



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

H 36° C

L 26° C

Miss World
2025 Buzz
Begins in
Hyderabad



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NEET 2025 Exam Concludes
Successfully Across India

Over 20.8 lakh
students appeared
in 5,453 centres



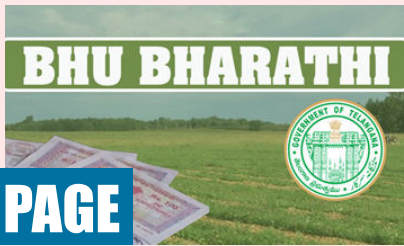
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CBI Court Grants
BRS MLC Kavitha
Permission for US
Visit



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“Bhu Bharati”
to be Rolled out
in 28 Mandals
from Today



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Telangana Local Polls in July?

CM reportedly
approves holding
Sarpanch
elections in July

State polls
delayed earlier
due to BC
reservation
demands

Panchayat terms
already ended

Elections can't
be postponed
further



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana state government has taken a crucial step toward conducting local body elections that have been delayed for months. As per official sources, it has been decided to hold the Sarpanch elections in July, and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is said to have issued key instructions to the concerned departments to begin preparations. The Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC) had already made all arrangements for the polls two months ago. However, elections were postponed following demands from various Backward Classes (BC) organisations that elections be held only after the caste survey

was completed and the promised BC reservation was increased to 42%. Adding to the complexity, the recent decision by the NDA-led central government to include caste enumeration in the national census has triggered fresh debates. The move is being seen as a potential challenge for the Congress government, as it puts the promised 42% BC reservation under scrutiny. Though the Telangana Assembly had already passed two bills on the caste census and approved the 42% reservation in local bodies, education, and employment, they are still pending central approval. A senior official commented, “A full caste census and approval may take

nearly two years. The state cannot afford to wait that long without conducting elections. The terms of the gram panchayats and zilla parishads have already expired.” The term of the gram panchayats ended on January 31, 2024, while the zilla parishads completed their term back in July 2023. With constitutional and administrative urgency mounting, the Revanth-led government appears inclined to move forward with the elections, despite the legal and political challenges surrounding BC reservation. A formal announcement with exact polling dates is expected soon.

Review Committee Under Lens in Phone Tapping Case

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana phone tapping case appears to be entering a critical phase, with significant developments pointing to the involvement of senior bureaucrats. Former Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Prabhakar Rao, who is currently in the United States, is reportedly trying to distance himself from the controversy by shifting the responsibility onto the then review committee. In a recent affidavit submitted to the court, Prabhakar Rao claimed that all phone tapping activities were conducted with the full knowledge and permission of the review committee constituted during the previous government's tenure. He also claimed that the sensitive phone tapping data was destroyed in December 2023 with the same committee's approval. With this revelation, the focus of the investigation has now shifted toward the top officials who were part of that committee. Sources indicate that officials including the Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary of the Home Department, Secretary of the Law Department, and officials from the General Administration Department (GAD) may soon be



Prabhakar Rao shifts
blame onto officials
in review committee

High Court recently
rejects anticipatory
bail to Rao

Hyderabad Police
pursue Rao in US

IAS, IPS officers
may soon face
questioning

moned for questioning by the investigating team. Legal experts say this development could widen the scope of the case significantly, as the affidavit puts accountability squarely on the shoulders of the administrative machinery that sanctioned the surveillance measures. Investigators are reportedly collecting evidence and statements to confirm if these claims by Prabhakar Rao are substantiated or part of a legal strategy to evade arrest.

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No Talks With Maoists, Operation 'KAGAR' Will Continue

Center firm on crackdown
against Maoists

No talks without surrendering
weapons says Bandi Sanjay

He Accuses Congress, BRS of
politicizing issue

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar made it clear that the Central government will not hold talks with Maoists under any circumstances. He stated that Operation Kagar, the ongoing mission to eliminate Maoist activities in the country, will continue with full force. His remarks come in response to recent political debates and appeals from some quarters to halt the operation. Speaking at a public event in Kothapalli of Karimnagar district, Bandi Sanjay reaffirmed the government's position, stating, “There will be no talks with those who killed innocent people with guns. There will be no talks with them... no talks.” He emphasized that discussions with Maoists are only possible if they surrender their weapons. He also pointed out that it was the



Congress party itself that had declared Maoists an outlawed organization. Bandi Sanjay lamented the heavy toll Maoist violence has taken over the years, mentioning that leaders from multiple political parties including BJP, Congress, and TDP had lost their lives to landmine blasts, while innocent tribal people were falsely branded as informers and executed by the extremists. “Many tribal families are still suffering due to the Maoists' cruelty,” he said. He further alleged that the Congress and BRS parties were eager to initiate talks with

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Case Filed Against YouTuber Anvesh In Hyderabad

Alleged false
claims on Rs 300
crore betting
app scam

Police say video
defames top
Telangana
officials

Cyberabad cops
register case
suo moto under
cybercrime laws



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Cyberabad Cyber Crime Police has registered a suo moto case against popular YouTuber Anvesh for allegedly making defamatory and baseless allegations against senior government officials in a video shared on his YouTube channel. According to police, Anvesh accused Telangana DGP Jitender, Hyderabad Metro Rail MD NVS Reddy, senior IAS officers Shan-thikumari, Dana Kishore, Vi-

kas Raj, and others of being involved in a ₹300 crore scam under the pretext of promoting betting apps within the Hyderabad Metro. The video, police claim, not only spread misinformation but also intended to damage the credibility of government institutions. The FIR was filed based on a complaint by a constable from the Cyber Crime Police Station. The complaint stated that the video was crafted to create public confusion, incite hatred

against state officials, and destroy the public trust in law enforcement and administrative services. The police found the allegations unsubstantiated and described the video as part of a false propaganda campaign. Anvesh, known for his travel-based content exploring cultures and traditions worldwide, had recently posted a video that targeted top officials with serious accusations. This has now drawn sharp backlash from law

enforcement. Netizens have reacted strongly, with some even demanding that other content creators expose Anvesh's actions in the same way he targeted others. With this case now in progress, many are closely watching whether Anvesh will face arrest, especially as comparisons are being drawn with other controversial YouTubers like Harsha Sai and Imran, who are reportedly avoiding legal action.



Uttam Slams Past Govt Over Irrigation Neglect in South Telangana

- Focus only on Kaleshwaram ignored other key projects
- Vows to complete SSLBC and restart Kandamalla project
- ₹23,000 crore allocated for irrigation in current budget

TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly criticised the previous BRS government for sidelining key irrigation projects in South Telangana. Holding a review meeting in Miryalaguda with officials from the joint Nalgonda district, the minister asserted that the Congress government is committed to completing all pending projects that were ignored under the earlier regime.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SSLBC) tunnel project will be completed at any cost and assured that works on the stalled Kandamalla project will also resume soon. He alleged that the former BRS government paid attention only to the Kaleshwaram project, leaving out crucial initiatives like SSELBC, Devadula, Palamuru-Ranga Reddy, Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, and Bhima



projects.

“The injustice done to South Telangana by the previous government is clear,” Uttam said, adding that the current Congress administration has already allocated ₹23,000 crore exclusively for irrigation in this year’s state budget. He stated that this funding will help expedite long-pending projects across the region.

The Minister reiterated that the government is determined to meet the irrigation needs of the joint Nalgonda district and ensure South Telangana receives its fair share in water resources and project development.

Fire Erupts in SBI Admission Building at Patni Center

- Blaze engulfs 4th and 5th floors of the building
- Firefighters struggle to control flames
- Cause suspected to be electrical short circuit

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A massive fire broke out on Sunday at the SBI Admission Building located in Patni Center, Secunderabad, triggering panic in the area. The blaze, which reportedly started on the fourth floor, quickly spread upward, completely engulfing the fifth floor of the building in flames. Three fire engines were rushed to the spot immediately and are currently engaged in firefighting operations. However, officials on the scene revealed that the fire has intensified, making it increasingly difficult to control.

Preliminary reports suggest that the fire may have been caused by a short circuit, although a full investigation will be needed to confirm the cause. Sources indicate that several valuable



documents and assets stored on the upper floors are believed to be burning in the fire.

As of now, it is still unclear whether any individuals were present inside the building at the time the fire broke out. Rescue teams are on standby as firefighters continue to battle the flames.

The incident, which occurred in a busy part of the city on Sunday, is being treated as a major accident. Authorities are expected to release further updates after a full assessment.

HC Issues Notice on Child Rights Commission Appointment

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has issued notices to the state government regarding the appointment of former MLA Kothakota Seetha Dayakar Reddy as the chairperson of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The court has directed the government, along with the Principal Secretary of the Women and Child



Welfare Department, and Seetha Dayakar Reddy herself, to file detailed counter-affidavits with all relevant appointment proceedings. The notices were issued following a petition filed by Chinta Krishna from Nalgonda, challenging Government Order (GO) 45 that appointed Seetha Dayakar Reddy to the post. The petitioner’s counsel

argued that the appointment was politically motivated and claimed that Reddy lacked the necessary qualifications to hold the position. Justice Pulla Karthik, after hearing the arguments, issued the notices and adjourned the case to allow for the submission of detailed responses. The next hearing is scheduled for June 17.

Hyderabad Takes Lead In AC Power Saving Drive

- BEE urges 24°C default setting for ACs
- TSREDCO to launch mass awareness in Telangana
- City’s compliance key to national energy savings

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

With temperatures soaring and power demand rising, Hyderabad has been identified as a key city in India’s nationwide energy conservation campaign. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Union Ministry of Power, has called on households, offices, hotels, malls, and public buildings in Hyderabad to maintain air conditioners at a default setting of 24°C.

This move is part of a national effort to reduce electricity consumption and carbon emissions while ensuring thermal comfort. Given its dense population of over 90 lakh and a high concentration of residential and commercial consumers, Hyderabad’s energy usage patterns are now under close national scrutiny. BEE Secretary Milind Deore, along with Directors Abhishek Sharma and Kamran Sheikh, has emphasized the importance of Telangana’s State Designated Agency (SDA), TSREDCO, in implementing the campaign. Speaking with key SDA officials, he stated, “Hyderabad’s energy consumption pattern also directly impacts national power stability and climate targets. A collective shift to 24°C AC settings could be a game-changer.”



Benefits of Setting ACs to 24°C:

- Up to 24% electricity savings compared to 20°C.
- Lower power bills and reduced load on the grid.
- Longer AC lifespan due to reduced compressor strain.
- Environmentally safer with reduced carbon footprint.

TSREDCO Managing Director V. Aneela confirmed that the

agency is launching a state-wide campaign, starting with Hyderabad, to promote responsible AC usage. Awareness drives will be undertaken aggressively in high-consumption zones like IT parks, airports, shopping malls, and government buildings.

BEE has also urged air conditioner manufacturers to make 24°C the default factory setting for all new models. Smart usage tips, such as using fans for better circulation and installing programmable thermostats, are being promoted to complement the main effort.

“If even 50% of Hyderabad’s consumers adopt this practice, we could significantly cut power demand and emissions,” said BEE officials.

Other cities in the campaign include Bengaluru, Chennai, Vizag, Thiruvananthapuram, Delhi, Mumbai, and others, but Hyderabad stands at the forefront in South India’s energy-saving efforts.

This is not just a policy push—it’s a people-driven mission to protect the environment and ensure a sustainable future. Hyderabad now has the chance to set the benchmark.

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Review Committee Under Lens in Phone Tapping Case

The Telangana High Court has already rejected Prabhakar Rao’s anticipatory bail plea. Meanwhile, the Hyderabad Police are coordinating efforts to bring him back from the United States to face trial. His return is expected to bring further clarity—and potentially more revelations—into the alleged illegal surveillance activities carried

out under the previous regime. As these high-stakes developments unfold, the coming days could see serving and former IAS and IPS officials being drawn into the probe, raising questions about institutional accountability and the extent of misuse of official machinery.

No Talks With Maoists, Operation ‘KAGAR’ Will Continue

Maoists for political mileage. He accused the Congress of raising such issues to divert attention from its failure to implement the six guarantees it promised to the people. He warned against politicizing sensitive issues like internal security and law and order. Referring to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao’s reported move to write a letter to the Centre demanding a halt to Operation Kagar, Bandi Sanjay said the BJP-led government

will not be influenced by political pressure and will act decisively against left-wing extremism. He also questioned the inaction of the state government even after the NDSA report on irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project. Bandi Sanjay’s strong stance has added a new dimension to the ongoing political discourse, reaffirming the Centre’s commitment to ending Maoist violence without compromise.

