



LG Electronics to Set Up Huge Unit in Sri City

- Foundation Stone to Be Laid by Minister Lokesh on May 8
- LG Electronics to invest Rs. 5,001 crore in phases over six years
- 2,000 jobs to be created directly through the new unit
- Five associated industries with Rs. 839 cr investment also planned

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Inasignificantmovetowards industrial development and employment generation in the state, LG Electronics will set up a massive unit in Sri City near Tirupati. The foundation stone for this state-of-the-art manufacturing plant will be laid by Andhra Pradesh State IT, Electronics, and Education Minister Nara Lokesh on May 8. The investment, which will total Rs. 5,001 crore over the next six years, is expected to create around 2,000 direct jobs. LG plans to manufacture a wide range of products, including refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, and other high-end electronic devices at the new facility. Additionally, essential components such as compressors, motor compressors, and heat exchangers will also be produced in Andhra Pradesh to meet the demands of the manufacturing process. Apart from the main unit, LG has also planned to establish five subsidiary units at an investment of Rs. 839 crore. These subsidiary units will be set up within the same time frame, significantly boosting the state's industrial landscape. This project is a direct result of Minister Nara Lokesh's efforts to promote Andhra Pradesh as a hub for electronics manufacturing. Last year, he met with a delegation from LG and highlighted the investor-friendly policies in the state, including the government's focus on developing Rayalaseema as an electronics hub.

AP Releases New Electronics Policy for Major Manufacturing Push

Target: Rs. 4.2 lakh crore production, \$10 billion investment

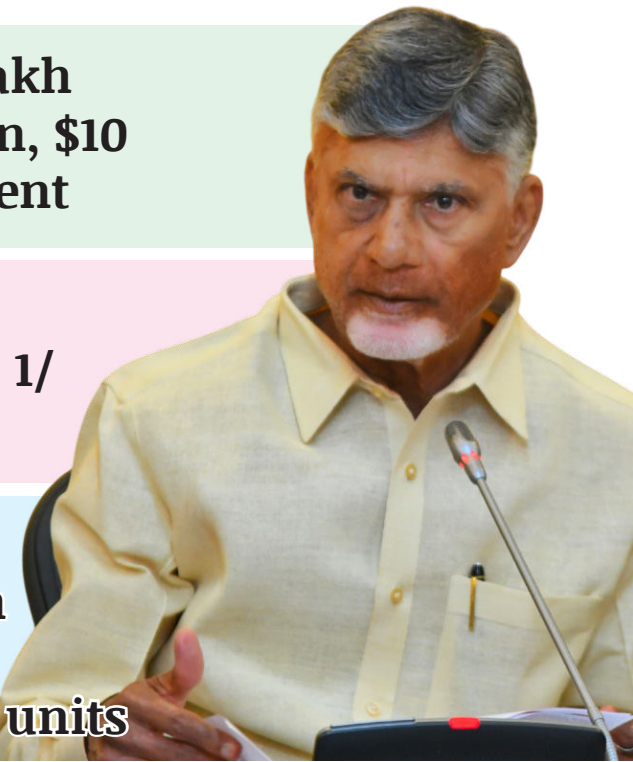
Electricity to be provided for Rs. 1/ unit for 5 years

100% stamp duty exemption for electronics manufacturing units

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has unveiled a new electronics manufacturing policy aimed at boosting the sector's growth in the state. The government has set an ambitious target of achieving Rs. 4.2 lakh crore in electronics production and attracting \$10 billion in investments over the coming years. The new policy offers a range of incentives for electronics manufacturing units, including 100% stamp duty exemption and financial support for each employee appointed in the industry. Under this initiative, companies will receive monthly incentives ranging from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000 for each employee for up to five years. One of the key highlights of the policy is the provision of subsidized electricity to

electronics industries. The government has announced that for the next five years, a unit of electricity will be supplied at just Rs. 1, which is expected to provide a significant boost to industrial operations. The government also pointed out that the state is well-positioned to attract investments, citing existing electronic clusters in regions like Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Sri City, and others. With a skilled workforce, government-friendly policies, and improved logistics networks, Andhra Pradesh is set to become a key hub in the electronics manufacturing sector. With these strategic measures, the government hopes to create substantial employment opportunities for the youth and position the state as a leading player in the national and global electronics manufacturing industry.



Sajjala Family Land Grab Confirmed

- Inquiry finds 63.72 acres illegally occupied in YSR district
- 52.40 acres of forest land encroached by Sajjala family
- Committee recommends land recovery and strict action

TPN Correspondent | YSR District

The allegations of land grabbing against the family of former government advisor and YSRCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy have been confirmed. A three-member inquiry committee appointed by the government has submitted its report stating that Sajjala's family encroached a total of 63.72 acres of land, including a significant portion of forest land, in CK Dinne village of YSR district. According to the committee, the Sajjala family encroached 52.40 acres of forest land spread across eight locations in survey number 1629. Apart from that, 8.05 acres of government land previously acquired for the Payavanka reservoir and assigned lands were also found to be under their illegal possession. The family constructed a guest house and four additional rooms on the encroached land without any official permissions. The report also revealed that the Sajjala family, particularly Sajjala Sandeep Reddy (Sajjala's elder son) and six other members, cultivated mango orchards on the forest land after clearing trees and disrupting the local ecosystem.



Nationwide Mock Drill Today

- Centre initiates drills to prepare citizens for emergency scenarios
- Centre orders mock drills in all states amid Pakistan tensions
- Focus on air raid sirens, blackouts, evacuation and defence training
- Objective is public awareness and civil defence readiness

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In response to heightened tensions with Pakistan following the recent Pahalgam terror attack, the Union Government has ordered a nationwide civil defence mock drill to be conducted today, May 7 (Wednesday). The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued directives to all states and union territories to carry out these drills with full seriousness, aiming to increase public preparedness in the event of a surprise enemy attack. The core objective of this civil defence mock drill is to create awareness and train citizens, students, and local authorities in emergency response, including evacuation, self-protection, and infrastructure safeguarding. Officials said this is part of a broader effort to ensure the country is not caught unprepared in case of external aggression. What the drill involves: The exercise will simulate war-like scenarios, starting with the sounding of air raid warning sirens. States have been instructed to activate emergency hotline and radio communication systems linked to the Indian Air Force, establish operational control rooms and auxiliary shadow control rooms, and review their overall emergency coordination systems. The drills will also include training civilians and students in basic self-defense and emergency response, conducting 'crash blackouts' to shut down power supply in sensitive zones, camouflaging important installations to protect them from aerial detection, cleaning and readying existing bunkers and trenches, and reviewing and rehearsing evacuation plans for high-risk areas. These activities are designed to ensure that communities are well-prepared and can respond effectively in case of emergencies. Authorities stressed that these measures are preventive and educational, aiming to instill confidence and readiness among the public. With tensions simmering and the threat of retaliation looming large, today's mock drills are a significant step in India's civil defence preparedness strategy.

State Development Linked to Polavaram Completion



- Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu urges experts to speed up approvals
- Polavaram project must be completed ahead of 2027 target
- Experts advised to cooperate in ensuring timely completion

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu emphasized the critical link between the completion of the Polavaram project and the overall development of the state. During a meeting with a group of foreign experts at the Polavaram project site on Tuesday, he described the project as a key element for river interlinking at the

national level. Minister Ramanaidu urged the experts to support efforts to ensure the project is completed ahead of its 2027 deadline, highlighting the necessity of accelerating progress on the construction of the buttress dam and the gap-2D wall works designed to strengthen the upper coffer dam. The minister also outlined the strategic importance of Polavaram in transferring

Godavari waters to drought-prone areas like Uttaranchal and Rayalaseema, stressing that the project's completion would significantly impact state development. He informed the experts that the government is reviewing the schedule of works every 15 days to ensure fast-paced progress, as directed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Nimmala urged the experts to expedite approvals for the designs related to Gap-1, Gap-2, and other remaining works. He emphasized the importance of coordination between the Panel of Experts Committee, CWC, PPA, Afri, and other agencies involved to complete the Polavaram project well before the target date.



Sajjala Family...

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Moreover, they reportedly availed government subsidies under agriculture schemes for drip irrigation systems and infrastructure, further deepening the illegality. The matter had earlier come to light through complaints made by local resident Raja Nayak since 2022, but no action was taken during the previous government's tenure. After a change in government, the inquiry was initiated, although Sandeep Reddy and others challenged it in the High Court, claiming possession of 184.32 acres. The court, however, allowed the inquiry to continue while ordering a status quo. The detailed survey conducted in February and March under the supervision of the YSR District Collector, Kadapa RDO, Land Records Assistant Director, and Badvel Sub-Divisional Forest Officer revealed that the family was in possession of 201.17 acres, though they legally owned only 137.45 acres. The rest—63.72 acres—was declared as illegally occupied. Interestingly, the committee noted that forest officials had already issued notices to the family back in 2014 regarding the encroachments. The recent findings have reignited concerns over political misuse of forest land and government resources. The committee strongly recommended that the Forest Department immediately recover the 52.40 acres of forest land and reinforce protection to prevent further encroachments. It also urged the government to initiate strict action against the Sajjala family under applicable forest and environmental laws. Further developments are awaited as the government examines the report.

LG Electronics...

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The government's swift approval process, which granted all necessary permissions and subsidies in just five months, played a pivotal role in LG's decision to invest in the state. The establishment of this LG plant marks another key milestone in the government's efforts to boost employment and industrial growth. Over the past 11 months, several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed, resulting in an estimated investment of Rs. 8 lakh crore and the creation of 5 lakh jobs. Additionally, major corporations such as ArcelorMittal, BPCL, TCS, NTPC, Tata Power, and Reliance CBG Plants have shown interest in investing in the state. Recently, the Hinduja Group began production at the Ashok Leyland vehicle manufacturing unit in Krishna district, and the foundation stone for the Reliance CBG plant in Prakasam district was also laid. The Economic Development Board (EDB) has been further strengthened to ensure that investors face no obstacles when setting up operations in the state. Minister Nara Lokesh has actively participated in international forums, including those in America and Davos, to attract investment and showcase the advantages of investing in Andhra Pradesh.

Additional Paddy Procurement Approved in WG, Eluru

- Govt okays 1.5 lakh MT extra paddy purchase beyond target
- ₹50 crore tarpaulin aid soon with 50% subsidy
- ₹11,400 crore paid to farmers for 48.9 lakh MT paddy

TPN Correspondent | West Godavari

In a major relief to farmers affected by unseasonal rains, State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Tuesday assured that the government will stand by every farmer and take up additional procurement of paddy beyond the targeted limits in West Godavari and Eluru districts. Speaking after a high-level review meeting with public representatives, district collectors, and rice millers at the Bhimavaram Collectorate's Vasishtha Conference Hall, the minister said: "Farmers need not worry. The government is with you. We will do justice to every farmer who has suffered losses due to untimely rains." In response to requests from district officials and MLAs, the government has granted permis-



sion to procure an additional 1 lakh metric tonnes of paddy for West Godavari and 50,000 metric tonnes for Eluru. This decision comes after farmers raised concerns over soaked paddy due to recent rains and expressed fear over delays in procurement. West Godavari Joint Collector T. Rahul Kumar Reddy stated that out of the 6 lakh metric tonnes target, 4.88 lakh tonnes have already been procured, with cash payments being made within 24 hours. He also mentioned the need for 30 lakh more bags to continue the process smoothly. Eluru Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy added that out of a target of 3.53 lakh metric tonnes, 2.20 lakh tonnes have been collected so far, with ₹487 crore credited to farmers' accounts. Minister Manohar highlighted that the present government has achieved record procurement by

buying 48.90 lakh metric tonnes of paddy and depositing ₹11,400 crore into farmers' accounts—far exceeding the previous government's 37 lakh MT mark. He also stated that the current administration has cleared ₹1,574 crore in pending dues left by the earlier regime. In addition to procurement, the government is set to distribute tarpaulins worth ₹50 crore to farmers at a 50% subsidy through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The minister assured that there would be no shortage of gunny bags and directed that sugarcane bags be made available at Rythu Seva Kendras, with swift action on vehicle permits. Civil Supplies Corporation MD Dr. Manazir Jilani Samul said the procurement system would be further streamlined and millers would be held accountable under a 1:2 guarantee ratio.



Cabinet Sub-Committee Discusses Land Allocation to Institutions in Amaravati

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Cabinet Sub-Committee on land allocation for institutions in the capital held an important meeting in Minister Narayana's chamber at the Secretariat. Present at the meeting were Ministers Narayana, Kollu Ravindra, Payyavula Keshav, and Kandula Durgesh, who attended remotely via Zoom. The discussions focused on several key issues, including the reallocation of land for various institutions. Changes were considered for areas previously allocated, with some institutions being cancelled due to various reasons, while new land allocations were discussed for other institutions. The committee's efforts aim to streamline land distribution and ensure efficient use for capital development.

