







## Set Up Water War Rooms Across All Districts: Pawan Kalyan

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

State Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Rural Drinking Water Supply, Shri Pawan Kalyan, has directed officials to establish Water War Rooms at both state and district levels to proactively tackle drinking water shortages during the summer. In a high-level review with engineering officials of the Rural Water Supply (RWS) Department, he emphasized the need for real-time coordination, swift response to complaints, and media monitoring to address public grievances effectively.

He announced that the government has allocated ₹28 crore for emergency summer measures and instructed officials to identify vulnerable areas in advance — including drought-prone mandals, forest regions, and suburbs lacking regular supply. The RWS Department was asked to remain fully alert and mobilize resources without delay.

“Water War Rooms should function daily under the leadership of the Chief Engineer at the ENC office. Teleconferences with officers at all levels should be held to ensure rapid decision-making,” Pawan Kalyan said.

The deputy Chief minister emphasized the need for multi-pronged strategies to address the water crisis effectively. These include supplying water through tankers, renting private water sources, setting up temporary water supply systems, regularly filling summer storage tanks, and repairing defunct water pipelines and hand pumps to ensure uninterrupted access to water.

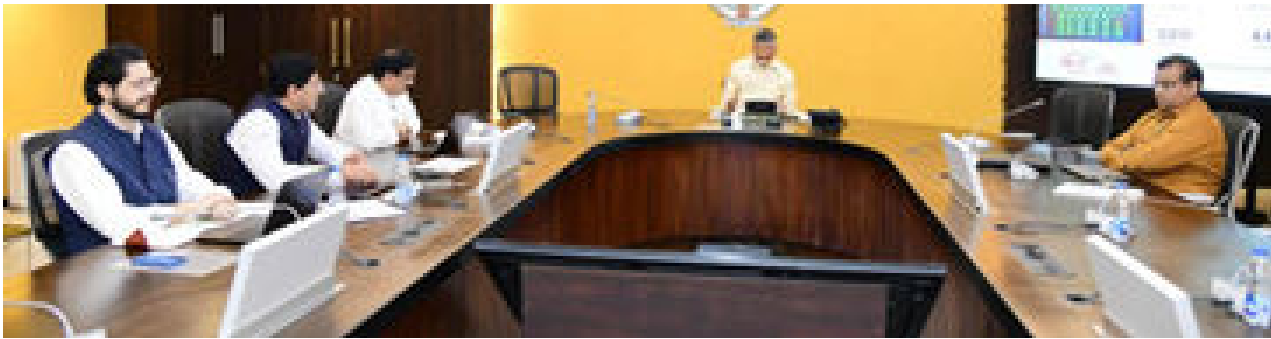
He ordered officials to make use of the RWS One App for continuous surveillance of tanker supply operations to avoid any lapses. So far, 33,232 water trips have been made through 180 tankers, based on need assessments.

Officials were also advised to keep track of complaints through media, social media, and direct submissions to the CM camp office. Mapping and monitoring of water sources was also made mandatory.

Pawan Kalyan reiterated the coalition government's commitment to addressing the drinking water crisis in the state. He urged full coordination between officers, staff, and Panchayat Raj employees to resolve water-related issues swiftly and efficiently.

# Reorganization of Civil Supplies System

## CM Chandrababu's New Directives



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed the Civil Supplies Department to completely reorganize the distribution system to ensure smooth delivery of ration goods, proper implementation of the Deepam-2 scheme, and the procurement of grains. His primary focus is to meet people's satisfaction and ensure transparency in the entire process. The CM emphasized that there should be no irregularities in ration rice distribution and instructed that 79,173 names on the rice cards but missing from the GSVS database be immediately corrected. Additionally, he announced

that WhatsApp Governance Mana Mitra will begin on May 15 to process rice card-related services, providing ease of access for citizens. KYC Updates and New Applications

As of now, there are 1,46,21,223 rice cards in the state, covering 4,24,59,028 individuals. Of these, 3.94 crore people have completed the mandatory KYC process, while 23 lakh people are yet to complete it. Notably, children aged 0-5 and those above 80 are exempted from the KYC requirement. The central government has set a deadline for all KYC processes to be completed by June 30. New Rice Card Applications

The state government has also

opened applications for new rice cards starting from May 7, offering 7 services including splitting, adding, deleting, changing addresses, and updating records. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Paddy Procurement Figures

In terms of paddy procurement, the CM was briefed by officials that 35.94 lakh metric tonnes were procured from farmers during the Kharif season and 14.28 lakh metric tonnes during the Rabi season. A total of ₹8,278 crores was paid to farmers for the Kharif season, and ₹3,076 crores in the Rabi season. Civil Supplies Minister Nandendla Manohar and department officials participated in the review meeting.



## PSR Remanded Till 22nd in APPSC Scam Case

- Already in custody for Kadambari Jethwani case
- Accused of Rs 66 lakh corruption in Group-1 evaluation

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Vijayawada court has extended the judicial remand of former Andhra Pradesh Intelligence Chief PSR Anjaneyulu till May 22 in connection with the APPSC Group-1 exam evaluation scam. He is expected to be shifted to Vijayawada jail soon following the court's order.

PSR Anjaneyulu is already under arrest in a separate case involving the alleged harassment of film actress Kadambari Jethwani. In the APPSC case, CID officials secured a PT (Prisoner Transit) warrant and produced him before the court today (May 8), where the remand was officially extended.

CID officials have levelled serious charges against PSR, who served as APPSC Secretary between 2018–2019. According to investigators, large-scale irregularities were committed during the evaluation of Group-1 Mains answer sheets. Although the evaluation was reportedly done digitally, false records were created to suggest manual evaluation, enabling the misuse of government funds. The CID claims that crores of rupees were siphoned off using this method.

Based on their investigation, CID registered a case on April 29 under IPC Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant) and 420 (cheating). As part of the same case, Pamidi Kalva Madhusudan, Director of Com Sign Media Private Limited, was arrested and remanded till May 21. His company had been entrusted with the task of evaluating Group-1 exam papers.

CID alleges that Rs 1.14 crore was paid to Com Sign Media, of which Rs 66 lakh was misappropriated. Madhusudan is accused of simply reproducing the scores from the earlier digital evaluation and then fabricating records to show manual marking, without actually assessing the papers again.

In this case, PSR Anjaneyulu is named as Accused No. 1 (A1), while Madhusudan is Accused No. 2 (A2). The investigation is ongoing, and CID officials are expected to question more individuals linked to the irregularities in the coming days.

## Strict Security Measures for CM

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, top officials in Andhra Pradesh conducted a high-level security review, focusing on the safety of the public, protection of key institutions, and VIP security — with special emphasis on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's personal security.

Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta, Intelligence Chief Mahesh Chandra, and other senior officials took part in the meeting, which evaluated the present law and order situation across the state and reviewed the



implementation of security protocols.

As part of the measures, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta directed officials from the Intelligence and

Security Wings to strictly enforce all existing protocols for the Chief Minister's safety. He warned that no compromises should be made in this regard and asked district Superintendents of Police (SPs) to pay special attention to crowd management and movement protocols during the CM's visits and public events.

The officials also briefed CM Chandrababu Naidu directly on the security arrangements. In response, the Chief Minister advised that while security is paramount, arrangements must be made in a way that causes no inconvenience to the general public or party activists.

## India Uses HARPY...

Continued from page 1

air defences, including one in Lahore. The S-400 system was used to intercept and neutralize 15 missiles fired by Pakistan towards Indian cities late last night and early this morning. Sources informed news agency ANI that the Indian Air Force successfully targeted the moving missiles using the S-400 system, effectively neutralizing the threat. Following this, HARPY drones were deployed to dis-



able Pakistan's air defence radars.

Earlier today, the government confirmed that Pakistani forces had targeted military installations in 15 cities across northern and western India, including regions in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Gujarat. However, these missile attempts were effectively negated, and Pakistani air defence systems were disabled in return.

Debris from the destroyed missiles and drones is being collected as part of evidence supporting India's claims that Pakistan continues to support cross-border terrorism. This includes financial support and military training for terror activities targeting India.

## No Relief from SC in AP Liquor Scam Case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major setback to the accused in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, the Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the anticipatory bail petitions filed by Dhanunjaya Reddy, Krishnamohan Reddy, and Govindappa. The apex court made it clear that no exemption from arrest could be granted to the accused at this stage. During the hearing, the bench observed that anticipatory

bail was not warranted and dismissed the petition accordingly. The Supreme Court had earlier taken up the bail hearing on May 5, but deferred its decision, citing the High Court's pending proceedings on the same matter scheduled for May 7. On Thursday morning, however, it concluded that anticipatory bail could not be considered in the current circumstances. The next hearing in the case has been adjourned to May 13. The AP liquor scam continues



to attract widespread attention, with the investigation expected to tighten further following this top court directive.

## Disciplinary Action Dropped Against Bindu Madhav And Amit Bardar

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has halted further disciplinary action against senior IPS officers Bindu Madhav and Amit Bardar. Orders to this effect were issued on Wednesday by State Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy to the Director General of Police (DGP).

Both officers were subject to disciplinary action by the Election Commission (EC) following violent incidents reported during the 2024 general elections. Bindu Madhav was serving as the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Palnadu district at the time, while Amit Bardar held the same post in Anantapur district. The Election Commission had taken action citing their alleged failure to contain poll-related violence in their respective jurisdictions. However, the state government, after seeking detailed explanations from both officers, has decided not to pursue further action.