Heavy Rains Lash Telugu States, Orange Alert in Multiple Districts

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rains in several parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the next two days. Orange alerts have been issued for multiple districts in both states as rainfall continues to intensify.

In Telangana, the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre has issued orange alerts for Sircilla, Karimnagar, Mulugu, and several other districts. The affected regions include Peddapalli, Bhupalapalli, Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanmakonda, Jangaon, and Siddipet. These areas are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms in some parts.

Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh, the IMD has predicted significant rainfall in West Godavari, Eluru, and nearby districts. Thunderstorms are also likely in certain regions on Tuesday. Already, rain has begun in several locations across the state. Light to moderate showers are expected



in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, Alluri, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle, Kakinada, Konaseema, East Godavari, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Palnadu, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, and Tirupati.

Residents in the affected areas have been advised to take necessary precautions, especially those living in low-lying regions. Authorities are monitoring the situation closely and may issue further warnings if rainfall intensifies.

Harish Slams Govt Over Fee Reimbursement Delay

Harish Rao criticizes Congress for neglecting students
₹800 crore dues pending, exams not conducted on time
Degree, PG, and entrance test futures at stake

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao came down heavily on the Congress-led Telangana government for its failure to clear fee reimbursement dues, leaving the future of lakhs of students hanging in the balance. He lashed out at the government for paying crores to big contractors while ignoring students' welfare. Harish Rao said nearly ₹800 crore in fee reimbursement dues to degree colleges have not been released, putting the academic future of six lakh students in jeopardy. He pointed out that the government's negligence has already led to the suspension of de-

gree exams across major universities, including Kakatiya, Satavahana, Telangana, Mahatma Gandhi, and Palamuru. He strongly condemned the delay, saying, "Third-year students are losing eligibility to appear for PGSET, LawSET, and other entrance exams due to the non-conduct of degree exams. This failure is a result of the government's utter disregard for education." Highlighting the dire state of private colleges, Harish said managements are struggling to pay staff salaries due to non-payment of dues, some have even declared holidays and suspended admissions. "While students

are pleading with the government to conduct exams, officials and ministers are acting as if nothing has happened," he said. Harish Rao also contrasted the current situation with the BRS regime, stating that the KCR government had implemented the fee reimbursement scheme started by late CM YSR with utmost commitment. "Even during COVID, not a single rupee was delayed. Over ₹19,000 crore was released in 9.5 years, averaging ₹2,000 crore annually," he said. He criticized the Congress government for failing to release even a single rupee in the past 17 months, despite promising in its manifesto to

improve the scheme and introduce a ₹5 lakh education assurance card under 'Yuva Vikasam.' He also called out Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, stating that their words in the Assembly and to college managements about clearing dues immediately have proved empty. "Not a single promise has been fulfilled. From CM to ministers, all are walking the same path of neglect," Harish said. He ended with a scathing remark: "During your 17-month rule, welfare hostels, degree colleges, and even medical colleges have been locked. Now even Gurukuls are suffering.



This is the dark mark Congress has left on the state's education system." On behalf of BRS, Harish demanded that the Congress government immediately release the pending fee reimbursement funds and conduct the degree exams without further delay to protect the future of Telangana's students.

Appoint Telangana President Quickly: Raja Singh

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The issue of leadership change in the Telangana BJP is once again under the spotlight, following comments made by Goshamahal MLA and senior BJP leader Raja Singh. Expressing his dissatisfaction with the current leadership situation, Singh urged the BJP high command to expedite the process of appointing a state party president. Speaking to the media, Raja Singh openly criticized the ongoing party meetings, labeling them as "time-pass meetings." He expressed frustration over the repetitive nature of these discussions, describing the recent one on Sunday as yet another unproductive session. Singh emphasized that the party needed a decisive leader for the state to move forward. Despite Singh's call for swift action, party sources suggest that



the selection of a Telangana president will likely be delayed. According to these sources, the high command is waiting to finalize the election of the national president before making any decisions regarding state leadership. Reports also suggest ongoing discussions with the RSS as part of the leadership selection process, which could further influence the timing of the appointment. The delay has raised concerns within the party, with leaders like Raja Singh urging the high command to prioritize filling the leadership vacuum in Telangana to strengthen the party's position in the state.

Chief Secretary Reviews Metro Demolition Works in Old City



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao on Sunday inspected the ongoing demolition works along the Hyderabad Metro Rail Corridor in the Old City, particularly between Darul Shifa and Shalibanda Junction, where several impacted buildings are being removed to make way for the project. Accompanied by top officials, the Chief Secretary assessed the progress of the works amid congested lanes and emphasised the importance of public convenience. Metro Rail MD NVS Reddy briefed him on the measures being taken to ensure that essential services such as electricity, telephone, and cable TV lines are safely relocated without disruption to residents. "Despite the challenges posed by narrow roads, demolition is proceeding systematically to minimise inconvenience. Around 105 religious, historical, and sensitive structures lie along the corridor, and every possible effort is being made to ensure these structures remain untouched," Reddy said. He added that local stakeholders had been consulted in advance to ensure

smooth cooperation on the ground. The inspection also covered the ongoing work on the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the second phase (Part B) of the Metro expansion. The Chief Secretary confirmed that the DPRs are nearing finalisation and will soon be reviewed in a Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) Board meeting before being sent for State Government approval and subsequently to the Central Government. The Phase-2 DPRs include the corridors from JBS to Medchal (24.5 km), JBS to Shamirpet (22 km), and Shamshabad to Future City (40 km). Officials accompanying the Chief Secretary included Municipal Secretary K Ilambarthi, GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Water Board MD Ashok Reddy. The Metro corridor in the Old City has long been a sensitive undertaking due to its proximity to many heritage and religious sites. Officials reiterated that extra caution is being exercised to balance development needs with heritage preservation.

CBI Court Grants BRS MLC Kavitha Permission for US Visit

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha has been granted permission by the Rouse Avenue Special CBI Court in Delhi to travel to the United States from May 16 to 23 to attend her son Aditya's graduation ceremony. The court issued official orders on Saturday, allowing Kavitha and her husband Anil to undertake the foreign visit, which had been pending legal clearance due to ongoing investigations. The couple is scheduled to depart on May 16 and



return to Hyderabad on May 23, after participating in the family event. Kavitha had submitted a formal petition before the court seeking permission for the trip, cit-

Sources close to the BRS leader said that all required documentation had been submitted and the court had considered her plea on humanitarian and family grounds before granting the travel clearance. This development comes amidst heightened political activity in Telangana, with BRS leaders continuing their outreach and legal battles. Kavitha, meanwhile, is expected to resume her political and legal engagements upon her return from the United States.

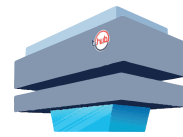
ing personal and family commitments. The approval was necessary due to travel restrictions in connection with legal proceedings she is currently facing.

Bhatti Inspects Temple Development Works in Lakshmipuram

TPN Correspondent | Khammam
Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka visited his native village of Snanala Lakshmipuram in Vaira mandal and reviewed the progress of various development works underway at the historic Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple. During his visit, Bhatti Vikramarka inspected the ongoing construction of the temple mandapam, bathing ghat, bathrooms, and guardrails. He personally examined the quality and pace of the works and offered suggestions to the officials to ensure timely completion. The deputy Chief minister also visited the Vaira river bank, where key infrastructure

projects like a retaining wall, check dam, and flyover bridge are being developed opposite the temple premises. He spent nearly an hour inspecting the progress and assessing the layout and design at the construction sites. Bhatti Vikramarka directed the officials to strictly adhere to the deadlines and ensure that the development projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe. He emphasized the importance of making the new facilities accessible to the public at the earliest. His visit has raised expectations among the locals, who believe that these efforts will significantly enhance the spiritual and infrastructural profile of the region.





Miss World 2025 Buzz Begins in Hyderabad

Contestants from 120 countries arriving for grand event

Ceremonies and tours scheduled across Telangana till May 31

Final competition to be held at Hitex and broadcast in 150+ countries

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The city of Hyderabad has begun to dazzle with the arrival of international contestants for the prestigious 72nd Miss World 2025 competition, which will be held from May 10 to 31. With the Telangana government taking the lead in hosting this global event, preparations are nearly complete, and the city is abuzz as beauty queens from around the world begin landing in the city.

Julio Evelyn Morley, Chairperson and CEO of Miss World, has already reached Hyderabad and is overseeing the

final arrangements. On Saturday evening, Miss Canada 2025, Emma Morrison, landed at Shamshabad Airport to a grand traditional welcome. Telangana Tourism officials received her with classical dances, aarti, tilak, and garlands—highlighting the state's rich cultural heritage.

In the next two days, participants from 120 countries are expected to arrive. The event kicks off on May 10 with the opening ceremony at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. A vibrant calendar of cultural and tourism-centered events follows, aiming to showcase Telangana's unique traditions,

temples, art, health infrastructure, and heritage.

On May 13, the contestants will participate in a heritage walk at Charminar and Laad Bazaar, followed by a musical concert and welcome dinner at Chowmohalla Palace. The following days will see various groups exploring key tourist and spiritual destinations—Warangal's Thousand Pillar Temple, Ramappa Temple, Yadadri Temple, and Pochampally, known for its iconic handwoven sarees.

A visit to the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG) in Gachibowli is scheduled on May 16 as part of the state's push

to promote medical tourism. Another group will visit the Marri Eco-Tourism Park in Mahabubnagar. On May 17, the sports finale will take place at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, and contestants will head to Ramoji Film City thereafter. The itinerary includes visits to the Telangana Secretariat and the Police Integrated Command and Control Center on May 18, giving the delegates a glimpse into the state's governance and safety mechanisms for tourists.

From May 20 onwards, the focus shifts to fashion and talent, with visits to the Tea Hub in Madhapur, a live IPL match



at Uppal on May 21, and an arts workshop at Shilparamam. The talent finale will be held on May 22, followed by the Head-to-Head Challenge on May 23. The fashion finale and a grand jewelry showcase are scheduled for May 24.

The crowning moment, the Miss World 2025 Grand Finale, will take place at Hitex on

May 31. The event is expected to reach a global audience, with live telecasts in over 150 countries.

To ensure safety and hospitality, tight security has been arranged from the airport to contestant accommodations, and beautification works are underway across all key locations.

HC Judge Maturi Girija Priyadarsini Passes Away

Funeral to be held at Mahaprasthanam, Jubilee Hills on May 5 at 12 noon



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Justice Maturi Girija Priyadarsini, a sitting judge of the Telangana High Court, passed away in Hyderabad on the morning of May 4, after a brief period of illness. The news of her death was officially confirmed by the Telangana High Court Registrar (Protocol).

Her mortal remains have been placed at her residence in Vasanth City, Hafeezpet, and her funeral will take place at Mahaprasthanam, Jubilee Hills, on Monday, May 5, at 12 noon.

Justice Priyadarsini was an accomplished academic, holding three postgraduate degrees from Andhra University: an MA in Sociology, an MA in Public Administration, and an MA in Political Science. She was appointed as a judge to the Telangana High Court in 2022 and ranked 16th in seniority among the sitting judges. Her tenure was expected to conclude next year upon reaching the retirement age.

Her passing has left a void in the legal community, and condolences have been pouring in from various quarters.

Harish Rao Assists Accident Victims Near Sangareddy

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy

Former Telangana finance minister and BRS Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao sprang into action on Sunday, May 4, after witnessing a major road accident near Peddapur in Sangareddy district along the Mumbai highway. The incident involved an overturned lorry and two severely damaged cars.

Harish Rao, who was en route to Zaheerabad, immediately stopped his convoy upon noticing the accident. With the help of his entourage and local residents, he assisted the victims and ensured

they were safely transported to a nearby hospital for treatment using his own vehicle.

In addition to offering direct aid at the scene, Rao swiftly contacted the Sangareddy district collector and superintendent of police, apprising them of the situation and urging prompt relief and medical assistance.

The timely intervention by Harish Rao has been widely appreciated by those present at the scene. Local authorities are expected to conduct further investigation into the cause of the accident.



Rachakonda Police Help NEET Student Reach Correct Exam Centre

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a timely intervention, Rachakonda police ensured that a NEET candidate, who mistakenly arrived at the wrong exam centre, reached her designated location without delay on Sunday, May 4.