Action Plan to Control Road Accidents in Eluru



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

State Housing, Information, and Public Relations Minister Kolu Parthasarathy has directed officials to develop an action plan to address the growing number of road accidents, particularly on the national highway in Eluru district. During a District Road Safety Committee meeting at the Gautami Conference Hall, Minister Parthasarathy emphasized the need to control unauthorized dabas and hotels along the highway, which contribute to accidents due to heavy vehicle parking and speeding. The Minister also highlighted the importance of constant highway patrolling, enhanced lighting in accident-prone areas, and the creation of service roads along the Kalaparru to Gundugolanu stretch. Furthermore, he called for the identification of black spots—locations with a high frequency of accidents—and swift

measures to prevent further incidents. Minister Parthasarathy proposed the establishment of safety committee meetings at both the district and constituency levels, as well as awareness programs on road safety, helmet usage, and other precautions at the mandal level in every college. Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar urged coordination among district authorities to curb accidents, while Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar stressed the need for service roads and foot over bridges, especially near schools, to improve pedestrian safety. The meeting also discussed the poor maintenance of garden dividers by contractors along the national highway. District officials, including Collector K. Vetriselvi, SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore, and various department heads, participated in the meeting and pledged to take immediate action to improve road safety measures across the district.

Visakhapatnam Metro Rail Project Gaining Traction

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government is making swift progress on the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail Project as part of its efforts to improve urban transport infrastructure. The Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (APMRCL) has invited tenders for the selection of a consultancy that will oversee the planning, tendering process, supervision, and successful completion of the project. A pre-bid meeting was organized by APMRCL, which saw active participation from 28 representatives of domestic and foreign consultancies. While 14 representatives attended the meeting in person, 8 others joined virtually. This marks a crucial step in moving the project forward, with the selection of the consultancy being a key milestone. The tenders will be opened on June 9, with the chosen consultancy expected to drive the planning and execution phases of the metro project. Despite this step, there are concerns that the project may face delays in gaining full momentum until the consultancy is selected.



Fraud Allegations in My3Ads Scheme

- Victims from Veeravalli cheated in Zinsta Marketing's My3Ads scheme
- Each invested ₹1.5 lakh; company failed to pay returns for over two years



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A major financial fraud has come to light in Vijayawada involving the My3Ads scheme operated by Zinsta Marketing Company, based on Shivalayam Street, Enikepadu. Victims from Veeravalli village in Bapulapadu mandal, Krishna district, have alleged that they were duped by the company, which promised to double their investments but failed to return the money even after two years. According to the complaint filed at the Public Complaints Forum in the Vijayawada Police Commissionerate and Patamata Police Station, each of the three victims invested ₹1.5 lakh, lured by promises

of lucrative returns. The scheme initially required a monthly deposit of ₹12,000, but even after regular payments, no returns were issued. One of the victims, Dindi Subbarao, an auto driver by profession, revealed that he invested ₹3.66 lakh in total through accounts in the names of his wife Dindi Rangamma and his mother-in-law Reddy Ramanamma. "We trusted the company to help us save money for our children's education. Now we're left with nothing," Subbarao said tearfully. He added that for the past six months, the company had been falsely assuring that the payments would be credited soon. Frustrated

by continuous delays and lack of response, the victims approached the police and demanded immediate action. They also urged the state government to intervene, fearing that hundreds more across the state may have fallen into the same trap. The police have taken up the complaint and have initiated a preliminary investigation into the alleged scam. The victims appealed for swift justice and requested that the culprits behind the fraudulent scheme be brought to justice to prevent further exploitation of innocent people. Subbarao can be contacted at 918886392581 for more details related to the case.

Gali Janardhan Reddy Gets 7 Years Jail

CBI court convicts 5 in Obulapuram mining case after 15-year trial

- Gali Janardhan Reddy, OMC MD and 3 others sentenced
- Sabitha Indra Reddy, Kripanandam acquitted of all charges

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The CBI Special Court in Nampally has pronounced its final verdict in the sensational Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) case, convicting former Karnataka minister and mining baron Gali Janardhan Reddy and four others. The judgment comes after a 15-year-long trial that had deep political and bureaucratic ramifications. The court sentenced Gali Janard-



han Reddy (A2), BV Srinivasa Reddy (OMC Managing Director - A1), his personal assistant K. Mefaz Ali Khan (A7), former Andhra Pradesh Mines Director VD Rajagopal (A3), and the OMC company itself (A4) to seven years of imprisonment each. All were found guilty of serious irregularities and criminal conspiracy in illegal mining operations.

However, the court acquitted former united Andhra Pradesh Mines Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy (A9) and former Industries Secretary Kripanandam (A8), stating that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges against them beyond reasonable doubt. This verdict provides significant relief to the two former bureaucrats and political leaders.

The case, which revolves around large-scale illegal mining activities by OMC in Anantapur district and allegations of government officials colluding with the company, has been under investigation since 2009. Forest officer Linga Reddy (A5), another accused in the case, passed away during the course of the trial. Additionally, senior IAS officer Y. Srilakshmi (A6) was discharged from the case by the Telangana High Court in 2022. The verdict is being viewed as a major milestone in the fight against corruption in the mining sector. Legal experts say the conviction of influential individuals including a former minister, bureaucrats, and corporate executives underscores the significance of judicial accountability in long-pending corruption cases. The court is expected to issue detailed orders regarding fines and further procedural directions in the coming days. The convicted individuals are likely to approach higher courts for appeals against the sentencing.



Sharmila Goes on Hunger Strike in Support of Visakha Steel Plant Workers

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

In a strong show of solidarity with the workers of the Visakha Steel Plant, APCC Chief YS Sharmila Reddy has announced her decision to go on a hunger strike starting on the 21st of May. The hunger strike is in support of the workers' ongoing agitation that began on the 20th of this month, demanding the immediate reinstatement of 2,000 dismissed contract workers. Speaking on the issue, Sharmila Reddy condemned the attempts at privatizing the plant, claiming it was part of a conspiracy to benefit corporate entities like Adani. She highlighted the long-standing challenges faced by the steel plant under the current BJP-led government, accusing them of intentionally weakening the plant to facilitate its privatization. She also raised concerns over the dismissal of workers and the mounting financial difficulties faced by the plant. "The workers have not been paid their pending salaries, and yet the government boasts of financial assistance while taking back the funds through loans," Reddy said. The hunger strike comes as the workers' fight for justice has now entered its 1545th day, with no resolution in sight. Sharmila Reddy vowed to risk her life to save the plant, emphasizing that Congress would not tolerate the privatization of what she called "the pride of Andhras." The Congress party's firm stance against the privatization of Visakha Steel Plant and their full support for the workers' strike sets the stage for further escalations. The issue has become a flash-point for the Congress party, which has promised to intensify its efforts until the workers are reinstated and their demands addressed.

TDP Senior Leader Sugavasi Palakonda Rayudu Passes Away

TPN Correspondent | Annamaya District

Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader, former MP and former MLA Sugavasi Palakonda Rayudu passed away at the age of 80 in Rayachoti. He had been battling health issues and was recently admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru, where he breathed his last at 3 AM on Tuesday. Sugavasi Palakonda Rayudu had a long and impactful political career. He was elected as Rayachoti MLA four times and as Rajampet MP once. His journey began in 1978 when he won from Rayachoti as a Janata Party candidate. In 1983, he contested independently and retained the seat. He joined the Telugu Desam Party and went on to win the Rajampet Lok Sabha seat in 1984. He was later elected as a TDP MLA from Rayachoti in the 1999 and 2004 elections. Rayudu is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter. His elder son, Sugavasi Balasubramaniam, has continued in politics and



contested from the Rajampet Assembly seat in the 2024 elections but lost. His younger son, Prasad Babu, served on the TTD board. Though Palakondrayudu had distanced himself from active politics in recent years, his contributions remained deeply respected.

Prominent leaders, including Ministers Nara Lokesh, Ramprasad Reddy, and BC Janardhan Reddy, mourned his passing and described it as a significant loss to the TDP. Former MLAs Gadikota Mohan Reddy, Dwarakanadha Reddy, and TDP Polit Bureau mem-

ber Srinivasula Reddy visited his family to offer condolences. TDP supporters, party leaders, and residents of Rayachoti are remembering Rayudu's dedicated service and leadership. His funeral is scheduled to take place in his hometown on May 8.

Forensic Evidence Crucial in Criminal Investigations

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

District SP Sri K.V. Maheshwara Reddy has highlighted the importance of forensic evidence in solving critical criminal cases and has urged investigating officers to adhere strictly to the procedures for collecting evidence. Speaking at a workshop organized under his supervision at Gayatri Vidya Sanstha in Srikakulam, he emphasized the need for a proper understanding of the collection, packaging, and preservation of physical evidence, including DNA samples, narcotics, and forensic materials. The workshop, part of a state-wide initiative directed by Honorable State DGP Sri Harish Kumar Gupta, provided special training to officers ranging from ASI to DSP level, public prosecutors, and government hospital doctors. The focus was on modern scientific standards in criminal investigations, the chain of custody, and forensic guidelines. The District SP further clarified that each step in the process of collecting evidence—whether it's related to drugs, physical materials, or forensic samples—must be executed with precision to ensure that evidence is admissible in court. He stressed that the forensic evidence must be sent to the lab within a week for analysis, help-



ing to speed up the investigation process. The event also featured participation from forensic experts, who shared their knowledge on the latest investigative techniques. Additional SP P. Srinivasa and other officials were also present, underscoring the importance of the workshop in modernizing criminal investigation practices to ensure justice is served swiftly and accurately.

Amaravati will be the Best Capital in the Country: Undavalli Sridevi

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Madiga Corporation Chairman Undavalli Sridevi expressed her confidence that Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, will soon be transformed into the best capital in the country. Speaking at a media conference organized at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Mangalagiri, she praised the ongoing reconstruction efforts and stressed that the development of Amaravati would not only elevate the city but the entire state. Sridevi highlighted the tireless efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in rebuilding Amaravati and said that with his leadership, the capital would soon emerge as a world-class city. "Chandrababu Naidu has initiated the reconstruction of Amaravati with great splendor, working day and night to ensure its development. The foundation of Golden Andhra Pradesh is possible with the combined efforts of Chandrababu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan," she stated. She pointed out that the central government, under Prime Minis-



ter Narendra Modi, has been fully supportive of these efforts. Sridevi praised the Prime Minister for laying the foundation stone for 74 key projects worth ₹49,000 crores, which she referred to as auspicious for the state's development. Sridevi also acknowledged the significant contributions of IT Minister Nara Lokesh in driving the construction of Amaravati. Criticizing the previous YSRCP government, Sridevi claimed that under the leadership of Jaganmohan Reddy, Amaravati was "destroyed" and the state became financially burdened. "Jaganmohan Reddy destroyed Amaravati and made

the state indebted. He changed his stance on the capital, stating that he would not speak about it anymore," she alleged. She also accused the previous government of mismanaging resources and looting the state through various scams, including the liquor scam and unnecessary expenditures like those on Rushikonda. Sridevi revealed that under Amaravati 2.0, 17 key projects have been sanctioned, which will include the completion of incomplete constructions and the creation of new iconic buildings. She mentioned projects such as MLA and MLC residences, government office complexes, and the Happy Nest as part of the development plans. Additionally, she noted that the surplus land worth ₹2 lakh crores in Amaravati could be utilized for the development of all constituencies in the state. Expressing confidence in the swift progress of Amaravati's reconstruction, Sridevi stressed that with the combined efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the Central Government, and the support of the people, the state would soon return to the path of development.