According to official sources, the government reviewed the responses submitted by the officers and expressed satisfaction with their



explanations. Consequently, Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy communicated the government's decision to the DGP, instructing the police department to treat the matter as closed.

This move effectively puts an end to the disciplinary proceedings initiated during the election period, signaling the government's acceptance of the IPS officers' justification over their handling of the election law and order situations.

## IPL 2025 At Risk Of Being Called Off

Continued from page 1

34 balls before being dismissed by pacer T. Natarajan. This cancellation raises questions about the continuation of the IPL amidst rising security concerns due to the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict. A BCCI meeting is reportedly underway, with discussions focused on foreign player concerns and safety protocols. The tension between the two na-

tions has intensified, with India recently launching missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Meanwhile, several districts, including Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Mohali in Punjab, and Chandigarh, were under blackout following air raid alarms and reports of explosions-like sounds in Jammu.



# ED Steps Into AP Liquor Scam Probe

ED seeks case files, remand reports from SIT and police



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

A major development has emerged in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) officially entering the investigation. The ED has taken the first step toward probing the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, signaling a deeper financial probe into the alleged irregularities and money trail behind the scam.

In a formal communication, the ED has written to both the Special Investigation Team (SIT) chief and the Vijayawada Commissioner of Police, requesting detailed information regarding the case. The letter specifically asks for a copy of FIR No. 21/2024, bank account details seized so far, and full profiles of the accused arrested to date, including their remand reports.

The ED has also asked for any chargesheets filed against the accused to be handed over for review. The agency's involvement suggests a fresh focus on the alleged laundering of illicit money in the scam and the movement of funds possibly linked to shell companies or benami transactions.

So far, the SIT has made significant progress in the case, having arrested Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy, believed to be the main accused, along with his personal assistant Paila Dilip. During interrogation, both are said to have revealed crucial information that helped the investigators track the financial and operational network of the scam.

Other individuals, including Dhananjaya Reddy, Krishnamohan Reddy, and Govindappa Balaji, have also been named as accused. Despite seeking interim protection from arrest in the AP High Court and Supreme Court, their pleas were dismissed, strengthening the hands of the investigation team.

As the ED begins its probe, the focus now shifts to tracing the proceeds of the scam and uncovering how government licenses and permissions may have been manipulated for personal gain. More arrests and asset seizures could follow as the financial trail unfolds under central scrutiny.

# AP Cabinet Confirms Amaravati as Capital

- Free pond soil transport to help farmers
- CM directs seating beside Pawan Kalyan at future events



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, convened and passed several key resolutions shaping the administrative, developmental, and welfare priorities of the state. Among the major outcomes, the cabinet formally confirmed Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

A resolution was passed to include Amaravati as the state capital in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, with the cabinet agreeing to forward the resolution to the central government. The move reaffirms the government's commitment to

develop Amaravati as the administrative and legislative heart of the state. The cabinet also ratified decisions taken in the 47th meeting of the CRDA and approved land allotments to several institutions within the capital region.

The cabinet expressed its appreciation for the successful execution of 'Operation Sindoor' and extended its congratulations to the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. It also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for initiating reconstruction activities in Amaravati.

Another key decision involved the implementation of welfare schemes like Thalliki Vandanam and Anna-data Sukhibhava, with ministers

holding wide-ranging discussions on their rollout. The cabinet also reviewed issues related to coastal security and defense industrial protocols.

A noteworthy administrative directive emerged concerning recent protocol mismanagement during PM Modi's visit. According to cabinet sources, CM Chandrababu Naidu instructed officials to ensure that such mistakes are not repeated. He directed that Union ministers and state ministers be seated appropriately and emphasized that Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan must always be positioned beside him during key public events, in line with his constitutional status.

Further, the cabinet approved the establishment of Jala Aarti Corporation under the Water Resources Department and cleared a major pro-farmer move—granting permission to farmers to transport pond soil to their fields at no cost. This is aimed at improving agricultural productivity by utilizing fertile silt obtained from pond dredging.

Other decisions included the formation of an Urban Design and Planning Cell within the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and provision of employment-linked incentives in tourism sector investments, signalling the state's continued focus on infrastructure and job creation.

# Write It Down, We Will Not Spare Anyone: Jagan

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has once again issued a strong warning to those targeting his party workers. In a special meeting with party leaders and elected representatives at the YSRCP Central Office, Jagan said he will not spare anyone harassing YCP activists and instructed party ranks to "write down the names" of police officers involved in such acts.

Jagan declared, "I see your suffering. I assure you—we will not leave anyone. Wherever they are, even if they retire or cross the seven seas, we will make them face the law once we are back in power." He added that 'Jagan 2.0' will give top priority to party workers who stood by the party during difficult times.

The meeting included MPPs, Vice MPPs, Municipal Chairpersons, Councilors, MPTCs, and key local



leaders from areas like Rajampet Municipality (Annamayya district), Kuppam (Chittoor district), and Ramakuppam and Roddam mandals (Sri Sathya Sai district). Jagan came down heavily on the current government led by Chandrababu Naidu, accusing it of running a repressive and vindictive administration. "False cases are being filed, false evidence created, and unrelated individuals are being dragged into police action. These are not politics—these are atrocities," Jagan said.

He alleged that a climate of fear is being deliberately created in

the state to suppress public dissent. "Chandrababu is afraid to face the people. He didn't fulfill a single promise, and now he is using diversion tactics. One day it's the Tirupati laddu controversy, the next day it's a film actress case—all to distract from public anger."

Jagan strongly criticized the government for its failure to deliver on pre-election promises, saying, "Children are asking what happened to their ₹15,000, farmers are asking about ₹26,000, grandmothers want their ₹48,000, and youth are waiting for ₹36,000. This government cannot answer any of them."

He said the Chandrababu government has weakened every system in the state and accused it of "completely destroying the institutions of governance." Jagan ended with a final assurance to his supporters: "This will not be business as usual. We will not spare anyone. Remember, justice will be done in Jagan 2.0."



## Coalition Govt Signals Return of Emergency Era: MLC Chandrasekhar Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

YSR Congress MLC Parvatha Reddy Chandrasekhar Reddy has come down heavily on the Andhra Pradesh coalition government, alleging rampant corruption, media suppression, and political vendetta, warning that the present regime is beginning to resemble the dark days of the Emergency.

Speaking to the press at the YSRCP city office in Nellore, Chandrasekhar Reddy accused the TDP-led coalition govt of resorting to a string of scams since assuming power and said the ruling party is targeting media houses that report the truth. "Arresting editors just because they published factual reports is a brutal misuse of power. If the press doesn't speak up against corruption, who else will?" he asked.

He drew parallels between the current situation and the Emergency era, stating, "During the Emergency, opposition leaders were jailed and tortured. Now, the coalition government is raiding homes of YSRCP leaders and their supporters, forcing them to give false statements and booking them under fabricated charges."

He also criticized the Centre's celebration of Operation Sindhur while the state administration continues to collapse under corruption and poor governance. "In Andhra, scams have become the norm under this coalition rule," he stated.

The MLC strongly condemned the arrest of senior civil servants like IPS officer Sitaramanjaneyulu, stating, "A DG-rank officer has been jailed based on false statements. Tomorrow, who will protect honest IAS and IPS officers if this continues?"

Concluding his remarks, Chandrasekhar Reddy condemned the denial of bail to MP Midhun Reddy and the arrest of civil officers Dhananjaya Reddy and Krishnamohan Reddy in connection with liquor-related cases. "This is nothing but an attempt to silence the opposition and threaten the media," he said.

# Jagan Is Not A Christian, He's A Chinnajiyar Devotee: KA Paul



TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Prajapati Shanti Party president KA Paul made another series of sensational statements during a media conference held at the Anantapur Press Club today. With his characteristic dramatic flair, Paul targeted top political leaders across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, accusing them of failing the public and siding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Paul particularly took aim at former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, stating that he is "not a true Christian," but a devotee of Lord Venkateswara and a follower of Chinnajiyar Swamy. "Jagan is trying to create religious divisions with the Tirumala laddu controversy. He never met me, and because he went to Chinnajiyar, he lost the election," Paul claimed.

Paul extended his criticism to other prominent leaders, accusing Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, Revanth Reddy, KCR, and KTR of being "puppets in Modi's hands." He said that these leaders once opposed Modi but are now flattering him for political gain. "Pawan used to speak about 30,000 missing girls before the elections. Now he's silent. Chandrababu once maligned Modi and now praises him as a universal guru," Paul said.

The Praja Shanti Party leader ended with a dramatic appeal to the people. "If my party wins 100 seats each in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, I'll become CM. If we win 42 MP seats, I'll be PM. Only I have the courage to face Modi. Paul Anna should come. The regime should change," he declared, urging voters to give him a chance to lead and transform the Telugu states.

# Jagan Ruined Power Sector with ₹1.25 Lakh Cr Debt: Minister Gottipati

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar launched a scathing attack on former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of causing irreparable damage to the state's power sector. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Gottipati alleged that Jagan burdened the electricity department with a massive debt of ₹1.25 lakh crore during his tenure.

"At a time when the entire nation is united for national security, Jagan remains indifferent to the welfare of Andhra Pradesh," the minister said. He further accused the former Chief Minister of misguiding the public through false narratives spread by his media outlets.

Gottipati countered the YSRCP's claims on electricity procurement, stating that while Jagan's government purchased power at ₹9.38 per unit during peak hours, the current administration is buying it at ₹4.60. He clarified that the YSRCP's claims



of procuring electricity at ₹2.49 per unit from SECI are untrue, and that the actual agreement during their regime was at ₹5.12 per unit.

