



India Set to Become 4th Largest Economy

- India to surpass Japan to become 4th largest economy.
- IMF forecasts India's GDP at \$4,187.017 billion in FY26
- Just ahead of Japan's \$4,186.431 billion.
- India's GDP expected to cross \$5 trillion by 2027

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India is rapidly emerging as a global economic powerhouse. According to the latest World Economic Outlook - April 2025 released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is set to overtake Japan to become the world's fourth largest economy in 2025.

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AP Govt Signs MoU with Schneider for Skill Training

- Agreement aims to enhance youth skills in electronics, green energy
- 20 state-of-the-art training labs to be set up across the state
- Around 9,000 people to be trained with placement support

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a significant move to empower the youth of Andhra Pradesh, the state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Schneider Electric India Foundation to provide specialized skill training in

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Annadata Sukhibhava Now Covers Tenant Farmers Too

- ₹20,000 aid for each eligible farmer family
- Tenant and ROFR farmers to get direct benefit
- Cash to be deposited in three installments

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a significant step towards inclusive farmer welfare, the Andhra Pradesh government has announced the extension of the 'Annadata Sukhibhav' scheme to tenant farmers across the state. Until now, only land-owning

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- All are working through outsourcing Agencies.
- No agency is giving salary intime and not in full also.
- Agencies are exploiting workers by giving low salaries
- No safety measures are implementing here
- No ESI, No PF, even the workers paying that amount
- No ID cards for the workers at Luggage Cloak Room

ONLY GOD CAN SAVE THEM

15000 Sanitary Workers facing troubles in TTD

- No meals facility for these workers
- Workers have been blackmailed by the concerned persons
- TTD authorities not caring any issue, totally neglected
- Only Additional EO responded to the issues, but he has been ignored here?
- Unions demanding to install a society and avoid agencies



TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam is a world-famous temple and devotees come here from across the world. Many believe that whatever you ask, Lord Venkateswara Swamy will sanction it and then they will come here to fulfil their vow to God. But, 15,000 sanitary workers are waiting for God's grace, as they have been ignored by officials and the government. They have to keep the premises very clean, which is required in terms of hygiene and also in terms of sanctity. Doing that work by investing their sweat, they are not getting minimum concern from the TTD officials. TTD EO Mr. Shyamala Rao has to know their problems and has to attend to their issues immediately, that is what all the workers are requesting. Mrs. Amburi Sindhuja, State General Secretary of TNTUC, has explained the problems faced by these workers. The details given by her are as follows: These workers are doing cleaning in the temple premises, removing bad water and dust from time to time including drain cleaning. There should not be any waste or mud

evident in front of the officials; if so, the workers will suffer for sure. All the sanitary workers are working through outsourcing agencies. More than five agencies are working on it. The government has fixed the minimum wage at Rs. 13,800, but the agencies are paying only Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 8,000. Even they are not getting that much salary. Their wages are diminishing in the name of muster rolls, by manipulating their attendance. The employees of TTD who have to support fellow workers are cooperating with outsourcing agencies in reducing the salary payment of the workers in the name of fewer musters. Even the agencies are least bothered about paying those salaries on time. Moreover, these agencies are not implementing ESI and PF facilities for the workers. And a few are cutting the amounts for ESI and PF, but not paying to the departments as per the rules. The more concerning issue is, there are no safety measures for these workers. These workers have to work in hill areas also and in deep contaminated water as well, but they are not getting any gloves, shoes, or

other safety equipment, which are supposed to be supplied as per the rules by the outsourcing agency. And even the officials of TTD are also supposed to monitor the implementation of these safety measures, but no such approach exists here. The worst part is that there are no arrangements of support for these workers when they are troubled with any injuries—no hospital treatment, no ESI. Even they don't get paid leave if they are injured and confined to bed for any days. Generally, if anybody is not implementing labour rules, the Labour Department will raid and issue notices to the agencies or whoever is concerned. But here in TTD, since it's an independent and autonomous organization, the Labour Department cannot intervene without the permission of the EO. But the EO is not responding to any of these issues, either knowingly or unknowingly—nobody knows. Mrs. Sindhuja said that “We have submitted a memorandum to Mr. Venkaiah Chowdary, Additional EO of TTD. He has responded positively and as per our knowledge, he has forwarded it for further action. But

what happened internally, we don't know—no such measures have been taken up until now.” “Instead of paying amounts to outsourcing agencies, TTD can install a society and they can cover these workers under that society. Then all the measures for these workers will be implemented. I can say, not much amount is needed for that, which they are paying to the agencies now,” she added. She further said that “Every TTD employee is having meal facilities at the temple, but all these workers who are getting low salaries don't have that facility. They have to spend three more hours to reach here and go apart from the workers. Is TTD not capable of arranging such a facility for these workers?” Mrs. Sindhuja has explained that they have submitted a memorandum explaining all these issues to the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and he has forwarded it to TTD authorities seeking a report on it. But nothing has moved forward until now. The workers are requesting the Chief Minister to take care of these things as early as possible.

Farmers Hit Hard By Rains, Govt Failed Them: Jagan

- Former CM blames govt for ignoring rain alerts
- Crops and orchards damaged across AP
- YSRCP to demand compensation for farmers



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Farmers across Andhra Pradesh have suffered significant losses due to untimely rains over the past two days. Large areas of farmland were inundated, leading to waterlogging of crops and extensive damage to fruit orchards. The unexpected downpour has raised alarm among the farming community, who now face the dual burden of low yields and crop destruction. Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy responded sharply to the crisis. He alleged that the farmers' plight was the result of negligence on the part of

the state government. “Despite having prior information about the rains, the government failed to act and left farmers to suffer,” Jagan said. Jagan also criticized the government for its failure to procure grain properly. He pointed out that even during the Kharif season, farmers had struggled with unfavorable weather conditions and low yields. Now, he said, they are forced to watch their crops rot in water without any assurance of compensation. In response to the situation, Jagan held a teleconference with YSRCP leaders from Tadepalli and instructed them to visit the rain-affected farmers.

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## AP Govt Signs MoU with Schneider for Skill Training

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the rapidly growing fields of electronics, green energy, and construction. The deal, facilitated by Minister Nara Lokesh, aims to equip approximately 9,000 youth with world-class training and job placement opportunities. As part of the MoU, Schneider Electric will set up 20 modern training labs across the state in government ITIs, polytechnic colleges, and NAC training centers. These labs, to be established between April 2025 and March 2027, will focus on cutting-edge technologies in power systems, solar energy, and industrial automation. The project will be backed by a Rs. 5 crore investment in training equipment, consumables, and digital resources. In addition, Schneider Electric will establish a 'Center of Excellence' in Mangalagiri, at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crore, and a research center in Anantapur. The company will also initiate a pilot project to modernize power consumption in Alluri Seetharamaraju district. This collaboration is expected to foster skilled workforce development and enhance job opportunities for Andhra Pradesh's youth, contributing to the state's growing industrial and technological landscape.

## Annadata Sukhibhava Now Covers Tenant Farmers Too

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farmers were eligible for this benefit, but with the new decision, tenant farmers who cultivate on leased land without land ownership rights will also receive financial support. Under this revised scheme, every eligible farmer family—whether owning land, cultivating on leased land, or holding forest land rights (ROFR)—will receive ₹20,000 annually. The assistance will be directly credited into the beneficiaries' bank accounts in three installments. This amount includes ₹6,000 from the Central Government's PM Kisan scheme, merged into the total assistance. The government has directed officials to expedite the identification and verification of eligible beneficiaries at the field level. Officials from the departments of agriculture, horticulture, and the silk industry, along with tehsildars and mandal agriculture officers, have been tasked with compiling accurate data. Verified lists of beneficiaries must be uploaded to the official 'Annadata Sukhibhava' website by May 20. The scheme defines each family unit as consisting of a husband, wife, and minor children. If any children are married, they will be treated as a separate family unit. The scheme applies to all farmers involved in agriculture, horticulture, and silk cultivation. However, the government has also outlined exclusion criteria. Families in a financially superior position, those who currently or previously held constitutional posts, government employees, professionals such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, architects, and chartered accountants, as well as those who paid income tax in the last financial year, will not be eligible.

## Farmers Hit...

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He emphasized the need for the party to stand with the farming community during this crisis and decided to mount pressure on the government to ensure immediate compensation to all affected farmers. "Farmers are the backbone of our state, and their hardships must not be ignored," Jagan stated, reiterating YSRCP's commitment to support them through all means necessary.

# Jagan's False Propaganda on Power Purchases

- Power Contracts Based on Public Needs
- State Development with Renewable Power Projects
- Job Opportunities for Youth with Axis

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar has condemned the false propaganda being spread by YSRCP Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy regarding power purchase agreements. In a statement issued on Monday, the Minister addressed Jagan's claims that power was purchased at only Rs. 2.49 per unit during the YSRCP regime, clarifying that the actual cost was over Rs. 5 per unit. The Minister further refuted the untrue statements made by YSRCP leaders concerning the agreement made by the coalition government with Axis company, stressing that the agreement was 100% legal. Minister Ravikumar highlighted that the renewable power project set up with Axis would create job opportunities for the youth of Andhra Pradesh while benefiting the state through tax revenues. The Minister pointed out the



stark contrast between the power agreements made by Jagan Mohan Reddy, which were for personal gain, and the agreements signed by the coalition government under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, which were made in the interest of public welfare. Minister Gottipati advised Jagan to cease spreading false propaganda, empha-

sizing that the YSRCP's unethical power contracts had led to people paying Rs. 8 to 10 per unit for electricity during peak hours. He assured that the first project using solar, wind, and battery storage technology would soon be launched in Andhra Pradesh to address the power issues and ensure affordable electricity for the public.

## Govt Will Support Every Farmer - Minister Nadendla Manohar

mandal, alongside Jaggampet MLA Jyothula Nehru, State Civil Supplies Corporation Chairman Thota Sudheer, Kuda Chairman Tummala Ramaswamy, Joint Collector Rahul Meena, and officials from the Civil Supplies, Agriculture, and Cooperation Departments. Minister Nadendla Manohar spoke to the farmers who were drying their paddy in the fields, assuring them that the coalition government would stand by them and do justice to all the affected farmers. Later in the day, he visited the Chidiga Highway Road in Kakinada Rural Constituency, Kakinada Rural Mandal, along with Kakinada Rural MLA Pantham Nanaji, and continued his discussions with the farmers. Minister Manohar emphasized the immense losses suffered by farmers due to the untimely rains and reiterated

that the coalition government would support every farmer who faced such losses. He assured them that the government would take full responsibility and purchase every grain grown by the farmers. Minister Manohar mentioned that field visits would be carried out as per the instructions of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The Minister also advised farmers not to rush into selling their paddy at low prices due to pressure from middlemen. He informed that 59,000 metric tons of paddy have already been procured through Rythu Seva Kendras in Kakinada district, with a target of purchasing 95,000 metric tons. Minister Manohar emphasized that every farmer should sell their paddy at the minimum support price set by the state government.

## Govt Signs MoU with Oracle to Train 4 Lakh Youth

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has entered into a significant partnership with Oracle to provide advanced technology training for the state's youth, aiming to prepare them for the rapidly growing IT industry. The agreement was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Oracle and the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC), in the presence of State Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh. The collaboration will see Oracle providing free access to



its Oracle University Learning Subscription content through its My Learn digital platform, enabling the training of 4 lakh youth over the next three years. In the first year, 1 lakh youth will be trained, with the numbers increasing to 1.5 lakh in the second and third years. The training programs will focus on Oracle Cloud Essentials,

OCI Foundations, AI Foundations, Data Science, and Cloud Security, with regularly updated learning paths designed to help candidates gain recognized certifications. This initiative aims to support women and youth from economically weaker sections by equipping them with valuable skills needed in the IT sector.



## Pawan Kalyan's Appeal for Amicable Resolution Between India and Sri Lanka on Fishermen Issue

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan has expressed deep concern over the recent harassment of 24 fishermen from Tamil Nadu by Sri Lankan authorities in the Bay of Bengal. He expressed his pain over the injuries sustained by fishermen from Nagapattinam district and emphasized that India and Sri Lanka, both friendly nations, should resolve such recurring incidents amicably. Pawan Kalyan urged the Ministry of External Affairs to take immediate action and called for constructive talks between both governments to ensure the safety and dignity of the fishermen are preserved. In his statement, Pawan also addressed the issue of Amaravati, reiterating that it would be the only, permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by the farmers who provided land for the capital and recalled the challenges they faced under the previous government. Pawan Kalyan assured that with the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Chandrababu Naidu, Amaravati would be developed into a world-class capital, providing ample job opportunities for the youth. The Deputy CM further expressed regret over the suffering of farmers who had sacrificed over 34,000 acres of land for the capital's development, recalling their struggles with protests and police brutality. Pawan Kalyan emphasized that he would take these concerns to Prime Minister Modi, staying committed to his promise of making Amaravati the state's capital.