At around 1:00 pm, the student mistakenly showed up at the Defence Laboratory School, RCI, instead of her actual exam centre at Defence Laboratory School, Kanchanbagh. Recognizing the urgency, Rachakonda police took immediate action to assist the candidate.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) B V Satyanarayana, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) P Laxmikantha Reddy, and Station House Officer (SHO) M Sudhakar worked together to resolve the issue promptly. Sub-Inspector Srinivas from Balapur Police Station was tasked with escorting the student to her correct exam centre, ensuring she arrived on time and without stress.

The candidate's parents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Rachakonda police for their swift and compassionate assistance during this crucial moment.



Seize Illegal Constructions Immediately: HC to GHMC

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has come down heavily on the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) for its failure to curb illegal constructions within its jurisdiction. Expressing strong dissatisfaction, the Court has directed the GHMC to immediately seal unauthorized buildings and floors that have already received show-cause notices.

The case pertains to a petition filed by G. Ramesh

regarding illegal construction in Sheikhpur's OU Colony, where a builder, despite obtaining permission for only G+2 floors, was allegedly raising additional floors, including penthouses. Justice B. Vijayen Reddy, who presided over the case, sharply criticized GHMC's inaction and questioned the logic of issuing notices without taking follow-up enforcement action.

The judge observed that continuing construction even after the issuance of

notices reflected blatant disregard for the law and raised questions about potential collusion between builders, local politicians, and officials. "It is absurd to issue notices, then demolition orders, while allowing illegal constructions to continue unchecked," he remarked.

Justice Reddy pointed out that as per Section 461A of the GHMC Act, the civic body has the power to issue show-cause notices and immediately seal any unauthorized structures. He stressed that the failure to act decisively was not only emboldening violators but also flooding the court with unnecessary litigation.

In response to the High Court's directives issued on April 29, the GHMC has now acted by releasing a circular on May 1. This cir-

cular mandates all Zonal Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Circle Offices, Ward Offices, and Town Planning personnel to ensure that unauthorized constructions are sealed without delay after issuing show-cause notices.

The circular marks a shift in GHMC's enforcement approach, compelling immediate action against violations of sanctioned building plans. The High Court's observations are expected to put significant pressure on municipal authorities to rein in the rampant illegal constructions across Hyderabad. As the issue garners public attention, all eyes are now on GHMC to see whether it will strictly implement the sealing orders or continue its previous pattern of delayed responses.

Thanda Youth Demolish Illegal Constructions on Play Ground

TPN Correspondent | Medchal-Malkajgiri

In a dramatic show of public resistance, the youth of Dundigal Thanda 2 in Qutbullapur constituency took matters into their own hands by demolishing illegal constructions on a government-allotted sports ground. The land in question, located in Survey No. 684, had been earmarked by the Telangana government specifically for use by local youth.

Despite multiple complaints from residents, revenue officials reportedly failed to act, allowing encroachers to raise illegal structures on the site. Frustrated by the indifference, the youth of Thanda united and tore down two rooms that were being built illegally.

The youth alleged that revenue officers — including the Mandal MRO and Gridavar — who draw hefty monthly salaries, had turned a blind eye to the encroachment. "They are feeding the encroachers with silence. We couldn't tolerate the loss of our government sports ground anymore," said one of the locals

involved in the demolition.

Their bold move has sparked widespread appreciation among the residents of Dundigal, with many praising the youth for their civic awareness and courage. Citizens are now demanding stronger accountability from revenue officials,



urging them to prevent such illegal occupations and take inspiration from the youth's proactive stance. The incident has also reignited calls for the government to involve local youth in monitoring and protecting public properties, given their willingness to act when officials fail to do so.



‘Bhu Bharati’ to be Rolled out in 28 Mandals from Today

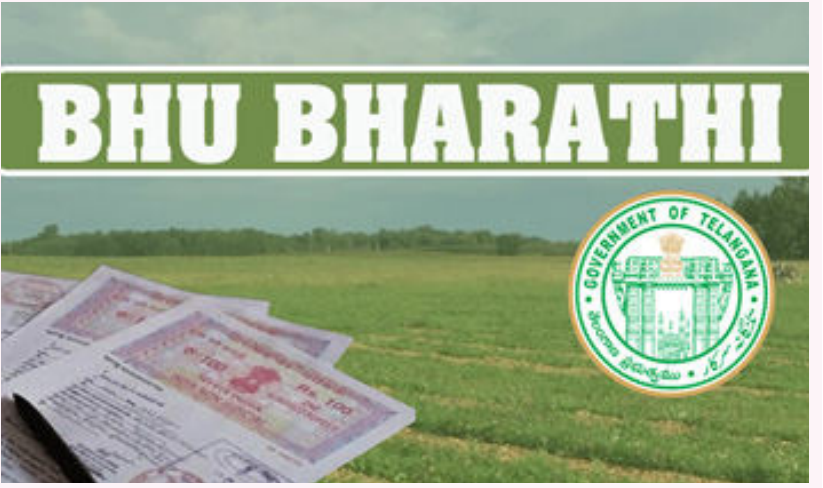
Revenue meetings to be held till May 20 across Telangana
Minister Ponguleti targets past government’s Dharani failures
CM Revanth’s vision behind the new Bhu Bharati Act

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a decisive move to resolve land-related issues across Telangana, the state government is rolling out the implementation of the ‘Bhu Bharati’ Act across 28 mandals starting from tomorrow, May 5. This was announced by Revenue, Housing, Information, and Civil Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, who described the Act as a major reform in Telangana’s land administration system. The initiative will run till May 20 and aims to conduct extensive revenue meetings at the

mandal level to both create awareness about the new Act and collect applications related to land grievances from the public. Minister Ponguleti emphasized that every District Collector must participate in these meetings, communicate in an understandable manner, and resolve farmers’ doubts and concerns on the spot. He strongly criticised the previous government for land mismanagement and alleged that the Dharani system introduced during its tenure created havoc in villages and ruined hundreds of families. “The former leaders backed the Dha-

rani scam, dismantled land rights, and made revenue services inaccessible to farmers,” he stated. Minister Ponguleti said the new Bhu Bharati Act, guided by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s commitment, aims to restore trust and ensure farmers feel secure about their land rights. “The Indiramma government model is back. Instead of farmers running to the courts, the officials will now come to their doorsteps to resolve issues,” he said.
Bhu Bharati Implementation Mandals (May 5–20):
• Adilabad: Bharoj

- Bhadradri Kothagudem: Sujathanagar
- Hanumakonda: Nadikuda
- Jagityala: Buggaram
- Janagaon: Ghanpur
- Jayashankar Bhupalpally: Regonda
- Jogulamba Gadwal: Itikyal
- Karimnagar: Saidapur
- Komarambheem Asifabad: Penchikalpet
- Mahabubabad: Danthapalle
- Mahabubnagar: Moosapet
- Mancherial: Bhimaram
- Medak: Chilpichid
- Medchal-Malkajgiri: Keesara
- Nagarkurnool: Pentlavalli
- Nalgonda: Nakrekal
- Nirmal: Kuntala



- Nizamabad: Mendora
- Peddapalli: Eligade
- Rajanna Sircilla: Rudrangi
- Rangareddy: Kondurg
- Sangareddy: Kondapur
- Siddipet: Akkannapet
- Suryapet: Garidepalli
- Vikarabad: Dharur
- Wanaparthy: Gopalapet

- Warangal: Wardhannapet
- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri: Atmakur

The state government sees this as a direct intervention to correct long-standing land disputes and restore transparency and justice in land records management.

NEET 2025 Exam Concludes Successfully Across India

Over 20.8 lakh students appeared in 5,453 centres

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The NEET UG 2025 examination, a crucial gateway for students aspiring to enter undergraduate medical courses, was successfully conducted across the country and abroad on Sunday. Organized by the National Testing Agency (NTA), the examination saw participation from over 20.8 lakh candidates across 5,453 centres in 548 cities in India and 14 international locations. To ensure fairness and transparency, the NTA operated a central control room under the supervision of the Union Ministry of Education. Key departments including Health, Defence, Home Affairs, and Electronics & IT coordinated efforts on the ground. Officials monitored all centres throughout the exam duration. In preparation, the NTA held mock drills on May 3 to verify arrangements at all centres. This included checking the functioning of mobile signal jammers, biometric attendance systems, and staffing adequacy. Most



exam centres were set up in government and aided institutions for better infrastructure and supervision. Given the summer heat and afternoon exam schedule, authorities provided facilities like drinking water, electricity, first-aid, mobile toilets, and even ambulance services at all centres to ensure student well-being. To tackle misinformation and attempts at malpractice, the NTA launched a 'Suspicious Complaints Reporting Portal' on April 26. Through this, they received about 2,300 complaints and identified 106 Telegram

and 16 Instagram channels spreading fake question papers. The details have been passed to the Indian Cyber-crime Coordination Centre (I4C) for further action. The Union Education Ministry also held preparatory meetings with district magistrates and police superintendents across India, ensuring safe exam material transport, multi-layered security checks, and strict enforcement of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. Mixed Reaction from Students
Initial feedback from stu-

dents suggests that the exam ranged from moderate to difficult. Most candidates agreed that Physics was the toughest section, while Biology was comparatively easier. Chemistry was deemed moderate in difficulty. Riya, one of the candidates, said, "Physics was very tough this time. Biology and Chemistry were okay. I expected to score over 600 marks, but now I'm unsure about a government seat." Another student, Jahnvi, shared, "This was my third attempt. I noticed 5–6 similar questions. Physics continues to be difficult, but I think the cut-off will still be high this year." Answer Key to be Released Soon
The NTA will soon publish the provisional answer key for NEET UG 2025 on its official website: exams.nta.ac.in/NEET. Candidates can download it and cross-check their responses to get an estimate of their scores. Students are advised to keep an eye on the website for further updates on results and counselling dates.

Joyful Conclusion to ELIM MB Church's Vacation Bible School



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The Vacation Bible School (VBS) at ELIM MB Church in Balanagar concluded its successful run here on Sunday, with a vibrant celebratory event. The program led by Church Pastor Rev. GK. Prasad's spiritual guidance, this year's program witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 115 young students. Sunday School Superintendent Sis. Chaitanya emphasized the vital role of VBS in the church, recognizing it as a valuable avenue for teaching, ministry, fellowship, outreach, discipleship, evangelism, and even joyful engagement for children. Addressing the gathering Rev. GK. Prasad shared that the VBS, themed 'Be a friend of God,' focused on imparting biblical and spiritual knowledge through a range of interactive activities and lessons. He highlight-

ed the program's goal of sharing the gospel in an enjoyable and inclusive atmosphere for all participating children. Long-time VBS Coordinator Amulya reminisced about her childhood experiences, describing VBS as "a wonderful adventure, filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences that the students will see, hear, and feel." The successful conclusion of the VBS was marked by an award ceremony, anticipation for next year's program, and a "love feast" generously hosted by the ELIM MB Church Committee for all the young attendees. The event was graced by the presence of dedicated VBS teachers Annamma, Mariyamma, Satyaveda, Hepsibah, Johnnsy, Santosha, Nireekshana, Susheela, Sukeerthi, Sunitha, Madhuri, Persis, along with Church Committee members and other well-wishers.

Crucial Meeting on May 7 to Resolve Krishna Water Disputes

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
A crucial meeting of Irrigation Ministers from the Krishna river basin States will be held on May 7, convened by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, to seek consensus on a stable water-sharing framework that could last for the next two-and-a-half decades. The meeting is also aimed at paving the way for the gazette notification of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II) award. The tribunal's award, delivered back in December 2010, has remained unimplemented due to legal battles—particularly over Andhra Pradesh's objections to surplus water allocations and the controversial increase in the storage level of Karnataka's Almatti dam. Andhra Pradesh challenged the award in the Supreme Court in 2011, which led to a stay on its gazette notification. Following the formation of Telangana in 2014, the scope of the KWDT-II tribunal was expanded in 2023 to include adjudication of water-sharing issues between the new State and Andhra Pradesh. A major point of contention is the project-wise division of the erstwhile unified Andhra Pradesh's share of 811 TMC (as per KWDT-I) and additional allocations. The tribunal has now been given time until July 31, 2025, to resolve the issue. Telangana has been demanding a 70 per cent share of the Krishna water



based on its basin area and historical grievances of neglect. Andhra Pradesh, on the other hand, continues to stand by the existing 512:299 TMC allocation ratio. Karnataka and Maharashtra, who are also parties to the tribunal, are expected to safeguard their respective shares, potentially complicating consensus efforts. The KWDT-II award, based on 47 years of flow data and a 65 per cent dependability threshold, allocated 1,001 TMC to Andhra Pradesh, 911 TMC to Karnataka, and 666 TMC to Maharashtra out of a dependable yield of 2,293 TMC. It also redistributed the 285 TMC of surplus water among all three States, unlike the earlier KWDT-I award, which allowed Andhra Pradesh to use surplus water without formal allocation. One of the most contentious issues remains the Almatti dam. The tribunal had approved Karnataka's request to raise its storage level from 519.6 meters to 524.256 meters, which Andhra Pradesh argued would jeopardise water supply to its Krishna delta region. This led to widespread protests and legal challenges.