He also highlighted the benefits of the Axin Renewable Energy-Brookfield agreement signed under the present government. "This agreement will lease 1,700 acres from farmers at ₹31,000 per acre, with a 5% lease hike every two years. It's a win-win for both the state and farmers," he said.

Gottipati claimed that the power tariff hikes enforced by the YSRCP regime are still being borne by the public.



# Kesineni Chinni Gives Jagan 24-Hour Ultimatum on Liquor Scam

**Slams former MP Kesineni Nani as a ‘sell-out’ to YSRCP**  
**Dares Jagan to respond within 24 hours, calls out ‘dirty politics’**  
**Yes, I severed business ties with Kasireddy due to his closeness with Jagan**

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Vijayawada MP Kesineni Siv-anath, popularly known as Kesineni Chinni, launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and former MP Kesineni Nani, demanding an immediate CBI inquiry into the massive liquor scam that allegedly took place under the previous government. Chinni claimed that ₹3,600 crore in illegal transactions were routed through four offices directly linked to Jagan

Reddy’s administration. Addressing the media, Chinni congratulated the Indian Army for its decisive operations that upheld the nation’s pride, and remarked that even the victims of Prahaglam welcomed such strong responses. He then swiftly shifted focus to the local political scene, warning CM Jagan Reddy to respond within 24 hours regarding the liquor scam and its wide-reaching implications. Chinni alleged that Kesineni Nani, the former MP who

joined Jagan’s YSRCP after being elected on a TDP ticket, was deeply involved in shady dealings. “The person who stood beside Jagan Reddy as a paleru (worker) is Nani,” “You went to Chiranjeevi’s Party and blamed him after you didn’t get what you wanted” he remarked, stating that Nani never once questioned the liquor or sand mafia during Jagan’s regime. Revealing that he had severed business ties with Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy due to his closeness with Jagan, Chinni

declared: “I am a pure Telugu Desam Party public representative.” He accused the ruling party of trying to shift public attention from the liquor scam with ‘nefarious politics’ and personal attacks. “Money was routed through two companies abroad,” Chinni said, reiterating the seriousness of the case. “I won’t stoop to dirty politics. People know Jagan’s history—his dramas with murders, chicken knives, and pebbles. The truth will come out.”



Referring to the conviction of Jagan’s close associate Gali Janardhan Reddy’s brother in a seven-year sentence, Chinni added that such cases are reminders of the rampant corruption and criminal associations around the YSRCP chief. He asserted that all of Jagan’s

followers are “thieves” and pledged to keep fighting for justice and transparency. Ending with a direct challenge, MP Chinni warned, “I have given 24 hours for Jagan Reddy to answer. The people are watching, and I am ready for any battle.”

# High Court Clears AB Venkateswara Rao In ACB Case

**Judge rules allegations baseless**  
**Says no evidence of irregularities in tender process**

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
Retired IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao received major legal relief on Wednesday as the Andhra Pradesh High Court quashed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) case filed against him during the previous YSRCP government. The case pertained to alleged irregularities in the tender process for the purchase of security equipment when Rao was heading the Intelligence Department. The ACB had registered a case in March 2021, claiming misuse of official position and favoritism, and subsequently filed a chargesheet in the Vijayawada ACB court. However, Justice N. Harinath of the High Court ruled that there was no credible evidence to support the allegations made by the ACB. The judge stated that the accusations were vague, baseless, and could not stand legal scrutiny. He further emphasized that there was no need for the re-

tired officer to face trial in a lower court. Senior advocate B. Adinarayana Rao, arguing on behalf of the petitioner, highlighted that the procurement process was initiated by the then DGP, who also constituted the procurement and technical committees. The petitioner merely recommended the names of senior officers for these panels, without interfering in their functioning. The defense also pointed out that no government money was spent on the equipment, as the tender was eventually cancelled by the then DGP. Therefore, the question of any undue benefit did not arise. Refuting another key allegation, the defense clarified that the Israeli company which won the bid had no connection with ‘Akasham Advanced System’, a firm allegedly linked to Rao’s son. The Israeli firm itself confirmed it had no affiliated



companies in Andhra Pradesh or Telangana. With the High Court agreeing with the petitioner’s arguments and noting the absence of any material loss to the government, the case was dismissed, bringing a clear vindication to AB Venkateswara Rao.

# Praja Kapunadu Announces Tadepalli Town Committee

*Yerramsetty Anjibabu calls for unity among Kapus*



**TPN Correspondent | Guntur**  
The Praja Kapunadu Welfare Association has officially announced the formation of its Tadepalli Town Committee in Guntur district under the leadership of State President Yerramsetty Anjibabu. The newly formed committee features a diverse team aimed at strengthening the organization and working for the welfare of the Kapu community in the region. Pullepu Bhaskara Rao has been appointed as the Tadepalli Town President, while Nakka Naveen Raj has taken charge as the Youth President. Several other key appointments were also made to strengthen the town leadership team. Valisetty Ramesh Kumar has been named Vice President, and Kothuru Venkata Mohan Rao will serve as Secretary. Tadikonda Nageswara Rao has been appointed Treasurer. In the youth wing, Pudi Venkataramana will take on the role of Youth Secretary, Adapa Naresh as Youth Publicity Secretary, and

Allu Sai Chakrapani as Youth Joint Secretary. Additionally, KC Reddy Muralikrishna has been named Joint Publicity Secretary, and Gajula Veera Krishna will serve as Joint Secretary. Speaking at the occasion, Yerramsetty Anjibabu emphasized the importance of unity among all Kapus and urged members to actively contribute to the development and welfare of the community. He stated that the newly formed committee must focus on addressing issues at the grassroots level and ensure the voice of the Kapu community is heard and respected. Several prominent figures were present at the event, including Thota Kondala Rao, Korasala Nageswara Rao, Thagaram Vijay, Salipalli Durga Rao, Gaddam Ramesh, Chennupalli Venkata Krishna Rao, and Patthiripalli Mohan Rao, all of whom expressed support for the newly appointed team and reiterated their commitment to community development.

# Governor Honours Top District Collectors on World Red Cross Day

*Chadalavada Nagarani awarded for highest contributions to Red Cross*

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
On the occasion of World Red Cross Day and International Thalassemia Day, Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, who also serves as President of the Indian Red Cross Society (AP State Branch), honoured top-performing District Collectors at a special function held at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan. The Governor commended the Red Cross Society’s service to society, especially its efforts to provide free blood to poor patients undergoing treatment in government hospitals. He revealed that the AP Red Cross operates 20 blood centres across the state, annually collecting over 65,000 units of blood and distributing more than one lakh units — a third of which is given free to government hospital patients. As part of the celebrations, West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani received a top honour for mobilizing the highest donations towards the Red Cross movement. In her acceptance remarks, she credited the award to “every individual who contributed to support flood victims” and said it increased her sense of duty toward the public. She also expressed thanks to the Hon’ble Chief Minister



for his guidance and vision in leading the district administration. Other collectors who were recognised for their commendable service include East Godavari Collector Prasanthi, Krishna Collector D.K. Balaji, SPSR Nellore Collector O. Anand, and Nandyal Collector G. Raja Kumari. Also among the awardees were Kakinada Collector Sagili Shan Mohan, Kurnool Collector P. Ranjit Basha, and Bapatla Collector J. Venkata Murali. Earlier in the day, the Governor virtually inaugurated a Thalassemia Blood Transfusion Centre at the Srikakulam District Red Cross Blood Centre, aimed at supporting children and individuals in urgent

need of blood transfusions. He urged officials to expand transfusion services in all centres equipped with component separation units. Additionally, he unveiled a plaque for the Red Cross Child Care, Women Welfare & Skill Development Centre in Kakinada, highlighting the society’s broad social outreach. First Lady Sameera Nazeer, Governor’s Secretary Dr. M. Hari Jawaharlal, Red Cross Chairman Y.D. Rama Rao, CEO & General Secretary A.K. Parida, and various District Red Cross Chairpersons, Raj Bhavan staff and officials were present at the grand ceremony.

# A Srinivasa Rao Elected Unopposed as TDP Village President in Putrela

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**  
In a unanimous decision, Arigay Srinivasa Rao has been elected as the President of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Putrela village, Vissannapet Mandal. His appointment comes as a recognition of his consistent efforts to strengthen party unity and address public concerns during testing times for the TDP. Party sources noted that Srinivasa Rao’s

ability to connect with people, respond with humility, and listen patiently to village issues has won him admiration from residents and party workers alike. Villagers and TDP cadre praised his commitment to public service and his ever-approachable nature. On the same occasion, Koligapogu Sarveswara Rao, a longstanding TDP activist, was elected as the Secretary of the

village unit. He expressed gratitude to the party leadership for the opportunity, pledging to work with dedication for the party’s goals in the region. The formation of the new village committee was conducted under the supervision of party observer Sukhavasi Srinivasa Rao, ensuring a smooth and democratic process.

# Our Unity Is Our Strength

**Muslims Celebrate Indian Army’s Operation Sindoor**

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
In the wake of India’s successful counter-attack on terrorist camps in Pakistan following the brutal killing of tourists in Pahalgaon, members of the Minority Rights Protection Committee organized a patriotic celebration in Vijayawada, hailing the bravery of the Indian Armed Forces and emphasizing national unity.

