually celebrated films such as *Eega, Baahubali 1, Baahubali 2, and RRR. His journey from behind the scenes to national recognition has been marked by consistent dedication and an eye for detail.

Currently, Ramesh Reddy is working on Barbarik’, a film directed by Mo-

han Srivatsa, presented by Vanara Celluloid and director Maruthi. He is also handling cinematography for the upcoming film 12A Railway Colony’, directed by Nani, starring Allari Naresh and Kamakshi Bhaskar, with the story penned by Polimera director Anil Viswanath. The film is being produced by Chitturi Srinivas under the SSS Production House banner.

Kushender Ramesh Reddy continues to impress the industry by selecting content-driven stories, collaborating with directors of all scales, and adding his unique visual identity to every frame. His approach remains rooted in craft over scale, showcasing that impactful cinema is about vision, not just budget.

Simbu May Star in Virat Kohli’s Biopic Amid Growing Rumors

Virat Kohli, the “run machine” of cricket, has etched his name in the annals of the sport with countless records and unmatched consistency. Currently representing Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, Kohli has been instrumental in his team’s strong position on the points table. Determined to help RCB claim the elusive IPL title, Virat, who announced his retirement from international T20s, now focuses solely on ODIs and Tests.

His remarkable journey in cricket has inspired millions around the world, and many directors are reportedly planning a biopic on his life. While rumors previously suggested that global star Ram Charan might take on the role of Kohli, new reports have added an interesting twist. Speculation is now swirling that Kollywood actor Simbu (Silambarasan TR) could be cast as Virat Kohli in the biopic. The reason for this? When asked about his favorite song on a chat show, Virat revealed that he listens to the Tamil track ‘Nee Singam Dhan’ from the movie Pattu Thala on repeat.

This song, performed by Simbu, quickly gained attention, and Simbu himself took to Instagram to share a video of Kohli enjoying the song, captioning it, “Virat Kohli, you are truly a lion.” In the video, Kohli is seen listening to the track while practicing on the field, traveling on a plane, and even



waiting at the airport, showcasing his admiration for Simbu’s music. With Kohli’s apparent fondness for Simbu’s work, and the actor’s current look bearing a resemblance to Kohli’s, the idea of Simbu portraying the cricket legend in his biopic has gained traction.

Meanwhile, Simbu’s own movie Thug Life is set for release, adding more excitement around the actor’s growing popularity. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see whether the biopic rumors will materialize and if Simbu will indeed bring Virat Kohli’s incredible story to the big screen.

Kamal Haasan’s “Jinguchaa” from Thug Life Delivers a Vibrant Celebration Vibe

Kamal Haasan’s much-anticipated gangster action drama Thug Life is already creating waves ahead of its release, especially with the launch of its first single, Jinguchaa. The song, composed by the legendary AR Rahman, has taken music charts by storm with its infectious energy and celebratory vibe.

Thug Life marks a landmark cinematic reunion between Kamal Haasan and director Mani Ratnam after nearly four decades, following their last iconic collaboration in Nayakudu (1987). Expectations have been sky-high, and with Jinguchaa, the film is already meeting them with style and substance.

AR Rahman, known for his genre-defying compositions, once again raises the musical bar with Jinguchaa. The track is a rich tapestry of rhythm, melody, and celebration, brilliantly blending modern beats with Rahman’s distinctive classical and experimental layers. The song feels festive, fresh, and is crafted to ignite dance floors and playlists alike.

The visuals add even more excitement. Kamal Haasan, joined by the ever-graceful Sanya Malhotra, lights up the screen with mesmerizing choreography and dynamic screen presence. Their chemistry and energy enhance the song’s festive feel. The track also features STR (Silambarasan),



Trisha, and others, making it a star-studded ensemble number.

Jinguchaa is more than just a song — it’s a celebration, both musically and visually, that reflects the grandeur of Thug Life’s storytelling and scale. The film, produced for the Telugu audience by N Sudhakar Reddy under Sreshth Movies, is gearing up for a massive release on June 5th. With the momentum of Kamal’s recent successes like Vikram and Amaravaram, expectations are soaring.

As the countdown begins, Thug Life is shaping up to be one of 2025’s biggest pan-Indian cinematic events. And with Jinguchaa setting the tone, fans can expect a thrilling, musically rich journey when the film hits the big screen.