Jagan Reddy Will Soon Face the Same Fate: Pattabhiram

- Pattabhiram slams YCP for false claims on Access Energy deal
- Says TDP renegotiated price to Rs. 4.60, saving ₹2,719 crore
- Accuses Jagan of misleading public to cover past scams

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
Swachhandra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram has come down heavily on the YSRCP, accusing them of spreading false propaganda regarding the Access Renewable Energy agreement. He asserted that the previous YSRCP government signed a power purchase agreement at ₹5.12 per unit, while the current TDP government renegotiated the deal and brought it down to ₹4.60 per unit, resulting in a savings of ₹2,719 crore for the state. Speaking at a press meet at the TDP central office, Pattabhiram alleged that YSRCP leaders were deliberately misleading the public to divert attention from their own scams. He said, “Is saving public money a crime in Jagan’s eyes? What kind of mind does Jagan Reddy have if he opposes a transparent deal that saves thousands of crores?” He accused Jagan of peddling lies through what he called the “Pakodi channel” and handpicked media pamphlets. Pattabhiram claimed that all YSRCP leaders involved in scams would eventually end up in jail and sarcastically remarked that they could soon have joyful conversations in prison together. He also clarified that all decisions related to power purchases are made only based on the guidelines and approvals of the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Reg-



ulatory Commission (APERC). He reminded that the previous YSRCP regime had issued a Government Order to cancel existing PPAs, which led to companies approaching the courts. Eventually, in August 2022, the YCP government filed an affidavit in the High Court agreeing to continue with the old agreements, and in November, they signed the Access PPA at ₹5.12 as per the rate fixed by APERC. Refuting the YSRCP’s accusation that the current PPA was overpriced, Pattabhiram pointed out that the current agreement is cheaper than both the earlier deal and market rates for firm and dispatchable renewable energy projects. He emphasized that APERC clearly stated battery

storage costs were to be borne by the developer, not the government. He further criticized the YSRCP for earlier purchases at exorbitant rates—up to ₹11.78 per unit during peak evening hours and an average of ₹9.30 in 2022–23. “How can it be wrong now when we’re purchasing at ₹4.60?” he asked, adding that TDP’s only agenda is to ensure governance that eases the burden on the people. Pattabhiram concluded that Chandrababu Naidu’s leadership is focused solely on the welfare and economic stability of the state and accused YSRCP of trying to hide their failures with baseless allegations.

Vamsi Faces Another Setback as Remand Extended Again

Court rejects bail plea in kidnapping case
Vamsi’s remand extended till May 13 in Satyavardhan case

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Former MLA and YSRCP leader Vallabhaneni Vamsi Mohan continues to face legal troubles as the Vijayawada court has once again extended his judicial remand in the high-profile Satyavardhan kidnapping case. The remand of Vamsi, along with other accused in the case, has been extended till May 13, 2025. The court also rejected Vamsi’s bail petition, dealing another blow to the embattled leader. Vamsi, who was arrested on February 13 this year, has been named the prime accused (A1) in the case. According to police, a case was registered against him based on a complaint from M. Satyavardhan, a Dalit youth and former computer operator. The complaint alleges that Vamsi, along with his followers, kidnapped, threatened, and attempted to extort the victim following the violent attack on the TDP office in Gannavaram in 2023. Police investigations revealed that during the course of the abduction, the victim was taken across cities—from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam. The case gained political traction after Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra released CCTV footage purportedly



showing Vamsi’s associates transporting Satyavardhan to court in a car on February 13. This footage has become crucial evidence in the ongoing investigation. Among them are Venkata Sivaramakrishna (A7) and Nimma Lakshmiipathi (A8), whose remands have also been extended. Vamsi continues to be held at the Vijayawada district jail as a remand prisoner, while the case progresses amid mounting political attention. So far, a total of eight individuals have been arrested in connection with the case.

Collector Sets Daily Target of 1 Lakh Workers Under Job Scheme

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
NTR District Collector S. Lakshmi Shah, along with Nandigama Division RDO Balakrishna, inspected the ongoing works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Paritala village of Kanchikacherla mandal. Speaking during the inspection, the Collector said that the district administration has set a target of ensuring that one lakh laborers participate in MGNREGS works across NTR district every day. He emphasized that the works are being executed based on proper measurements to ensure that each laborer earns ₹307 per day. Collector Lakshmisha further stated that the administration is determined to ensure that every eligible laborer completes the full 100 days of work guaranteed under the scheme. He highlighted that the MGNREGS is proving



to be particularly beneficial for farmers, as it not only supports rural employment but also aids in agricultural development through various land and water conservation projects. Officials assured that more

awareness campaigns and on-ground monitoring would be taken up to achieve the district’s ambitious targets and ensure transparency and efficiency in the implementation of the scheme.

Sujana Chowdhury, Seriously Injured in London Shifted to Hyderabad for Treatment

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Senior BJP leader and Vijayawada West constituency MLA, Sujana Chowdhury, was seriously injured in an accident during her visit to London. It is reported that he slipped in the bathroom, resulting in a significant injury to her right hand. After receiving initial treatment in London, she was brought to Hyderabad for further medical care. Chowdhury arrived at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad from London early this morning, around 3 am, and was immediately transported to KIMS Hospital in Begumpet. Family members confirmed that he is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital. Medical sources indicated that his condition is stable, and necessary tests have been conducted. The doctors are in the process



of making arrangements for surgery. Fans and BJP supporters have expressed their concern after hearing about the accident, hoping for his quick and full recovery. However, official clarity regarding his health, the severity of the injury, and the planned medical procedures is expected to come once KIMS Hospital releases a health bulletin.

SCR Cracks Down on Unauthorized Vendors at Vijayawada Station



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In a decisive move to curb unauthorized vending and improve passenger safety, the South Central Railway (SCR) Vigilance Department, in coordination with the Railway Protection Force (RPF), conducted a special inspection at Vijayawada Railway Station on May 5, 2025. The operation targeted unlicensed vendors operating without valid permissions on the station premises. The inspection, carried out during peak evening hours for maximum visibility and effectiveness, aimed to reduce congestion, uphold hygiene standards, and enhance overall station efficiency. Unauthorized vending not only causes obstruction on platforms but also compromises the safety and service quality

for commuters. During the drive, vendor credentials such as identity cards and stall permits were thoroughly verified. Vendors found operating under licensed stall holders without valid ID were penalized, while those vending independently without any authorization faced legal action under applicable sections of the Railway Act. So far, fines amounting to ₹4.65 lakh have been collected from violators. Apart from enforcement, SCR authorities also held a counselling session for authorized licensees. Officers reminded them of the rules governing vending permits and advised them to be alert and cooperative in preventing illegal sales. This session was intended to encourage

responsibility, discipline, and adherence to regulations for a more orderly station environment. South Central Railway General Manager Shri Arun Kumar Jain appreciated the vigilance shown by the Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM) and the Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC). He emphasized the need for similar proactive checks across all SCR stations and directed departments to ensure that only certified personnel deliver food and services on railway premises. The initiative marks a firm step by SCR toward enhancing the travel experience and ensuring safe, regulated operations at major railway stations.



Mutyala Ramarao Conferred with State Award

TPN Correspondent | West Godavari
Mutyala Ramarao of Palakollu has been selected as the Best District Cabinet Secretary at the Lions International Multiple level for the year 2024-25. These awards are presented annually to recognize individuals from all Lions districts and clubs across the state for their outstanding service. The programme will feature the presence of Lions International 3rd Vice President Endorsee Lion V. Vijay Kumar Raju,

alongside many leaders from all districts of Andhra Pradesh. The awards ceremony took place during the Lions Multiple Convention held at Adabala Gardens in Palakollu, West Godavari District. Lions Multiple Council Chairperson Lion D. Srisanthi presented the award to Ramarao in the presence of Lions District 316D Governor Lion Gadde Seshagiri. Mutyala Ramarao has been serving as a member of the Lions Club for the past 27 years. He has held

various positions within the Lions district. Previously, he has received several accolades at the multiple level, including 'Best Newsletter' Editor and Most Involved Lion of the District. Well-known in the printing industry, Ramarao has also worked as a press reporter for over a decade. Besides his involvement with the Lions Club, he serves as the convener for the Palakollu Mandal of 'Manavatha,' a voluntary service organization.

Green signal given for Rs 50 crore road over bridge project



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam
Union Minister Rammohan Naidu has successfully secured approval for the construction of a road over bridge (ROB) at Talabadra on the Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar railway line, addressing long-standing traffic issues faced by the residents of Talabadra, near Palasa town in Srikakulam district. The project, estimated at Rs 50 crore, aims to replace the existing Talabadra railway gate, which has been a major traffic bottleneck for years. The project was initially planned with a 50:50 funding share from the central and state governments, but delays in fund allocation over the past five years had stalled progress. Minister Rammohan Naidu took a proactive approach by meeting Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav to present the situation and secure 100% Railway funding for the construction of the overbridge. This effort mirrors his previous success in getting the AMB (Approach Motor Bridge) at Palasa Chinnabadam funded entirely by the Railways. The Railway Department has now taken responsibility for the Talabadra ROB as well, with the General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and detailed estimates already approved. According to Railway General Manager Parameshwar Funkwal, the project will soon move to the tender stage. Once completed, the two overbridges—at Talabadra and Palasa—will significantly ease the traffic congestion in the region, providing smoother travel for the locals. Residents of Palasa and Talabadra have expressed their gratitude for Union Minister Rammohan Naidu's dedicated efforts, viewing the two upcoming bridges as a substantial improvement to the city's infrastructure.

Srikalahasti New Press Club Elects 2025–26 Executive Body



Venu Gopal (President)



Karthik Naidu (General Secretary)



Eeshwar (PRO)

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
The new executive committee of the Srikalahasti New Press Club for the year 2025–26 was elected on Tuesday during the club's general body meeting held at the Dakshina Kalikamata temple near Vedam. Venu Gopal of CVR News was elected as the President, while Karthik Naidu of Maha News took charge as the General Secretary. Y. Chandraiah from Zee News was elected as the Honorary President and Eeshwar from

True Point as the Public Relations Officer (PRO).
The remaining executive body members include:
• Vice Presidents: Nattam Haribabu (Andhra Nadu), Nani (NTV), Venkatesh (Prajashakti)
• Executive Secretary: Dhana sekhar (99 TV)
• Treasurer: Vinay (Prime Nine)
• Additional PRO: Chandrasekhar (Andhra Prabha)
• Joint Secretaries: B. Ravi (Manam), Aleem (6 TV), Jumlesha (Public Today), Kaki Haribabu

(Andhra Patrika), Balachandra (Rajdhani News), Vijay (Swarnasagaram), Babu (Shubhodayam)
• Legal Advisor: Kaki Ankayya (Surya Bells)
• Assistant Secretaries: Gandham Munichandra (Garuda Daatri), Balaji (V-6), Muniraja (SV 99)
• Members: Shivakumar, Ramachandra (Udyama Keratam), Penchalayya (RT News), Raghu (Surya), Nagaraju, Vijay Bhaskar (Neti Manadesam), Shekhar (Karmikula News), Hemanth Reddy (Vihari)

• Honorary Advisors: A. Kamesh (Prajashakti), Bommineti Haribabu (Andhra Prabha), B. Chandra Shekhar (Big TV)
The newly elected president and general secretary stated that the committee will focus on strengthening unity among journalists and enhancing their welfare initiatives. The official oath-taking ceremony of the new executive committee will take place on May 18 at the local Panchayat Raj Guest House.

MLA Shankar Emphasizes Improving Cowsheds and Cattle Water Tanks



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam
MLA Shankar held a review meeting with DWAMA officials at the Collectorate on Tuesday, where he suggested steps to improve the construction of cowsheds and cattle water tanks in rural areas. He highlighted the importance of conserving groundwater and implementing efficient water management practices. MLA Shankar emphasized the need to collect and store rainwater, protect soil, and restore groundwater levels. He further urged that water usage be monitored and that efforts be made to reduce water misuse. The MLA also stressed the importance of controlling river water flow and preventing pollution. The meeting was attended by PD DWAMA and NREGS staff, who discussed various strategies for better water management in rural regions.