Led by the committee’s chairman Farooq Shibli, a 100-foot tricolor procession was held in front of the State Office on Thursday evening, followed by the distribution of sweets to pedestrians and motorists around 4:30 PM. Addressing the gathering, Shibli said, “Our unity is our strength – it is the power of our India. Today, a Muslim sister, Commander Sophia Qureshi, and a Sikh sister, Lieutenant Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, have shown the world that no division can break us.” He praised both Commander Sophia Qureshi, a Muslim officer,

and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, a Sikh officer, for their pivotal roles in ‘Operation Sindoor’, which targeted terrorist camps responsible for the loss of innocent Indian lives. “They fought not just for the nation but also for the dignity of the women whose vermilion was taken away by cowardly terrorists,” Shibli said. He pointed out that Commander Qureshi, by confronting terrorists who killed Hindus after asking their religion, sent a strong message of justice and unity. Meanwhile, Vyomika Singh, representing the Sikh community, rejected divisive narratives and warned the enemy forces that India’s daughters will rise above all lines of religion to protect their people. Shibli concluded by stating, “Whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, or Christian – if anyone tries to divide us, we will crush such hatred beneath our feet. The message of this operation is clear: India stands united.”



# AP’s Electronics Leap Begins With LG Sricity Unit

Minister Lokesh lays foundation for ₹5,000 Cr LG plant in Sricity  
First major FDI project after formation of Public Government  
Over 2,100 jobs to be created directly and through LG vendor units

**TPN Correspondent | Tirupati**  
State Education, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone for LG Electronics’ new manufacturing unit in Sricity on Thursday, marking a major stride toward transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global electronics hub. The project, backed by an investment of over ₹5,000 crore, is the first major foreign direct investment (FDI) initiative after the formation of the Public Government. Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Lokesh said, “This is not just the beginning of a factory, but a foundation for the future of Andhra Pradesh. Every job, every innovation we bring is paving the way to make AP an electronics powerhouse.”

The LG plant, which will manufacture smart home appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, and air conditioners, is expected to generate around 1,500 direct jobs. Additionally, LG’s key vendor companies will invest ₹839 crore and employ over 690 people, bringing the total job creation to more than 2,100. Lokesh emphasized that this would have a transformative impact on the local economy and youth employment in the region. “From ‘Made in Andhra’ to ‘Made for the World’, our vision continues. The LG Sricity unit reflects global confidence in Andhra Pradesh as an investment destination. With strong infrastructure and fast-tracked

approvals, we are not just ensuring ease of doing business, but also speed of doing business,” he added. Minister Lokesh also highlighted the role of CM Chandrababu Naidu in creating an investor-friendly environment. “This reflects the vision of our Chief Minister. We are not just building factories; we are shaping the future — a smart factory, a smart state, and a smart nation,” Lokesh declared. The minister also welcomed LG Electronics India Managing Director Hong Ju-jeon, along with representatives from LG’s partner companies including Ecorea, Kuroda Electric, Heng Sung India, KyungSung Precision, and Taesung Electronics. Lokesh called their participa-



tion a “passport to the power of partnership,” and a sign of AP’s growing global stature in electronics manufacturing.

“This is more than a new industrial facility; it’s a dream come true for our youth. It’s about empowering them with

skills, jobs, and a future driven by technology and innovation,” Lokesh concluded.

## Always be Among the People – Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy Urges Local Leaders

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy emphasized the importance of grassroots leadership, urging newly appointed division presidents and corporators to be constantly among the people and actively address public issues across the constituency. Speaking at a review meeting held on Thursday at the Nellore Rural MLA office, Sridhar Reddy extended his congratulations to all the newly elected division leaders and corporators. He called

on them to take up the responsibility of identifying problems in their respective divisions regularly and to escalate them for timely resolution. “Local challenges should not be left unattended. Being close to the people and understanding their needs is key to good governance,” the MLA said, encouraging a proactive and people-centric approach from the party’s local representatives. Later, Kotamreddy Giridhar Reddy addressed the gathering and

directed the cluster in-charges and division in-charges to perform their roles with even greater commitment and discipline to ensure smoother coordination at the ground level. The meeting saw participation from former mayor Nandi Mandal Bhanu Sri, cluster in-charges, and newly appointed division presidents, all of whom assured their full cooperation in strengthening the party’s connection with the public and resolving civic issues effectively.



## CM to Inspect Handreeniva Works in Uravakonda Today

Focus on boosting canal capacity to 3,850 cusecs  
₹3,873 crore allocated for Phase 1 & 2 works  
CM aims Phase-1 completion by June 2025



**TPN Correspondent | Anantapur**  
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is set to visit Uravakonda constituency today (May 9) to inspect the ongoing works of the Handreeniva Sujala Sravanti (HNSS) project, a key lifeline for the Rayalaseema region. The visit underscores the CM’s strong resolve to accelerate progress and complete the project within a fixed timeline. The Handreeniva Sujala Sravanti project had seen slow progress since 2019, but soon after the coalition government came to power, it received fresh administrative approvals. CM Chandrababu has fixed June 2025 as the target to complete Phase-1 and aims to finish the first stage by next month. A total of ₹3,873 crore has been allocated for the canal lining and widening of both Phase 1 and Phase 2. Once completed, the canal’s water capacity will rise from the current 2,200 cusecs to 3,850 cusecs, significantly boosting water availability in the region. Between 2014–19, under the previous TDP regime, more than ₹4,000 crore had already been spent, resulting in the completion of critical reservoirs like Gollapalli, Madakasi-

ra, Cherlopalli, and Marala, with industries like Kia Motors benefiting from water supply. Currently, the works on various canals are progressing at a fast pace. The Main Canal and Punganur Branch Canal (0–75 km) are being developed in two phases, with Phase-1 allocated ₹696 crore and Phase-2 ₹1,256 crore. The Punganur Branch Canal (75–207 km) has a budget of ₹480 crore, while the Kuppam Branch Canal is being developed with an allocation of ₹197 crore. CM’s Tour Schedule – May 9  
On May 9, the CM’s tour will begin with his departure from Undavalli residence at 9:30 AM, followed by his flight from Gannavaram Airport at 10:10 AM. He is scheduled to arrive at Sri Sathya Sai Airport in Puttaparthi at 10:50 AM. After reaching Chayapuram in Vajrakarur Mandal at 11:25 AM, the CM will inspect the HNSS project works at 11:40 AM. At 12:15 PM, he will attend a public meeting in Chayapuram village. Later, at 3:10 PM, he will leave for Bangalore from Puttaparthi and will attend ‘The Hindu Hadal: India in Dialogue’ event later in the evening.

## 40-Year Wait Ends Government Clears House Titles for Poor in Nellore

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
In a significant step toward social justice, the Andhra Pradesh state government has resolved a four-decade-old house title issue that affected more than 1,400 poor families in Bhagat Singh Colony, 54th Division of Nellore City. The state Council of Ministers has approved granting permanent house titles to all residents living on the banks of the Penna River in this colony. Announcing the development, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana declared that today marks a festive occasion for the residents who have struggled for over 40 years without legal rights to their homes. “No matter

how many governments came and went, these people’s time was wasted. But today, justice has been done,” he said. Minister Narayana recalled that the previous government had misled the public by issuing fake titles and failed to regularize the lands genuinely occupied by the poor. “What they did was a betrayal. But today’s decision taken by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is a boon to the 1,400 families. This is clear proof that the Telugu Desam Party stands by the poor,” he said. He added that the permanent titles will not only ensure legal security and ownership rights but also open doors for these residents to access loans and government schemes in the future.

## Families Of Pahalgam Victims Welcome ‘Operation Sindoor’

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
The families of the soldiers martyred in the recent terror attack in Pahalgam have welcomed the Indian Army’s swift response through ‘Operation Sindoor’, a series of precision strikes on terror camps across the border. Prasanna Kamakshi, the grieving wife of Madhusudhan from Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh, expressed emotional support for the operation. “We are welcoming Operation Sindoor,” she told reporters on Wednesday, adding that though her life was

shattered by her husband’s death, she felt proud of the nation’s strong response. Her children, Dattu and Medhu, and Madhusudhan’s parents, Tirupal and Padmavati, also expressed satisfaction over the counter-terror measures. “It is a matter of pride that the enemy was warned even before our child’s funeral rites,” the parents stated. In Karnataka, Sumati, the mother of Manjunath Rao, who was also killed in the attack, urged the government to continue striking back but without harming innocent civilians. Speaking from Belagavi, she said, “I know

the Centre will give a befitting reply. My child will not come back. But only those who promote violence should be punished.” Chennaveerappa, father of Bharat Bhushan from Bengaluru, echoed similar sentiments and called for the elimination of all those responsible. “Some of the terrorists are said to have escaped. They must be tracked and neutralised,” he demanded. The statements from the bereaved families reflect a deep sense of loss coupled with strong patriotic support for the country’s armed forces and government response.





# For the sake of Maharashtra, it’s about time the Mahayuti acted like a coalition

Maharashtra’s dynamic political terrain has seen a transformative shift with the rise of two major alliances — the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and the Mahayuti. The Mahayuti coalition, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena (led by Eknath Shinde), and the NCP (Ajit Pawar faction), came to power with a decisive mandate in the November 2024 Assembly elections. While their initial performance has been promising on paper, growing internal rifts threaten the long-term stability and governance of the alliance.

In its first 100 days, the Mahayuti government reported that of the 48 ministries, 12 achieved full targets and 18 met 80% of their goals. These figures suggest that the government’s performance is well above average. However, this

success is being overshadowed by open discord between coalition partners. The conflict between Shiv Sena and the NCP over the Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana — a welfare scheme offering financial aid to women from families earning under ₹2.5 lakh annually — is a prime example of the lack of coordination. Though the scheme was instrumental in winning public support during the elections, it has now become a source of internal competition and controversy.