25-Year-Old Woman Dies by Suicide at Jeedimetla

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A 25-year-old woman died by suicide after allegedly jumping from the terrace of an apartment building in Subashnagar, Jeedimetla, on Saturday night. The deceased, identified as Laxmi alias Pooja, was residing at the apartment along with her husband Hari Krishna and her brother. The couple hails from Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh and had been living in Hyderabad for some time. According to preliminary reports, Laxmi went to the terrace of the building late in the evening and reportedly jumped from there. She sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot, police officials said. On receiving information, the Jeedimetla police reached the location and shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital for postmortem. A case has been registered, and investigations are underway to determine the circumstances and reasons that may have led the woman to take the extreme step. Police officials stated that they are speaking to the family members and examining all possible angles, including personal and psychological factors, to understand what may have prompted the suicide.

15 Held for Gambling at Adilabad Function Hall

Rs 89,160 cash, 13 mobiles, and 6 bikes seized during raid



TPN Correspondent | Adilabad
Fifteen individuals were arrested for indulging in illegal gambling at a function hall on the outskirts of Adilabad town on Saturday afternoon. Acting on a tip-off, the Adilabad Rural police raided Balaji Function Hall around 1 pm and caught the accused red-handed while they were engaged in gambling activities. The police seized a total of ₹89,160 in cash, 13 mobile phones, and six motorcycles from the spot. Adilabad Rural Inspector K Phanidhar, in an official statement, identified

the arrested persons as Manda Adellu, Sriram Santosh, Barkunti Raju, Chittala Sanjeev, Bongari Ganganna, Ekondi Gangareddy, Kola Bhojanna, Mentapu Mahesh, Ineni Kiran, Bolu Naresh, Angineni Dinakar, Thingeni Pochanna, Akula Sai, Gunjala Pradyumn, and Routu Sateesh. A case has been registered against all the accused under relevant sections of the law, and further investigation is underway. Police are also probing whether the group has any links to larger gambling networks operating in the region.



‘India’s Orange Era Begins’

PM Modi Bats For Creative Economy

At the inauguration of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai’s Jio World Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited global content creators to produce in India, highlighting the country’s cultural inclusivity and creative potential. He emphasized that India, with its long-standing tradition of respecting other cultures, is well-suited to be a hub for global creative collaboration.

“This is the right time for ‘create in India, create for the world,’” said the Prime Minister. He assured international creators that their work would be welcomed and respected in India. Citing examples of communities like Parsis and Jews who have seamlessly integrated into Indian society, he emphasized India’s strength lies in honoring cultural diversity.

The ‘orange economy’—referring to industries based on creativity, culture, and intellectual property—was central to his speech. Modi celebrated India’s vibrant content creation landscape and the growing international appetite for Indian entertainment, noting how global audiences are now watching Indian content with subtitles across various platforms.

He also highlighted the importance of responsible creativity, stressing the need to respect human emo-



tions and values in storytelling. “We want to enrich humans, not turn them into robots,” he said, underlining the balance between innovation and social responsibility.

The WAVES summit, which hosted participants from over 90 countries, included notable figures such as actor Rajinikanth and Reliance Industries’ MD Mukesh Ambani. Both paid tribute to victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam and expressed their support for the Prime Minister’s vision. Rajinikanth praised Modi’s resilience, while Ambani projected India’s entertainment industry to grow from its current \$28 million valuation to \$100 million soon.

Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen echoed this optimism, stating that India’s next boom will be in cre-

ativity and entertainment, not just software. He shared Adobe’s commitment to reaching 20 million students and half a million teachers in India, leveraging digital tools to foster creativity.

Prime Minister Modi also announced the upcoming launch of the WAVES Awards, aiming to celebrate global creative talent. Referring to India’s rich artistic legacy, he cited ancient texts like the Natya Shastra and praised filmmakers such as Satyajit Ray, Raj Kapoor, and S.S. Rajamouli for placing Indian storytelling on the global stage.

With over 100 sessions scheduled until May 4, WAVES promises to be a landmark event for the creative world, connecting artists, innovators, and policymakers from across the globe.

India at a Global Crossroads:

A New Inflexion Point in World Order

India stands at a critical inflexion point in global geopolitics, one that echoes the historic arrival of Vasco da Gama in Kozhikode in 1498. Just as the Zamorin of Calicut then failed to grasp the strategic implications of that moment, India today must act decisively in a fast-changing world order to safeguard its interests and assert its global leadership. With the global value chains now being reshaped not by trade but by geopolitical force, the stakes are higher than ever. India, poised to become the third-largest economy, cannot afford strategic complacency.

For over seven decades, the post-colonial international order—commonly referred to as globalisation—was built on multilateralism and a rules-based system aimed at the collective good. This framework, however, was anchored in a worldview that divided nations into “donors” and “recipients.” That distinction has eroded as emerging powers, particularly China, have overtaken traditional Western powers like the United States in global trade, manufacturing output, and even in development financing.

As China rose to become the largest contributor to global infrastructure and aid, the legitimacy of existing institutions such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO), and various multilateral treaties began to wane. Their relevance diminished in the eyes of the very powers that had once championed

them. This erosion was symbolised by the United States withdrawing from key treaties and institutions, signaling a retreat from multilateral commitments.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this unraveling of the global order. The scramble by G-7 nations to hoard medical supplies revealed a stark disregard for international cooperation. It became evident that even the most developed nations would act in self-interest, leaving vulnerable countries to fend for themselves. As fractures deepened within the G-7, a vacuum in global leadership emerged.

This vacuum is creating space for alternative global frameworks like BRICS to gain prominence. As the credibility of traditional institutions wanes, BRICS has begun attracting increasing interest from nations seeking a more equitable world order. Membership requests are expected to rise, potentially transforming BRICS from a bloc of emerging economies into a more dominant global institution.

In this shifting landscape, India has a unique opportunity—and responsibility—to help shape the new global order. Its economic rise, demographic strength, and strategic position make it a key player in building new alliances and reinforcing multipolarity. To do so effectively, India must avoid strategic drift and embrace a proactive global vision



How golden ages really start—and end

Openness as the Engine of Golden Ages: Lessons from History

Contrary to the belief that greatness is achieved by building walls—both literal and metaphorical—to keep out foreign goods, people, and ideas, history consistently points in another direction. Johan Norberg, the Swedish historian and author, presents a compelling counter-narrative in his book Peak Human, where he explores the rise and fall of golden ages across civilisations over the past three thousand years. His findings suggest that societies that flourished did so not by isolating themselves, but by embracing openness—be it in trade, cultural exchange, or the free flow of ideas.

Norberg’s historical survey spans a diverse range of civilisations, from ancient Athens to the Abbasid caliphate, and from Renaissance Italy to the modern Anglosphere. Each of these societies, in their peak, stood out because they were more inclusive, more connected, and more intellectually curious than their contemporaries. They welcomed merchants from foreign lands, gave refuge to persecuted scholars, and encouraged debate—even when it challenged the status quo.

Ancient Athens, for instance, is often hailed as the cradle of democracy and Western philosophy. But its true strength lay in its openness. It became



a hub of learning and commerce not just because of its own thinkers, but because it was a magnet for ideas and talent from across the Mediterranean. Likewise, during the Islamic Golden Age, the Abbasid caliphate in Baghdad became a global centre for science, philosophy, and medicine precisely

because it absorbed knowledge from Greek, Persian, Indian, and other traditions.

The same patterns were seen in the flourishing of the Italian Renaissance, where a revival of classical learning and a network of trade routes helped

cities like Florence and Venice become cultural powerhouses. In more recent centuries, the openness of Britain and then America to immigrants and ideas helped fuel scientific discovery, industrial growth, and global influence.

But Norberg also warns of what hap-

pens when societies turn inward. Golden ages have never lasted forever, and one recurring cause of decline is self-imposed isolation. When empires or nations began to distrust outsiders, close borders, or suppress dissenting voices, their dynamism faded. The same Abbasid caliphate that once championed knowledge fell into decline when it grew more insular. China, too, after the early voyages of the Ming dynasty, shut its doors to the outside world—missing out on transformative global developments.

This historical perspective challenges today’s populist rhetoric that promises national resurgence through protectionism and exclusion. It highlights a fundamental truth: the progress of humanity has been driven not by division, but by collaboration and exchange. Walls may offer temporary comfort or political gain, but they stifle the very openness that fosters innovation, prosperity, and cultural vitality.

In Peak Human, Norberg reminds us that societies reach their peak not by fearing the foreign, but by embracing the unfamiliar. Golden ages are built not on isolation, but on connection. The question facing the world today is whether we will heed history’s lesson—or repeat its mistakes.

PM Modi Meets Air Chief Marshal AP Singh Amid India-Pakistan Tensions



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan over the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday. The meeting, which took place less than 24 hours after Prime Minister Modi's engagement with Admiral

Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, reflects India's continued high-level discussions on its response to the April 22 attack.

The Pahalgam attack, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians—many of them tourists from across India—has intensified calls for retaliatory measures against Pakistan, which In-

dia accuses of harboring terrorist groups responsible for cross-border violence. The attack, one of the deadliest strikes on civilians in recent years, took place in the picturesque south Kashmir region, during the spring tourist season.

Although the specifics of the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Air Chief Marshal were not made public, it is understood that the discussions are part of ongoing deliberations on India's military and strategic response. In a high-level meeting earlier this week, Prime Minister Modi provided clear directives, emphasizing that the Indian armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to determine the targets, timing, and nature of any retaliation.

India's response to such terrorist provocations has historically involved military action. In 2016, India carried out surgical strikes

on terrorist launchpads across the Line of Control in response to an attack on soldiers in Uri. The 2019 Balakot airstrikes, in retaliation for the Pulwama bombing, were another example of India's use of force against cross-border terrorism.

The Indian Air Force played a pivotal role in the Balakot operation, utilizing Mirage-2000 jets to strike a major terrorist training facility in Pakistan.

In addition to military considerations, India has already begun exerting diplomatic pressure on Pakistan, including taking steps to suspend certain provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, a long-standing agreement regulating the shared rivers between the two countries. Despite these actions, there has been no official word on the specifics of India's retaliatory measures, leaving the situation highly charged and uncertain.



Congress will back any action by Centre on Pahalgam terror attack: Priyanka Gandhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Sunday reaffirmed her party's unconditional support for any decisive action the central government chooses to take in response to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives, including two foreigners. Speaking during her two-day visit to Wayanad, the AICC General Secretary emphasized the importance of swift action in the wake of the attack and highlighted that the Congress Working Committee (CWC) had already passed a resolution underscoring this stance.

"The Congress Party stands united with the government. The CWC met and passed a resolution stating that we fully support whatever action the government decides to take. We hope that action is taken soon," Priyanka Gandhi said, responding to reporters' questions on the matter.

The deadly attack, allegedly carried out by operatives linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba, has triggered widespread condemnation and calls for stringent counter-measures. Congress has demanded a firm response to penalize Pakistan for what it termed as its "continued export of terror." The party also called for a time-bound investigation into the glaring security and intelligence lapses in a region known to be one of India's most heavily guarded.

In its official resolution, adopted under the chairmanship of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, K.C. Venugopal, and Priyanka Gandhi, the party expressed deep grief over the loss of innocent lives and extended solidarity with the families of the victims.

The Congress leadership's stance reflects a rare moment of political consensus on national security, as the nation mourns yet another tragic terror incident. The resolution also stressed the need for strategic recalibration in counterterrorism policy, enhanced intelligence coordination, and greater regional vigilance. This strong show of bipartisan support aims to send a clear message that national security transcends political divisions and demands unified resolve in the face of terrorism.



India Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight-Trials of Stratospheric Airship Platform

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has successfully conducted the maiden flight trials of a stratospheric airship platform, a significant milestone in enhancing the country's military surveillance capabilities. The trial, carried out on May 3, 2025, was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh, marking a key achievement in the development of this sophisticated high-altitude system.

The airship platform, designed to operate at stratospheric heights, was launched with an instrumental payload and reached an altitude of approximately 17 kilometers. This groundbreaking system has the potential to remain airborne for extended periods, providing an edge in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations. Few nations in the world have developed such a complex airship platform, placing India among the select few with such advanced capabilities.

DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat hailed the flight as a "milestone" in the development of lighter-than-air high-altitude platform systems. The flight trial lasted approximately 62 minutes, during which onboard sensors collected crucial data, which will be used for refining high-quality simulation models for future flights. The airship's envelop pressure control and emergency deflation systems were also tested during the trial to assess their performance.

Rajnath Singh Vows 'Befitting Reply' Amid India's Escalating Tensions with Pakistan

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid mounting tensions between India and Pakistan following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh delivered a strong warning, promising a "befitting reply" to any hostile acts against the nation. Speaking at the Sanskriti Jagran Mahotsav in Delhi on May 4, Singh stated that it was his duty as Defence Minister to work with the armed forces to protect India's sovereignty and retaliate firmly against those who "cast an evil eye" on the country.

His remarks came in the backdrop of the April 22 Pahalgam massacre, where 26 people — including tourists and two foreign nationals — were gunned down by a Lashkar-e-Taiba-linked group near the Baisaran meadow in Jammu and Kashmir. The attack is considered one of the



deadliest targeting civilians in the region in recent years.

India has since initiated a series of diplomatic and strategic actions aimed at pressuring Pakistan. Within days of the incident, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty — a landmark 1960 agreement governing river sharing — and shut down both the Octroi and Attari-Wagah border checkpoints.

On May 3, India intensified its response by banning all Pakistani ships from entering Indian ports and halting all imports and postal exchanges with Pakistan. According to a government notification, this includes an immediate ban on the direct or indirect import and transit of any goods originating from Pakistan, effectively freezing trade between the two nations.

The Ministry of Communications also suspended all inbound mail and parcels from Pakistan via air or surface routes, further tightening non-military pressure. These moves are seen as a strategic effort to isolate Pakistan economically and diplomatically following what Indian authorities claim is yet another example of cross-border terrorism supported from within Pakistan's territory.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already granted "complete operational freedom" to the armed forces to determine the nature, timing, and scale of any retaliatory action. As calls for decisive retribution grow louder across the country, the government's multi-pronged approach underscores its resolve to respond firmly to the Pahalgam attack.

India looks for partners, not preachers: Jaishankar on expectations from Europe

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, speaking at the Arctic Circle India Forum 2025, underscored the need for Europe to engage with India on the basis of mutual respect, understanding, and realism, especially in light of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. He criticized the Western approach of formulating solutions without involving key stakeholders like Russia, saying such methods "challenge the basics of realism."

Jaishankar expressed India's preference for global partners who prioritize cooperation over moral lecturing. "We look for partners, not preachers—especially not those who fail to practice at home what they preach abroad," he said, adding that while some parts of Europe are evolving, others still struggle with this outdated mindset.

He pointed out that India's expectations from Europe include sensitivity and an acknowledgment of shared interests, which are crucial for fostering meaningful and sustainable partnerships. "If



we are to develop a partnership, there has to be some understanding, mutuality of interest, and a realization of how the world actually works," he said.

On India's stance in the Russia-Ukraine war, Jaishankar reiterated that India has not prescribed solutions or dictated terms to either side. Instead, India has emphasized the importance of dialogue and engagement. "We have always been

careful not to prescribe a solution, which is a courtesy often not extended to us," he noted.

Highlighting the long-standing India-Russia relationship, Jaishankar emphasized the "important fit" between Russia as a resource provider and India as a resource consumer. He also defended India's increased purchase of Russian crude post-2022, framing it as a decision driven by national

interest, despite Western criticism. Jaishankar concluded by warning against unrealistic diplomatic expectations. He stated that attempts to solve the Russia-Ukraine issue without Russia's participation are not grounded in reality. "Nobody wants war, especially in an interdependent world. These are lose-lose scenarios," he said. India's approach, he maintained, is rooted in pragmatic engagement and global responsibility.

"Not One And Done": Netanyahu's Multiple Strike Warning After Houthi Attack

Warns of Ongoing Strikes After Houthi Missile Attack Near Tel Aviv

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, vowed to carry out multiple retaliatory strikes against Yemen's Houthi rebels following a missile attack near Ben Gurion Airport, Israel's primary international airport, on Sunday. The missile, launched by the Iran-backed Houthi group, marked a significant escalation in their ongoing conflict with Israel.

In a video shared on his personal social media account, Netanyahu made it clear that Israel's response would not be limited to a single strike. "We are acting against them in coordination with the US. We've acted against them before, and we will act against them in the future. It's not a one-and-done, but there will be strikes," Netanyahu said, signaling that Israel's military operations



would continue until the threat was neutralized.

The Houthi rebels, who have increasingly targeted Israeli interests, claimed responsibility for the missile strike. They stated that their actions were carried out in solidarity with

Palestinians in Gaza, amid ongoing tensions and violence in the region. The Houthis, who have aligned themselves with Iran, have ramped up their missile launches toward Israel in recent months, adding to the growing instability in the Middle East.

Israel's response to the missile strike near Ben Gurion Airport is part of a broader effort to defend its territory from external threats, including missile attacks from groups such as the Houthis. Netanyahu's warning of multiple strikes suggests that Israel plans a sustained military campaign to deter future attacks and protect its airspace.

The strike near Ben Gurion Airport raises concerns over the safety of one of Israel's busiest transportation hubs, which serves as a vital gateway for international travelers. As tensions escalate, the situation remains fluid, with both sides poised for further military actions. Israel's commitment to retaliate comes as part of its ongoing efforts to maintain its security and assert its military dominance in the region.



"Suicidal Concept": Bangladeshi Islamists Protest Women's Rights Reforms

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Thousands of Bangladeshis took to the streets of Dhaka on Saturday to protest against the government's proposed reforms aimed at ensuring equal rights for women, particularly regarding property ownership. The protest, organized by the influential Islamist group Hefazat-e-Islam, centered around the claim that the proposed recommendations undermined "the sentiments of the majority" in the country.

Hefazat-e-Islam leaders argued that the draft proposals from the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, created by the interim government of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, were in direct contradiction to Sharia law. They specifically criticized recommendations that would provide Muslim women with more property rights, stating that such reforms would violate religious traditions. The group has threatened a nationwide protest on May 23 unless their demands are met.

The protest, which saw over 20,000 participants, took place near Dhaka University, with demonstrators, including many teachers and students from non-government madrassas, carrying banners with slogans such as "Say no to Western laws on our women, rise up Bangladesh." This event marked one of the largest public displays of strength by Hefazat-e-Islam in years, coinciding with a surge in religious activism following the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government.

The Demands

At the rally, Maulana Mahfuzul Huq, a senior leader of the platform, presented a 12-point charter of demands. These included the abolition of the current Women's Affairs Reform Commission and the punishment of its members for the proposed changes. The group called for a new commission made up of Islamic scholars and women representatives. Hefazat-e-Islam leaders argued that the commission's proposals misrepresented the role of religious inheritance laws and were an attack on traditional Muslim values.

Additionally, the group called for the banning of the Awami League party and the reinstatement of "complete faith and trust in almighty Allah" in the country's constitution. They also voiced strong opposition to terms like "gender identity," "gender diversity," and "gender equality," viewing them as part of a broader agenda to promote LGBT and transgender rights, which they considered incompatible with their religious beliefs.

The ongoing protests reflect the growing influence of Islamist groups in Bangladesh following the political upheaval of 2024, with many fearing the erosion of Islamic practices and values in the country's legal system.



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu Holds Record 15-Hour Press Conference

Sets New Record

TPN Correspondent | Male

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu made headlines on Sunday after his office announced that he had broken the world record for the longest press conference by a sitting head of state. The 46-year-old leader held a nearly 15-hour session, surpassing the previous record set by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who held a 14-hour press conference in 2019.

Muizzu began his marathon press conference at 10:00 am (0500 GMT) on Saturday, with the event running uninterrupted for 14 hours and 54 minutes, only pausing briefly for prayers. His office confirmed that the session continued past midnight, setting a new world record for presidential press engagements.

The extensive conference was held to coincide with World Press Freedom Day on Saturday, highlighting Muizzu's commitment to fostering a free press in the island nation. During the press conference, Muizzu emphasized the importance of factual, balanced, and impartial reporting, acknowledging the critical role the press plays in society.

In addition to answering questions from journalists, the Maldives president also responded to inquiries submitted by the public. This interaction underlined Muizzu's focus on engaging with citizens, a priority since he assumed office in 2023. As part of the session, the Maldives government also celebrated the country's rise in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, where the nation moved up two places to 104th out of 180 countries, according to Reporters Without Borders.

"Will Use Full Spectrum Of Power": Pakistan's "Nuclear" Warning To India

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka/New Delhi

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia, Muhammad Khalid Jamali, has issued a stark warning, suggesting that Islamabad could resort to its full military capabilities, including nuclear weapons, if India attacks Pakistan or disrupts its water supply. Speaking to Russian broadcaster RT on Saturday, Jamali claimed that Pakistan had credible intelligence indicating that India is planning military strikes on Pakistani territory. "There are some other leaked documents whereby it has been decided to strike certain areas of Pakistan," he said, adding that this heightened the belief that an attack is imminent.

Jamali's comments represent one of the most direct threats of nuclear retaliation from a senior Pakistani official against India in recent years. He emphasized that Pakistan would use "the full spectrum of power, both conventional and nuclear," if provoked.

The remarks come in the af-



termath of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists. India has blamed Pakistan for harboring and supporting terror groups responsible for the attack, although Islamabad has denied involvement. In response, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), a key 1960 agreement that governs water distribution between the two countries. This treaty has survived multiple conflicts between the nations and is seen as a stabilizing factor in their tense relationship.

Jamali condemned India's suspension of the IWT, calling it an "act of war" against Pakistan.

He warned that any attempt by India to divert or stop the flow of water from the Indus River would lead to a full-scale military response. Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif, echoed this sentiment on Friday, stating that Islamabad would target any Indian infrastructure built on the Indus River in violation of the treaty.

The growing tensions have also led to military showdowns, with Pakistan conducting a test launch of its Abdali missile, which has a range of 450 kilometers and can carry both conventional and nuclear payloads. The Indian government views the missile test as a provocative move, and there has been no official reaction from New Delhi as of yet.

Additionally, India has imposed new economic restrictions on Pakistan, including a ban on imports from or through Pakistan, and prohibiting Pakistani ships from entering Indian ports. Pakistan reciprocated with its own maritime restrictions, further escalating the bilateral standoff.

Xi Jinping to Visit Russia Amid Tensions and Growing China-Russia Ties

TPN Correspondent | China

Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to visit Russia from May 7-10, the Kremlin confirmed on Sunday, in a move that underscores the strengthening of ties between the two nations. Xi's visit coincides with the Victory Day Parade on May 9 in Moscow, where he is among the prominent world leaders expected to attend.

The Kremlin stated that the visit is at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. In addition to participating in the Victory Day celebrations, the two leaders will engage in discussions about furthering their "comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction." They will also address key issues on both the international and regional fronts, and are expected to sign a series of bilateral agreements during the visit.

This marks Xi's third visit to Russia since Russia's military intervention in Ukraine in February 2022. China has



maintained a neutral stance in the conflict, but has repeatedly backed Russia's claims that its actions were provoked by the West. China has also provided critical support to Russia by supplying components needed for the production of military weapons, alleviating some of the economic pressures Moscow fac-

es due to international sanctions.