Dining Hall to Be Constructed in Abhayanjaneya Swamy Temple

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar allocates Rs. 35 lakhs for the dining hall

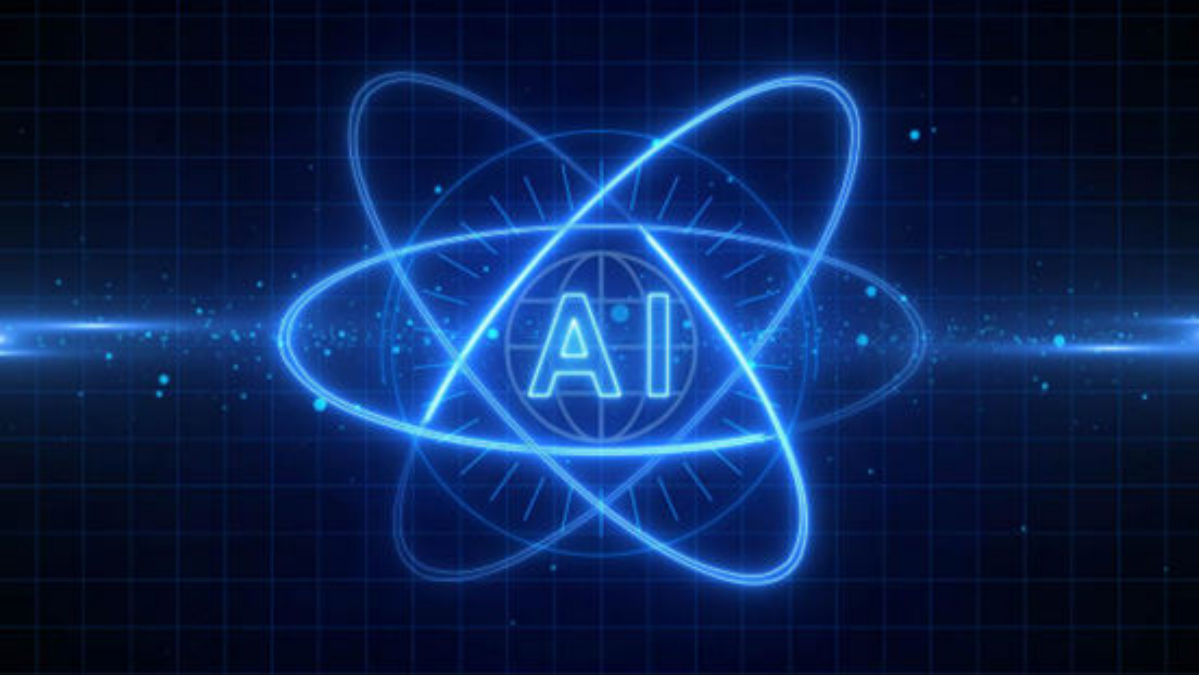
TPN Correspondent | Eluru
In response to the requests from devotees, Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has announced the construction of a dining hall at the Abhayanjaneya Swamy temple in Appannaveedu, Pedapadu mandal. The MP visited the temple on Tuesday along with Dendulur MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar, where they performed special prayers and received a warm welcome from the temple committee. During the visit, MP Putta Mahesh Kumar took a tour of the proposed site for the dining hall, located

near the temple. Devotees had requested the construction of this facility to enable the organization of Annadanam (free meals) for the temple visitors. The MP responded positively, allocating Rs. 35 lakhs from his MP funds for the construction, and assured that the tender process will be completed soon, with work set to begin shortly. The dining hall will be equipped with solar power and other necessary facilities. Additionally, an Anna canteen will also be set up under the auspices of the NTR

Trust. MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar expressed his gratitude to MP Mahesh Kumar for initiating the first development work in the Denduluru constituency from his MP funds. He also thanked the MP for starting his general election campaign from the Abhayanjaneya Swamy temple and securing a landslide victory. The program was attended by local leaders, AMC Chairman Garapati Ramasita, and other public representatives, who interacted with the devotees and discussed their concerns.



AI’s Growing Energy Footprint: Can Nuclear Power Offer a Sustainable Future?



The rise of generative AI has revolutionized creativity and productivity — from producing Studio Ghibli-style portraits in seconds to automating complex writing tasks. But beneath this technological convenience lies a rapidly growing energy crisis. Every prompt submitted to tools like ChatGPT draws power from massive data centres, and the environmental toll of this energy consumption is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, recently highlighted the strain, tweeting, “It’s super fun seeing people love images in ChatGPT, but our GPUs are melting.” His remark isn’t hyperbole — it reflects the staggering energy demands of AI systems operating at scale. Experts estimate that by 2030, data centres could consume up to 10% of global electricity, a significant leap from today’s levels.

Currently, much of this energy is sourced from fossil fuels, which undermines global climate goals. While India, for now, has sufficient electricity generation to meet domestic AI needs, growing AI adoption and ambitions — especially in high-demand sectors like healthcare, finance, and governance — will require significant foresight and infrastructure adaptation. The question is no longer whether AI is sustainable, but how it can be made so.

This is where nuclear energy, particularly Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), comes into the conversation. SMRs are compact, scalable nuclear power plants that promise clean, consistent energy without the extensive footprint or cost of traditional nuclear facilities. Unlike solar and wind, which are intermittent, SMRs can provide stable, 24/7 power — a crucial feature for AI’s non-stop operations.

SMRs could be strategically deployed near high-performance computing clusters or data centre hubs to reduce transmission losses and offer localized clean energy solutions. Their modular design allows for quicker deployment and more flexible integration into national grids.

However, integrating SMRs requires regulatory support, public acceptance, and significant investment. Still, as the global tech ecosystem leans harder into AI, nations must explore such bold solutions to reconcile innovation with environmental responsibility.

If the future is powered by AI, ensuring that it is also powered sustainably — perhaps even by nuclear — must become a central part of the conversation.

India’s Chip Dreams on Hold: With Adani and Zoho Exits, Is SIP 2.0 Already Dead?

India’s ambitious semiconductor manufacturing dreams appear to be faltering. In the past few days, two high-profile projects — the Adani Group’s \$10 billion partnership with Israel’s Tower Semiconductor and Zoho’s \$700 million chip manufacturing venture — have been shelved. Both groups cited strategic and financial impracticalities, exposing the daunting realities of building a domestic chip industry.

These developments cast serious doubt on the future of India’s ₹76,000 crore (\$10 billion) Semiconductors India Programme (SIP), launched in December 2021 to catalyse the country’s entry into chip fabrication. So far, five projects have been approved under the SIP: three outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facilities and two fab-

rication plants — one each by Tata Electronics (with a tie-up with Taiwan’s Powerchip) and Micron. However, the budget for SIP has nearly been exhausted, and several pending applications now await a SIP 2.0 that may never come.

The global semiconductor landscape is intensely competitive and capital-heavy. There are 438 chip fabs worldwide, with Japan, the US, China, and Taiwan dominating. Taiwan alone accounts for 60% of global chip production and 90% of advanced chips. India, by contrast, has only four fabs with minimal output and negligible global market share.

Despite the government’s generous incentives — covering up to 50% of capital costs — the scale of India’s effort remains modest. In contrast, the US has allocated \$33 billion

under its CHIPS Act, while China, Japan, and the EU have announced semiconductor packages of \$47–65 billion each. India’s financial commitment is relatively tiny in a sector where even a single fab can cost upwards of \$10 billion.

Chip fabrication also demands highly specialized technology, talent, and ecosystem support — areas where India is still building capacity. Adani’s exit underscores these challenges, and Zoho’s struggle to find a tech partner reflects the depth of the gap.

While a few projects are still underway, the twin exits suggest that SIP 2.0 may never materialize. Unless there’s a significant policy and funding overhaul, India’s dream of becoming a chip manufacturing powerhouse could remain just that — a dream.



China’s Shadow Over Vizhinjam: Strategic Port Raises Questions on Security and Sovereignty

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL), India’s first fully automated deep-water transshipment port. Built at a cost of ₹8,867 crore, this strategically significant project is fully owned by the Kerala government and executed by Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, with Union government support. Touted as a gateway to Kerala’s economic transformation, Vizhinjam is already drawing attention—not just for its potential, but for the pronounced involvement of China.



All 32 automated cranes at the port, including ship-to-shore and yard cranes, were supplied by Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries (ZPMC), a Chinese state-owned company. ZPMC also provided essential sub-systems like container management software and refrigeration units. Holding 70% of the global market share in quay cranes, ZPMC has long dominated the sector, despite allegations of intellectual property theft by competitors—claims even acknowledged by its founder.

The company’s massive global footprint has grown under China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and its presence now spans over 270 ports in 106 countries. However, concerns about surveillance and national security are growing. A 2023 U.S. Congressional probe found undocumented communication equipment in over 200 ZPMC cranes at American ports, raising fears of espionage or sabotage—though the company denied wrongdoing.

India’s engagement with ZPMC has

been inconsistent. Though the government denied security clearance to a Chinese-led consortium for Vizhinjam in 2006 and placed restrictions on Chinese port involvement since 1997, over 250 ZPMC cranes were operational across Indian ports by 2020. The Vizhinjam procurement, initiated in 2018, preceded the Union government’s 2020 restrictions on vendors from border-sharing nations, exempting it on a technicality.

Adding to the complexity is Kerala’s vision of developing Vizhinjam along the lines of China’s Shenzhen Special Development Zones, aiming to attract private and diaspora investments. This ideational inspiration, coupled with China’s real-time industrial footprint, underscores Beijing’s layered influence.

Vizhinjam’s launch highlights the need for India to reassess its strategic posture—not just in safeguarding critical infrastructure but also in matching China’s global economic leverage with robust domestic policy and competitive capacity.

Who Gets to Be 'Natural'? Questioning the Fairness of Testosterone Bans in Sports

The regulation of testosterone levels in competitive sports reveals deep inconsistencies in the way fairness is defined and enforced. While anti-doping policies claim to prevent artificial enhancement, female athletes with naturally high testosterone due to Differences in Sexual Development (DSD) are required to medically suppress their hormone levels to compete — a rule that forces them to alter their bodies, raising significant ethical and legal concerns.

The selective focus on testosterone overlooks other natural performance factors. In the landmark Dutee Chand case, the Court of Arbitration for Sport found insufficient evidence linking natural testosterone levels to an unfair advantage. Meanwhile, male athletes like Finnish skier Eero Mäntyranta and swimmer Michael Phelps have benefitted from unique biological traits — such as enhanced oxygen-carrying capacity and physical proportions — without facing similar scrutiny or exclusion.

Despite strict doping rules, athletes continue to exploit loopholes through microdosing and the abuse of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs). In contrast, DSD athletes face permanent bans unless they undergo invasive hormonal treatments. While banned athletes like Ben Johnson and Justin Gatlin have returned after serving suspensions for steroid use, women like Caster Semenya remain barred from competing in their natural state.



The discrimination is even more evident in how these rules apply. DSD regulations target only certain female athletes, particularly those with a 46 XY karyotype competing in specific track events. These athletes are singled out based on phenotype and perceived “masculinity,” reflecting outdated and racially biased standards. Such policies violate basic principles of equality under instruments like Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. A fair sporting system must move beyond arbitrary hor-

mone thresholds and instead focus on comprehensive, science-based approaches to doping. Policymakers should differentiate between natural variation and artificial enhancement, avoid gender-biased enforcement, and ensure all athletes are treated equitably.

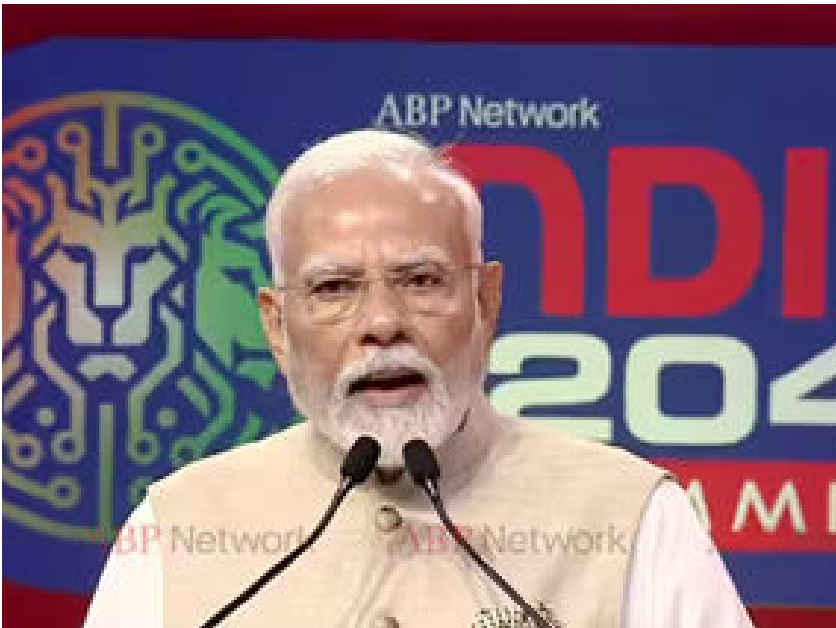
This piece was co-authored by Paavani Kalra and Aarav Midha, a second-year student at NLU Jodhpur, who tragically passed away in an accident. This article stands as one of his final contributions to the discourse on fairness in sports.

PM Modi at 'India at 2047' Summit: "Nation First is Our Guiding Principle"

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at the India at 2047 Summit on May 6, 2025, emphasized the transformation India has undergone under his government, driven by the principle of 'Nation First.' He addressed a wide array of issues—from water resource management to banking sector reforms—while also taking sharp digs at the policies of previous governments.