## Simhachalam Wall Incident Report

Commission finds the wall lacked foundation, contributing to its collapse.

TPN Correspondent | Visakapatnam

The Simhachalam Appanna shrine incident, which occurred during the Chandanotsavam, has shocked the state. Nine devotees died when a temporary wall at the Sri Varahalakshmi Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple collapsed. Many others were seriously injured. The three-member commission that investigated the incident revealed startling details in its report. It concluded that the wall was constructed without a foundation. The absence of a proper foundation made the wall vulnerable, especially during heavy rains, which brought in a large amount of water and mud. The lack of proper drainage holes in the wall worsened the situation, contributing to its collapse. The commission was formed after Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu ordered a report within 72 hours. The investigation was led by Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar, with IG Ravi Krishna of the Eagle Department and Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief of the Water Resources Department. According to the preliminary report, the wall was hastily built just seven days before the Chandanotsavam as part of the Central Government's temple development Prasad scheme. The wall was built without proper design and inspections, making it structurally unsound. The incident occurred during the Chandanotsavam, a major event held annually at the Simhachalam temple, where a large number of devotees, including those from neighboring Odisha, gather for the darshan. This year, over two lakh devotees attended. The collapse of the wall during the celebrations led to a massive rescue operation, and the authorities quickly recovered the bodies.

# India Set to Become 4th Largest Economy

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This milestone is another significant achievement in India's economic trajectory. The IMF report projects India's nominal GDP to reach \$4,187.017 billion (approx-

mately Rs. 348 lakh crore) in fiscal year 2025 (FY26). Japan's GDP for the same period is expected to be \$4,186.431 billion (approximately Rs. 347.9 lakh crore), with India surpassing Japan by a small margin, marking the rise to fourth

place. India is currently the fifth largest economy until 2024. Looking ahead, the IMF expects India's rise to continue. By 2028, India is projected to surpass Germany, becoming the third largest economy

in the world. India's GDP is forecasted to reach \$5,584.476 billion, while Germany's GDP will be \$5,251.928 billion. The report also highlights that India will cross the \$5 trillion mark by 2027. The leading economies of the

world remain unchanged, with the United States (\$30.5 trillion) and China (\$19.2 trillion) holding the top two positions. These rankings are expected to remain stable until the end of this decade, according to the IMF's projections.





## If Innocent, Why Is Kakani Hiding? Anil Will Be Arrested Too: Bida Ravichandra

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

TDP National General Secretary and MLC Bida Ravichandra launched a sharp attack on former YSRCP ministers Kakani Govardhan Reddy and Anil Kumar Yadav, accusing them of large-scale illegal mining during the YSRCP regime. He alleged that both leaders were deeply involved in mining-related exploitation and predicted that Anil would soon face arrest, just like Kakani, who is currently absconding.

Speaking to the media, Ravichandra questioned Kakani's silence and disappearance. "If Kakani has done nothing wrong, why is he running away? Let him come forward and prove his honesty," he challenged. He also accused Kakani of conducting illegal mining operations in the Rustum Mines region and reminded that there was video footage showing attempts to attack former minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy when he protested against those illegal activities.

Ravichandra also took aim at Anil Kumar Yadav, saying that his sudden re-appearance and criticism of the coalition government is a tactic to escape legal trouble. "He remained untraceable for years. Now he has come forward just to create confusion, fearing arrest. Massive illegal mining took place in Gudur and Saidapuram under Anil's leadership," he claimed.

He further added that the current coalition government is committed to acting against those responsible for illegal mining and warned that arrests and legal action will follow. Ravichandra clarified that MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy's mines were legally acquired before he entered politics and have no connection to the alleged activities of the YSRCP leaders.

## Vishnuvardhan Reddy Slams Prakash Raj Over Pawan Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh BJP Vice President Vishnuvardhan Reddy hit back at actor Prakash Raj for his recent comments targeting Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Responding strongly, Vishnuvardhan Reddy accused Prakash Raj of repeatedly attacking Pawan just to stay in the news and questioned his political relevance.

Prakash Raj had earlier advised Pawan Kalyan to focus on the issues in his own constituency, Pithapuram, rather than getting involved in the affairs of other states. His remarks came after Pawan raised concerns over the problems faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen.



"Is it necessary to talk about states like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu now? First, look after your own constituency," Prakash Raj had commented. These statements did not go down well with BJP leaders in Andhra Pradesh.

Vishnuvardhan Reddy countered by stating that Pawan Kalyan had earned the position of Deputy CM with the support and trust of the people, whereas Prakash Raj had achieved nothing in politics despite contesting for public office.

"You keep attacking the BJP and Pawan Kalyan just to stay relevant. You once contested as an MP – what did you accomplish? Pawan rose with public support, what have you done?" Vishnuvardhan Reddy asked, emphasizing that Pawan's involvement in national issues is not out of place for a leader of his stature.

# Jagan Didn't Listen To My Advice After Becoming CM: Undavalli

- Warned Jagan against partisan politics, says Undavalli
- DG-level officer's arrest unprecedented, he claims
- Urges govt to fight bifurcation case seriously in SC

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former MP Undavalli Arun Kumar has once again raised his voice on key political and legal issues concerning Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at a public interaction, Undavalli revealed that he had personally advised YS Jagan Mohan Reddy not to indulge in partisan politics soon after he assumed office as Chief Minister. However, he lamented that his advice was not taken seriously.

Undavalli strongly objected to what he called political targeting of officials. Referring to the imprisonment of senior IPS officer PSR Anjaneyulu, he noted that this is the first time in the country's history that a Director General-level officer has been sent to jail. He said Anjaneyulu had previously met him for discussions and urged that officers should not be harassed for political reasons. "If Jagan commits any mistake, file a case against him—but leave the officers alone," he asserted. Turning to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, Undavalli reiterated that the bifurcation of the state was unconstitutional. He said that even after 11 years of division, the Centre has failed to submit a counter affidavit in the



Supreme Court on his petition challenging the validity of the Reorganization Act. He clarified that the 2014 division did not receive proper parliamentary approval and that he had recently revised and refiled the petition to establish the legality of the Act. Undavalli expressed hope that the current Andhra Pradesh government, particularly Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, would actively pursue the case in court. He said, "Pawan Kalyan is the ray of hope in this matter," and revealed that he had already written a letter to him urging the appointment of a senior advocate and proactive le-

gal engagement.

Commenting on national security, Undavalli condemned the recent terrorist attack in Kashmir. He urged the public to support the steps taken by the central government to counter terrorism. On Pakistan, he remarked that the country does not have the strength to wage war with India and would suffer heavily if conflict arises. He also stressed that religion-based hatred should be avoided, pointing out that India accommodates 12% Muslims, while Pakistan has only 1% Hindus, highlighting the need for communal harmony and national unity.

## Ambati Rambabu Files Complaint Against Seema Raja, Kirrak RP

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Former minister and senior YSR Congress Party leader Ambati Rambabu has lodged a police complaint against those he accused of launching a false social media campaign against him and other YCP leaders. Speaking to the media after filing the complaint at Pattabhipuram police station in Guntur, Ambati made it clear that if police fail to act, he will approach the Supreme Court and argue the case himself.

Ambati specifically targeted the Telugu Desam Party's social media wing (ITDP), alleging that they are engaged in spreading deliberate misinformation against former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, himself, and other party leaders. He accused Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh of masterminding



these social media attacks under the guise of ITDP operations.

In addition to ITDP, he named individuals Seema Raja and Kirrak RP in his complaints. Ambati alleged that Seema Raja misused the YCP scarf to mislead people while making baseless statements, and claimed that Kirrak RP published inappropriate con-

tent targeting former minister RK Roja and others.

He expressed frustration over what he called selective response by the police department. "When TDP leaders file complaints, police act swiftly, but when YCP leaders approach them with genuine grievances, there's no action," Ambati said. He emphasized that this imbalance in policing shows how the system is currently influenced by the ruling party.

Ambati also revealed that he has formally taken receipt of the complaint and will not rest until action is taken. He declared that those like Seema Raja and Kirrak RP, regardless of who is supporting them, will not be able to escape legal consequences. "We will fight this till the end. If needed, we'll go to the Supreme Court. I'll personally argue this case," he asserted.

## BJP Ranks Urged to Strengthen Through Public Service

TPN | Rajasekhara

Srikakulam, May 6: A meeting of active workers from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was held under the chairmanship of Assembly Convener Smt. Rajani NER. The meeting, which saw a strong turnout of party workers from various mandals, was graced by MLA Nadukuditi Eswar Rao as the chief guest. During his address, MLA Eswar Rao emphasized the importance of continuous public service to strengthen the party's presence and influence.

Speaking to the gathered BJP ranks, the MLA stated that the party is an important partner in the coalition government and that the party workers should maintain their commitment to public service, adhering to the principles of the coalition. He urged the workers to collaborate effectively with the leaders of the coalition parties, focusing on the



development of the constituency and working towards earning the trust and respect of the people. He further stressed the need to work with a soldier-like dedication for the progress of the constituency. The meeting also saw participation from key figures, including Assembly Co-Convenor Sampathrao Nageswara Rao, party presidents from four mandals—Lukalapu Appalanaidu, Mahanthi Ananth, Paila Vishnumurthy, and Sanapala Rama Rao—along with senior leaders like Jeeru Rama

Rao, Burada Venkataramana, PV Ratnam, Akella Suribabu, Lanka Appalanaidu, and others.

The MLA's message reinforced the party's commitment to working cohesively with its coalition partners, ensuring the development of the constituency, and enhancing the BJP's role in the governance process. The program concluded with active participation from party workers and leaders from across the region, signaling a unified approach to future political engagements.



## Balayya Warns YCP Leaders

**TDP Will Not Tolerate Interference in Hindupur**

TPN Correspondent | Hindupur

Hindupur MLA and TDP leader Nandamuri Balakrishna issued a strong warning to YCP leaders, declaring that he would not tolerate any interference in his constituency or in Rayalaseema. During his visit to Hindupur for a series of development activities, Balakrishna emphasized that TDP is working with full accountability to the people.

Addressing the media, Balakrishna warned, "If Seema or TDP activists come in my way, I will not tolerate it. This is my territory, and I won't allow any disruption." He also distributed house patas to the poor in Indiramma Colony and highlighted that Hindupur holds special significance as a second home to the late former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao.

Balakrishna revealed that within just a year, TDP has allocated Rs. 50 crore for development projects in Hindupur and has submitted detailed proposals worth Rs. 136 crore to address the drinking water crisis. He promised a modern underground drainage system soon and reaffirmed his commitment to the constituency's welfare.

He also praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as a visionary leader, recalling the industrial estate established by NTR in 1984. Balakrishna urged the YSRCP to contribute to development instead of criticizing TDP's efforts.



## There Are Many Reasons for YCP's Defeat: Botsa

TPN Correspondent | Anakapalle

Senior YSRCP leader and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana stated that the defeat of the YSR Congress Party in the recent elections was due to multiple factors, much like the numerous reasons behind Karna's death in the Mahabharata. Speaking at a key party meeting held in Anakapalle district, Botsa addressed party leaders and cadres including Gudivada Amarnath, Dharmasri, Budi Mutyala Naidu, Kannababu, Varudu Kalyani, Shobha Haimavati, and Boddeda Prasad.

Botsa strongly criticized the ruling coalition, claiming that within just a year of governance, it had pushed Andhra Pradesh into a debt of ₹1.5 lakh crore. He accused the coalition of resuming Amaravati works with the drama of a ceremonial marriage and mocked Prime Minister Modi's visit to Amaravati, questioning what actual benefits the state received from it.

He went further, blaming the government for the deaths of seven devotees at Simhachalam temple. "These are not just deaths — they are murders caused by the madness of coalition leaders' propaganda," he said. He also expressed frustration that not a single new pension has been sanctioned since the coalition came to power.