Xi's visit follows his attendance at the BRICS summit in Russia in September 2024 and a state visit to Moscow in March 2023. The frequent meetings between Putin and Xi reflect the growing ties between the two countries, which

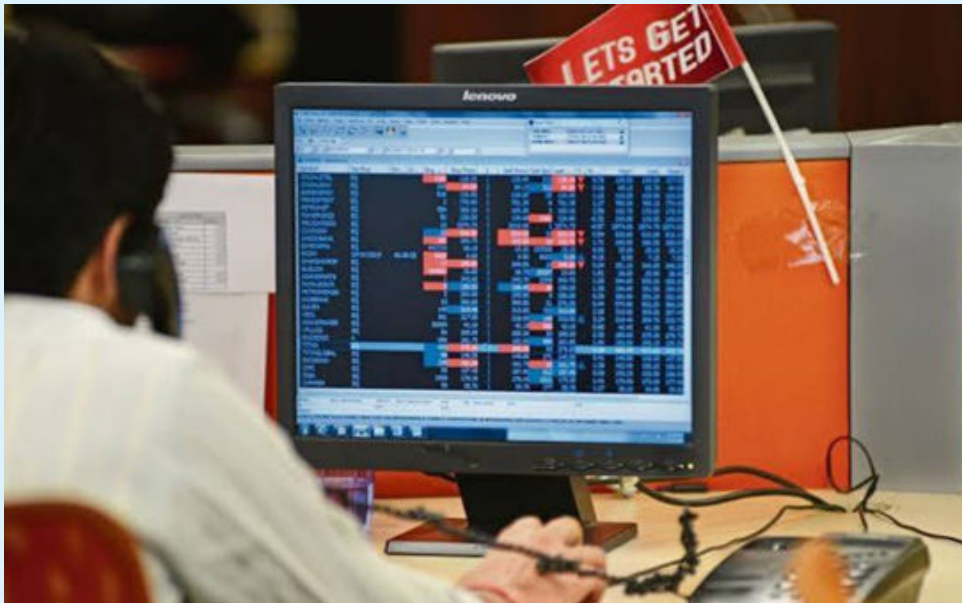
have increasingly relied on each other amid Western sanctions. These sanctions have restricted Russia's access to much of the global trading system, prompting Moscow to redirect its energy exports to China and seek Chinese companies' help in circumventing technology restrictions.

Although the personal ties between Putin and Xi have strengthened the partnership, there is a growing asymmetry in power between the two nations. As Russia faces increasing isolation due to its actions in Ukraine, China's economic influence over Russia continues to grow.

Meanwhile, Moscow has accused Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of jeopardizing the safety of dignitaries attending the Victory Day celebrations by dismissing Russia's unilateral ceasefire. Zelenskyy claimed Ukraine could not provide security guarantees for foreign officials visiting Russia, cautioning that Moscow could stage provocations and blame Ukraine for them.

Markets in Consolidation Mode: Nifty Eyes Breakout Above 24,550 Amid Sectoral Divergence

Domestic stock markets may move mixed this week. Nifty is currently consolidating at 24,346. There is a tough resistance at 24,550. If it is overcome, further strength will increase in the medium term. The correction in mid and small companies is still ongoing, indicating overall market weakness. Last week, defense, oil, realty, infra, and healthcare stocks showed momentum. Media, metal, FMCG, and CPSE stocks fell. Currently, there is demand for refinery, ship-building, textile, and defense stocks.



Stock Recommendations

Tejas Network:



These stocks, which have been in a

downtrend for two years, are currently in the accumulation zone. A base has been forming since March. They have taken support for the second time at the crucial Rs. 650 level. In this counter, which closed at Rs.704 last Friday, investors should take a position in the Rs.700 range with a target price of Rs.810. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.670.

Rail Tel:

These shares, which have undergone a correction of 25% in six months, are forming a good base at Rs.290. Demand



is visible here. They have crossed the 20-day and 50-day moving averages. In this counter, which closed at Rs.316 with a gain of 6.7% last Friday, investors should enter at Rs.300 with a target price of Rs.370. Stop loss is mandatory at Rs.275.

SBI:



The momentum of these shares has decreased slightly in the short term. However, they are showing strength in the medium term. They have recently reached the crucial Rs.860 level. Investors should take a position above Rs. 850 with a target price of Rs. 980 in this counter, which closed last Friday. Stop loss should be chosen at Rs. 835.

Hindalco:

These shares, which have been underperforming for a year, have now entered a key demand zone. They are

moving with tight price action at Rs. 600. Medium term momentum is good. Investors should enter above Rs. 600 with a target price of Rs. 740 in this counter, which closed last Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs. 675.



SBI:

These shares are currently showing good momentum and strength. These shares, which recently surpassed their three-month high, have been stable above their 20-day moving averages. Investors should take a position above Rs.780 with a target price of Rs.860 on this counter, which closed at Rs.800 last Friday. Stop loss should be chosen at Rs.755.



Envirotech Systems Ltd: Niche SME With Strong FY25 Results, Capacity Expansion, and ₹200 Target in Sight

Envirotech Systems Ltd is an SME Company listed in NSE with a trading lot of 1000 shares. It closed at Rs.108.50 on 2-5-2025.

PORTFOLIO



IPO DETAILS :

It came for IPO on 13-9-24 with an issue price of Rs.56. It raised Funds of Rs.30-24 Crores of which Rs.12 Crores is earmarked for CAPEX and Rs.8 Crores for working Capital. It manufactures noise measurement and control solutions for industrial and commercial applications. This is a niche area.

It declared results for the year ended 31-03-2025 on 29-4-2025. This is the first full year result after IPO in the month of September, 2025.

GIST OF RESULTS :

Revenue increased marginally from Rs.46 Crores to Rs.48 Crores from 2024 to 2025. The scope for higher revenue is limited as the existing Factory is working at 100% capacity. Net Profit increased from Rs.11 Crores to Rs.14 Crores from 2024 to 2025. The EPS on the expanded capital of Rs.18.79 works out to Rs.7.48. This is the comparison from year to year. If we look at half yearly performance, it is more impressive. From September, 2024 to March, 2025, the revenue jumped from Rs.16.30 Crores to Rs.31.30 Crores. During the same period, the Net Profit jumped from Rs.2.83 Crores to Rs.11.22 Crores giving half yearly EPS of 6.

NEW PROJECTS FOR EXPANSION:

The Balance Sheet reveals Capital Work in Progress of Rs. 29 Crores as on 31-03-2025. This represents the amount invested in the new factory which is in the process of semi-finished condition.

The existing Factory is in an area of 21520 Square Feet Area. The new Factory is being constructed in an area of 100000

Square Feet which is five times of the existing factory. The new unit is partially operational by June, 2025 and fully operational by December, 2025.

By the time the second project is completed, the Company will have a total factory space of 1250000 Square Feet and Fixed Assets of above Rs.40 Crores strengthening the Balance Sheet.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS :

a) Company is introducing sound proof windows and doors b) Collaboration with IIT Delhi to develop new products c) Special focus on Defence Industry.

MARQUEE CLIENTS :

Its list of Clients include names like Bharat Electronics, DRDO, Hal, Havells, NTPC, Hitachi, GE etc.

LAST BUT THE LEAST - VALUATION : Annual EPS is 7.48. With a multiple of 20, the value of the Company should be 150. (7.48 x 20). With the new factory nearing completion, with the patronage of marquee clients, with focus on the Defence Sector, and with niche products, the Company has a bright future in store. Long term investors can see a valuation of Rs.200 within a span of one year.

Paleti Hari Prasad
Fundamental Analyst,
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Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank Lead Market Gains Amid Positive Equity Trends

In a largely optimistic week for Indian equity markets, several prominent industries emerged as the key gainers, with Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, and ICICI Bank leading the charge. These companies contributed to the BSE benchmark's impressive rise of 1,289.46 points, or 1.62%, marking a positive week for the stock market despite the holiday for 'Maharashtra Day' on Thursday.

Reliance Industries continued to be the top performer, with its market valuation soaring by Rs 1,64,959.62 crore, bringing its total market capitalization to Rs 19,24,235.76 crore. Bharti Airtel also witnessed a significant surge, as its market value jumped by Rs 20,755.67 crore, reaching Rs 10,56,029.91 crore. ICICI Bank added Rs 19,381.9 crore to its valuation, bringing its total market capitalization to Rs 10,20,200.69 crore.

HDFC Bank, another major player, saw its market capitalization rise by Rs 11,514.78 crore, bringing it to a total of Rs 14,73,356.95 crore. Infosys, too, experienced strong growth, with its valuation increasing by Rs 10,902.31 crore to Rs 6,25,668.37 crore. ITC and State Bank of India rounded off the gainers, with their market values climbing by Rs 2,502.82 crore and Rs 1,160.2 crore, respectively.



However, not all companies shared in the rally. The market capitalization of Bajaj Finance dropped by Rs 15,470.5 crore, taking its total valuation down to Rs 5,50,726.80 crore. Hindustan Unilever also faced a decline, with its market value slipping by Rs 1,985.41 crore to Rs 5,45,845.29 crore. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leader in the IT sector, saw its valuation dip by Rs 1,284.42 crore, bringing its market capitalization to Rs 12,45,996.98 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the highest-valued company on the Indian stock market, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, and other notable firms. Despite some declines, the market as a whole experienced solid growth, signaling optimism in the Indian economy.

India's Economy in Good Shape, Resilient Amid Global Challenges: CEA Nageswaran

India's Chief Economic Advisor (CEA), Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, expressed confidence in the country's economic resilience despite global uncertainties, asserting that India's economy remains on a solid path. Speaking at an event at Ashoka University on Saturday, Nageswaran highlighted that economic indicators point to the country's continued progress, even in the face of global challenges.

The CEA emphasized the importance of maintaining macroeconomic stability while focusing on innovation-led, inclusive growth strategies. He outlined key areas that India must prioritize, including targeted investments in human capital, technology, infrastructure, and ongoing structural reforms. Nageswaran pointed out that India's economic fundamentals are strong, stating, "India's economy is in good shape despite the challenging global environment." He also mentioned that while the final numbers for FY25 would be available in May, the current indicators were promising, showing that the country's economy is progressing well.

Among the top priorities he listed were energy affordability and transition, employment generation through artificial intelligence, income distribu-

tion between capital and labor owners, the rise of manufacturing and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as well as food security and private sector investment in capital formation.



Nageswaran's optimism is reinforced by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) forecast, which projects India to remain the fastest-growing major economy globally over the next two years. The IMF's World Economic Outlook for April 2025 estimates that India will grow by 6.2% in 2025 and 6.3% in 2026, maintaining a strong lead over both global and regional peers.

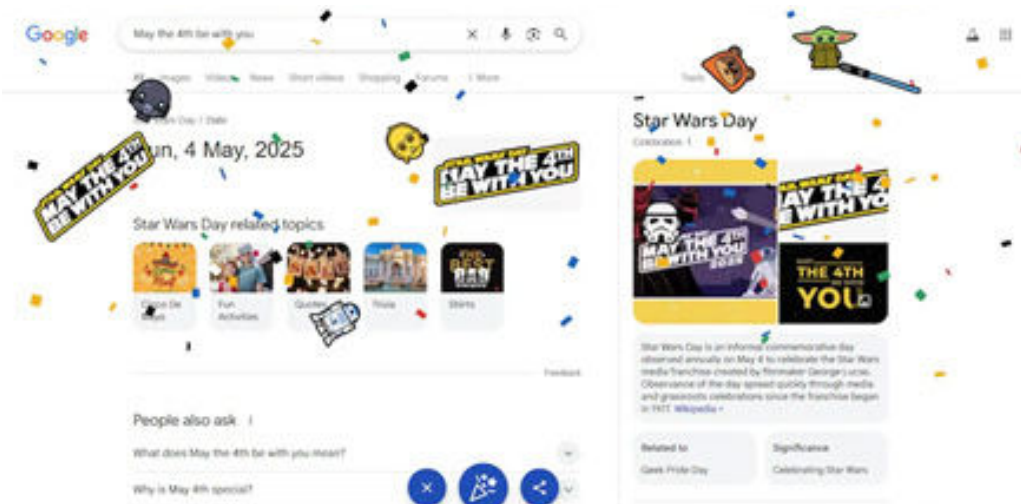
Suman Bery, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, also underscored India's long-term vision to become a developed, high-income society by 2047. Bery highlighted the need for sustained growth, emphasizing labor productivity, investment, and structural reforms. He reflected on India's consistent growth rate of 6.5% over the past three decades, calling it a testament to the country's institutional maturity and agility. Bery added that the current global turmoil could present India with an opportunity to accelerate its growth trajectory, leveraging its demographic dividend, technological advancements, and shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Google Joins Global Fans in Celebrating Star Wars Day with Interactive Confetti Feature

Every year on May 4, Star Wars enthusiasts around the world unite to celebrate the beloved sci-fi saga with what has now become an unofficial holiday: Star Wars Day. The iconic phrase from the franchise, “May the Force be with you,” has been cleverly reimagined by fans as “May the Fourth be with you,” giving birth to this celebratory date. In 2025, Google joined the festivities by adding a special themed animation to its search engine.