PM Modi highlighted how India has turned a historic weakness into strength when it comes to water resources. "For decades, our rivers were a source of tension and conflict. But we launched initiatives to link rivers and manage them effectively. Earlier, India's water was being diverted for others. Now, India's water will flow for India—for our people, our needs, and our future," he said. He asserted that the nation is now ac-



tively working to secure its water interests and maximize the utility of this critical resource.

On the banking sector, PM Modi touted the success of financial reforms undertaken during his tenure. "Today, Indian banks are posting record profits, which benefits depositors and boosts

the economy. We merged weaker banks to strengthen the sector overall," he said, contrasting this with what he described as the indecision of past governments.

Taking a swipe at the previous Congress-led administrations, Modi criticized their alleged re-

luctance to make bold reforms due to fear of political backlash. "Earlier, decisions were made based on vote-bank politics—on how it would be perceived by the world, or how it would impact power. Major reforms were delayed for selfish reasons," he said. "A country can never progress with this mindset. True progress requires courage and commitment to national interest."

Referring to Air India, the Prime Minister pointed out that despite its deep financial crisis, earlier governments hesitated to act. "Air India was sinking, but we took a decisive step to save it—because for us, national interest comes before all else," he remarked.

PM Modi concluded by stating that India is now confidently moving towards its 2047 vision, with bold reforms, strong governance, and a clear commitment to putting India first in every policy and decision.



PM Modi cancelled Kashmir trip after intelligence report on possible terror attack: Mallikarjun Kharge

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has sparked a political firestorm with his explosive allegation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi cancelled a planned visit to Kashmir just three days before the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, citing prior intelligence warnings. Addressing a 'Samvidhan Bachao' rally in Jharkhand, Kharge accused the government of failing to act on advance intelligence despite knowing about the potential threat.

"I have received information, and also read in a newspaper, that the PM received an intelligence alert three days before the attack and cancelled his Kashmir visit based on that," Kharge said. He questioned why the government did not take steps to protect civilians and tourists in the region if it had prior warnings.

The Pahalgam attack, which left 26 people dead, including tourists and a pony ride operator, has been described as one of the deadliest in Kashmir in recent decades. The Congress president slammed the government for what he called an intelligence failure, asking why preventive security measures weren't taken if threats were known in advance.

Despite the criticism, Kharge reaffirmed his party's support for the Centre in any firm response against Pakistan, which has been blamed for harbouring terrorist elements. "Whatever strong decision the government takes in the fight against terrorism, we will stand with it. National security is paramount, and everything else comes after that," he said, emphasizing the Congress's history of sacrifice for the nation.

In response, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lashed out at Kharge, calling his comments "treacherous" and accusing him of playing politics over a national tragedy. BJP leader CR Kesavan labelled Kharge a "modern-day Mir Jaffar", saying the Congress chief's remarks were "toxic, baseless, and unpardonable."



Gaganyaan Mission To Be Held In First Quarter Of 2027: ISRO Chief

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India's ambitious maiden human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, has been officially pushed to the first quarter of 2027, marking a nearly five-year delay from its original 2022 launch target. The announcement was made by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan during a press conference ahead of the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025) in Bengaluru.

The mission has seen multiple reschedules, with delays attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which hampered astronaut training, and the technological complexities involved in launching a human into space and returning them safely. Originally unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, Gaganyaan aims to send Indian astronauts into low-Earth orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 400 km for a few days.

Before the manned flight, ISRO will conduct three uncrewed missions, with the first expected later in 2025. These will test key systems, including the launch vehicle and spacecraft. A half-humanoid robot named Vyommitra will be part of these test missions, simulating human physiological conditions and system interactions onboard.

Narayanan emphasized the development of critical technologies for human spaceflight, particularly the Environment Control and Life Support System (ECLSS). This complex system is essential to maintaining cabin pressure, temperature, humidity, air quality, and hygiene during the astronauts' stay in space. He said, "Ninety percent of the ECLSS work is complete, and we are in the final qualification phase."

"Pak Thought They Had Advantage": Shashi Tharoor Decodes UN Talks

Criticizes UNSC's Ineffective Response to India-Pakistan Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, a former diplomat with experience at the United Nations, has expressed his concerns over the "sad reality" of the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) consultations regarding the escalating India-Pakistan tensions and the deadly Pahalgam terror attack. Tharoor's comments came after a closed-door UNSC meeting to discuss the issue, the details of which remain unclear due to its confidential nature. However, reports suggest that the Council members directed tough questions towards Pakistan, particularly concerning the involvement of the Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the Pahalgam attack.

The Congress leader pointed out that while there may be dis-



cussions on the situation, he is confident that the UNSC will not pass any concrete resolutions condemning either India or Pakistan. Tharoor explained that China would likely veto any resolution criticizing Pakistan, while several countries would also oppose a resolution criticiz-

ing India. He foresees the final outcome being more of a general call for peace and concern about terrorism, rather than specific actions against either country. Referring to the Pahalgam attack on April 22, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians, Tharoor noted that the UNSC

members had asked tough questions about LeT's involvement in the incident, with some calling for accountability. Pakistan, a non-permanent member of the UNSC, was present during the meeting, while India was not. Tharoor remarked that despite Pakistan's position, it was clear that several delegations were critical of the attack and expressed concern over the dangers of terrorism, which could provoke a response from India and lead to further escalation.

The Congress MP emphasized that the UNSC is unlikely to take significant steps that will directly affect either India or Pakistan. He suggested that, at best, the Security Council may issue an informal statement or convene another official meeting, but no substantial resolution or action is expected.

Air India Extends Suspension of Flights to Tel Aviv Until May 8



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Air India has extended the suspension of its flights to and from Tel Aviv until May 8, following a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city. Initially, the airline had decided to suspend services until May 6 after one of its flights from Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi due to safety concerns related to the missile strike.

Air India typically operates five weekly flights to Tel Aviv, a key route for the airline. However, in light of the ongoing security situation, the airline announced a further extension of the suspension, ensuring the safety of both passengers and crew. In a statement shared on social media platform X, Air India clarified that its flights to Tel Aviv would remain suspended until May 8. The airline also re-

assured affected passengers that its teams on the ground are actively assisting those impacted by the disruption. Passengers holding valid tickets for travel through May 8, 2025, are being offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling charges. Alternatively, those who wish to cancel their travel plans can request a full refund. The suspension of flights to Tel Aviv highlights the growing concern

over safety in the region. As the situation continues to unfold, airlines and authorities are prioritizing passenger safety and making necessary adjustments to flight schedules to avoid potential risks. Air India's commitment to customer support during this period of disruption reflects its focus on ensuring that impacted travelers are accommodated with flexible options for rebooking or refunds.

'LeT Involved?': UN Security Council Blasts Pakistan Over Pahalgam

Rejects 'False Flag' Claims

TPN Correspondent | UN

In a significant diplomatic development, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) strongly rebuked Pakistan during a closed-door consultation over escalating tensions with India and the deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. According to ANI, citing sources, UNSC members grilled Islamabad over the involvement of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba in the April 22 attack, in which 25 Indian tourists and a local pony ride operator were brutally killed.

Pakistan, currently one of the 10 non-permanent members of the UNSC, had requested the Greek presidency of the Council to hold the consultations, hoping to internationalise the issue. However, the effort largely backfired as Council members not only condemned the terror attack but also flagged Pakistan's recent missile tests and its use of nuclear rhetoric as dangerously escalatory.



ric as dangerously escalatory.

The hour-long session reportedly saw UNSC members express serious concerns about Pakistan's internal handling of terrorism. The Council strongly called for accountability and justice for the victims, particularly emphasising that the attack in Pahalgam appeared to target civilians based on religion. Member states dismissed Pakistan's "false flag"

claims and reiterated their support for a bilateral resolution to the crisis.

Despite Pakistan's denials of involvement, its position found little sympathy. Pakistani envoy Asim Iftikhar, addressing media after the session, rejected all allegations and accused India of violating international law by suspending the Indus Waters Treaty. However, no official statements

were issued by either the Security Council or India.

Tunisian diplomat Khaled Mohamed Khiari described the situation as "volatile" and emphasized the need for dialogue. Greek envoy and UNSC President for May, Evangelos Sekeris, termed the talks "productive and helpful," while a Russian diplomat urged for "de-escalation."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, ahead of the meeting, had voiced deep concern, urging both nations to exercise restraint. Condemning the attack, he stressed that "targeting civilians is unacceptable," and those responsible "must be brought to justice through credible and lawful means." India has responded to the Pahalgam massacre by suspending the Indus Waters Treaty and cancelling visas of Pakistani nationals, underscoring the rising diplomatic fallout from the deadliest terror attack in Kashmir in recent decades.



PM Modi and Albanese Discuss Strengthening India-Australia Strategic Partnership

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, reaffirming their commitment to advancing the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. During the call, both leaders agreed to work with renewed energy to explore new areas of cooperation, further enhancing bilateral ties.

PM Modi personally congratulated Albanese on his party's historic victory in the recent elections, marking a moment of personal acknowledgment of Albanese's leadership. The Indian Prime Minister expressed his enthusiasm about continuing to deepen the strong ties between the two nations.

In a message on X, PM Modi said, "Spoke with my friend @AlboMP to personally congratulate him on his party's historic victory. We agreed to work together with renewed vigour to advance the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and explore new areas of cooperation."

Earlier, on May 3, 2025, PM Modi had congratulated Albanese on his re-election as Australia's Prime Minister, calling it a "resounding victory" and reaffirming India's intention to collaborate more closely with Australia in the coming years. PM Modi highlighted the mutual goal of strengthening peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Albanese's win is significant as he became the first Australian Prime Minister in more than two decades to secure back-to-back election victories, the first since John Howard. In his victory speech, Albanese reflected on the resilience of Australia's economy and the optimism Australians have shown despite global challenges. He also emphasized the government's commitment to both younger and older Australians, ensuring their welfare and future prosperity.

The India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was upgraded in June 2020, is based on shared values of peace, stability, and mutual understanding. Both nations aim to strengthen co-operation in areas such as trade, defence, science, technology, agriculture, education, tourism, and maritime security.

Khaleda Zia Returns to Bangladesh After Four-Month Medical Treatment in London

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Bangladesh's former Prime Minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, Khaleda Zia, returned to the country on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, after receiving medical treatment in London for the past four months. Zia, who had traveled to London on January 8 for advanced care, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:42 am, according to BNP Media Cell member Sayrul Kabir Khan.

The 79-year-old leader, who has been battling several health issues including liver cirrhosis, kidney disease, heart problems, and diabetes, had been receiving treatment at The London Clinic. After her discharge, she moved to her eldest son, Tarique Rahman's residence for further care. Khaleda



da was accompanied on the flight by her daughters-in-law, Zubaida Rahman and Syeda Sharmila Rahman, and a medical team.

The Qatari royal air ambulance departed from London's Heathrow Airport at 4:20 pm local time the previous day. Tarique Rahman, Khaleda's son, was present to see her off. Security was heightened around the airport,

and BNP leaders, including Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, arrived early to welcome the leader back.

In a statement at the airport, Fakhrul expressed hope that Khaleda's return would pave the way for the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh. "After years of suffering under fascist oppression, she is finally returning

home after receiving proper medical care. This is a joyful moment for us and the people," he said.

Ahead of her arrival, security was intensified at Khaleda's residence in Gulshan, and a traffic advisory was issued due to the anticipated crowds. Supporters were asked to remain on the pavements and avoid obstructing roads. Law enforcement, including police, army, and the Rapid Action Battalion, were deployed in large numbers around the area. Khaleda Zia has previously faced legal challenges, including convictions in corruption cases. However, the Supreme Court recently acquitted her in both the Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust corruption cases. Her return is seen as a significant moment for both her supporters and the political landscape of Bangladesh.

Pakistan bombs its own people

Islamabad's Lal Masjid cleric Abdul Aziz Ghazi on 'war' with India

TPN Correspondent | Pakistan

In a fiery sermon delivered at Islamabad's Lal Masjid, controversial cleric Abdul Aziz Ghazi launched a scathing attack on the Pakistani government, accusing it of systemic oppression and violence against its citizens. The sermon, which was shared widely on social media, paints a grim picture of Pakistan's internal turmoil and highlights Ghazi's discontent with the state of affairs in the country.

Speaking to a congregation during Friday prayers, Ghazi posed a provocative question, asking, "If a war breaks out between Pakistan and India, how many of you will support Pakistan? Raise your hands." The lack of response from the crowd led Ghazi to remark, "Very few hands are visible. That means a good level of awareness has developed. The issue is that the war between Pakistan and India is not an Islamic war."