# Kesineni Nani's Serious Allegations Against Brother

Nani accuses Chinni of links with key figures in liquor scam  
Allegations of business partnerships with Raj Kasireddy

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The political feud between the Kesineni brothers has intensified with former Vijayawada MP and YSRCP leader Kesineni Nani writing a letter to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, accusing his younger brother, Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni), of being involved in the ongoing liquor scam that has created waves in Andhra Pradesh. In the letter, Nani alleges that Chinni has links with individuals arrested in the case, including key accused Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy and his associate Dilip Paila. According to Nani, Chinni, along with his wife Janaki Lakshmi, is a partner in a company named 'Pride Infracon LLP,' which is registered at the same address as 'Ishanvi Infra Projects Private Limited,' a firm run by Rajasekhara Reddy and Dilip Paila.



Nani pointed out that both companies share the same official email ID, highlighting a deliberate operational connection between them. Nani went further to claim that Chinni illegally diverted significant amounts of money related to the liquor scam into investments in Hyderabad real estate and foreign companies, suspecting money laundering as part of the operation to conceal unaccounted wealth. He expressed

grave concern over the direct links between Chinni and the arrested figures in the case. In his letter to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Nani urged immediate intervention to ensure a high-level investigation into these allegations, emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability. Nani appealed to the CM to avoid any political interference in the legal process, stressing that the allegations should be thoroughly investigated to uphold justice. This is not the first time Nani has made serious accusations against his brother. He previously raised concerns about Chinni's involvement in a land allotment case in Visakhapatnam. The growing conflict between the Kesineni brothers has now reached a new level with these allegations tied to the liquor scam, adding fuel to their bitter political rivalry.

# Nani Doesn't Deserve a Response The People Know Who Betrayed Them

Keshineni Shivanath (Chinni), Vijayawada MP

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Kesineni Nani does not deserve a response to the baseless, unethical, and malicious allegations he continues to make. As a public representative, he has repeatedly shown himself to be a backstabber, a fraud, a traitor, and someone who operated as a covert agent for Jagan Mohan Reddy while pretending loyalty to his own party. The public deserves to know the truth behind these fabricated accusations. Long before I officially entered active politics, a company was registered in 2021 for the purpose of jointly constructing a building on land belonging to Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy's organization. All records related to this are available in the public domain and there is nothing to hide. However, after my decision to enter politics formally, I consciously chose not to proceed with any construction ventures associated with Kasireddy's group. That decision led to financial losses, but it was made in the interest of transparency and integrity. Meanwhile, Kesineni Nani continues to float allegations about so-called American and Dubai-based fake companies linked to me. I challenge him and his backers: prove any of these claims. The burden of proof is on those

spreading these lies. During Jagan Mohan Reddy's oppressive regime — a time many compare to the Kalakeyas — Nani betrayed his own party, which had treated him like family, and conspired with the "J gang." Neither the party nor the people have forgotten the venom he has spewed. If he truly has the courage, let him show even a single financial transaction between me and Kasireddy. If not, he should stop spreading fabricated letters and empty narratives. The people are watching — and they know who stood with them, and who sold them out.



# This Is the Difference Between Jagan and Chandrababu's Rule

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

State Housing, Information, and Civil Relations Minister Kolu Parthasarathy highlighted the stark contrast between the YCP-led government under Jaganmohan Reddy and the current TDP coalition under Chandrababu Naidu. In a recent interview, Parthasarathy accused the YCP government of pushing the state into a financial quagmire with a Rs. 10 lakh crore debt, criticizing their lack of consistency in words and actions. He also pointed out that the previous government had neglected the state's future, leading to widespread economic damage. Parthasarathy praised Chan-

drababu's leadership, stating that despite the financial crisis left by the YCP, the coalition government is working toward state development with the support of the central government. He clarified that delays in fulfilling promises were due to the economic mess created by the previous administration. Parthasarathy also expressed disappointment with Jagan's focus on political gains over the state's future, which led to irreparable damage. The minister firmly rejected the YSRCP's allegations of partisanship, asserting that legal action will be taken against those who violate the law, regardless of their political affiliations. He



emphasized that the TDP government is committed to justice, and any illegal actions will not be overlooked.

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# Collector Naga Rani to Receive Red Cross Award



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

West Godavari District Collector and District Magistrate, Chadralawada Naga Rani, has been selected for the prestigious Andhra Pradesh State Red Cross Award for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25. This honour is bestowed upon her in recognition of her exceptional humanitarian service during the recent floods in the state.

In the wake of severe floods, Collector Naga Rani exhibited remarkable courage and dedication by personally visiting flood-affected low-lying areas despite challenging conditions and lack of transport access. She bypassed official protocol to reach the victims, riding a two-wheeler through flooded roads to distribute essential food supplies and mobilize financial aid. Her efforts led to the large-scale distribution of food and support, ensuring that many affected individuals received critical assistance during the crisis.

Naga Rani's humanitarian efforts also included raising significant financial support for the victims, which she personally delivered to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, inspiring others to contribute as well. Her selfless service stands as a shining example of dedication to the welfare of the community, and her actions continue to inspire others in the field of humanitarian work.

The Andhra Pradesh Red Cross Society will present the award to Collector Chadralawada Naga Rani during the World Red Cross Day and World Thalassemia Day celebrations, scheduled for May 8 at the Darbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Vijayawada. The Indian Red Cross Society, established in 1920, operates under the patronage of the President of India at the national level and the Governor of Andhra Pradesh at the state level. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and President of the State Red Cross Branch, Shri S. Abdul Nazeer, the Andhra Pradesh Red Cross Society continues to lead various humanitarian initiatives, including disaster relief operations, blood donation drives, first aid training, and environmental initiatives such as tree plantation drives.

# Review Meet On Public Issues

MLA Ramu, Collector Balaji lead discussions

Drinking water, roads, housing reviewed

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

MLA Venigandla Ramu emphasized that regular review meetings with government officials play a vital role in addressing public issues effectively. He made these remarks during a constituency-level review meeting held at the Gudivada Municipal Council Hall on Monday, attended by Krishna District Collector P. Balaji and other key officials. During the meeting, MLA Ramu highlighted several pressing issues in the constituency including drinking water supply, poor road conditions, and Tidda colony-related grievances. In light of the ongoing summer season, he requested the Collector to prioritize drinking water arrangements. He also stressed the importance of taking timely measures to assist farmers in



the upcoming Kharif season. Collector Balaji responded promptly, directing the concerned department officials to take immediate and clear action to resolve the flagged issues. He particularly instructed officials to address obstructions in canal water flow and to accelerate work in critical areas before the

peak summer. Speaking to the media post-meeting, MLA Ramu said, "This meeting under the leadership of the Collector is a good step forward in solving local problems. We also discussed strategies for improving horticulture in the region." Collector Balaji added that the

review covered priority areas as per the government's agenda. "We focused on drinking water issues due to the summer conditions and reviewed progress on schemes like Housing and PM Suryagharh," he said. He assured that identified implementation hurdles would be addressed. Among the key attendees were AP Warehousing Corporation Chairman Ravi Venkateswara Rao, RDO Subrahmanyam, Municipal Commissioner Simhadri Manohar, Jana Sena in-charge Booragadda Srikanth, NTR Stadium Committee Vice-Chairman Yelavarthi Srinivasa Rao, TDP leaders Dintyala Rambabu, Vasey Murali, Daneti Sanyasirao, Chatragadda Ravi, along with Tahsildars, department MDs, and senior officials from irrigation, housing, agriculture, municipal and revenue wings.



# Untimely Rain Causes Loss to Farmers in Mailavaram

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The recent untimely rains have severely affected farmers in the Mailavaram area. After enduring three heavy downpours in April, which damaged crops like chillies, mangoes, rice, and maize, the farmers have now faced another setback with the heavy rains that fell on Sunday. The rice and maize crops in Mailavaram mandal were soaked, causing significant losses to the farmers. Despite their efforts to cover the crops and protect them, water seeped through the tracks,

leading to damage. Some of the maize and rice in the Mailavaram market yard also got wet. The sudden change in weather, accompanied by thunder and lightning, took the farmers by surprise on Sunday morning. However, they worked tirelessly to save the harvested rice that had been drying in the market yard. The tracks were quickly covered, and measures were taken to prevent rainwater from flowing onto the crops. One of the key issues faced by farmers is the delay in the procurement of grains. Many

crops remain in market yards and on roads, and despite registering them, there has been minimal buying by the government. Meanwhile, middlemen are offering prices between Rs. 1200-1300 per quintal, even though the government has fixed the rate at Rs. 1740 per quintal. Officials have expressed their concern over the situation, fearing that farmers will be forced to sell to middlemen, resulting in substantial losses. There is a growing worry that if this trend continues, the farmers could suffer a complete loss.





# Kollu Ravindra Assures Full Support to Pendurthi Activists

Minister praised Gandhi Babji’s effective leadership in dual roles

Says TDP-Jana Sena coalition focused on development and welfare

TPN Correspondent | Anakapalle

A meeting of activists from the Pendurthi constituency was held today in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Mines and Excise Minister and Anakapalle district in-charge Sri Kollu Ravindra. The event was organized under the leadership of Visakhapatnam District President and Pendurthi in-charge Sri Gandhi Babji, who also serves as the State Oil Federation Chairman. Addressing the gathering, Minister Kollu Ravindra reassured party activists of the government’s unwavering support and emphasized that both the

Thalliki Vandanam and Anna-data Sukhibhava schemes are being implemented swiftly. He reiterated the commitment of the coalition government to ensure that development and welfare go hand in hand. “The state is reeling under a debt burden of ₹10 lakh crore due to reckless borrowing during Jagannathan Reddy’s regime,” Ravindra said, adding that the coalition government now faces the tough task of clearing just the interest payments. He praised Gandhi Babji’s effective leadership in dual roles—as District President and Pendurthi in-charge—and stated

that Babji has earned the trust of the leadership by working diligently. Ravindra assured the activists that Babji would be given better opportunities in the future and confirmed that Telugu Desam Party would strongly support him. Highlighting the political dynamics, the minister noted that the Pendurthi seat was allotted to Jana Sena under the alliance agreement and was secured with a significant majority through coordinated efforts. He described Babji as a capable and active leader and assured that the government will stand by the cadre through every challenge.

Kollu Ravindra further announced that he would personally visit the Anakapalle district twice every month to interact with party workers and address any concerns they may have. The event witnessed large-scale participation from local corporators, sarpanches, MPTC members, and party activists. Also present were Anakapalle District TDP President and Andhra Pradesh Housing Board Chairman Sri Bhakta Tatabbai. The meeting concluded with renewed enthusiasm among the cadre, encouraged by the minister’s words and the district leadership’s proactive efforts.

## BJP Has Become Enlightened on Caste Census: YS Sharmila



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

AP Congress President YS Sharmila welcomed the BJP-led central government’s change in stance on conducting a caste census, calling it a delayed yet significant move. She credited the shift entirely to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s relentless pressure and the party’s long-standing demand for social justice through a caste-based enumeration. Speaking to the media, Sharmila asserted that the BJP has only now become “enlightened” on the issue after years of resistance. “The Centre’s decision is a victory for Rahul Gandhi and our consistent fight for social justice,” she stated. She recalled that the Congress has always supported the caste census as an essential step to accurately assess and serve the needs of backward communities. Sharmila emphasized that the caste census has traditionally been part of the decennial national census process, having last taken place in 2011. However, she accused the BJP government of neglecting both the general and caste census that were due in 2021. “It was only because of the continuous agitation and advocacy by Rahul Gandhi that the Centre is now being forced to act,” she said. The Congress leader criticized the BJP for historically opposing the caste census while pushing for religious-based population data. “The BJP’s intention was to promote religious polarization, not social justice,” she alleged. She noted that mounting political pressure from states like Telangana and Karnataka, which have moved forward with their own caste-based surveys, has left the BJP with no choice but to respond. Sharmila demanded that the central government immediately announce a concrete, time-bound roadmap for the caste census. She also called for a national debate on the existing limits on reservations and urged the Centre to publicly disclose the methodology and format of the proposed caste census. “The people of India deserve to know the details. This is not just about statistics—it’s about ensuring equal opportunities and representation,” she concluded.

## Sunburned Rajaiah Receiving Treatment At Nagiri Hospital

YCP Satyavedu Constituency Joint District Secretary T. Rakesh Kiran Visits Patient, Assures Support

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati, May 6: Rajaiah, a resident of Lower Kanakampalem Dalitawada in Puttur Narayana Vanam Mandal of Visalandhra, is undergoing treatment at the Nagiri Area Hospital after suffering a sunstroke. His son, Govindaswamy, reportedly collapsed due to the heat while attending to work on their farm and is currently being treated for the same condition. Upon learning about the incident, YSR Congress Party Satyavedu Constituency Joint District Secretary T.