The Mahayuti’s inability to resolve key issues — such as the question of seniority between the two Deputy Chief Ministers, delays in administrative file movement, uneven resource allocation, and disputes over the appointment of guardian min-

isters — has begun to hamper the functioning of the government. The role of guardian ministers is especially important, as they head the District Planning Committees. Without permanent appointments, district-level governance remains stalled and ineffective.

Furthermore, the financial burden of running the Ladki Bahin Yojana has created pressure on the state’s treasury. With limited resources and competing political interests, the scheme’s implementation has suffered from rushed beneficiary lists, inadequate verification, and inconsistent branding — with some partners allegedly omitting the “Mukhyamantri” prefix to claim political credit. These issues reflect a broader problem: the co-

alition is operating more like a collection of rival factions than a unified government.

To maintain credibility and ensure effective governance, Mahayuti leaders must urgently adopt a more cooperative approach. Internal discipline, transparent decision-making, and mutual respect among allies are essential to prevent administrative paralysis. Maharashtra’s people voted for stability and progress. If the Mahayuti fails to function as a cohesive unit, it risks not only losing public trust but also derailling the developmental momentum it has claimed to build. A genuine coalition mindset, rooted in shared vision rather than individual ambition, is now the need of the hour.

## India’s Caste Census Gap: Why Truthful Data Matters for Real Equity



The conversation around a caste census in India is no longer just about statistics—it’s about visibility, fairness, and the realities we choose to acknowledge or ignore. Caste continues to shape access to opportunity, yet our understanding of its reach is built on outdated or incomplete data. The last comprehensive caste count was conducted in 1931—under colonial rule. Since then, efforts like the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census have failed, marred by misclassification and duplication, leaving over 46 lakh caste names in disarray. As a result, the data was never officially released.

Today, our policies still depend on broad categories like Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC). While useful at a high level, these groupings overlook deep inequalities within each category. Some sub-groups have gained significant political and economic power, while others remain invisible, their needs buried under generalised labels.

This blanket approach harms the vulnerable. Government benefits often reach more dominant sub-groups that can organise and demand attention, while the truly disadvantaged are left out. Take land ownership: SCs make up 16% of the population but hold only 7.2% of agricultural land, as per NSS data. Even that figure lacks granular insight into which SC communities are most deprived.

Moreover, caste discrimination isn’t isolated. It intersects with class, gender, and geography. A Dalit woman in rural Bihar faces different challenges than an OBC man in urban Karnataka—but policy frameworks fail to reflect such nuances. Worse, reservations and welfare schemes still rely on colonial-era caste population estimates.

While states like Bihar have initiated their own caste surveys, national-level data remains missing. In its absence, political decisions often rely on guesswork, ignoring the needs of the most marginalised. What India urgently needs is a transparent, updated caste and economic survey—capturing education, land, occupation, and access to services.

## India-UK Trade Deal: A Sign That Globalization Marches On



Despite skepticism about global trade, the India-UK trade deal proves that globalization is still alive and moving forward. After three years of negotiations, India and the UK finalized a pact earlier this week, marking a significant step in economic integration between two major economies. While trade deals continue to be signed globally, the India-UK agreement stands out as a testament to political compromise and determination.

Both Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer likely played a key role in pushing their teams to finalize this deal, especially as many obstacles still remained just days before its completion. The agreement demonstrates that, even in a world fraught with uncertainties, nations are willing to embrace economic cooperation—if their leaders are prepared to make necessary compromises. For instance, India had to abandon its longstanding demand for more visas for Indian workers and students, a critical point of contention in past negotiations. The UK’s current political climate, influenced by rising anti-migrant sentiment, made this concession essential.

This deal is particularly interesting because both India and the UK have seen their manufacturing sectors lose global competitiveness, while their services industries remain robust. The agreement shifts focus towards sectors where both countries excel, such as services, while offering more consumer-friendly deals. For example, Indian consumers can look forward to cheaper Scotch whisky and Jaguars, while British consumers may soon enjoy more affordable shrimp from India. These small, tangible benefits mark a shift in how trade agreements are being structured.

The India-UK deal is just one part of a broader trend. Countries like Canada are seeking new partnerships, and Japan, China, and South Korea are deepening their cooperation. The biggest prize, however, is a potential trade agreement between India and the European Union, a deal that has been in the works for years but may finally come to fruition by the end of this year.

As global trade continues to evolve, the India-UK deal signals that, despite challenges, the world remains committed to economic integration and consumer benefits.

## Balancing AI Innovation and Inclusive Growth in Developing Nations

Developing countries today face a critical balancing act: embracing the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to fuel economic growth, while managing the socio-economic disruptions it may bring, particularly in the form of job displacement. As AI becomes a central pillar of modern economic policy, the urgency for emerging economies to catch up has never been greater. However, success in this domain depends not only on innovation but also on inclusive access and international cooperation.

The digital divide remains a fundamental barrier. In many developing countries, large segments of the population—especially in rural and underserved areas—lack access to reliable internet, digital devices, and AI tools. Bridging this divide requires significant investment in digital infrastructure. International collaboration can play a key role in this effort, allowing countries to share best practices, technologies, and financial resources. Partnerships with global institutions and private sector leaders can accelerate the rollout of broadband connectivity, digital public services, and AI tools tailored to local needs.

Moreover, developing countries must proactively address the challenge of workforce displacement due to automation. AI-driven innovation may enhance productivity, but it also threatens traditional job sectors, particularly in manufacturing, agriculture, and low-skill services. To ensure the benefits of AI are widespread and equitable, governments must invest in large-scale reskilling and upskilling programs. Vocational training, digital literacy initiatives, and public-private training partnerships are essential to prepare the current and future workforce for new AI-driven roles.

Public access to AI must also be a policy priority. Making AI tools available for small businesses, educational institutions, and local governments can foster innovation from the



grassroots. Particularly in rural areas, AI has the potential to revolutionize sectors like agriculture, education, and healthcare. By enabling farmers to predict weather patterns, teachers to access personalized learning platforms, and doctors to use AI diagnostics, the technology can directly enhance quality of life and productivity.

The definition of economic development itself continues to evolve alongside global challenges and priorities. A decade ago, metrics such as access to renewable energy became central in light of the climate crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the strength of healthcare systems was viewed as a vital indicator of resilience. Today, a country’s readiness to harness AI has emerged as a key measure of its developmental status. Countries like the USA and China are setting benchmarks, but the journey for developing nations must be inclusive, ethical, and tailored to their unique socio-economic contexts. Only through such a balanced approach can AI truly become a tool for equitable progress.





## Jaishankar: India Doesn't Seek Escalation but Will Respond Firmly to Any Military Attack

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated on Thursday that while India has no intention to escalate tensions with Pakistan, any military aggression against the country will be met with a “very, very firm response.” His comments came during a high-level meeting in New Delhi with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who arrived late Wednesday night for a scheduled diplomatic visit amid heightened tensions in South Asia.

Addressing the recent flare-up, Jaishankar referred to the Pahalgam terror attack as a “barbaric” act that necessitated India’s military response. The April 22 attack, which claimed the lives of 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir, was blamed on Pakistan-based terror groups. In response, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting multiple terror camps across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and parts of Pakistan’s Punjab province.

“This attack compelled us to respond on May 7 by striking at the cross-border terrorist infrastructure,” Jaishankar said. “Our response was targeted and measured.” He emphasized that the Indian military’s actions were precise, aimed at dismantling terror infrastructure, and not intended as a broader escalation.

However, Jaishankar made it clear that any direct military provocation by Pakistan would not be tolerated. “It is not our intention to escalate the situation. However, if there are military attacks on us, there should be no doubt that it will be met with a very, very firm response,” he warned.

During the meeting, Jaishankar underlined the importance of India’s partners, particularly Iran, understanding the gravity and context of the situation. He said that as a close neighbour and strategic partner, it was essential that Iran be fully informed of the challenges India faces with cross-border terrorism.

Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi’s visit takes place at a crucial moment, with both New Delhi and Tehran navigating regional complexities and shared interests in security and stability. The meeting underscored India’s diplomatic push to inform key allies of its position, even as it reiterates its preference for restraint, provided its national security is not jeopardized.

The dialogue reflects India’s broader strategy of measured deterrence and diplomatic transparency in the face of persistent security threats from across its western border.

# Operation Sindoor: PM Modi chairs meeting with Ministries amid heightened security concerns

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with Union Secretaries to assess the country’s national security preparedness and inter-ministerial coordination in light of recent developments, particularly following the Pahalgam terror attack and India’s subsequent military response under Operation Sindoor.

The meeting comes as India faces a heightened security situation after the April 22 terrorist attack in South Kashmir’s Pahalgam, which claimed 26 civilian lives. In retaliation, Indian armed forces carried out precision strikes on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

According to an official release, the Prime Minister stressed the need for constant vigilance, strong institutional synergy, and clear internal communication mechanisms. He reiterated the central government’s unwavering commitment to protecting national



security, maintaining operational readiness, and ensuring the safety of citizens across the country.

“All ministries are fully prepared to respond to emerging situations,” the government said, confirming that actionable steps have been identified across departments. Ministries have been instructed to reinforce institutional processes and maintain close coordination with state governments and local

authorities.

The review covered a wide range of topics, including enhancing civil defence protocols, countering the spread of misinformation, and protecting critical infrastructure such as power grids, communication networks, and transportation systems. Departments were directed to ensure continuity of essential services and improve emergency response frameworks.