The cleric, known for his con-



troversial stance, continued to condemn the Pakistani state, describing it as a "system of disbelief" (kufr) and accusing the government of being more tyrannical than India's. He argued that the level of oppression in Pakistan was far worse than in India, pointing to events such as the infamous Lal Masjid operation as evidence of the state's brutality.

Ghazi also compared the situation in Pakistan to the alleged atrocities in Waziristan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, questioning whether such incidents had occurred in India. He criticized the Pakistani government's use of force, including

airstrikes on its own people, and pointed out the ongoing issue of missing persons, including clerics, journalists, and political figures. "Here, people are exhausted from staging protests in search of their loved ones," he said.

The remarks reflect a growing frustration among some segments of the population with the Pakistani government's policies, especially concerning issues of human rights and internal conflicts. Ghazi's sermon underscores the deepening political and social unrest in Pakistan, as well as the increasing disillusionment with the state's actions.

Bangladesh court issues new arrest orders against detained Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

A Bangladesh court has issued arrest orders for Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in four additional cases, just a day after similar action was taken in connection with a murder case. The Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate, SM Alauddin Mahmud, authorized the orders following a virtual hearing, as reported by the state-run BSS news agency.

Das, a former leader of the ISKCON movement, was arrested at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on November 25, 2024. His detention was linked to a sedition case involving alleged defamation of the national flag. The court rejected his bail petition, sending him to jail the following day. His arrest sparked widespread protests from his followers, who took to the streets in Dhaka and other regions.

The four new cases that led to Tuesday's arrest orders include charges of obstructing police duties at the Kotwali police station, as well as attacks on lawyers and justice seekers. Assistant Public Prosecutor Md Raihanul Wazed Chowdhury confirmed that the court approved a plea to show Das as arrested following the hearing. Das appeared in court virtually due to concerns about his "security and overall situation," an official stated. In response to the



hearing, security around the Chattogram court and jail premises was heightened throughout the day.

Earlier, on Monday, the court had also ordered Das' arrest in connection with the murder of Assistant Government Prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif, who was killed during violent protests triggered by Das's arrest.

On April 30, a High Court bench had ordered Das' release on bail, but this decision was later challenged before the Appellate Division, which stayed the ruling. Attempts by Das's defense lawyers to secure bail at the lower court level had been unsuccessful.

The allegations surrounding Das's supposed disrespect of the national flag have been denied by his defense, with top lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhattacharya asserting that the flag in question was not the national flag.

Markets Decline Amid Global Uncertainty; PSU Banks and Realty Stocks Lead Losses Ahead of US Fed Decision

Domestic stock markets fell moderately on Tuesday. Geopolitical tensions, coupled with mixed signals internationally, weighed on investor sentiment. On the other hand, they are waiting for a decision on interest rates by the US Fed Committee on Wednesday. Selling pressure on PSU banking, finance and realty shares dragged down the benchmark indices. With this, Nifty ended 81 points lower and Sensex ended 155 points lower.

The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 80,796 in the previous session, opened at 80,907. It touched an intraday low of 80,481. It reached an intraday high of 80,981. It finally closed at 80,641, down 155 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,500, touched a low of 24,331 and a high of 24,509. It closed down 81 points at 24,379. The Nifty Bank fell 648 points to settle at 54,271.

In the Nifty50, 19 companies gained and 31 lost. Hero Moto, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Steel, M&M were the top gainers. Adani Enterprises, Jio Finance, Eternal, Trent, SBI Life were the biggest losers. Fear Index India Vicks rose 3.58% to 19. Mid and small cap indices were bleeding. Today, PSU Bank, Realty, Finance, Telecom, Oil, Consumption, Media, Pharma, Metal, Healthcare indices were mixed. Only the Auto index rose slightly.

Today, the market breadth completely favored sellers. Out of a total of 2946 stocks traded, 545 gained. A total of 2331 lost. 25 shares touched the 52-week high and 56 shares touched the 52-week low. 35 reached the upper circuit and 122 reached the lower circuit.

In the fourth quarter, Optus Value



Housing Finance grew by 38.8% to Rs. 170 crore from Rs. 122 crore. The rupee weakened by 19 paise against the dollar and settled at 84.43. Paytm shares fell sharply ahead of Q4 results. SEBI has approved Veritas Finance, Lakshmi India Finance, Jaju Rashmi, Ajay Pali and Regal Resources for IPO. Adani Power has signed a 25-year PPA agreement with UP Power Corporation. Jefferies has maintained a buy rating on Indian Hotels with a target price of Rs 980. It is noteworthy that Suntech Realty has been given a buy rating with a target price of Rs 575. In a block deal, 13 lakh shares of Bank of Baroda changed hands. In another deal, 31 lakh shares changed hands. Adani Energy's net profit rose 79% from Rs 361 crore to Rs 647 crore. Indian Hotels Company's net profit rose 25% to Rs 522 crore and revenue rose 27.3% to Rs 2425 crore. CG Power's net profit rose 16.2% to Rs 272 crore. Kajaria Cement's net profit fell 59% to Rs 43 crore from Rs 104 crore.

Max Healthcare Institute Ltd (MAXHEALTH) Healthcare / Hospitals. One of India's largest private hospital chains with strong presence in Delhi-NCR and North India. High



occupancy rates, improving average revenue per bed (ARPOB), and efficient cost management. Growth in high-margin specialties like oncology and cardiac care. Strong long-term growth driven by increasing healthcare demand and urbanization. Expansion of bed capacity and hospital acquisitions to support revenue.

Godrej Industries Ltd (GODRE-JIND)



Conglomerate – Chemicals, Real Estate, FMCG, Financial Services. Diversified business model with exposure to fast-growing sectors. Stake in Godrej Consumer, Godrej Agrovet, and Godrej Properties provides embedded value. Good promoter pedigree and governance. Subject to performance of group companies and commodity cycles (especially chemicals). Long-term value lies in its holdings and potential restructuring.

Biocon Ltd



Biopharmaceuticals & Biosimilars. Pioneering Indian biotech firm with strong R&D capabilities. Global partnerships (e.g., with Viatris) for biosimilars in regulated markets. Multiple approved biosimilar products in US and EU. Medium-term margin pressure due to high R&D and regulatory costs. Long-term growth from biosimilar approvals, insulin pipeline, and expansion in the US/EU markets.

Polycab India Ltd



Electrical Equipment (Cables, Wires, FMEG). Market leader in wires and cables with expanding presence in fast-moving electrical goods (fans, lights, etc.). Strong distribution network and brand recognition. Robust financials and consistent revenue growth. Benefiting from capex cycle in infra, housing, and electrification. Long-term growth potential from diversification and rural expansion.

Exide Industries Ltd (EXIDEIND)



Batteries – Automotive & Industrial. Long-standing market leader in automotive and inverter batteries. Strategic focus on lithium-ion batteries via JV with SVOLT for EVs. Strong brand recall and nationwide network. Traditional battery business remains stable; EV shift presents new opportunities. Positive long-term view based on energy storage demand and EV segment.

Gold Prices Surge by Rs 1,613 on Firm Demand in Futures Trade



Gold prices saw a significant increase on Tuesday, rising by Rs 1,613 to reach Rs 96,262 per 10 grams in futures trade. The sharp rise was attributed to fresh positions taken by speculators, driven by strong spot demand for the precious metal. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for June delivery surged by 1.7%, with a total business turnover of 15,004 lots.

Analysts pointed out that the rise in gold prices was largely fueled by the building of fresh positions by traders, reflecting a positive sentiment in the market. The strong demand for physical gold has provided additional support to the futures market, as investors continue to view gold as a safe-haven asset amid global economic uncertainties.

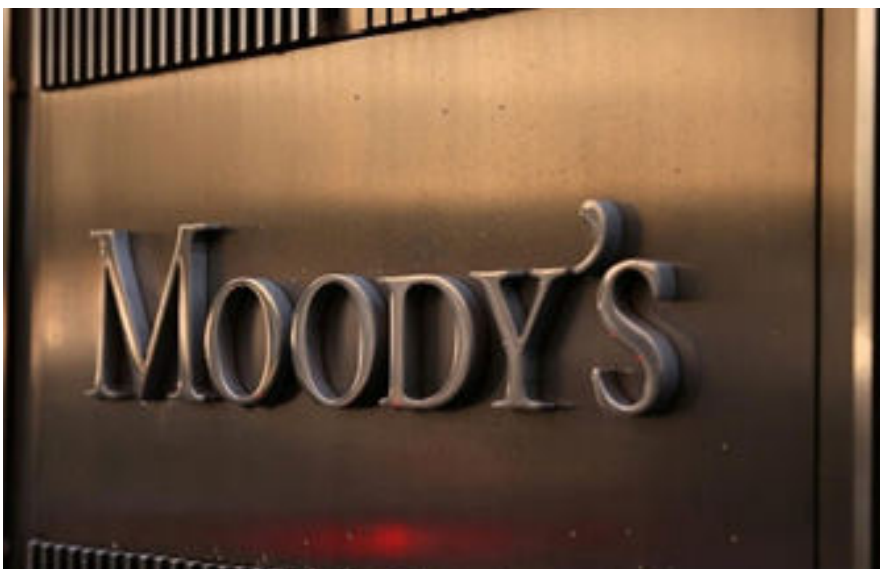
Globally, gold futures also showed positive movement, increasing by 0.89% to reach \$3,363.86 per ounce in New York. This global uptick further contributed to the rally in domestic gold prices. The precious metal is often seen as a hedge against inflation and market volatility, which has made it an attractive investment during times of economic uncertainty.

The recent rise in gold prices comes amid increasing concerns over global economic slowdowns, trade tensions, and geopolitical risks, all of which have heightened demand for gold as a secure store of value. With the current market dynamics, experts anticipate that gold prices could continue to remain strong in the short term, especially as speculators and investors keep a close eye on economic developments and inflation trends.

Overall, the surge in gold prices reflects a combination of robust domestic demand and favorable global market conditions, positioning the yellow metal as a strong contender for continued price growth in the coming months.

Moody's Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast for 2025 to 6.3% Amid Global Uncertainty

Moody's Investors Service has revised India's GDP growth forecast for 2025 down to 6.3%, from the previous estimate of 6.5%, citing concerns over global economic challenges, including heightened US policy uncertainty and ongoing trade tensions. The global economic environment, impacted by geopolitical strains and shifting trade dynamics, is expected to exert additional pressure on India's growth prospects.



In its Global Macro Outlook 2025-26 (May update), Moody's noted that geopolitical stresses, particularly the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, could further exacerbate risks to India's economic outlook. The company also pointed to the potential rise in costs for investors and businesses as they adjust to changing global conditions, particularly in light of the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Despite the downward revision for 2025, Moody's has maintained its growth projection for India in 2026 at 6.5%. This is a slight dip from the 6.7% growth expected for 2024, which suggests that while India may face near-term challenges, the long-term outlook remains somewhat stable.

The rating agency also highlighted that policy uncertainty—especially related to the US-China trade war—continues to dampen global

trade and investment. This, in turn, has contributed to slowing economic activity globally. Moody's adjusted its forecasts for the US and China, lowering the GDP growth projections for the US to just 1% in 2025, down from 2%, and for China to 3.8%, down from 5%.

Moody's further noted that financial market volatility, arising from heightened uncertainty, could tighten liquidity and increase the cost of capital, eroding economic resilience. Additionally, tensions in various regions, such as the South China Sea and the Middle East, as well as the conflict in Ukraine, are adding to global instability and influencing investment decisions.

Overall, while the global economy faces significant risks, Moody's expects India to maintain steady growth but acknowledges that external factors will continue to pose challenges for its economic recovery.

MG Motor India Unveils the MG Windsor PRO: A Feature-Packed Electric SUV

MG Motor India has launched the upgraded MG Windsor PRO, a new electric vehicle (EV) designed to cater to India's growing electric mobility market. The new model features a larger 52.9 kWh battery pack and advanced technologies, aimed at making EV ownership more flexible and affordable.

The Windsor PRO is priced at Rs 17,49,800 as an introductory ex-showroom price, available for the first 8,000 bookings. Additionally, the company offers a unique Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) ownership model for Rs 12.49 lakh, with a usage fee of Rs 4.5 per km for the battery. This model helps reduce the upfront cost of purchasing the vehicle while providing an affordable and efficient way to own an EV.

Since the initial launch of the Windsor series, MG Motor India has received an overwhelming response, and the PRO version is expected to further strengthen its market presence. The introduction of the BaaS model is seen as a key step towards accelerating EV adoption in India, offering buyers a more cost-effective and flexible option.