Rakesh Kiran promptly visited the hospital to check on Rajaiah’s condition. He

interacted with the doctors and urged them to ensure the patient receives the best

possible care. Medical staff at the hospital assured him of their commitment to providing comprehensive treatment. Speaking to the media, Rakesh Kiran stated that he would stand by Rajaiah’s family and extend full support to them during this time. Several YSRCP state leaders, including Anna Dorai, Ashok Babu, Govindaswamy, Manjunath Varma, Muragavel, Manikantha, Umapathi, and Ramesh, also visited the hospital and expressed solidarity with the family.

## APTF Protest Held at Sullurupeta Over School Restructuring

Teachers Submit Memorandum to Tahsildar

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati, May 6: A protest was held at Sullurupeta, an old taluk headquarters, on Monday by members of the Andhra Pradesh Teachers’ Federation (APTF), demanding protection of primary schools and addressing of long-pending financial issues. Responding to a statewide call given by the APTF, a large number of teachers from both Sullurupeta and Tada mandals assembled under the leadership of the local APTF branch. During the protest, teachers submitted a memorandum to the local Tahsildar, voicing serious concerns over the rationalization process being implemented un-

der the guise of school restructuring. They appealed to the government not to merge or downgrade primary schools, especially those in vulnerable coastal areas, and to ensure that School Assistant posts are retained in upper primary schools (UP schools). They highlighted the specific case of Venadu and B.V. Palem in Tada mandal, urging that the existing primary schools in these villages be upgraded or continued as UP schools, rather than being affected by the restructuring plan. The teachers said that the implementation of G.O. 117 was leading to the deterioration of the public education system in

rural areas. In response, officials assured the delegation that the concerns raised would be forwarded to the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and the District Collector for necessary action. Apart from school-related issues, the teachers demanded the immediate formation of the 12th Pay Revision Commission (PRC), announcement of Interim Relief (IR), and release of all pending dues, including three outstanding Dearness Allowance (DA) installments. Prominent leaders who participated in the protest included APTF Tirupati District Vice-President Usman Ba-

sha, District Audit Committee Member Gopinath, Tada Mandal President Sudhakar Reddy, General Secretary Ramanayya, and members Sujana, Raghuramayya, and Giri, among others.



## Srikakulam Legislators Submit Petition for Erosion Protection

TPN | Rajasekhara Srikakulam, May 6:

Legislators from the Srikakulam constituency, including Gondu Shankar, have submitted a petition to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, requesting urgent measures to repair the areas affected by erosion at Peddaganagalla Vani Peta in Srikakulam Rural Mandal. The petition seeks the construction of a protective wall to safeguard the area from the impact of sea waves, which has been causing significant erosion in recent months. To address the issue, the Col-

lector and Joint Collector held a discussion at the Zilla Parishad meeting hall, reviewing ways to resolve the problem. During the meeting, MLA Gondu Shankar highlighted the severity of the situation, stressing the need for immediate action. He explained that the erosion had been severely affecting the fishermen and local villages, and that the construction of a protective wall would offer much-needed security to these communities. The MLA further mentioned that following the submission of the petition to the Chief

Minister, instructions had been given to the district administration to evaluate the situation and take appropriate action. He emphasized the importance of constructing the protective wall as a long-term solution to mitigate the erosion and prevent further damage. In addition to discussing the protective wall, discussions were also held regarding the allocation of house pattas for the residents of Kunduvani Peta. The legislators expressed their commitment to ensuring that the rights and needs of the

local communities are met. The district administration has expressed its willingness to work closely with the state government to address these concerns and provide a sustainable solution to the ongoing erosion issues, ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents in the affected areas. The proposed measures reflect the government’s ongoing commitment to resolving public issues and safeguarding vulnerable coastal communities from natural calamities.

## Another Youth Dies by Suicide Due to Loan App Harassment

TPN Correspondent | Annamayya

The ongoing issue of harassment by loan app operators in Telugu states has taken another tragic turn with the suicide of a youth in Andhra Pradesh. Srikanth, a young man from Annamayya district, tragically took his own life after being relentlessly harassed by loan app operators. He had taken a loan some time ago and had been paying the installments on time until recently, when he faced a delay in one installment. The operators began calling him

every hour, threatening him and using abusive language. Unable to cope with the constant pressure, Srikanth consumed pesticide, leading to his death. His parents have since filed a complaint with the police, blaming the loan app operators for the harassment that led to their son’s suicide. The police have registered a case against the loan app administrators and have urged people facing similar harassment to come forward and seek help, emphasizing that suicide is never the solution.



# Delhi’s EV Policy 2.0 Needs Realistic Timelines for a Sustainable Transition



The Delhi government is preparing to roll out its second-generation electric vehicle (EV) policy, aimed at significantly increasing the share of EVs on the city’s roads. Initially scheduled for April 15, the policy’s implementation has been postponed for three months to allow time for crucial revisions.

As one of the world’s most polluted cities, Delhi’s high levels of particulate matter — largely emitted by vehicles — have long posed a serious public health threat, comparable to the impact of COVID-19, according to recent studies. Recognising this,

the government has taken a targeted approach to reduce vehicular pollution, beginning with the 1998 mandate to shift public transport to compressed natural gas (CNG). Despite delays due to infrastructure bottlenecks, the move laid the groundwork for the 2020 EV policy.

The new policy builds on these efforts and introduces more ambitious goals, including phasing out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Reportedly, the draft policy targets 27% of new vehicle registrations in Delhi to be electric by 2027. It proposes a phased ban on new registra-

tions of CNG auto-rickshaws from August 2025, and petrol, diesel, and CNG two-wheelers from August 2026. Vehicles over 10 years old, including CNG autos, taxis, and buses, are also set for retirement. However, the most critical flaw lies in the proposed timeline. A rapid phase-out without sufficient infrastructure and planning could mirror the delays faced during the CNG transition. EVs demand a more complex ecosystem, including widespread charging infrastructure and battery-swapping stations, especially in residential, commercial, and public spaces. Effective coordi-

nation among agencies such as the Power Ministry, PWD, DDA, and MCD will be essential. Additionally, Delhi’s extreme climate adds to the challenge, with high temperatures risking EV battery performance and safety. A rushed transition risks being more disruptive than beneficial, especially for those dependent on older vehicles, for whom limited data exists. While the EV policy’s ambition is commendable, a phased, realistic rollout that balances environmental urgency with infrastructure readiness and social equity is essential for long-term success.



## Record April GST Collections Reflect Rising Compliance and Export Momentum

India’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for April 2025 have once again set a new record, continuing a trend that began with the introduction of the indirect tax system in 2017. The gross GST revenue stood at ₹2.37 lakh crore, reflecting a 12.6% year-on-year increase. After accounting for refunds, the central government’s net intake was over ₹2.09 lakh crore — a 9.1% rise compared to last April.

This robust performance underscores a significant improvement in tax compliance, supported by faster refund processes and widespread fintech adoption. India’s fintech adoption rate, now at 87% — well above the global average — has especially benefited small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that typically operate with limited working capital. The formalisation of the MSME sector, catalysed by the pandemic-era digital shift, has helped broaden the tax base and enhance regulatory oversight.

GST collections have more than doubled over the past seven years, rising from ₹1.03 lakh crore in April 2018 to ₹2.37 lakh crore in April 2025. A particularly notable aspect of this April’s performance was the 86% jump in refunds issued to exporters and a 20.8% rise in GST from imports. These trends align with a sharp improvement in India’s manufacturing outlook, as reflected in the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), which rose to a 10-month high of 58.2 in April.

The PMI survey revealed a surge in new export orders, marking the highest growth in international demand in over 14 years. Countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, West Asia, and the Americas drove this demand, likely in anticipation of the U.S. ending its 90-day tariff pause on July 9. With U.S.-China trade tensions escalating, India is emerging as a preferred sourcing destination. Notably, Apple announced that it aims to source most iPhones for the U.S. from India.

While this offers a timely boost to India’s manufacturing sector — which saw just 4% growth last fiscal — long-term resilience will depend on strengthening domestic demand and securing favourable terms in ongoing global trade negotiations.

## Spain’s Blackout Is a Wake-Up Call for India’s Renewable Future

Spain and Portugal’s recent massive blackout is a stark reminder that even developed nations aren’t immune to power grid failures. For India, this isn’t new — the 2012 grid collapse left 400 million people without power. As India rapidly expands its renewable energy capacity, this is a critical moment to focus not just on power generation, but on ensuring grid reliability and resilience.

India’s energy transition is impressive. Of the 34 gigawatts of new capacity added last year, 85% came from renewables, including 24 gigawatts from solar alone. The country aims to add 300 gigawatts more by 2030, largely through private investment and entrepreneurial innovation. From rooftop solar panels in rural markets to billion-dollar investments by global firms like Brookfield and ALTERRA, the momentum is strong.

However, Spain’s blackout offers an important lesson: integrating large amounts of renewables into the grid is complex. Variable energy sources like solar and wind can cause instability, especially when grid infrastructure isn’t upgraded in parallel. Worse, authorities often lack accurate data on self-installed solar units,

complicating power forecasting and grid balancing.

India faces a similar risk. Many solar systems operate off-grid or contribute power back to the network unpredictably. Without comprehensive tracking and planning, this growing sector could strain the system. Already, estimates show discrepancies — as seen in Spain, where solar capacity may be underreported by over 10 gigawatts.

Additionally, corporate governance in the sector needs attention. The recent crisis at Gensol Engineering, which lost 70% of its value amid regulatory investigations, reveals the fragility of unregulated growth.

India’s energy needs will only grow. Per-capita consumption is just a fraction of China’s, and closing that gap will require enormous new capacity. But a blackout-free future depends on smart planning, strong regulations, and significant investment in grid infrastructure — estimated between \$107 billion and \$500 billion. Renewables are essential, but without a stable grid and reliable data, India risks repeating the very mistakes it’s hoping to avoid.



## Caste Census: A Step Towards Real Social Justice, Not Political Optics



On the birth anniversary of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his government’s commitment to social justice and equity. A landmark decision to conduct a caste census is central to this vision — a data-driven step aimed at empowering India’s marginalised communities, not dividing them.

Historically, caste enumeration began in 1881 and continued until 1931. Although data was collected in 1941, it was never published. Post-Independence, from 1951 to 2011, only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were counted, leaving Other Backward Classes (OBCs) excluded.

In contrast to the BJP’s consistent stand on the issue, the Congress party’s record reflects a pattern of tokenism. Indira Gandhi dismissed caste census proposals. Rajiv Gandhi delayed implementing the Mandal Commission report and failed to grant constitutional status to the OBC Commission — a move later accomplished under Modi’s leadership.

Congress-led governments promised caste surveys but faltered. The 2011 Socio-Economic Caste

Census (SECC) under UPA was riddled with over eight crore errors and its findings were never made public. State-level surveys under Congress rule, like in Karnataka and Telangana, were marked by inefficiency and political fear. In Karnataka, the findings of a ₹165 crore caste survey remained buried for nearly a decade, only to be quietly withdrawn in 2025.

Unlike these half-hearted efforts, the BJP’s initiative integrates the caste census with the decadal population census under Article 246 — lending it legal weight and scientific credibility. Far from creating vote banks, this move aims to ensure representation for marginalised groups, aligning with Dr Ambedkar’s vision of equitable opportunity for all. The caste census isn’t about reinforcing caste identities, but about using accurate data to drive inclusive development. In doing so, the Modi government redefines social justice — from a tool of political expediency to a foundation for meaningful upliftment. It is a step toward building a more equal and united India, where empowerment is backed by data and delivered with intent.



# PM Modi Chairs Key Meeting on CBI Director Appointment; Praveen Sood Likely to Get Extension

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a crucial meeting on Monday at the PMO in New Delhi to deliberate on the appointment of the next Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The high-level selection committee included Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

The meeting was held amid reports that the current CBI Director, Praveen Sood, is likely to receive a one-year extension. Sood's current tenure is set to end on May 25, 2025.

As per the rules laid out by the 2019 Supreme Court directive, the CBI Director is appointed for a fixed two-year term, which can be extended up to a maximum of five years. The appointment committee, comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, and the Leader of the Opposition, is empowered to select the candidate and must approve any transfer during the tenure.