When users type “Star Wars” or “May the Fourth be with you” into Google’s search bar, they are treated to a delightful cascade of themed confetti. The animation includes popular characters and symbols from the Star Wars universe such as Grogu (Baby Yoda), Wicket the Ewok, C-3PO, R2-D2, and Stormtrooper helmets. Adding to the galactic feel, blue and red lightsabers—representing the Jedi and the Sith—also appear in the confetti.

This interactive feature not only adds a fun twist to search results but also allows fans to share their experience on social media or replay the animation as often as they like. It’s Google’s creative nod to the worldwide fan base and the cultural impact of the franchise.



May 4th has become a key date in the Star Wars fandom calendar, often celebrated with film screenings, costume parties, fan gatherings, and online tributes. Dedicated followers of the saga use the day to honor its characters, storylines, and timeless legacy. Many dress up as Jedi, Sith, or other iconic characters, while others revisit the films or participate in themed events hosted by fan clubs and cinemas.

Interestingly, Star Wars fans have also embraced May 5 as “Revenge of the Fifth,” a pun on the film “Revenge of the Sith.” This day is often dedicated to the villains of the series, such as Darth Vader, Emperor Palpatine, and other Sith lords.

May is particularly significant for the franchise: the original Star Wars film premiered on May 25, 1977, and the saga’s creator, George Lucas, was born on May 14.

Viral Social Experiment: RCB Fan Raises Rs 1,200 with ‘Good Luck’ QR Code Campaign

In a humorous twist to the Indian Premier League (IPL) season, a quirky social experiment by content creator Sarthak Sachdeva has gone viral, revealing the lengths to which fans—or pranksters—will go to support their favorite team. With Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) continuing their title-less journey in the league, Sachdeva decided to turn fandom into fundraising by pasting QR codes on streets with a catchy caption: “Donate Rs 10 for RCB Goodluck.”

What began as a light-hearted joke quickly spiraled into an unexpected success. Curious passersby, either amused or genuinely hopeful for an RCB victory, began scanning the QR codes and sending small donations. By the end of the day, Sachdeva was surprised to see his digital wallet swell by Rs 1,200, all contributed by strangers.

“I honestly didn’t expect people to take it seriously. It was meant to be a fun social experiment,” Sachdeva said in his video documenting the campaign. “But to see the amount grow just shows how invested and spontaneous people can be, especially when it comes to cricket and RCB.”

The video, posted on social media, quickly went viral—amassing over 24 million views and generating a flood of reactions ranging from laughter to concern. Many users found the idea hilarious, with comments calling it a “new business model” and praising Sachdeva’s creativity. Others, however, expressed concern about how casually people scanned an unknown QR code, pointing out the risks of fraud in an age of rampant



digital scams.

One user joked, “Only in India can you raise money off superstition and fandom.” Another added, “Imagine the impact if people used the same energy to feed the homeless.”

While opinions remain divided, the incident highlights the deep emotional connection fans have with the IPL and RCB, as well as the ease with which viral trends can catch fire in India’s digitally savvy population. Whether this was a reflection of blind trust, cricket devotion, or just a good laugh—Sachdeva’s stunt certainly struck a chord.

Worldcoin Launches Eyeball-Scanning Orb in the U.S. to Verify Human Identity in AI Era



In a bold move to combat the growing threat of hyper-realistic AI bots, World — a startup co-founded by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman — officially launched its eyeball-scanning Orb in the U.S. during a high-profile event in San Francisco on April 30, 2025. The Orb, a glowing white sphere developed by World, scans users’ irises to generate a unique digital identity called a “World ID,” aimed at verifying a person’s humanity in an internet soon to be flooded by intelligent bots.

The event drew crowds to San Francisco’s Marina district, where attendees lined up to have their eyeballs scanned by the Orb in exchange for Worldcoin — a cryptocurrency issued by the start-up. With a futuristic setup of Orb scanners arranged in a ring, participants willingly enrolled in the World ID program, which promises to safeguard online interactions by distinguishing humans from AI.

Alex Blania, CEO of World, and Sam Altman took the stage to explain the company’s vision. According to them, as generative AI becomes increasingly advanced, distinguishing bots from real people online will become a critical

challenge. World aims to solve this with a decentralized, biometric-based verification system that respects user privacy while offering a reliable method of identity authentication.

“This is about ensuring people still have value and agency online as AI proliferates,” Altman said. Users who register with the Orb receive a World ID and Worldcoin tokens, which can be used for transactions, traded, or stored. World promises the Orb does not store raw biometric data, instead converting iris scans into secure codes.

Despite privacy concerns raised by skeptics and critics wary of biometric data collection, the launch event created significant buzz, with users describing the experience as part surreal, part thrilling — a glimpse into the new digital frontier. As one attendee put it, “It felt like stepping into a sci-fi movie — but this is now our reality.”

With World IDs set to play a central role in verifying digital humanity, the Orb could mark a transformative moment in how we interact with technology in the age of artificial intelligence.

Mobile Gaming on the Rise: Gen Z Leads India’s Smartphone Gaming Surge

Mobile gaming has firmly entrenched itself in the daily lives of Indians, especially among the younger population, according to a new study by CyberMedia Research (CMR). The survey, released on May 2, highlights how smartphones have become a major entertainment hub, with gaming taking center stage for many users across the country.

CMR surveyed 1,550 respondents spanning Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 cities—including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Indore, and Gwalior. The participants were grouped into three generational categories: Millennials (28–44 years), Gen Z (13–28 years), and Gen Alpha (under 13 years).



The findings reveal that over 32% of Indian users spend between four to six hours weekly on mobile games. Among Gen Z, the engagement is even deeper—nearly 74% of this group spend at least six hours every week gaming on their smartphones. This trend reflects how ingrained mobile gaming has become in the routines of India’s youth, often serving as both a recreational outlet and a social activity.

The survey also indicates that mobile gaming cuts across regional and generational lines, though preferences and time spent vary. In smaller cities, where entertainment infrastructure may be limited, smartphones provide easy access to a wide array of games. Meanwhile, in metropolitan areas, users are increasingly investing in high-performance smartphones specif-

ically optimized for gaming.

Millennials showed a moderate level of engagement with mobile gaming, while Gen Alpha, despite their younger age, are already displaying significant interest—pointing to a future where mobile gaming could become an even more dominant form of digital interaction.

The study underscores not only the rising popularity of mobile gaming but also its potential impact on digital consumption patterns, device preferences, and even mental well-being. As gaming continues to evolve in India, fueled by affordable internet access and budget-friendly smartphones, the country is poised to become one of the world’s largest mobile gaming markets.

Apple Set to Launch Six iPhones in 2026, Including First Foldable Model and iPhone 18 Air

In a significant shift from its traditional release cycle, Apple is reportedly preparing to launch a record six iPhone models in 2026, including its first-ever foldable device. According to a report from The Information, the tech giant is set to expand its iPhone lineup to accommodate new form factors and market segments.

Traditionally, Apple introduces four iPhone models each September. However, in 2026, the company could stagger releases across multiple events. The standard iPhone 18 and a successor to the iPhone 16e may be unveiled in Spring 2026, while the high-end iPhone 18 Pro models, a new iPhone 18 Air, and the much-anticipated foldable iPhone are expected to debut later in the year.

The foldable iPhone, likely called the iPhone Fold, is rumored to adopt a



book-style design with a 5.7-inch external display and a 7.8-inch internal screen when unfolded. Samsung Display has reportedly been selected as the exclusive supplier of OLED panels for the device, having met Apple’s strict standards for crease reduction—something rival suppliers like LG Display and BOE failed to achieve.

Industry analyst Ming-Chi Kuo has suggested the iPhone Fold could be between 4.5mm to 4.8mm thick, potentially making it one of the thinnest

foldables on the market. The phone is expected to carry a hefty price tag around \$2,000 and feature Face ID, a punch-hole front camera, and a dual rear-camera setup.

Adding to the excitement, Bloomberg’s Mark Gurman has hinted at a premium iPhone model set to commemorate the iPhone’s 20th anniversary. This version may include ultra-premium materials like advanced glass, further pushing the boundaries of Apple’s design and pricing.

These developments signal Apple’s broader push to diversify its smartphone offerings and cater to emerging consumer demands for foldable devices, thinner designs, and innovative form factors. If confirmed, 2026 could mark one of the most significant years in the iPhone’s evolution since its debut in 2007.

Punjab Kings Clinch Thrilling 37-Run Victory Over Lucknow Super Giants in Dharamsala

Punjab Kings registered a dominant 37-run victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala, marking their first win at the venue since 2023. Set a mammoth target of 237, LSG fell short, managing only 199/7 in their chase, despite some spirited individual performances.

Punjab Kings' impressive total of 236/6 was built around some key contributions. The top order set the tone with a flurry of boundaries, while the middle-order held firm to ensure they posted a daunting total. The menacing partnership between the openers and middle-order batters powered Punjab to a challenging target.

In response, LSG's chase got off to a nightmare start. The Punjab Kings' bowling attack, spearheaded by Arshdeep Singh, caused early carnage. Singh delivered a fiery spell, claiming 3 wickets for just 16 runs. He was instrumental in sending Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, and Nicholas Pooran back to the pavilion within the first five overs, leaving LSG reeling at 19/3.

Despite the early setbacks, LSG refused to go down without a fight. Abdul Samad played a crucial knock, scoring 45 runs to stabilize the innings. However, it was Ayush Badoni's brilliant 74 that kept the chase alive for the Super Giants,



as he displayed excellent composure under pressure.

Despite their best efforts, the asking rate climbed too high, and Punjab Kings maintained their grip on the match. Azmatullah Omarzai's key wickets of Rishabh Pant and David Miller further dampened LSG's hopes. With LSG losing wickets at regular intervals, their chase faltered as the Punjab bowlers kept things tight and took wickets at crucial moments.

In the end, LSG's fightback fell short, and Punjab Kings emerged victorious by 37 runs, clinching a well-earned win in Dharamsala.

Riyan Parag's Brave Knock Falls Short as KKR Holds Off RR in IPL 2025 Clash

Riyan Parag's explosive knock of 95 almost single-handedly propelled Rajasthan Royals (RR) towards an unlikely victory in their IPL 2025 match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). However, despite his valiant effort, RR fell short in their chase of 207, finishing at 198/7 after 19.4 overs. Harshit Rana played a key role in the final stages, taking two vital wickets at the death, ensuring KKR held their nerve for a narrow win.



Parag's stunning performance included five sixes in a single over, which nearly brought RR back into the game when all hope seemed lost. His fearless hitting brought RR close to the target, but he was dismissed at a crucial juncture, leaving his side with too much to do in the final overs. At the time of his departure, RR still needed 9 runs off the final over with Jofra Archer and Shubham Dubey at the crease. Despite their best efforts, RR couldn't get over the line, and KKR celebrated an important victory.

Earlier in the match, KKR's Andre Russell returned to his explosive best, smashing

a brilliant 22-ball half-century after being promoted up the order. Russell's blistering knock helped KKR post a challenging total of 206/4 in their 20 overs. His aggressive batting was the highlight of KKR's innings, as he took control of the middle overs and ensured the team set a formidable target.

KKR, who are in a must-win situation for every remaining match, will be relieved with the victory, which keeps their playoff hopes alive. On the other hand, RR, already eliminated from contention for the playoffs, showed plenty of fight but fell short in their chase. Despite Parag's heroics, RR couldn't capitalize on the momentum, leaving KKR to celebrate the hard-fought victory.

Delhi Capitals Eye Crucial Win Against Struggling Sunrisers Hyderabad Amid Injury Concerns

Delhi Capitals (DC) skipper Axar Patel will be eager to put his team's recent home defeats behind them as they gear up to face Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in a pivotal IPL 2025 clash in Hyderabad on Monday. After a disappointing 14-run loss to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), DC's playoff hopes are still alive, largely thanks to their strong performances on the road—something they'll hope to replicate against Pat Cummins' SRH, who are on the brink of elimination.

A major concern for DC is the fitness of Axar Patel, who suffered a bruise on his left hand while fielding against KKR on April 30. Despite the injury, he displayed grit with a blistering 23-ball 43. However, the extent of his recovery could impact his ability to bowl effectively, which would be a significant blow for Delhi, especially at such a critical juncture in the season.