The Prime Minister emphasized a “whole-of-government” approach, urging seamless collaboration between ministries and departments to uphold national resilience and preparedness. Secretaries from key ministries — including Defence, Home, External Affairs, Power, Health, Telecommunications, and Information & Broadcasting — presented their preparedness strategies.

PM Modi directed all ministries to conduct internal audits of their preparedness levels and ensure proactive contingency planning. He also called for enhanced coordination with intelligence and security agencies to mitigate any further threats.

The meeting was attended by the Cabinet Secretary, senior officials from the Prime Minister’s Office, and other top bureaucrats. The comprehensive review signals India’s proactive stance amid an evolving security environment, with Operation Sindoor still ongoing and cross-border tensions high.

## India thwarts missile attack on 15 cities, hits Pakistan defences



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant escalation of hostilities, Pakistan attempted coordinated attacks late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning on military installations in 15 Indian cities, including key targets in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Gujarat. The Indian government

confirmed that these provocations were effectively countered by Indian forces, which neutralised the threats using advanced air defence systems and precision strikes.

According to the government, Pakistan deployed drones and missiles aimed at military facilities in cities such as Srinagar, Pathankot,

Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Chandigarh. However, these were intercepted and destroyed by India’s air defence systems, including the Russian-made S-400. In response, India targeted and disabled multiple Pakistani air defence radars and systems in locations including Lahore.

Government sources revealed that India used HARPY drones to take down Pakistani radar installations and followed up with targeted strikes in retaliation. “The Indian response was in the same domain and with the same intensity,” officials emphasised, underlining the measured nature of the operation.

Debris from downed Pakistani drones and missiles is being collected and analysed, which the government says will serve as further evidence of Pakistan’s deep state support for cross-border terrorism, including funding and training of terrorist operatives.

This attempted Pakistani assault came just one day after India

launched Operation Sindoor, a retaliatory strike on nine terrorist camps—four in Pakistan and five in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The strikes began at 1:05 a.m. Wednesday and lasted 25 minutes, utilising a mix of 24 precision munitions, including HAMMER smart bombs and SCALP cruise missiles. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh confirmed that over 100 terrorists were killed in the operation.

Operation Sindoor was India’s direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, where four Lashkar-e-Taiba-linked terrorists killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir.

India has reiterated its commitment to non-escalation, provided Pakistan refrains from further aggression. However, Defence Minister Singh warned that any further provocation will result in continued and forceful retaliation. So far, India has reported 16 civilian deaths and one soldier lost in ongoing cross-border shelling by Pakistan.

## Punjab on alert: Orders Nighttime Blackout and Fireworks Ban Amid India-Pakistan Border Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Punjab

As tensions continue to escalate along the India-Pakistan border in the wake of Operation Sindoor, authorities in Punjab have implemented strict precautionary measures to ensure public safety. A district-wide nighttime blackout has been ordered in Gurdaspur, and bans on the use of fireworks have been imposed across six border districts in the state.

The order for the blackout was issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur on Thursday. According to the directive, all non-essential lighting must be switched off from 9 PM to 5 AM starting tonight and will remain in effect until further notice. However, the blackout will not apply to cantonment areas or other military zones, where security operations and essential services continue without restriction.

The decision comes amid heightened cross-border military activity between India and Pakistan. Following the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 civilian lives, India launched precision strikes under Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure across the Line of Control (LoC). Pakistan has responded with increased shelling and missile threats, prompting civilian safety protocols in vulnerable regions.



In addition to Gurdaspur, deputy commissioners in five other Punjab border districts — including Amritsar, Pathankot, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Fazilka — have announced an immediate ban on fireworks. The move is aimed at preventing confusion or panic among residents during a time of military alert, as well as avoiding any visual signals that could be misinterpreted during night operations.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been in continuous consultation with defence and civil authorities to monitor the security situation. State officials have assured the public that all necessary measures are being taken to safeguard lives and maintain law and order along the sensitive international border.

## Operation Sindoor Day 2: Pak will be entirely responsible for consequences: FS Vikram Misri

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On the second day of Operation Sindoor, India reiterated its commitment to measured military action and warned Pakistan that any further provocation would be met with a firm response. In a detailed press conference on Thursday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri firmly stated that no Pakistani civilians were harmed during India’s precision strikes targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing media alongside Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, Misri clarified that India’s actions were a direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, where 26 civilians, mostly tourists, were killed by terrorists in Baisaran valley, South Kashmir. Misri emphasized that this attack marked the original escalation, and India’s military operations were designed to dismantle terror infrastructure—not to provoke.

“Any further action by Pakistan, some of which we are seeing today, is nothing but escalation by Pakistan once again and will be responded to, and is being responded to appropriately,” Misri warned.

India denied Pakistan’s claims of civilian casualties and the alleged targeting of civilian infra-



structure, including a dam. Misri called these allegations “absolute fabrication” and warned Pakistan against using such false narratives as justification for retaliatory strikes on Indian infrastructure.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh added that Pakistan had intensified unprovoked shelling across the Line of Control (LoC), using mortars and heavy artillery in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar, and Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. These actions, she said, point to deliberate provocation from Pakistan’s side.

Misri underlined that India’s airstrikes were carefully calibrated and targeted at nine terrorist facilities across the border under Operation Sindoor, conducted early Wednesday morning. These actions, he noted, were based on credible intelligence and carried out in a restrained and proportionate manner.



# UK Parliament Debates India-Pakistan Conflict, Calls for De-escalation Efforts

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

Tensions between India and Pakistan, exacerbated by the recent Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor, were the focus of a heated debate in the UK Parliament. The conflict, which resulted in the death of 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, has drawn significant attention from British lawmakers, many of whom emphasized the importance of de-escalating the situation.

On Wednesday, UK Foreign Office Minister Hamish Falconer opened the debate by reiterating Prime Minister Keir Starmer's call for diplomacy and dialogue between the two nations. He acknowledged the personal impact the conflict has on the British Indian and Pakistani communities and emphasized that "restraint" should be shown by both India and Pakistan. Falconer condemned the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam and expressed concern about the escalating violence. He underscored that the UK would continue working with international partners to achieve short-term de-escalation and long-term stability in the region, stressing the need for calm heads to restore peace.

UK Shadow Foreign Secretary Priti Patel voiced support for In-



dia's right to take "reasonable and proportionate" measures to defend itself. She highlighted India's need to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure that poses a continual threat to its security. Patel pointed out that terrorists based in Pakistan have targeted both Indian and Western interests, and she reiterated the long-standing security cooperation agreements between the UK and India. She

also sought clarification on Britain's role in preventing further escalation and questioned the government's assessment of the perpetrators behind the terror attack.

Labour MP Jas Athwal shared a personal perspective, noting that his parents were born in Pakistan, and urged the UK government to use its influence to bring both India and

Pakistan to the negotiating table. Conservative MP Bob Blackman called for the permanent removal of terrorist training camps from Pakistan, echoing India's stance that such sites must be dismantled to prevent further violence. The debate reflected the urgency with which the UK government and lawmakers are seeking a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict.



## Trump Set to Announce U.S.-U.K. Trade Deal Amid Tariff Tensions

TPN Correspondent | U.K

Former U.S. President Donald Trump is poised to announce a trade agreement with the United Kingdom on Thursday, May 8, 2025, according to reports from The New York Times and Politico. The announcement is expected during a scheduled news conference at 10:00 a.m. (1400 GMT) in the Oval Office, where Trump will unveil what he described as a "major" trade deal with a "big, and highly respected country."

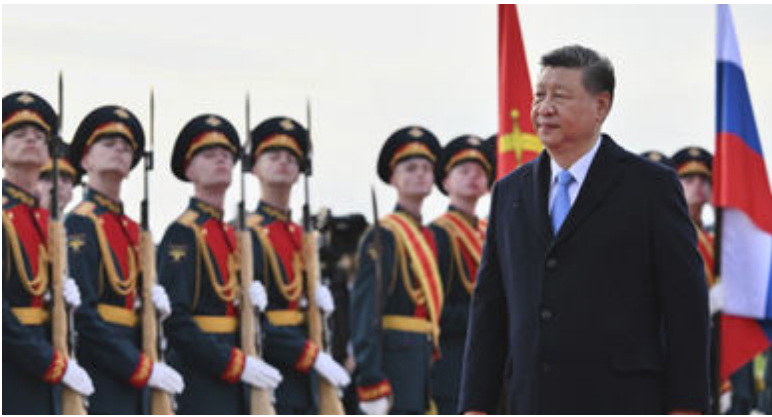
Though official details remain sparse, sources familiar with the matter suggest the deal will mark the beginning of renewed trade ties between Washington and London, potentially outlining a broader framework that may still be subject to further negotiations. It is unclear whether the agreement has been fully finalized or is still a preliminary outline.

Trump has spent recent weeks promoting the possibility of new trade agreements, following his administration's decision last month to impose sweeping tariffs on multiple global trading partners. Most of these tariffs were temporarily suspended to allow time for negotiations, and Trump has repeatedly stated that several countries are eager to reach agreements with the United States.

This U.S.-U.K. deal comes shortly after Britain finalized a significant free trade agreement with India—its largest since Brexit. That agreement was concluded after renewed discussions resumed in February, spurred in part by concerns over potential U.S. tariff escalations. The India deal reflects Britain's wider strategy to diversify trade relationships following its departure from the European Union, a move that necessitated new bilateral arrangements to sustain economic growth.