Praveen Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre, took over as CBI Director in May 2023, succeeding Subodh Kumar Jaiswal. With nearly four decades of experience in law enforcement, Sood has held several critical positions throughout his career. Notably, he served as an advisor to the Government of Mauritius and has handled high-profile investigations



involving inter-state and international ramifications, including cybercrime and white-collar offenses.

During his tenure, Sood has been known for driving complex investigations involving politically sensitive and economically significant cases. His leadership in strengthening the agency's technical capabilities and focus on financial crime has drawn attention within law enforcement and political circles alike.

The extension, if confirmed, would signal continuity in the leadership of India's premier investigative agency at a time of high-profile legal and political scrutiny. Sources say the committee found no compelling reason to appoint a new director at this juncture, given Sood's performance and institutional stability.

The final decision on the extension is expected to be formalized shortly, pending official communication from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.



## Amit Shah Chairs Meet To Review Implementation Of 3 New Criminal Laws In Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level review meeting on Monday in New Delhi to assess the implementation progress of three newly introduced criminal laws aimed at modernising India's justice system. The meeting, held at the Ministry of Home Affairs, included key participants such as Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, and Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora.

The three laws under review are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. These reforms mark a significant shift from colonial-era legal frameworks and are designed to transition India's criminal justice system from a focus on punishment to one centered on justice. The overarching theme for their implementation is "Secure Society, Developed India – From Punishment to Justice."

Highlighting state-level initiatives aligned with the central reform, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, during an earlier event on Sunday, launched MedLEaPR (Medico-Legal Examination and Postmortem Reporting) at the Delhi Secretariat. This digital platform is a step toward enhancing efficiency, transparency, and reliability in medico-legal documentation—crucial for timely justice delivery.

Gupta explained that MedLEaPR addresses long-standing issues such as delays, data discrepancies, and coordination gaps in criminal investigations and postmortem reporting. "These problems have long plagued the justice system. MedLEaPR integrates digital tools to ensure accurate, efficient, and tamper-proof reporting," she said.

The system is directly linked to the goals of the new criminal laws, which emphasize evidence-based and technology-supported judicial processes. By digitizing medical and legal procedures, authorities aim to eliminate manual errors and strengthen forensic and investigative credibility in court proceedings.

The three new laws were conceptualized under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to modernize India's legal architecture. Their successful rollout is expected to set the foundation for a more just, transparent, and responsive legal system that prioritizes citizen safety and rule of law.

The meeting concluded with directions to all stakeholders to ensure swift adoption of digital tools and comprehensive training for officials involved in the justice process.

## 'Punjab won't give single drop of water to Haryana': Resolution moved in Punjab Assembly

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid rising tensions over water-sharing between Punjab and Haryana, the Punjab Assembly on May 5, 2025, passed a strongly worded resolution declaring that not a single drop of water from Punjab's share would be diverted to its neighboring state. The resolution, introduced by Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal during a special session, received unanimous support, including from the Leader of Opposition, Partap Singh Bajwa.

Goyal, while reading the resolution, accused the BJP-led governments in Haryana and at the Centre of attempting to deprive Punjab of its rightful water using the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). "The BJP is con-



spiring to snatch Punjab's water through unconstitutional moves," he stated, alleging that a BBMB meeting was called illegally to transfer water to Haryana.

The resolution highlighted Punjab's efforts in improving canal water distribution. "Until 2021, only 22% of Punjab's fields received canal water. Today, 60% of the fields bene-

fit from it. Every drop of water is crucial," it noted, underlining that Punjab cannot afford to release more water to any other state.

Goyal further stated that Punjab, in a humanitarian gesture, had already released 4,000 cusecs of water to Haryana on April 6 for drinking needs. "Our Gurus taught us to help the thirsty. That is why this water is being given. But not even a drop more will be provided," he emphasized.

The resolution also refuted Haryana's claim of needing 8,500 cusecs, arguing that its population of 3 crore only requires 1,700 cusecs for drinking and essential use. "Haryana has already used 103% of its allotted share by March 31.

## India Makes Global Breakthrough with Genome-Edited Climate-Smart Rice Varieties

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a historic achievement, Indian scientists have developed two new climate-resilient rice varieties using cutting-edge genome editing technology. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the new varieties—"DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)" and "Pusa DST Rice 1"—which promise 25% higher yields and reduced water usage, positioning India as the first country in the world to release genome-edited (GE) rice for cultivation.

Developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, and the Indian Rice Research Institute, Hyderabad, these rice varieties mark a significant leap in agricultural innovation. Notably, they are not genetically modified (GM), as they contain no foreign DNA. This means they are free from the regulatory and public concerns typically associated with GM crops.

Minister Chouhan praised the ini-

tiative, calling it a "classic example" of how science can simultaneously boost production and conserve the environment. The varieties are expected to save over 7,500 million cubic meters of water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, equivalent to 32,000 tons. Their cultivation across 5 million hectares could yield an additional 4.5 million tons of rice.

The varieties were developed using the CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing system, focusing on precision breeding.



## Karnataka Launches Caste Census of Scheduled Castes from May 5 to 17

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has commenced a comprehensive caste-wise census of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the state, running from May 5 to 17. The initiative, aimed at gathering detailed demographic data of all SC sub-castes, is being led by a single-member commission headed by retired High Court judge Justice H. N. Nagamohan Das.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah emphasized the importance of the exercise in ensuring equitable internal reservations within the SC community. "We have started a caste-wise census of Scheduled Castes today. Justice Nagamohan Das is leading the commission to provide an accurate report for internal reservation," he stated.



Karnataka has 101 castes listed under the Scheduled Castes category,

including major sub-groups like Left-Hand, Right-Hand, Lamani, Korama, and Koracha. The Chief Minister not-

ed that previous data, including that from the Sadashiva Commission, relied heavily on the outdated 2011 Census and lacked specificity regarding sub-caste distinctions.

"Many people simply wrote 'SC' in forms without specifying their sub-caste, leading to confusion between groups such as Adi Dravida and Adi Karnataka, who have been classified both ways in records," he explained. This ambiguity, he said, made it difficult to implement internal reservations fairly and effectively.

The move follows a Supreme Court ruling on August 1, 2024, which authorized states to make internal reservations within Scheduled Castes. Using this legal backing, Karnataka has initiated a fresh effort to collect accurate

and current caste data.

To ensure thoroughness, the government has trained around 65,000 teachers as enumerators who will conduct door-to-door surveys. Each group of 10 to 12 enumerators will be monitored by a supervisor to maintain data quality and consistency.

Additionally, from May 19 to 20, special camps will be organized for individuals who missed the house visits. Residents will also have the option to self-declare their caste details online until May 23.

"This data is vital for ensuring fair internal reservation and will guide future policy decisions for the upliftment of SC communities," Siddaramaiah concluded.



# Putin Condemns Pahalgam Attack, Accepts Modi's Invitation for India-Russia Summit

TPN Correspondent | Russia

In a phone call on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his full support for India's fight against terrorism, condemning the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 26 civilian lives. Putin, who was among the first global leaders to condemn the attack on April 22, conveyed his condolences to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the loss of innocent lives.

A statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that Putin called the attack "barbaric" and reiterated the importance of bringing the perpetrators and their supporters to justice. Both leaders agreed on the need for an uncompromising global fight against terrorism in all its forms. The conversation also covered bilateral relations,



with both leaders reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia. Modi also extended an invitation to President Putin for the annual India-Russia summit, scheduled to

take place in India later this year. The Russian president accepted the invitation with gratitude, as confirmed by a Kremlin statement. In the call, Putin expressed his sincere condolences for the deaths of Indian citizens in the

Pahalgam attack, calling it a barbaric act of terrorism. Both leaders agreed that such acts of violence must not go unpunished and emphasized the necessity of international cooperation in counterterrorism efforts.

Furthermore, the leaders discussed the broader scope of India-Russia ties, underscoring their resilience in the face of external influences and their continuous, dynamic development in all areas. The call also marked an opportunity to celebrate the enduring partnership between the two nations, which continues to thrive despite external pressures.

Prime Minister Modi took the opportunity to offer his congratulations to President Putin on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Victory Day, underscoring the long-standing ties between the two countries.

## Hindu Monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Now Charged With Murder Of Chittagong Lawyer



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Chinmoy Krishna Das, a prominent Hindu leader and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilito Sanatani Jagaran Jot, was shown arrested on Monday in connection with the murder of Chittagong court lawyer Saiful Islam Alif. The lawyer was allegedly hacked to death outside the court premises on November 7, 2024. The arrest was granted by Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate S M Alauddin during a virtual hearing following a police application.

According to Public Prosecutor Mofizul Haque Bhuiyan, investigators submitted four separate applications to show Das as arrested in multiple cases. The court approved one of those applications related to the Alif murder, while hearings for the remaining three are scheduled for Tuesday.

Das, who had already been in custody since November 25, 2024, had earlier been arrested on sedition charges. The sedition case, which involved allegations of disrespecting the national flag during a Hindu rally in Chittagong, drew widespread international condemnation. His repeated bail pleas were denied by local courts. On April 30, the Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court stayed a High Court order granting him bail, reinforcing the state's case against him.

The arrest and ongoing legal proceedings against Das have sparked massive protests by the Hindu community in Bangladesh, especially in light of the broader political instability gripping the country since August 2024. That month saw the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the formation of an interim government led by economist-turned-politician Muhammad Yunus, amid violent demonstrations.

Since the regime change, human rights observers and minority groups have reported an increase in targeted violence against the Hindu community. The abduction and murder of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a senior Hindu leader with the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Committee, on April 18 is among the most recent incidents fueling unrest.

India has taken a firm stance on the issue, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising concerns about the safety of Hindu minorities during his meeting with Yunus at the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok. New Delhi continues to accuse the interim administration of enabling the "systematic persecution" of Hindus in Bangladesh.

## The 'Highly Secretive Process' To Elect New Pope



TPN Correspondent | Vatican City

During the upcoming conclave, cardinals will gather in the Sistine Chapel to select a successor to Pope Francis. This process, conducted in secrecy, could span several days. Here's a breakdown of how the election unfolds:

### Preparations:

A total of 133 cardinal electors, those under the age of 80, will participate after two withdrew

due to health reasons. They will move into the Santa Marta guest-house at the Vatican, where they will remain for the duration of the conclave, forbidden from communicating with the outside world, recording proceedings, or revealing secrets on pain of excommunication.

On the first day, the electors attend a morning mass at St. Peter's Basilica. At 4:15 p.m. (1415 GMT), they gather in the Pauline Chapel for prayers, invoking the Holy Spirit's

guidance. They then move to the Sistine Chapel, where the election will take place. Before starting, the chapel is thoroughly swept for any secret recording devices.

### The Election:

Each elector swears an oath of secrecy before the voting begins. The "extra omnes" command ensures that only the cardinals remain in the chapel.

Ballots are distributed, and three cardinals are selected as scruti-

neers. They, along with three infirmarii to collect votes from the sick, and three revisers to oversee the process, are responsible for the election's integrity. The ballot paper reads "Eligo in Summum Pontificem" ("I elect as supreme pontiff") with a blank space for the name of the candidate.

Cardinals walk to the altar, presenting their ballots while swearing an oath: "I call as my witness Christ the Lord, who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected."

The ballots are placed in a silver urn. Scrutineers mix and count the votes, ensuring there are no discrepancies. If no candidate gains a two-thirds majority, the process is repeated in further rounds.

### Concluding the Election:

Once a new pope is chosen, the results are signaled by white smoke, whereas black smoke indicates no winner. After several rounds, if necessary, only the top two candidates are considered for a final vote. When a pope is elected, he is asked, "Do you accept your canonical election as Supreme Pontiff?" Upon accepting, the cardinal is officially the new pope.

## Trump Announces 100% Tariff on Foreign Films, Citing National Security Threat

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Monday, President Donald Trump unveiled plans for a sweeping 100% tariff on films produced overseas, claiming that the US movie industry was in a rapid decline. Through a post on Truth Social, Trump argued that other countries were using incentives to lure filmmakers and studios away from the United States, which he called a "concerted effort" by foreign nations and a "National Security threat."



reduce" the number of US films it imports as part of a larger trade war between the two economic giants. In April, China's film administration issued a statement saying that the US government's tariffs on Chinese goods were damaging the image of American films in China, which has long been a significant market for Hollywood.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has continued his aggressive trade policies, leading to heightened tensions with China and other countries. His administration's tariff policies have sent shockwaves through global markets, with this new film tariff proposal likely to escalate the ongoing trade disputes. Additionally, Trump has paused his global tariffs, except for China, until July.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, in response to Trump's announcement, confirmed the action, saying "we're on it" in a post on X. However, it remains unclear whether the tariff will target only foreign production companies or also American companies producing films abroad.