The Windsor PRO boasts an impressive certified range of 449 km (MIDC P1 + P2) on a single charge, with 136 PS of power and 200 Nm of instant torque. The new variant also intro-



duces several exciting features such as new color options—Celadon Blue, Aurora Silver, and Glaze Red—and stylish 18-inch dual-tone alloy wheels. Inside, the car sports a dual-tone Ivory and Black interior with Aero Lounge reclining seats for added comfort.

Safety is a top priority in the Windsor PRO, equipped with Level 2 Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) that include features like Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Departure Warning, and Automatic Emergency Braking. The vehicle also includes Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) and Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) technology, allowing it to power external devices and share energy with other EVs.

The MG Windsor PRO also comes with a lifetime battery warranty for the first owner and a 3-60 buyback plan, guaranteeing 60% of the car's value after three years, ensuring long-term value for its customers.

The Healing Power of Laughter: More Than Just Fun for Your Health

Laughter has long been celebrated as a mood booster, but its benefits extend far beyond just making you feel good. Scientifically, laughter has proven effects on both physical and mental health, making it an essential tool for well-being. According to the Mayo Clinic and the American Psychological Association, laughter can lower stress hormones, enhance immunity, improve heart health, and even ease pain. In a world full of stress and anxiety, laughter can be a natural remedy for restoring balance.

Laughter’s Impact on Physical Health

Research from institutions like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) confirms that laughter stimulates several body systems. It boosts oxygen intake, stimulates the heart and lungs, and releases endorphins—our body’s natural feel-good chemicals. Regular laughter can help reduce



stress, support mental clarity, and improve immune function, making it a simple but powerful form of self-care.

Reduces Stress

Laughter helps decrease cortisol and adrenaline levels, two hormones that

are directly linked to stress. Studies show that individuals who laugh more often experience lower levels of stress, which improves overall health.

Improves Heart Health

Laughter can mimic the benefits

of light exercise. It increases heart rate and improves blood circulation, which can enhance blood vessel function and reduce the risk of heart disease, according to the American Heart Association.

Boosts the Immune System

Laughter has been shown to increase the production of natural killer cells and infection-fighting T-cells, helping the body combat illnesses more efficiently.

Natural Pain Relief

Endorphins released during laughter act as natural painkillers. People with chronic pain have reported feeling relief and greater tolerance after engaging in regular laughter therapy.

Enhances Mental Health

Laughter can reduce anxiety and depression, promoting a positive mindset, improving relaxation, and strengthening emotional resilience.

Cognitive-behavioral therapists often incorporate humor to help patients reframe negative thoughts.

How to Bring More Laughter into Your Life

To reap the benefits of laughter, incorporate it into your daily routine. Watch comedy, share jokes with friends, or join a laughter yoga group. The key is to seek humor and embrace lighthearted moments. Even simulated laughter has similar health benefits, as the body responds the same way as it does to genuine laughter.

In the end, laughter is more than just a reaction—it’s a powerful, scientifically-backed tool that enhances your health, lifts your mood, and strengthens relationships. So, the next time you’re feeling stressed, take a moment to laugh—it’s one of the simplest, most effective remedies for your well-being.

Canadian Expat’s ‘Polite India Challenge’ Sparks Debate on Courtesy and Patience

A Canadian expat, Caleb Friesen, has sparked a lively debate on social media with his “Polite India Challenge,” where he urges Indians to adopt simple acts of politeness in their daily interactions. In a video posted on X (formerly Twitter), Friesen pointed out that courtesy is often lacking in India, especially among strangers, and proposed five easy actions that can improve everyday interactions. He challenged viewers to complete these actions within a day and share their experiences with him.



The five actions Friesen recommended include:

- Saying thank you, even when it’s not required.
- Saying please, even when it’s not necessary.
- Tipping someone unnecessarily.
- Holding the door open for someone following you.
- Stopping yourself from interrupting others.

Friesen’s video quickly went viral, attracting mixed reactions. Some viewers agreed with his observations and emphasized the importance of politeness in building better relationships. Others, however, pointed out that patience, rather than politeness, should be the focus, especially given the challenges of daily life in India.

One user responded, “Indians don’t say sorry, thank you, or hold doors open. Glad you’ve noticed this! In India, if you stop your car to let a pedestrian cross, they’ll stare at you. If it’s a woman, you’re likely to be accused of being a pervert.”

Another user countered, “While politeness is important, patience is even more crucial. Many of the courteous acts will follow naturally once people become more patient. Examples include not cutting in line, respecting personal space, and not honking unnecessarily while driving.”

A third commenter shared their frustration, saying, “Courtesy is often seen as weakness in India. People push themselves into trains before passengers can get off and block exits. Holding a door open often goes unacknowledged.”

Friesen’s challenge highlights a growing conversation about the role of politeness and patience in India’s fast-paced society, sparking reflections on cultural norms and behaviors.

Swiggy Instamart’s ‘Z+ Security’ Delivery of Gold Coins Sparks Laughter Online

A hilarious video of a Swiggy Instamart delivery has gone viral, leaving the internet in splits as it shows a delivery executive accompanied by a security guard transporting gold coins. The delivery, which appears to be part of a promotion for Akshaya Tritiya, features a guard sitting behind the delivery executive, carefully holding a mini locker that presumably contains gold coins. The guard is also armed with a stick for added protection.



In the video, the duo can be seen riding a motorbike, adding to the absurdity of the delivery, as the security guard ensures the safe transport of what appears to be precious cargo. This unique form of delivery quickly caught the at-

tention of viewers online, with many amused by the added layer of security for a seemingly ordinary delivery.

This eye-catching moment follows Swiggy Instamart’s recent



announcement that they would begin delivering gold and silver coins in partnership with Kalyan Jewellers. Ahead of Akshaya Tritiya, a festival traditionally associated with purchasing gold and silver for prosperity, Swiggy In-

stamart promised to deliver hallmarked and certified gold and silver coins in minutes. Customers can now order coins in varying weights, including 0.5g, 1g, 5g, 10g, and 20g options, each decorated with beautiful motifs.

The delivery of these precious metals, which are often associated with traditional rituals and financial growth, has certainly caused a stir. While the sight of a security guard accompanying a delivery of gold coins may be over the top for some, it has brought a touch of humor to the festive season. Despite the laughs, the video highlights how far companies are willing to go to meet customer demands—no matter how extravagant the request may seem.

Walmart Employee Claims Rs 1 Crore Salary is Common, Sparks Debate in Tech World

A recent claim by a Walmart employee has set off a heated debate in India’s tech community after they suggested that earning an annual



salary of Rs 1 crore has become increasingly common, even for professionals with just four to five years of experience. The employee, who has 13 years of experience as a data engineer, took to the anonymous platform Blind to express surprise at how the landscape has changed.

In their post, the Walmart employee remarked that reaching a Rs 1 crore salary used to feel like an uphill task earlier in their career, but now it seems attainable within just a few years of experience. “For someone with 13 years’ experience, a 1 Crore CTC seemed like an uphill task starting then, but then I see someone with 4-5 years making 1 Crore,” the post read. They also questioned whether this was now the norm in the industry.

A poll was included in the post, asking fellow professionals to weigh in on what they considered a decent salary for a data engineer with 13 years of experience. The responses were

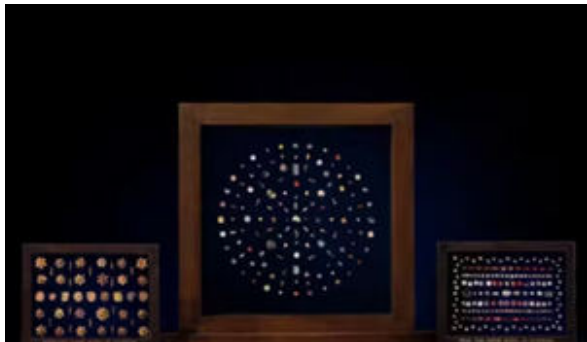
mixed: 33.6% of users felt that anything above Rs 75 lakh per annum was reasonable, while 38.3% believed a figure closer to Rs 1.5 crore should be expected. Meanwhile, 28.1% felt that Rs 1 crore was a fair benchmark.

The post quickly gained traction, drawing responses that highlighted the disparity in salary expectations. Some users argued that Rs 1 crore salaries are generally reserved for senior roles like tech leads or architects, rather than junior professionals. Others pointed out that such salaries are mostly seen in top-tier product companies, with many companies paying significantly lower.

One comment explained that salaries for mid-level engineers typically range between Rs 25-30 lakh per annum, making the idea of a Rs 1 crore salary more of an exception than a rule. Despite the diverse opinions, the conversation has sparked a broader discussion about pay disparities and expectations in India’s booming tech sector.

Buddha-Linked Gems Head to Auction, Sparking Global Ethical Outcry

A fresh controversy has erupted in the global art and heritage world as Sotheby’s prepares to auction rare gems believed to be linked to the mortal remains of the Buddha. The artefacts, set to go under the hammer today in Hong Kong, were originally discovered in 1898 at Piprahwa, a site located in present-day Uttar Pradesh, India. The sale has triggered widespread condemnation from Buddhist scholars, religious leaders, and cultural historians, who argue that these sacred relics should never have become private property or commercial assets.



The artefacts, which include amethysts, garnets, pearls, gold, coral, and rock crystals, were discovered by British engineer William Claxton Peppé during an excavation of a stupa near Lumbini — widely accepted as the birthplace of the Buddha. Some of the gems are believed to have been mixed with the cremated remains of the Buddha himself. Peppé handed these relics over to the British colonial government under the Indian Treasure Trove Act of 1878, and parts of the find were distributed to Buddhist-majority nations like Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. A large portion also ended up in the Indian Museum in Kolkata.

However, a fifth of the total ar-

tefacts remained with the Peppé family. Now, more than a century later, three of Peppé’s descendants are offering these jewels for sale. Sotheby’s has described them as being of “unparalleled religious, archaeological, and historical importance” and estimates the collection could fetch around HK\$100 million (approximately ₹108 crore).

The decision to sell these items has sparked outrage among Buddhists and heritage advocates, who see the move as commodifying sacred objects tied to one of history’s most revered spiritual figures. Mahinda Deegalle, a prominent Buddhist monk and scholar, condemned the auction as “appalling” and “a humiliation of one of the greatest thinkers in the world.”

The controversy reignites long-standing questions around colonial-era artefacts, ownership of sacred relics, and the ethics of auctioning heritage. As debate intensifies, many are calling for the gems to be repatriated to India or placed in a public institution, rather than sold to private collectors.

MS Dhoni Set for Eden Gardens Swansong in Must-Win Clash Against KKR

MS Dhoni's potential final appearance at Eden Gardens will be the emotional highlight when Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) face Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in a crucial IPL 2025 match on Wednesday. While CSK has already been knocked out of the playoff race, Dhoni's leadership and his deep connection to the city will make this encounter more about celebrating his illustrious legacy than the result.

Eden Gardens holds special significance for Dhoni, as it is where he played much of his junior cricket and where many of his milestones occurred, including his maiden first-class century and two of his Test centuries. The crowd, likely to be draped in yellow, will be eagerly anticipating what could be Dhoni's final match at this iconic venue, especially given his emotional ties to Kolkata, where his in-laws live.

Despite being a shadow of the dominant force he once was, Dhoni remains a symbol of passion for fans. In their previous game, CSK came agonizingly close to victory against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), falling short by just two runs. Dhoni took responsibility for the loss but continues to lead the team with grace. For CSK fans, his presence alone is enough to elevate the excitement, even as the team

has no chance of progressing further.

For KKR, the match is a do-or-die scenario as they need to win their last three matches to have a shot at the playoffs. Their journey remains challenging with tough fixtures ahead, including games against Sunrisers Hyderabad and RCB. KKR will be looking to build momentum from their recent one-run win over Rajasthan Royals, with Andre Russell's return to form playing a crucial role.

While KKR is fighting for survival, CSK is determined to make things difficult for the home team. Despite being out of the race, CSK has some standout performances, including the rise of 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre, who has impressed with his fearless batting.

This game will be a tribute to Dhoni's contributions to the sport, a fitting way for him to possibly bid farewell to Eden Gardens.



Oscar Piastri Claims Third Straight Win at Miami Grand Prix

Oscar Piastri has made an impressive mark in Formula 1, securing his third consecutive victory at the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday. This win marks his fourth triumph in just six races this season, cementing his place at the top of the championship standings.



Two years ago, Piastri arrived at the Miami Grand Prix as a rookie driver for McLaren Racing, but his car was considered the slowest on the grid, and he narrowly avoided finishing last. Fast-forward to 2025, and Piastri, alongside his teammate Lando Norris, has transformed McLaren into a championship contender, outpacing the competition. This victory in Miami, with a commanding 35-second lead over third place, further underscores McLaren's remarkable progress.