For the United Kingdom, strengthening economic ties with major partners such as the U.S. has become increasingly urgent in the post-Brexit era. The British government has actively pursued agreements across Asia and the Americas to offset disruptions caused by the EU exit and avoid the potential fallout from U.S. trade restrictions.

As Trump prepares to present what he called the "first of many" deals, attention now turns to whether the proposed agreement will usher in a new phase of transatlantic trade cooperation—or simply lay the groundwork for future negotiations.



## Xi Jinping and Lula Arrive in Russia Amid Ukraine Conflict for Victory Day Celebrations

TPN Correspondent | Russia

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva arrived in Moscow on Wednesday to attend Russia's Victory Day celebrations, marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Their visit comes at a time when Russia is engaged in intense military conflict with Ukraine, with both sides trading fire just hours before the event.

The commemorations, typically seen as a showcase of Russian military strength, are overshadowed this year by continued hostilities in the Ukraine war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reported that Russia launched a wave of ballistic missile and drone strikes overnight, deploying over 140 attack drones across multiple Ukrainian cities, including Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, and Kyi. Air raid sirens blared throughout the day, with numerous casualties and extensive damage reported.

In response, Ukraine launched its own attacks, prompting Russian forces to shoot down nine drones approaching Moscow, according to Mayor Sergei Sobyenin. These retaliatory strikes occurred just before a Russian-proposed three-day ceasefire was set to begin. While Zelensky has not agreed to Russia's truce proposal, he reiterated Ukraine's earlier offer of a 30-day ceasefire, calling it a genuine opportunity for diplomacy. "Russia gives no answer—only more strikes," Zelensky stated, emphasizing who he believes is responsible for prolonging the conflict. President Xi is expected to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday for bilateral discussions. Topics on the agenda include the ongoing Ukraine war, strained Russia-U.S. relations, and broader global strategic concerns.



## Bill Gates to Donate 99% of Wealth, Gates Foundation to Close by 2045

In a landmark philanthropic decision, Bill Gates announced on Thursday that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will shut down in 2045 after donating 99% of his remaining wealth—estimated at \$107 billion. The tech magnate and Microsoft co-founder plans to channel the remainder of his fortune into the foundation, enabling it to distribute an additional \$200 billion over the next two decades, according to the Associated Press.

"It's kind of thrilling to have that much to be able to put into these causes," Gates said in an interview, explaining that a 20-year window balances the urgency of global challenges with the need for structured, impactful giving.

Established in 2000 with Melinda French Gates, the Gates Foundation has been a transformative force in global health, poverty reduction, and education. To date, it has spent more than \$100 billion supporting scientific innovation, sanitation initiatives, vaccine distribution, and other critical services in low- and middle-income countries.

Gates emphasized that the decision to sunset the foundation by 2045 reflects a strategic shift to concentrate resources in a finite period for maximum impact. "I think 20 years is the right balance between giving as much as we can to make progress on these things and giving people a lot of notice that now this money will be gone," he noted. About 41% of the foundation's total funds have come from Gates' longtime friend and fellow billionaire Warren Buffett, with the rest contributed by Gates himself. Their joint effort helped establish global health programs such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Fund, which combats HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. Gates said this philanthropic journey has become his "second and final career," driven by the stark disparity he discovered in global health funding.

## No New Pope Yet: Black Smoke Signals Inconclusive Voting on Day Two of Vatican Conclave

TPN Correspondent | Vatican City

The Catholic Church continues to wait for a new leader, as black smoke once again billowed from the Sistine Chapel chimney on Thursday morning, signaling that the cardinals have yet to agree on a successor to Pope Francis. The smoke appeared at 11:50 a.m. local time (0950 GMT), following the second and third ballots of the papal conclave.

With none of the 133 voting cardinals securing the required two-thirds majority—at least 89 votes—the process to elect the 267th pope remains unresolved. The cardinals returned to their Vatican residences for a midday break and lunch before reconvening for an afternoon voting session, during which two more ballots are expected.

On Wednesday, the opening day of the conclave, the first round of voting ended with a similar result. Black smoke poured from the chimney just after 9 p.m., prompting speculation about the unusually long delay. Observers questioned whether the cardinals had needed to repeat the vote, address a health emergency, or accommodate translation needs. Others mused whether the papal preacher's meditation had simply run long.

Despite early predictions of a short conclave, the process has now entered its second day with no clear frontrunner. Historically, conclaves have required anywhere from three to 14 ballots to elect a new pope. Pope John Paul I was chosen on the fourth ballot in 1978, John Paul II on the eighth, and Pope Francis on the fifth in 2013.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State and one of the leading papabili, is currently guiding the proceedings. As the most senior cardinal under age 80, Parolin holds a central role in the election process.

St. Peter's Square remains a focal point for faithful and curious onlookers alike. Thousands have gathered to watch the event unfold on large video screens. While some left disappointed after the extended wait, many remained to cheer as smoke finally emerged.

Pope Francis appointed 108 of the 133 voting cardinals, many from less traditional regions such as Mongolia, Tonga, and Sweden—adding diversity and unpredictability to the outcome. The conclave continues with suspense, as the world awaits the emergence of white smoke.





# Geopolitical Tensions and Global Cues Rattle Markets; Sensex Falls 411 pts, Nifty Drops 140 pts

**D**omestic stock markets were in turmoil today. The broad and benchmark indices lost ground on Thursday. This was due to negative signals from international markets, the war atmosphere between India and Pakistan, and increasing tensions. As investors preferred to take profits, the indices, which had been moving in a range-bound manner since morning, finally fell. Nifty 140 and Sensex lost 411 points. India Vicks rose by 10% today in a single day, indicating uncertainty.



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The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,746 in the previous session, opened at 80,912 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 79,987. It reached an intraday high of 80,927. It finally closed at 80,334 with a gain of 411 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,431, touched a low of 24,150 and a high of 24,447. It closed at 24,273, down 140 points. The Nifty Bank fell 245 points to settle at 54,365.

In the Nifty50, 5 companies gained and 45 lost. Axis Bank, HCL Tech, Kotak Bank, Titan, Tata Motors were the top gainers. Shriram Finance, Eternal, M&M, Adani Enterprises, and Hindalco were the biggest losers. Today, the Fear Index India VIX rose 10.21% to 21.01. Mid and smallcap indices were mixed. IT and media indices rose marginally. Realty, healthcare, metal, finance, auto, pharma, oil, PSU bank, consumption, FMCG indices rose.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2937 shares trad-

ed, 820 gained. 2027 lost. 26 shares touched their 62-week high and 52 shares touched their 52-week low. 73 shares reached the upper circuit and 61 shares reached the lower circuit.

Rupee weakened by 88 paise to settle at 85.71 against the dollar. Morgan Stanley has given an underweight rating to Dabur India with a target price of Rs. 396. Titan shares performed better ahead of the results. Citi has maintained its sell rating on PNB with a target price of Rs. 91. Nomura has given a neutral rating to Bank of Baroda with a target price of Rs 235. Escorts Kubota's net profit is Rs 250 crore and revenue is Rs 2430 crore. 15 lakh shares changed hands in IndusInd Bank. Asian Paints' Q4 profit is Rs 700 crore. Bharat Forge's net profit fell 11.3% to Rs 345 crore from Rs 389 crore. Niva Bupa's net profit rose 31% to Rs 206 crore from Rs 157 crore. Reliance Jio subscribers increased by 21.74 lakh in March. CLSA expects EMRAEF shares to rise another 20%. It has set a target price of Rs 1,68,000.

# SEBI Takes Action Against STL and Merchant Banker FOCL for Misutilisation of IPO Funds



**T**he Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued an interim order restricting Mumbai-based Synoptics Technologies Ltd (STL) from trading in the securities market due to the diversion and misutilisation of funds raised through its initial public offering (IPO). In a separate move, SEBI has also barred First Overseas Capital Ltd (FOCL), the lead manager to the IPO, from accepting any new assignments related to merchant banking.

STL, a small and medium-sized information technology solutions provider, raised a total of Rs 54.04 crore through its IPO, which was listed on the SME Platform of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on July 13, 2023. The IPO, priced at Rs 237 per share, included both a fresh issue of shares and an offer for sale. The company raised Rs 35.08 crore through the fresh issue, while Rs 18.96 crore was garnered through the offer for sale from two promoters, Jatin Shah, the company's managing director, and Jagmohan Manilal Shah.

According to the disclosures made in STL's red herring prospectus (RHP), the IPO-related expenses totaled Rs 80 lakh. Of these, Rs 50 lakh were to be paid from the proceeds of the fresh issue, while the remaining Rs 30 lakh was to be covered by the selling shareholders. After deducting these expenses, STL was expected to receive Rs 34.58 crore, which was meant for various purposes. These included repaying borrowings (Rs 5 crore), funding working capital (Rs 17.58 crore), making investments in strategic acquisitions or joint ventures (Rs 5.3 crore), and general corporate purposes (Rs 6.7 crore).

However, SEBI's interim order comes after the regulator discovered that STL had diverted and misused these funds, prompting the restrictions on the company and the barring of FOCL from taking up new IPO-related assignments. The action underscores SEBI's commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability in the capital markets.

# Tata Group Stock Climbs After Net Profit Jumps 112%, Check Dividend Announcement



**V**oltas Ltd's stock witnessed a strong surge on Thursday, gaining up to 3% intraday following the company's stellar Q4 FY25 earnings. The shares climbed to the day's high of ₹1,287.60 apiece on the BSE, compared to the previous close of ₹1,244.45. At the time of reporting, the stock was trading at ₹1,260.90, up 1.32%, taking the company's market capitalisation to ₹41,744.42 crore. Voltas is a constituent of the BSE 200 index.