Trump's declaration comes nearly a month after China announced it would "moderately

## Israel Expands Gaza Offensive, Approves Aid Distribution Plan

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet has approved a gradual expansion of the military offensive against the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza. This decision comes as the Israeli military has already begun issuing tens of thousands of call-up orders for its reserve forces, with army chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir confirming the initiative in a statement on Sunday.



Israeli history.

Following an incident in which a missile launched by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia fell near Israel's Ben Gurion Airport, Netanyahu addressed the situation in a video message, stating that the security cabinet would meet to discuss "the next stage" of Israel's operation in Gaza. Netanyahu reaffirmed the goal of the operation: increasing pressure on Hamas, bringing hostages back home, and ultimately defeating the militant group.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) resumed ground operations in Gaza in March after a US-backed ceasefire collapsed, which had temporarily halted fighting for two months. The recent military moves represent an intensification of the campaign that began in retaliation for Hamas' deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. That attack killed 1,200 Israelis and led to the kidnapping of 251 people, marking the deadliest day in

The ongoing military campaign has resulted in the deaths of more than 52,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. The conflict has also devastated the Gaza Strip, where the 2.3 million residents face severe shortages of food, water, and medical supplies.

In addition to expanding military efforts, the security cabinet also approved a new plan for distributing humanitarian aid to Gaza. However, it remains unclear when or how these supplies will be allowed into the besieged enclave. Israel currently controls around a third of Gaza's territory and has faced increasing international pressure to lift the blockade imposed in March. The Israeli government has justified the blockade by claiming that Hamas has seized or sold aid meant for civilians, a charge that the group has denied.



# Nifty, Sensex Rally as Global Tensions Ease and Corporate Results Shine"

Domestic stock markets surged on Monday. They gained heavily. This is due to the easing of international tensions. On the other hand, expectations that India and the US trade talks will proceed smoothly contributed to this. The results of the respective companies also filled the positive sentiment. With this, Nifty rose by 114 and Sensex by 294 points. Nifty, which closed at 24,461 today, is the first consecutive gain in 2025. It has increased 12 times in the last 16 sessions. FIIs continued investment has become key for this.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,501 in the previous session, started at 80,661. It touched an intraday low at 80,651. It reached an intraday high at 81,049. Finally, it closed at 80,796 with a gain of 294 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,419, touched a low of 24,400 and a high of 24,529. It closed at 24,461, up 114 points. The Nifty Bank fell 195 points to settle at 54,919.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained and 12 lost. Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, Trent,

Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers. Kotak Bank, JSW Steel, ONGC, SBI, Titan were the biggest losers. Mid and smallcap stocks gained ground today. Auto, oil, finance, FMCG, healthcare, metal, consumer durables, pharma, realty, media, and IT indices were in a good shape. Banking indices were down.



Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2984 shares traded, 2023 gained, 865 lost. 29 shares touched the 52-week high and 32 shares touched the 52-week low. 94 shares touched the upper circuit and 66 shares touched the lower circuit.

Coforge's net profit in the fourth quarter rose 21.2% to Rs. 261 crore from Rs. 215 crore. The rupee strengthened 32 paise against the dollar and settled at 84.24. CLSA has given an underperform rating to JSW Steel with a target price of Rs 825. It is noteworthy that Ambit Company has given a buy rating to Marico with a target price of Rs 766. RR Cable consolidated profit increased by 64 percent and

revenue by 26 percent. CLSA has maintained its outperform rating on SBI with a target price of Rs 1050. Tatvachintan Pharma has received an export order. Kota Mahindra Bank has been downgraded to hold from outperform by CLSA. BMW Industries has received an order worth Rs 1764 crore from Tata Steel. Capri Global's net profit has decreased from Rs 82.5 crore to Rs 177 crore. 18 lakh shares of IDFC Bank have changed hands. Prabhudas Leeladhar has given a Buy rating to UTI Asset Management with a target price of Rs. 1300.

ITC Ltd



FMCG, Cigarettes, Hotels, Paper, Agri-business. Diversified portfolio across defensive and growth sectors. Consistent profitability; strong brand value in cigarettes and packaged

foods. Demerger of ITC Hotels to unlock shareholder value. Focus on FMCG expansion, rural demand recovery, and digital initiatives. Positive long-term potential due to defensive nature and steady earnings.

Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) City Gas Distribution.Monopoly



INDRAPRASTHA GAS LIMITED ly in NCR gas distribution. Low debt levels and consistent dividend payout. Strong government backing for natural gas adoption. Benefiting from the push toward clean energy. Volume growth expected from urban expansion and new vehicle conversions.

Kalyan Jewellers (KALYANKJIL)



Retail – Jewellery. Strong brand presence across India and the Middle East. Aggressive store expansion and strong wedding-season sales. Healthy same-store sales growth and margin improvement. Gold price volatility may impact near-term demand. Long-term positive due to brand strength and formalization of jewellery sector.

Gujarat Gas Ltd (GUJGAS)



GUJARAT GAS

City Gas Distribution (CNG, PNG). One of India's largest city gas distributors. High industrial customer base in Gujarat. Efficient operations and capex-driven growth. Margins may be under pressure due to

volatile gas prices. Long-term potential from rising urban gas demand and infrastructure expansion.

Power Grid Corporation of India

Power Transmission (Government PSU). Backbone of India's power grid; quasi-monopoly in



power transmission. High operating margins and regulated returns. Regular dividends and strong balance sheet. Steady performance expected; moderate growth with government push for renewables and grid modernization. Safe long-term investment due to defensive characteristics.

## Adani Total Gas, Adani Power Among Other Group Stocks Zoom Up To 14%

Adani Group stocks are experiencing a significant rally in today's trading session, with Adani Total Gas leading the charge, surging over 14%. Other notable performers include Adani Green Energy and Adani Enterprises, which have gained 7.87% and 7.01%, respectively. This surge comes after reports emerged that representatives from the Adani Group, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, met officials from former US President Donald Trump's administration. The discussions reportedly focused on seeking the dismissal of criminal charges against Adani, which has fueled optimism among investors.



Other stocks such as Adani Ports & SEZ (ADANIPORTS), Adani Power (ADANIPOWER), and Ambuja Cements (AMBUJACEM) have also posted substantial gains, reflecting a broad-based rally in the group's shares.

These gains follow recent legal developments, with Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, facing criminal charges related to bribery for securing Indian power supply contracts. However, representatives of the group are reportedly arguing that the charges do not align with US political priorities and should be reconsidered. This has triggered hopes that a resolution may be on the horizon. As discussions continue, the market remains optimistic, with Adani Group stocks experiencing one of their strongest rallies in recent times, despite the ongoing legal proceedings.

The sharp rise in stock prices reflects market reactions to this ongoing legal development. Adani Energy Solutions (ADANIENSOL) is also seeing a solid 4.33% increase, currently trading at ₹946.4, with its 52-week range spanning from ₹588 to ₹1,348. Meanwhile, Adani Enterprises (ADANIENT) has seen a sharp 7.01% rise, reaching ₹2,455. The stock fluctuated between ₹2,025 and ₹3,743 over the past

year, highlighting the volatility within the group.

Adani Green Energy (ADANIGREEN), another major gainer, is trading at ₹976.45, reflecting a 7.87% increase. The stock's 52-week range spans from ₹758 to ₹2,174, further indicating the growth potential in this segment of Adani's portfolio.

## India's Retail Vehicle Sales Increase by 2.95% in April 2024, Led by Strong Demand Across Segments



India's automobile retail sales saw a modest rise of 2.95% in April 2024, reaching 22,87,952 units, with various festivals such as Chaitra Navratri, Akshay Tritiya, Bengali New Year, Baisakhi, and Vishu contributing to a positive end to the month. In comparison, the same month last year recorded a total of 22,22,463 units, according to the Federation of Automotive Dealers Associations (FADA).

The growth was led by increased sales across most vehicle categories, except for commercial vehicles (CV), which saw a 1% decline. Notably, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles (PV), and tractors registered significant growth, with respective increases of 2.25%, 24.5%, 1.5%, and 7.5%. Two-wheeler sales stood at 16,86,774 units, up from 16,49,591 units in April 2023, while PV retail sales

reached 3,49,939 units, a 1.55% rise from the previous year.

FADA President C.S. Vigneshwar attributed the uptick in sales to a combination of factors, including strong rural demand driven by favorable agricultural conditions and ongoing wedding season demand. The two-wheeler segment, in particular, showed robust growth, with a 2.25% year-on-year rise and a notable 11.84% month-on-month acceleration. This performance is reflective of stable demand amid a mixed economic backdrop, including challenges such as high financing costs and new emission norm-related price adjustments.

In the PV segment, a 1.55% year-on-year increase was seen despite limited new model introductions. However, PV sales showed a slight decline of 0.19% month-on-month,

reflecting cautious consumer sentiment and high inventories at dealerships. The continued demand for SUVs helped sustain volumes, although entry-level customers remained cautious.

The commercial vehicle segment saw a slight dip, with sales declining 1.05%, while the three-wheeler segment witnessed a significant 24.5% increase, and tractor sales grew 7.56%.

Looking ahead, FADA expects a steady but muted retail environment for May, with sustained demand in the two-wheeler and tractor segments, while PV sales may hold steady amid cautious buyer sentiment. The commercial vehicle market faces challenges but may benefit from upcoming infrastructure projects and OEM incentives.

## Airtel Launches 'Business Name Display' Solution to Boost Customer Engagement for Enterprises



Bharti Airtel's B2B arm has unveiled a new solution, 'Business Name Display' (BND), aimed at helping businesses display their brand name on the recipient's mobile screen during outgoing calls. This industry-first solution is designed to enhance customer engagement by enabling enterprises to clearly identify their calls as legitimate, thereby building trust with their customers.

The BND service has been successfully piloted with over 250 businesses from various sectors, including banking, retail, food delivery, mobility, quick commerce, and logistics. In the past 30 days, these businesses have utilized more than 1.5 million phone numbers to make a total of 12.8 million calls. Airtel reported a noticeable increase in customer engagement during this period, which highlights the potential of BND to transform communication between enterprises and their customers.

The new service allows businesses to display their brand names on the recipient's mobile screen during calls, a feature that helps customers distinguish legitimate business calls from potential spam or fraud. This innovation is expected to improve the overall customer experience and ensure that businesses can effectively communicate with their clientele without their calls being ignored or marked as spam.

Airtel Business emphasized that the solution will provide businesses with better control over their caller ID, further strengthening their brand recognition. The company believes that by offering this service, it will help enterprises foster a greater level of customer trust, ensuring that important communications, whether for customer support or sales, are more likely to be answered.

The launch of BND aligns with Airtel's ongoing efforts to provide innovative solutions that empower businesses and drive growth in the digital communication space. With the growing importance of customer engagement and the rise in fraudulent calls, this new service marks a significant step toward improving business-to-customer interactions in India.



## Content Creator Flags Alleged Swiggy Scam, Sparks Conversation on Delivery Loopholes

A recent Instagram reel by content creator Tvisha Tuli has gone viral after she alleged a disturbing scam involving a Swiggy delivery partner. Tvisha claims she encountered a payment fraud that exposed a potential loophole in the food delivery ecosystem, raising questions about platform accountability and delivery partner integrity.

In her post, Tvisha shared that she had ordered pizzas via Swiggy when she received a call informing her that the delivery partner had met with an accident. She was told the restaurant would fulfill the order directly—a claim that immediately raised her suspicions. When she called the restaurant to confirm, they clarified that they only deliver via aggregator platforms like Swiggy and Zomato, never directly.

Sensing foul play, she contacted Swiggy, which informed her that the order could not be fulfilled and that a refund would be issued. However, things took a strange turn when a man appeared at her home shortly afterward—with the exact same order—and asked her to pay via a personal QR code, since her original transaction had already been refunded.