Currently placed fifth on the points table with 12 points from 10 games, DC need to halt their recent slump—losing two straight matches at home to RCB and KKR. The side's batting has been anchored by KL Rahul, their top run-scorer with 371 runs in nine games. However, his recent slow knock against RCB and early dismissal against KKR raise questions about his impact at the top.

Abhishek Porel has shown intent but struggled to convert starts, while Vipraj Nigam's lower-order contributions offer DC depth. South African veteran Faf du Plessis's return to form is a boost, though his effectiveness on slower tracks remains to be seen.



DC's bowling, however, remains their strength. With Mitchell Starc leading a pace attack that includes Dushmantha Chameera and Mukesh Kumar, and potentially a fully fit Axar Patel, Delhi boasts one of the most lethal attacks in the tournament. Starc and Axar picked up five wickets in their previous outing, though KKR still managed a 200+ total due to pitch conditions.

Meanwhile, SRH, despite boasting stars like Travis Head, Ishan Kishan, Heinrich Klaasen, Mohammed Shami, and Cummins, have failed to find momentum. Their recent 38-run loss to Gujarat Titans has nearly ended their playoff hopes, with pacer Jaydev Unadkat citing ineffective bowling and pitch changes as key issues.

For Delhi, a win on Monday could rejuvenate their campaign. For Hyderabad, it's about salvaging pride.

Napoli Edge Closer to Serie A Title After Intense Victory at Lecce

Napoli took a crucial step toward clinching the Serie A title on Saturday with a narrow but vital 1-0 win over Lecce, maintaining their three-point lead over reigning champions Inter Milan. The match, played in a charged atmosphere at Lecce's Stadio Via del Mare, saw Giacomo Raspadori score the winner with a brilliant free-kick in the 24th minute.



The win marks Napoli's fourth consecutive victory without conceding, and puts them within touching distance of their fourth league crown. Antonio Conte's side now require just seven points from their remaining three fixtures—against Genoa, Parma, and Cagliari—to secure the title, assuming Inter win all of their final matches.

The encounter at Lecce was not without controversy. The match was temporarily halted for seven minutes as home fans hurled flares and firecrackers onto the pitch in protest over Serie A's handling of the sudden death of beloved Lecce physio Graziano Fiorita, who passed away last week at the age of 47. The league's decision to delay Lecce's previous match against Atalanta by only one day sparked outrage, with supporters booing the Serie A anthem and shouting abuse at league officials during the moment of silence.

Despite the distractions, Lecce put up a spirited fight. They were almost punished early when Romelu Lukaku tapped in from close range, only to be ruled offside by the narrow-

est of margins. Kialonda Gaspar came closest to equalizing for Lecce with a header that struck the crossbar in the 38th minute. Napoli also had a few chances, with Raspadori narrowly missing a second before halftime.

Meanwhile, Inter Milan kept their slim title hopes alive with a 1-0 win over Verona, courtesy of Kristjan Asllani's ninth-minute penalty. Manager Simone Inzaghi, suspended for the match, rotated his squad heavily with an eye on Tuesday's Champions League semi-final second leg against Barcelona. Despite missing key players including Lautaro Martinez and Benjamin Pavard, Inter comfortably secured three points.

Assistant coach Massimiliano Farris hinted that Martinez's hamstring injury may not be as serious as feared, leaving a glimmer of hope for his availability in the crucial European clash. The title race, though, is now firmly in Napoli's hands.

Nilakshi Silva's Brilliant Knock Leads Sri Lanka to Historic Win Over India

Sri Lanka stunned India by three wickets in a thrilling women's Tri-series match, marking their first victory over their much-fancied rivals in seven years. The win, powered by a scintillating 33-ball 56 from all-rounder Nilakshi Silva, brought Sri Lanka closer to the final, with the islanders securing their second win of the tournament.

Chasing down a target of 276, Sri Lanka achieved the feat with five balls to spare, despite being in a precarious position at 152 for 4 in the 33rd over. Nilakshi, known

for her explosive batting, turned the tide with three sixes and five fours, providing the much-needed momentum. Along with Anushka Sanjeevani (23* off 28 balls) and Sugandika Kumari (19* off 20 balls), Nilakshi guided her team to victory, while also pushing South Africa to the brink of elimination from the competition.

Earlier, India posted a competitive total of 275 for 9 after being put in to bat. Richa Ghosh was the stand-out performer for India, scoring a quickfire 58 off 48 balls. However, the Indian innings was marred by

regular wickets, with Smriti Mandhana run out for 18 in her 100th appearance in this format, and Pratika Rawal falling to left-arm spinner Inoka Ranaweera for 35.

Despite contributions from Harleen Deol (29 off 35) and Harmanpreet Kaur (30 off 45), India's middle order struggled to accelerate. Sri Lanka's bowlers, especially Chamari Athapaththu and Sugandika Kumari, proved to be the difference with three wickets each.

Sri Lanka's chase began with early setbacks, including the run-out of

Hasini Perera for 22, but Harshitha Samarawickrama (53 off 61 balls) anchored the chase with a crucial partnership with Vishmi Gunaratne (33). However, Gunaratne was dismissed at a critical moment, and Harshitha's dismissal to Pratika Rawal left the match evenly poised.

Despite a late fightback from Chamari Athapaththu (23 off 33), it was Nilakshi Silva's composure under pressure that sealed a memorable win for Sri Lanka, leaving India to reflect on their first loss in the event.





Powerstar is Back: Pawan Kalyan Joins HHVM Shoot

Hari Hara Veera Mallu, starring Power Star Pawan Kalyan, is arguably the most delayed film in Telugu cinema's recent history. The period action drama has already missed over half a dozen scheduled release dates, the most recent being May 9, which has now been postponed yet again. However, fresh reports suggest that the makers are now aiming for a May 30 release, provided all goes according to plan.

A new shooting schedule commenced recently, with the goal of wrapping up Pawan Kalyan's remaining portions by May 7 or 8. Once his scenes are completed, the team is expected to move quickly through the remaining post-production activities. However, considering the extensive work still left—dubbing, promotions, press interactions, and coordination with distributors—many feel that a 20-25 day timeline may be too tight to ensure a smooth and impactful release.

Complicating matters further is the fact that Vijay Deverakonda's Kingdom is already slated for a May 30 release. Should Hari Hara Veera Mallu stake a claim on that date, one of the two big releases will need to shift, making it imperative that the makers finalize their plans swiftly to allow adequate time for promotions.



Despite the delays, insiders reveal that the film has shaped up well and will likely meet the expectations of both fans and general audiences. However, there's concern that the prolonged production has led to dwindling buzz. Even the music by MM Keeravani, though composed by a maestro, hasn't managed to create significant hype so far. To reignite excitement, the makers are reportedly planning to release a powerful trailer or teaser in the coming days.

If a May 30 release proves unfeasible, the team might look at a June release window, which remains relatively open, with major titles like Kannappa and Kubera only arriving in the second half of the month. Given that the sequel and overall franchise potential hinge on this film's commercial success—and considering Pawan Kalyan's political responsibilities as Andhra Pradesh's Deputy CM—the team must tread carefully with every decision moving forward.

Sree Vishnu's Single Clears Censor with U/A, Set for May 9 Release

The upcoming romantic comedy Single, starring Sree Vishnu, is all set for a theatrical release on May 9, 2025. Directed by Caarthick Raju, known for Ninu Veedani Needanu Nene, the film features Ketika Sharma and Ivana as the female leads. With its fresh pairing and light-hearted tone, Single has caught the attention of audiences, especially after the trailer release.



The film recently completed its censor formalities and has been granted a U/A certificate. The final approved runtime stands at 130 minutes (2 hours and 10 minutes)—a crisp duration that suits its rom-com genre perfectly. This concise runtime is expected to keep the narrative engaging and fast-paced, a key element for romantic entertainers.

Single explores the emotional journey of a man entangled in romantic complexities involving two women. While the trailer received a largely positive response for its humor and youthful vibe, it also sparked a minor controversy. A particular dialogue reportedly offended a noted actor, drawing some media attention. However, the issue hasn't impacted the film's release plans, and the team is moving forward with confidence.

Backed by the reputed Geetha Arts, the film is jointly produced by Vidya

Koppineedi, Bhanu Pratapa, and Riyaz Chowdary. The production house is known for supporting content-driven entertainers, adding to the credibility of Single. The film's music is composed by Vishal Chandrasekhar, whose score is expected to play a key role in driving the emotional and fun elements of the film.

With just a few days left for release, the makers are banking heavily on the film's entertainment quotient and youthful appeal. Given the clean certification, crisp runtime, and growing anticipation, Single is poised to strike a chord with young audiences looking for a feel-good cinematic experience.

As the countdown begins, all eyes are on how Sree Vishnu's charming portrayal and the film's romantic triangle will translate on screen. Single could well be the summer surprise at the box office.



Trisha Krishnan Shines as Avani in Chiranjeevi's Fantasy Epic Vishwambhara

Marking her highly anticipated return to Telugu cinema, actress Trisha Krishnan has made a stunning impact with her first look from the upcoming fantasy epic Vishwambhara. Sharing the screen with none other than Megastar Chiranjeevi, Trisha's re-entry into Tollywood has fans buzzing with excitement.

To mark her birthday, the makers unveiled the first glimpse of Trisha's character, Avani — and it's nothing short of mesmerizing. Draped in an elegant traditional saree, Trisha exudes grace and strength, with her serene expression and radiant smile instantly captivating audiences. Her appearance suggests a character that is deeply rooted in culture, yet pivotal

to the film's larger-than-life narrative.

Vishwambhara, directed by Vassishta and produced by the prestigious UV Creations, is shaping up to be a cinematic spectacle. The film is set in a mythical realm and promises to blend grand storytelling with high-end visual artistry. Currently in its post-production phase, the film boasts the involvement of top-tier Hollywood VFX teams, ensuring a visual experience on par with global standards.

Adding to the excitement, the film's first single — composed by legendary music director MM Keeravani — has already taken the internet by storm. The track not only went viral but also claimed the top spots

on multiple music charts, building significant momentum ahead of the film's release.

With promotions set to intensify in the coming weeks, the makers are gearing up to offer audiences an immersive glimpse into the world of Vishwambhara. Trisha's return, combined with Chiranjeevi's commanding presence and Vassishta's directorial vision, has positioned Vishwambhara as one of the most awaited films in the Telugu film industry.

As fans eagerly await more updates, it's clear that Vishwambhara is more than just a comeback film for Trisha — it's a bold reimagining of myth and magic, with her poised at its emotional and narrative core.

Nani's HIT: The 3rd Case Surges on Day 3, Nears ₹100 Crore Mark

Natural Star Nani's latest crime thriller, HIT: The 3rd Case, is enjoying a stellar run at the global box office. Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, the gripping third installment in the popular HIT franchise has captivated audiences with its intense narrative and thrilling execution, showing strong momentum through its opening weekend.

On Day 3, the film registered a remarkable surge in collections, earning ₹20 crore on Saturday alone. This pushes the film's worldwide gross to ₹82 crore in just three days, a phenomenal achievement that places it among the fastest-growing thrillers in Indian cinema.

The film's performance in overseas markets is equally impressive. In North America, HIT 3 has al-

ready grossed \$1.8 million, further cementing Nani's growing international presence and the global recognition of the HIT series. The robust performance abroad highlights the franchise's expanding fanbase and universal appeal.

Advance bookings for Sunday are said to be extremely strong, suggesting that the film will continue its successful streak into the weekend. Trade analysts are now confident that HIT: The 3rd Case will comfortably cross the coveted ₹100 crore mark before the end of its opening weekend, a milestone that few thrillers in Telugu cinema have reached so swiftly.

With break-even already within touching distance for most distributors, the film is being hailed as both a commercial and critical triumph. Nani's intense

performance, coupled with Sailesh Kolanu's tight direction, has struck a chord with audiences, proving once again why Nani remains one of the most dependable and bankable stars in the industry.

HIT: The 3rd Case not only continues the legacy of its predecessors but also raises the bar for crime thrillers in Indian cinema. As the franchise gains traction with each installment, expectations are already building for what the future holds for the HIT universe.

In a market dominated by big-budget spectacles, HIT 3 stands out as a smart, gripping thriller that combines commercial appeal with storytelling excellence—making it one of the most exciting box office stories of 2025 so far.