"It's just incredible, the hard work that's gone in," Piastri remarked after his victory. He reflected on the journey, recalling the difficult times when McLaren was the slowest team on the grid. "I remember two years ago here in Miami, we were genuinely the slowest team. We got lapped twice, and to now have won the

Grand Prix by over 35 seconds to third is an unbelievable result of the hard work of every single person."

Piastri's latest win makes him the first McLaren driver to secure three consecutive F1 victories in 28 years, a feat last achieved by Mika Hakkinen in 1998. This consistency has propelled Piastri to a 16-point lead over Norris in the driver standings, while reigning champion Max Verstappen trails him by 32 points.

McLaren's success in Miami marks their second consecutive win at the event, with Norris taking the top spot last season. As Piastri continues to dominate, the team now finds itself in an intense battle to dethrone Verstappen and challenge for the championship.

NEVER ENDING NIGHT AT MUMBAI

Extended Cut-Off Time Announced for Rain-Hit MI vs GT Clash

Rain interrupted what was shaping up to be a thrilling finish between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday night. Just as the match approached its decisive phase, heavy showers forced players off the field, leaving Gujarat Titans five runs behind the DLS par score. Chasing a target of 156, GT were 132 for 6, needing 24 runs off the last two overs when the downpour returned. With the delay extending into the night, officials have announced 12:25 AM as the re-assessed cut-off time for the match to resume, offering a sliver of hope for a result on the field. Earlier in the evening, Mumbai Indians posted 155 for 8 after being put into bat. Despite a promising start, MI couldn't fully capitalise as Gujarat's bowlers maintained a tight grip throughout the innings. Will Jacks stood out for Mumbai, scoring his maiden half-century for the franchise after coming in early following the dismissal of Ryan Rickelton. Jacks looked in good touch, offering MI a solid platform, but wickets at regular



intervals meant they were eventually restricted by a clinical GT bowling unit. Both franchises entered the game with 14 points on the table. However, Mumbai Indians have played 11 matches,

one more than the Gujarat Titans. With playoff spots still wide open, the result of this rain-affected fixture could have a significant impact on the standings as the league enters its final stretch.

Zhao Xintong Makes History as China's First World Snooker Champion

Zhao Xintong has made history by becoming the first Chinese player to win the World Snooker Championship, securing a remarkable 18-12 victory over Mark Williams in the final. The 28-year-old's triumph at Sheffield's iconic Crucible Theatre on Monday ended with Zhao needing only seven frames to clinch the title, having already built a commanding 11-6 lead in Sunday's sessions.

Zhao's victory marks a significant milestone for Asian snooker, as he becomes only the second Chinese player to reach the World Championship final, following Ding Junhui's runner-up finish in 2016. Unlike Ding, who lost to Mark Selby in that final, Zhao held his composure and outplayed the three-time champion Williams.

Zhao's win earned him £500,000 (USD 663,000) in prize money, marking the



culmination of his stunning journey. His victory is even more impressive considering he was playing as an amateur after serving a 20-month ban related to a 2023 betting scandal. Despite the suspension, which saw him banned for his involvement in match-fixing, Zhao's comeback has been meteoric. He had to qualify through four rounds to reach the

World Championship main draw, a testament to his resilience and skill.

Nicknamed "The Cyclone," Zhao's victory was all the more remarkable as he was only the third player in history, after Terry Griffiths and Shaun Murphy, to win the World Championship as a qualifier in the 48-year history of the Crucible era. His victory over seven-time champion Ronnie O'Sullivan in the semi-finals was equally stunning, further adding to his reputation as one of snooker's rising stars. The win also marks a significant achievement for China, with the nation now holding both male and female world snooker champions, following Bai Yulu's 2024 World Women's Snooker Championship victory. Zhao's title represents not only personal redemption but also the growing influence of Chinese players on the global snooker stage.

Virat Kohli Opens Up on Quitting Captaincy for Mental Peace

Virat Kohli, one of cricket's biggest stars, has shared the emotional toll that the constant pressure of leading both India and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) took on him, leading to his decision to step down from captaincy for the sake of his mental well-being. Speaking in an 'RCB Bold Diaries' podcast, Kohli revealed that after years of intense scrutiny, he reached a point where the pressure became "too much" and decided it was time to step away to find a "happy space."

Kohli had captained India for 7-8 years and RCB for nine years, but despite his incredible leadership, the continuous focus on his batting and captaincy left him feeling drained. "At one point, it did become tough for me because there was just too much happening in my career. I was captaining India for a period of 7-8 years. I captained RCB for nine years. There were expectations on me from a batting perspective every game that I played," Kohli admitted.

The scrutiny was unrelenting, and Kohli felt there was never a moment when he was not in the spotlight. "If it wasn't captaincy,

it would be batting. I was exposed to it 24x7. It did get very tough on me," he said. Kohli, who took a month-long break from cricket in 2022, reflected on how the constant attention left him struggling to find happiness in his career.

Kohli explained that his decision to step down was motivated by the need to regain happiness and freedom from constant judgment. "I need to have a space in my life where I can just come and play my cricket without being judged," he said.

Looking back at his early days in international cricket, Kohli acknowledged that his determination and the backing of MS Dhoni and coach Gary Kirsten played a pivotal role in his rise to prominence. "Gary and MS made it very clear to me that we are backing you to play at number three," he recalled, highlighting how their faith in him allowed him to express his natural game.

Ultimately, Kohli's decision to step down from captaincy was about prioritizing his mental peace, aiming to enjoy his cricket without the weight of excessive expectations.





Aamir Khan Unveils First Look of ‘Sitaare Zameen Par’; A Quirky Sequel to a Classic

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan has officially revealed the much-anticipated first look of his upcoming film *Sitaare Zameen Par*, creating a fresh wave of excitement among fans and the industry alike. Dubbed as the spiritual sequel to his 2007 critically acclaimed film *Taare Zameen Par*, this new project comes with a twist — it’s rooted in comedy.

The film’s subtitle, *Sab Ka Apna Apna Normal*, offers a hint at its central theme: embracing individual uniqueness with humor and heart. Unlike the emotionally intense tone of *Taare Zameen Par*, which focused on dyslexia and a child’s emotional journey, *Sitaare Zameen Par* is expected to explore similar themes through a more light-hearted and comedic lens.

Directed by RS Prasanna, known for his feel-good narratives, the film features Genelia Deshmukh in the female lead role. Aamir Khan, along with Aparna Purohit, is producing the film under the Aamir Khan Productions banner. The movie is set for a theatrical release on June 20, 2025.

One of the most exciting aspects of *Sitaare Zameen Par* is its fresh cast. The film introduces a group of newcomers — Aarosh Dutta, Gopikrishna Varma, Samvit Desai, Vedant Sharma, Ayush Bhansali, Ashish Pendse, Rishi Shahani, Rishab Jain, Naman Mishra, and Simran Mangeshkar — all making



their silver screen debut. The ensemble cast promises to bring a vibrant, youthful energy to the screen.

While not a direct continuation of *Taare Zameen Par*, Aamir Khan has clarified that the two films are spiritually linked by theme — a celebration of uniqueness and self-acceptance. With Khan returning to the big screen after nearly three years, expectations are soaring, especially given his reputation for meaningful cinema paired with entertainment.

With the teaser now out and buzz building, *Sitaare Zameen Par* is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about releases of the year. Will it strike a chord like its predecessor? Fans will find out this June.

Mega Joy: Varun Tej and Lavanya Tripathi Announce Pregnancy with Heartwarming Poster

The Mega family has a reason to celebrate once again! Varun Tej and Lavanya Tripathi, one of the most adored couples in the Telugu film industry, have officially announced that they are expecting their first child. The exciting news was revealed through a touching poster that’s already melting hearts across social media.

The couple, fondly known as the “Mega Couple,” tied the knot in a fairytale destination wedding in November 2023 at the picturesque Borgo San Felice in Italy. Their love story, which began on film sets and blossomed into a beautiful real-life romance, has been followed and cherished by fans for years. Now, they’re stepping into a whole new role — parenthood.

The announcement has sparked waves of joy among fans, friends, and family. In the newly released poster, the duo radiates happiness and anticipation, symbolizing the beginning of their next big adventure together. The soft, intimate tone of the photo reflects the warmth and closeness the two share, both on and off-screen.

This new chapter is a significant milestone in their journey — from co-stars to partners in life, and now soon-to-be mom and dad. As messages of love and congratulations pour in, the excitement is palpable throughout the film industry and fan circles alike.



Lavanya, known for her grace and poise, and Varun, celebrated for his calm charm, have always maintained a low profile regarding their private life. But this heartfelt announcement has offered a beautiful glimpse into their personal joy, earning admiration for its simplicity and elegance.

As the couple prepares to welcome their bundle of joy, fans are eagerly awaiting more glimpses of their journey into parenthood. One thing’s for sure — this little one is already surrounded by immense love and affection.

Here’s wishing Varun and Lavanya all the happiness and good health as they get ready to embrace the most rewarding role of their lives — becoming parents.

Kiara Advani Stuns at Met Gala 2025, Debuts Baby Bump in Style

Bollywood star Kiara Advani made headlines with her radiant debut at the Met Gala 2025, marking a moment of glamour, grace, and personal celebration. Proudly flaunting her baby bump, the actress embraced her new journey into motherhood with poise and elegance, earning widespread admiration on social media and among fashion critics.

Kiara, who recently announced her pregnancy, became the first Indian actress to walk the iconic Met Gala red carpet while expecting. Sharing her excitement with fans, she posted a series of photos on Instagram, captioned, “Mama’s first Monday in May,” reflecting both her joy and the significance of the occasion.

Her outfit was nothing short of breathtaking. Styled by renowned Indian designer Gaurav Gupta, Kiara wore an antique gold breastplate gown, a dramatic creation titled “Bravehearts.” Embellished with shimmering crystals and delicate ghungroos, the gown was a powerful fusion of modern sculpture and Indian heritage. It perfectly aligned with this year’s Met Gala theme, “Tailored for You,” highlighting personal identity and transformation.

Speaking about the moment, Kiara shared, “Making my debut as an artist and mom-to-be feels incredibly special. ‘Bravehearts’ is a tribute to the beautiful phase I’m entering and the strength that comes with it.” Her look quickly went viral, with fans and fellow celebrities praising her for making such a bold and meaningful fashion statement.

Beyond the red carpet, Kiara continues to make waves in the film industry. She was last seen in the political-action drama *Game Changer* alongside Ram Charan. Next up, she will star in two of the most anticipated Indian films — the high-octane spy thriller *War 2* with Hrithik Roshan and NTR, and the pan-India gangster drama *Toxic*, where she will appear opposite Kannada superstar Yash.

Balancing stardom and motherhood, Kiara’s Met Gala appearance was more than a fashion moment — it was a celebration of strength, femininity, and evolution.



Catherine Tresa Teams Up with Chiranjeevi After 9 Years

Megastar Chiranjeevi is all set to begin his next big project with director Anil Ravipudi. With the formal puja and launch already completed, the team is jumping straight into production, starting the shoot in the third week of May. The script has been finalized and most of the cast has been locked in.

As expected, leading actress Nayanthara is said to be playing the female lead. Although there’s no official confirmation yet, sources reveal that the production house has agreed to her high remuneration due to the significance of her role. Meanwhile, Catherine Tresa has officially joined the cast as the second heroine.

This announcement has sparked renewed interest in a story from the past. Back in 2017, Catherine was reportedly the original choice to star alongside Chiranjeevi in his comeback film *Khaidi No.150*, directed by VV Vinayak. However, she was unexpectedly replaced by Kajal Aggarwal. At the time, rumors suggested that Catherine had creative disagreements with Chiranjeevi’s daughter, Sushmita Konidela, who was styling for the film. Neither side confirmed

the speculation, but the rumors gained traction.

Fast forward to 2025—Catherine has finally landed a role opposite the Megastar. While she may not be the main lead, sources say she will share screen space with Chiru in at least one or two energetic songs, which has fans excited.

The filmmakers have managed to keep the plot tightly under wraps, fueling curiosity among fans. Industry talk suggests that Anil Ravipu-

di is aiming to recreate the vintage charm of Chiranjeevi’s iconic hits like *Gang Leader*, *Rowdy Alludu*, and *Gharana Mogudu*. Adding to the intrigue, actor Venkatesh is also rumored to be involved in the project, though the team hasn’t confirmed his role yet.

The film is being planned as a grand Sankranti 2026 release, and the team is working on a carefully structured promotional campaign—although some early leaks have already stirred up buzz online.