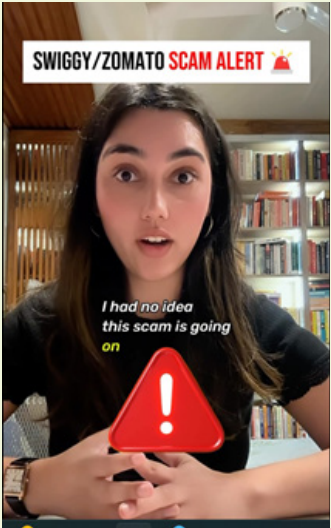
Alarmed, Tvisha once again reached out to the restaurant. The manager warned her not to pay the delivery person and explained that such scams were becoming increasingly common, saying, “Aaj kal bahot common scam chal raha hai [These scams are very common nowadays].”

In her caption, Tvisha detailed how some delivery partners allegedly exploit the system: by marking orders as undelivered, they trigger a refund, then complete the delivery themselves and collect the payment directly from the customer. This allows them to pocket the full amount—cutting out both the restaurant and the platform.

She emphasized that her post was not meant to defame any brand but to raise awareness and protect both customers and businesses from this emerging scam.

Swiggy responded publicly in the comments, acknowledging the seriousness of the situation and requesting Tvisha to share her order ID via private message so they could investigate further.

The incident has reignited concerns over delivery fraud and platform oversight in India’s rapidly growing food tech sector.



## Apple’s iPhone 18 Series May Follow Staggered Release Strategy in 2026

Apple’s iPhone 18 series, which is expected to launch in 2026, could break away from the company’s usual tradition of releasing all models simultaneously. According to a new report, Apple is considering a staggered release strategy for its iPhone 18 lineup, which could see some handsets arrive later than usual.

Traditionally, Apple unveils new iPhone models around September each year. However, sources suggest that starting in 2026, the company may release the premium iPhone 18 models—such as the iPhone 18 Pro, iPhone 18 Pro Max, and iPhone 18 Air—around the fall, likely in September. Meanwhile, the base iPhone 18 and the new iPhone 18e variant could be launched later in spring 2027, potentially around March or April.



The shift in strategy could be attributed to multiple factors, including Apple’s plan to introduce a foldable iPhone model alongside the Pro and Air variants. The staggered release would allow Apple to better manage resources and manufacturing capacity. By spreading out the launch, the compa-



ny could reduce the number of workers needed at any given time, helping streamline production.

Additionally, this staggered release plan might help boost sales by keeping customer interest high over a longer period. As part of its efforts to reduce its manufacturing dependence on

China, Apple is reportedly planning to carry out production trials for the iPhone 18 and iPhone 18e in India, particularly at Tata’s new plant.

Leaks also suggest that the iPhone 18 series will feature significant upgrades, including the use of 2nm TSMC chipsets, with all models expected to come equipped with 12GB of RAM. The iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max may also sport a hole-punch style camera cutout instead of the traditional Dynamic Island, marking another step toward an all-screen display.

As Apple continues to innovate, these developments are setting the stage for an exciting new era in iPhone design and release strategies.

## YouTube Pilots New Two-Person Subscription Tier in India and Other Regions

YouTube has launched a new subscription tier, currently in a pilot phase in India, France, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, allowing two users to share a Premium or Music Premium membership at a discounted rate. This move is part of YouTube’s ongoing efforts to expand its subscription services and reduce its dependence on advertising revenue.

Under the trial, the two-person Premium plan in India is priced at ₹219 per month, while the Music Premium plan costs ₹149 per month. To qualify for the shared membership, both users must be at least 13 years old, have a Google account, and be part of the same Google family group. This initiative is designed to appeal to couples, roommates, or others sharing a household who wish to split the cost while maintaining individual user profiles.

A YouTube spokesperson confirmed the new offering, stating: “We’re exploring new ways to offer more flexibility and value to our Premium members, including testing a two-person Premium option, allowing two people to share a subscription at a lower price.”



Currently, individual YouTube Premium plans in India are priced at ₹149 per month, with student plans at ₹89 and family plans at ₹299. For Music Premium, the rates are ₹59 for students, ₹119 for individuals, and ₹179 for families. The new two-person plan is a significant step toward making YouTube’s premium services more accessible and affordable.

The move mirrors similar subscription models from other streaming platforms, such as Spotify’s Duo plan, which also offers discounted pricing for two users. YouTube has been actively working to increase its subscrip-

tion base, including a significant price hike in India in August 2024, with some plans rising by up to 58%. Additionally, the company has ramped up efforts to combat ad blockers globally.

As part of its broader subscription strategy, YouTube has also rolled out the Premium Lite service in select countries, offering ad-free viewing for a lower cost but excluding certain features like music videos and background play.

This new two-person plan could be a significant step for YouTube as it continues to diversify its revenue streams.

## Apple Watch Saves Life with Timely Emergency Alert After User Collapses

Apple has once again proven its life-saving capabilities, this time through the Apple Watch. A Reddit user, Taylor, recently shared his experience of how the smartwatch contacted emergency services and helped save his life when he faced severe breathing issues and collapsed at a park.

In his Reddit post, Taylor recounted how he began experiencing sudden breathing difficulties while walking through an almost-empty parking lot. He felt lightheaded and dizzy, struggling to breathe, before eventually blacking out and falling to the ground. At this moment, the Apple Watch’s fall detection feature was activated, recognizing the hard fall and immediately contacting emergency services.

Taylor later revealed that he had been dealing with a cold and cough, attributing his symptoms to the changing seasons or possibly even Covid. “I was walking to my Jeep when things suddenly worsened. I felt dizzy and seriously winded, barely making it to the back of my vehicle before I blacked out,” he shared in his post.



Thanks to the Apple Watch’s automatic response, emergency personnel were notified immediately, which led to a timely rescue. Taylor expressed his gratitude on Reddit, acknowledging the quick action of both the smartwatch and emergency services in preventing a potentially worse outcome.

This incident highlights the importance of safety features like fall detection, which are designed to automatically alert emergency services if the wearer is incapacitated. Apple Watch’s

health-related features, including fall detection and heart monitoring, have gained recognition for their ability to assist in medical emergencies, offering peace of mind to users.

This life-saving incident serves as another reminder of how wearable technology can have a crucial role in safeguarding users, especially during health crises. The Apple Watch continues to demonstrate its potential to not only monitor health but to act as a vital tool in life-threatening situations.

## Salt Cravings? Could Signal Hormonal Imbalance, Says Nutritionist’s



Frequent salt cravings may not just be a sign of dehydration or an unhealthy diet, according to renowned nutritionist Nmami Agarwal. In a recent Instagram post, Agarwal revealed that these cravings could actually point to an underlying hormonal imbalance, particularly low levels of aldosterone, a hormone responsible for regulating salt and water balance in the body.

Agarwal, who is known for her expertise in nutrition and health, addressed common myths around salt cravings, explaining that the desire for salty foods can go beyond mere snacking habits. “Your body could be hinting at low aldosterone levels,” she wrote in her post, shedding light on this often-overlooked issue.

She also listed several symptoms that should raise concern for individuals who constantly crave salt. These symptoms include persistent salt cravings, low blood pressure, dizziness or lightheadedness, and unexplained fatigue. Agarwal stressed that these signs shouldn’t be ignored and advised

anyone experiencing them to consult a healthcare professional.

In her post, Agarwal made it clear that cravings are not something that should be accepted as normal. “Cravings are your body’s way of whispering what it needs. Start listening,” she urged her followers, highlighting the importance of paying attention to the body’s signals and addressing potential health concerns before they worsen.

For those who experience persistent cravings or related symptoms, Agarwal suggests getting electrolytes and hormone levels checked to ensure everything is functioning properly. While salt cravings can sometimes be linked to dehydration, she explained, it’s crucial not to rule out other hormonal causes that might need professional intervention.

This insightful post serves as a reminder for individuals to take their health seriously and be proactive in identifying potential issues before they become more serious health concerns.



# SRH’s Playoff Hopes End as Delhi Capitals’ Path Becomes Tougher in Rain-Interrupted IPL 2025 Match

The much-awaited IPL 2025 encounter between Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Delhi Capitals (DC) was called off due to heavy rain, leaving SRH’s playoff aspirations dashed and making DC’s road to qualification even more difficult. Despite the disappointing weather, the match had earlier seen an intriguing contest, with both teams facing high stakes.

After winning the toss, SRH opted to bowl first, hoping to capitalize on the conditions and put pressure on the DC batting lineup. The Sunrisers’ bowlers, led by their captain, made an early breakthrough, with the SRH skipper dismissing Karun Nair,



Abishek Porel, and Faf Du Plessis in quick succession. This early success gave SRH the perfect start, but DC slowly began to rebuild.

Delhi Capitals managed to reach 133/7 in their allotted 20 overs, with key contributions from Ashutosh Shar-

ma and Tristan Stubbs. Both scored 41 runs each, anchoring the innings and providing much-needed stability after early wickets. However, SRH’s bowlers kept the pressure on, with Pat Cummins standing out, claiming three important wickets and stifling the opposition’s progress.

The SRH bowlers’ efforts didn’t stop there. Axar Patel was dismissed by Harshal Patel, while Jaydev Unadkat made a key breakthrough by removing KL Rahul. Meanwhile, a run-out dismissed Vipraj Nigam, further hurting DC’s chances of posting a competitive total. Eshan Malinga then dismissed Ashutosh Sharma,

ensuring SRH stayed in control.

Despite the disciplined bowling performance, rain played spoilsport, causing the match to be called off. As a result of the no result, SRH were officially eliminated from the play-off race, unable to make up ground in the points table. For DC, the situation became even more precarious as they now need to win 2 out of their remaining 3 matches to keep their playoff hopes alive. With the weather affecting the match, both teams were left frustrated, with SRH ruing their missed opportunity and DC scrambling to stay in contention.

## India Retains Top Spot in ODIs and T20Is, Australia Dominates Test Rankings



India has maintained its dominance in the white-ball formats, retaining the top position in both the ODI and T20I rankings in the latest ICC annual men’s update, which was released on Monday. However, India slipped one spot in the Test rankings, now standing at fourth, as Australia continues to rule the longer format.

In the ODI rankings, India strengthened its hold on the number one spot, bolstered by a victorious ICC Champions Trophy campaign, improving their rating from 122 to 124. New Zealand, who were the runners-up in the Champions Trophy, moved up to second place, overtaking Australia, who now occupy the third spot. Sri Lanka made a significant jump to fourth place, fueled by their impressive performances at home, including ODI series wins against India and Australia. Pakistan dropped to fifth, while South Africa fell to sixth. Afghanistan also climbed up, moving to seventh, leaving England behind in eighth. West Indies, with a five-point increase, rose to ninth, pushing Bangladesh to 10th.

India also remains at the top in the T20I rankings, with their lead over second-placed Australia reduced from 10 to 9 points. For the first time, the annual T20I rankings now feature 100 teams,

with countries having played at least eight T20Is in the past three years. England, the 2022 T20I World Cup champions, remain in third, while New Zealand, West Indies, and South Africa hold the fourth, fifth, and sixth positions, respectively. Sri Lanka continues its rise in T20Is, now in seventh, overtaking Pakistan, who fell to eighth.

In the Test rankings, Australia retains its top position, although its lead has been narrowed from 15 to 13 points. England, under the leadership of Ben Stokes, made a significant jump to second place, surpassing South Africa and India, who dropped to third and fourth, respectively. Australia leads with 126 rating points, while England now holds 113. South Africa and India have 111 and 105 points, respectively. The rest of the top 10 in Test rankings remains unchanged, with New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, West Indies, Bangladesh, and Zimbabwe completing the list.

As of now, only 10 teams are ranked in the Test table, with Ireland needing to play one more Test in the next 12 months to qualify for a ranking, while Afghanistan must play three additional matches to join the list.

## Casper Ruud Claims Maiden Masters 1000 Title at Madrid Open with Victory Over Jack Draper

Casper Ruud claimed the most significant trophy of his career, securing his first-ever Masters 1000 title at the Madrid Open on Sunday. The Norwegian, a three-time Grand Slam runner-up, triumphed in a thrilling final, defeating Jack Draper 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 in a two-and-a-half-hour battle at the Manolo Santana Stadium.

Ruud, who had reached six previous major finals without capturing a title, celebrated his win by joking that seven was his lucky number. “This was my seventh big final, so seven is a lucky number, I guess,” Ruud laughed after the match. “It was worth the wait in the end. I’ve never really been too close in any of the finals when I look back – I’ve lost the majority of them in straight sets.”

The victory marked a significant breakthrough for Ruud, who had struggled in big finals, including a loss to Novak Djokovic in the 2022 ATP Finals. Reflecting on his long-awaited triumph, Ruud expressed a mix of relief and joy. “I know,



based on the last years that I’ve had on tour, how tough it is to do well at the biggest tournaments, and I’ve never been able to get over the finish line as a champion, but today I was able to,” he said.

Draper, who was aiming for his first clay court title and had previously won the Indian Wells title in March, showed his resilience despite the loss. “Congratulations to Casper on this win, you really deserve it – you were braver than me in the key moments,” Draper acknowledged. “This sport is brutal, but I will keep trying. I think this loss will make me better.”

Ruud, ranked 15th, showcased his composure and power after a shaky start, eventually breaking Draper in the final moments to claim the victory. With the win, Ruud now adds the prestigious Madrid Open to his list of accomplishments, while Draper, who pushed him to the limit, reflected on the tough loss as the beginning of his own journey toward greatness.

## Naomi Osaka Clinches First WTA Title at L’Open 35 de Saint-Malo

Naomi Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, marked a triumphant return to tennis by securing her first WTA title since becoming a mother in 2023. Osaka defeated Slovenia’s Kaja Juvan 6-1, 7-5 in the final of the L’Open 35 de Saint-Malo, a WTA 125 tournament held on clay courts.



The 27-year-old Japanese player, who last won a WTA title at the 2021 Australian Open, described the victory as “ironic” since she had once considered clay her least favorable surface. Reflecting on her win, Osaka shared on social media: “Kinda ironic to win my first trophy back on the surface that I thought was my worst. That’s one of my favourite things about life though, there’s always room to grow and evolve.”

This victory comes as a significant milestone for Osaka, who took a break from tennis following the birth of her child in July 2023. Her journey back to the top has been eagerly watched by fans and analysts alike, and this win not only marks her return to the WTA circuit but also solidifies her continued evolution as a player.

Osaka, who was once ranked world No. 1, is now set to compete in the main draw of the French Open later this month, as she aims to build on her momentum and make a strong

statement in one of tennis’ most prestigious tournaments.

With this win, Osaka has proven her resilience and ability to adapt, even after a break from the sport. Her achievement at Saint-Malo has rekindled hope for her future success on the WTA Tour.

## Kidambi Srikanth, Young Indian Shuttlers Eye Turnaround In Form At Taipei Open

Battling a challenging period of inconsistent form, Kidambi Srikanth, along with several promising young Indian badminton players, will be aiming to make a strong impact at the USD 240,000 Taipei Open, set to begin in Taipei on Tuesday. Srikanth, a former world No. 1, has been grappling with injuries and poor form, which has caused him to slip to No. 61 in the latest BWF World Rankings. Despite his struggles, the 32-year-old, who earned a silver medal at the 2021 World Championships, remains hopeful of turning things around. Last year, he participated in 14 tournaments, with his best performance being a semifinal finish at the Swiss Open in March. This year, Srikanth’s best result came at the Thailand Masters Super 300, where he reached the quarterfinals.

Srikanth will begin his campaign against compatriot S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, a 2022 World Junior Championships silver medalist who made a notable upset by defeating former world No. 2 Anders Antonsen at the Swiss Open in March.

The 20-year-old Ayush Shetty, a bronze medallist at the 2023 World Junior Championships, will also be aiming for a strong showing. Shetty, who reached the semifinals at the Orleans Masters, will face third seed Lee Chia Hao from Chinese Taipei in



his first match.

Other Indian shuttlers looking to make an impact include 2023 National Games gold-medallist Tharun Manneppalli, who will take on Japan’s Shogo Ogawa, and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam, who will meet seventh-seeded Canadian Brian Yang.

In the women’s singles, Anupama Upadhyaya and Unnati Hooda will face each other in an all-Indian opening-round clash. Anupama enters the tournament on a high after a win at the Sudirman Cup, while Anmol Kharb and Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, both promising young talents, will also compete in the tournament.

Aakarshi Kashyap, who will face Hung Yi-Ting in her opening match, and Rashmi Ganesh and Sania Sikkandar, who will compete in women’s doubles, round out the list of Indians to watch.





# NTR and Prashanth Neel’s Dragon: Behind the Madness of India’s Next Mega Action Spectacle

Dragon, the much-hyped pan-India action drama starring NTR and directed by Prashanth Neel, is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious films in Indian cinema. Currently in its second shooting schedule in Karnataka, the film is creating a massive buzz with each passing update.

A special behind-the-scenes moment from the sets went viral today after Prashanth Neel’s wife, Likitha Reddy, shared a candid glimpse on Instagram. Captioning the photo with, “A mad set with my mad man,” Likitha offered fans a peek into the intense and passionate energy that Neel brings to the project. The image shows the director deeply focused as he monitors a shot on set, while Likitha is seen sitting just behind him, offering quiet support in the midst of the cinematic chaos.

With Mythri Movie Makers’ Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar backing the project, Dragon is being made on a massive budget, promising scale and spectacle on par with global standards. Known for blockbusters like KGF and Salaar, Neel is expected to deliver a high-octane, visually gripping narrative tailored around NTR’s commanding presence.



While the makers remain tight-lipped about the plot, Dragon is widely anticipated to be a power-packed action drama rooted in intense emotions and stylized storytelling. There is considerable buzz around Rukmini Vasanth playing the female lead, although no official confirmation has been made yet.

The music of Dragon is being composed by Ravi Basrur, whose thundering back-

ground scores in KGF and Salaar played a key role in elevating those films to cult status. Expectations are sky-high for the same magic in Dragon.

Slated for a global theatrical release on June 25, 2026, Dragon is set to be a defining moment in the careers of both NTR and Prashanth Neel. With a dream combo, massive scale, and sky-high anticipation, this “mad set” is undoubtedly laying the groundwork for a cinematic storm.

# Siddu Jonnalagadda’s Jack to Premiere on Netflix on May 8

Following the massive success of DJ Tillu and Tillu Square, actor Siddu Jonnalagadda returned to the big screen with high expectations for his latest film, Jack. However, despite the buzz and star power, the action-comedy entertainer directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar failed to impress at the box office and was labeled a commercial disappointment.

Now, in a welcome update for fans who missed its theatrical run, Netflix has officially announced the OTT release date for Jack. The film is set to premiere on the platform on May 8, exactly one month after its theatrical release. The movie will be available to stream in five languages — Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam — making it accessible to a wide audience across India.

Jack stars Siddu Jonnalagadda in the titular role, with Vaishnavi Chaitanya, known for her breakout role in Baby,



playing the female lead. Veteran actor Prakash Raj also plays a prominent role in the film. Despite its underwhelming theatrical performance, the film may find a second life on OTT, where comedies and action entertainers often gain

renewed attention.

The film was produced by seasoned filmmaker BVSN Prasad, under his banner Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra. The music for Jack is a combined effort by Achu Rajamani, Sam CS, and Suresh Bobbili, contributing to a dynamic and varied soundtrack.

With its release on Netflix, Jack will look to capture the attention of digital audiences, who have previously supported Siddu Jonnalagadda’s unconventional and entertaining characters. Whether Jack can replicate that magic on OTT remains to be seen, but it’s certainly one of the more anticipated Telugu releases on streaming this month.

Fans of Siddu and regional cinema can mark their calendars for May 8, as Jack joins Netflix’s growing library of South Indian films.

# Suhas Unleashes His Fiercest Look Yet in Tamil Debut Mandaadi

Actor Suhas, best known for his powerful performances in Telugu cinema, is turning heads with his intense and rugged look in his Tamil debut, Mandaadi. Produced by RS Infotainment and directed by Selfie fame Mathi-maran Pugazhendhi, Mandaadi is a gritty sports-action drama set against a raw coastal backdrop. The film features a compelling face-off between Soori, who plays the protagonist, and Suhas, cast as the central antagonist.

The film marks a significant milestone for Suhas, as he ventures into Kollywood with what is arguably the most massy and transformative look of his career. In the recently released first-look poster, Suhas appears almost unrecognizable—sporting grey hair, a traditional lungi, and an intense gaze. Standing on a windswept beach with his team, the “Tsunami Riders,” he exudes power and menace. The gritty background, including a beached boat, adds to the film’s realistic tone and promises a story deeply rooted in struggle and resilience.



Another striking poster showcases Suhas and Soori navigating their own boats, locked in a steely-eyed stare that hints at an epic showdown. The visuals suggest that Mandaadi is not just a sports drama, but a layered tale

of survival, emotional conflict, and power dynamics.

Suhas’s character, while antagonistic, appears to be emotionally rich and complex—far from the typical villain stereotype. His transformation and raw screen presence have already stirred excitement among fans and critics alike.

Soori, known recently for his shift towards serious, content-driven cinema, continues to build his reputation with strong, grounded roles. His dynamic with Suhas is expected to be a major highlight of the film.

Mandaadi also boasts a stellar supporting cast including Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, and Achyuth Kumar, who bring additional gravitas to the film’s narrative.

With high production values, powerful performances, and a unique blend of sports and emotion, Mandaadi is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Tamil films of the year.

# Kiran Abbavaram’s Thriller KA Wins Best Film At Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2025

The Telugu thriller KA, which released in October last year, has earned widespread critical acclaim and now adds a prestigious accolade to its list of achievements. Directed by debutant brothers Sujith and Sandeep, KA has won the Best Film Award at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2025. The film, which impressed both audiences and critics, stars Kiran Abbavaram in the lead role and is now streaming on ETV Win.



Celebrating the win, ETV Win shared on social media: “KA bags the Best Film Award at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2025! From festival fireworks to award spotlights, this Diwali release just keeps shining! @Kiran\_Abbavaram nailed hearts...Debut directors Sujeeth & Sandeep ruled minds #KATheFilm. Watch now on @etvwin.”

Set in the quiet, fog-shrouded mountain village of Krishnagiri, KA follows the story of Vasudev, a postman played by Kiran Abbavaram. Orphaned and raised in an institution, Vasudev finds solace in the letters he delivers—until girls in the village begin disappearing. When his love interest, Satyabhama, is targeted, Vasudev is thrust into a sinister mystery, uncovering dark secrets behind the village’s tranquil facade.

The film opens with an eerie

interrogation scene, where Vasudev is questioned under hypnosis using a ticking clock—setting the tone for a psychological thriller packed with suspense. As memories surface, the film slowly builds towards a gripping climax, where even the title KA is revealed to hold deep symbolic meaning.

Kiran Abbavaram has been widely praised for his performance, with strong support from co-stars Nayan Sarika and Tanvi Ram. The film is produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy, with Chinta Vineesha Reddy and Chinta Rajashekar Reddy as co-producers under KA Productions, led by CEO Rahasya Gorak. The cinematography by Viswas Daniel and editing by Sree Varaprasad contribute to the film’s haunting aesthetic.

KA continues to capture viewers’ attention not only for its gripping narrative but also for its cinematic craft — making it a must-watch thriller on OTT.

# Half of the Industry Celebrities Are Sold: Prakash Raj

## Prakash Raj Slams Silence in Bollywood, Urges Artists to Speak Up

Actor Prakash Raj, known for his candid views on politics and society, has once again sparked debate with his strong remarks on the silence of Bollywood celebrities on political issues. In a recent interview, the outspoken actor criticized the film industry for its reluctance to speak up, especially during times when, according to him, freedom of expression is under threat.



Raj asserted that the industry is divided — “half of them are sold out, and the other half are too afraid to speak because they lack the strength.” He recounted a personal conversation where a friend told him, “You have the strength to speak, but not everyone does.” While acknowledging the fear many artists face, Raj said he couldn’t condone silence. “In the future, history may forgive those who committed crimes, but not those who stayed silent,” he emphasized.

The veteran actor believes that artists and filmmakers have a moral obligation to raise their voices, particularly when governments attempt to stifle dissent. He accused powerful regimes of deliberately trying to suppress dialogue and urged the creative community to resist such pressure and use their platforms to highlight uncomfortable truths.

Raj also weighed in on the recent controversy surrounding the ban

of the film Abir Gulaal, which features Pakistani actor Fawad Khan. The film was pulled following the Pahalgam attack, but Prakash Raj firmly opposed the ban, stating, “No film should be banned, whether it has a political message or not—unless it promotes something heinous like child abuse or pornography.”

His remarks have quickly gone viral, igniting fiery discussions online. While some applauded his courage and honesty, others criticized him for being divisive or overly political. Regardless, Raj remains unshaken in his belief that silence in the face of injustice is inexcusable, especially from public figures who hold influence.

His comments once again highlight the ongoing tension between art, politics, and freedom of expression in India’s entertainment industry.