The rally comes on the back of a robust financial performance for the quarter ended March 31, 2025. The Tata Group company reported a 14% year-on-year increase in consolidated total income, which stood at ₹4,847 crore, compared to ₹4,257 crore in Q4 FY24. Profit before tax almost doubled, surging 97% to ₹343 crore from ₹174 crore, while net profit (after tax) rose to ₹236 crore from ₹111 crore—a 113% increase.

Voltas also posted its highest-ever annual profit for the financial year ending March 31, 2025. The consolidated income grew 24% year-on-year to ₹15,737 crore from ₹12,734

crore. Profit before tax skyrocketed by 145% to ₹1,191 crore, while net profit soared to ₹834 crore, a 236% rise from the previous year's ₹248 crore.

In recognition of its strong performance, the company's board declared a dividend of ₹7 per share (700%) on a face value of ₹1 for FY 2024–25. The dividend will be paid on or after the fifth day following the conclusion of the 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Founded in 1954 and part of the Tata Group, Voltas Ltd is a leading provider of air conditioning and engineering solutions. Its product portfolio includes room air conditioners, air coolers, air purifiers, water dispensers, commercial refrigeration, and commercial air conditioning systems.

The remarkable financial results and dividend announcement have reinforced investor confidence in Voltas, further cementing its position as a leader in the consumer durables and cooling solutions space.

# Adani Green Becomes World's 1st Renewable Energy IPP To Turn Water Positive

**A**dani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has become the world's first renewable energy Independent Power Producer (IPP) to achieve water positivity across its entire operational portfolio, which now exceeds a remarkable 14 GW in capacity.

Achieving this milestone a full year ahead of its FY26 target, AGEL has set a new global benchmark for sustainability among the top 10 renewable energy companies worldwide.

Certified as water positive by global assurance firm Intertek, AGEL's achievement follows rigorous audits of water usage and conservation efforts across 103 operational sites and 85 water conservation sites. This certification marks AGEL as the only renewable energy company in India of its scale to reach such a standard.

Water positivity means replenishing more water than is consumed in operations—an especially significant accomplishment given AGEL's large-scale solar and wind farms are situated in some of India's most arid and water-scarce regions, such as Khavda in Gujarat and the Thar Desert.

AGEL's efforts have resulted in water conservation equivalent to 467 Olympic-sized swimming pools, enough to meet more than half the annual water demand of the Lakshadweep islands. The revitalization of 85 traditional ponds now supports over 1.23 lakh people, including many from water-stressed

communities.

Over 54% of AGEL's operational capacity uses robotic cleaning systems for solar panels, saving around 546 million litres of water annually. The company also implements rainwater harvesting, pond deepening, and even innovative pilot projects like harvesting drinking water from humid air.

Originally setting a goal to make 200 MW of its portfolio water positive by FY26, AGEL exceeded that target in FY23 and expanded it to the entire operational capacity—reaching the revised goal a year early.

“This milestone is not just about clean energy—it's about generating it in the most sustainable way,” an AGEL spokesperson said. In addition to being water positive, AGEL's operations are also single-use plastic free and zero waste-to-landfill, reinforcing its role as a leader in environmentally responsible energy.

As climate change and population growth increase pressure on global water supplies, AGEL's achievement is a powerful model for sustainable industrial practices.





## Memes Over Missiles: Youth Turn Tensions into Satire Amid India-Pakistan Flare-Up

As tensions simmer once again between India and Pakistan, a surprising response has taken over the digital landscape — not of fear, but of wit. Across platforms like X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Facebook, users, especially from the younger generation, are reacting with a barrage of memes and sarcastic commentary that blend humour with the absurdity of geopolitical anxieties.

Instead of engaging in heated debates or echoing fear-driven narratives, many netizens are resorting to satire to cope with the situation. One meme making the rounds captures the academic anxiety of students with the text: “Please jung maat karo, social studies ka syllabus bad jayega” (“Please don’t go to war, the social studies syllabus will be increased”). Another popular post features the dilemma of a student during mock drills: “Mock drill ho raha hai, end sems ke liye padna hai ya nahi?” (“There’s a mock drill happening — should I study for the end-semester exams or not?”).

These memes, though humorous on the surface, reflect a deeper reality — a generation that has grown up in the shadow of political instability, economic turbulence, and global crises. An Instagram reel circulating widely captures this sentiment perfectly: “We



are the generation that witnessed the lockdown, earthquake, demonetization, COVID, Ram Mandir, MahaKumbh.” The commentary is less about trivializing events and more about expressing collective exhaustion with an era marked by constant upheaval.

What’s striking is how satire has become a tool of resilience. For many young people, memes offer a safe, creative space to process complex emotions surrounding conflict, uncertainty, and media sensationalism. It’s a form of digital dissent — subtle yet powerful — against fear-mongering and hyper-nationalism.

While the geopolitical climate remains serious, the online response reveals a generational shift in how conflict is perceived and discussed. In a world where traditional diplomacy often falls short, humour has emerged as an unlikely, yet effective, coping mechanism. Through laughter, this generation is not dismissing the gravity of the situation — they’re simply choosing to face it on their own terms, one meme at a time.

## Rs 85 Crore Per Litre: The Hidden Fortune Inside a Scorpion’s Sting

In a world full of hidden treasures, few would expect one of the most valuable substances on Earth to come from a creature most people fear — the scorpion. Its venom, feared for its painful and potentially dangerous sting, is also one of the most expensive liquids globally, priced at an astonishing \$10 million, or approximately Rs 85 crore, per litre.

Most of us react to a scorpion with instinctive fear — we either kill it or steer clear. But behind that tiny arachnid, often no bigger than a thumb, lies a substance of immense scientific and monetary value. What makes scorpion venom so valuable is not just its rarity, but its promising applications in modern medicine.

Used beyond just producing antivenom, scorpion



venom has shown potential in treating serious medical conditions such as osteoarthritis, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and myasthenia gravis — a chronic neuromuscular disorder. Extracted venom is further processed into powder in highly specialized laboratories, where it transforms into a pharmaceutical resource worth millions.

However, obtaining this rare liquid is no easy task. Harvesting scorpion ven-

om is both dangerous and highly labour-intensive. A single scorpion yields only about 2 millilitres of venom at a time, meaning that hundreds of thousands of extractions are required to produce just one litre. The process demands precision, expertise, and unwavering caution. A single mishap could lead to serious injury — or worse.

Surprisingly, scorpions aren’t rare creatures confined to exotic locations.

In fact, they are relatively common in various parts of India, especially during the monsoon season. While their presence usually causes panic, few are aware of the untapped fortune they carry in their stingers.

Despite the potentially massive financial rewards, collecting scorpion venom is not a field for amateurs. The risks are real, and proper training, equipment, and scientific support are essential to pursue such a venture safely.

So, the next time you encounter a scorpion, think twice. Beneath its menacing shell lies one of the world’s most lucrative natural substances — proof that sometimes, great value comes from the most unexpected places.

## The Dark Truth Behind Fashion: Snakes Skinned Alive for Luxury Goods

In Kapetakan, a small village in Java, Indonesia, snakes are not feared or killed out of self-defense, but are slaughtered for the fashion industry. Here, venomous creatures like cobras are captured, tortured, and killed to produce high-end items like handbags, shoes, and belts. The brutal reality behind these luxury goods is disturbing and often hidden from the public eye.



then skinned alive, their suffering captured in horrific images.

This inhumane practice is carried out in the slaughterhouse of Boss Cobra, or Wakira. The factory, which has been under scrutiny since 2013, produces luxury leather goods from the skins of these tortured creatures. Items such as wallets, belts, and shoes made from the snakes’ skin are sold at extremely low prices within Indonesia but can fetch

sky-high prices overseas, reaching up to ₹33 lakh in European and American markets.

The demand for exotic leather goods has led to the rise of such cruel industries, where animal suffering is directly linked to consumer fashion. What’s even more alarming is how these luxury products are marketed as symbols of status and exclusivity, with little regard for the lives that are sacrificed to create them.

This horrifying practice calls attention to the need for ethical fashion choices and cruelty-free alternatives. As consumers, we must ask ourselves if these luxury items are worth the price of suffering that these animals endure. The fashion industry’s dark side demands greater awareness and responsible action.

## Meta Reportedly Considered Bringing Facial Recognition Support to Its Smart Glasses

Meta is reportedly working on a controversial new feature for its Ray-Ban Meta AI smart glasses that could enable users to identify people nearby by scanning their faces. This feature, which would be optional for the wearer, has raised concerns due to its lack of opt-out options for those who are being scanned. While the glasses already indicate when the built-in camera is in use by flashing an LED light, it remains unclear if any similar visual cue would be provided when facial recognition is active.

The idea behind this feature is based on Meta’s existing “Live AI” functionality, referred to internally as “super sensing.” It would allow users to identify people in their vicinity, potentially linking names and faces. This has sparked significant concern about privacy, as people around the user wouldn’t be able to



prevent their faces from being scanned. Meta, however, has suggested that the camera indicator light on the glasses may not activate when the facial recognition feature is used, making it even more difficult for individuals nearby to know when they’re being identified.

This new feature could mirror an experiment conducted last year by two Harvard University students, who created a system called I-XRAY. This

technology used Meta’s smart glasses along with facial recognition software and public databases to identify classmates, even revealing their home addresses. While I-XRAY was never released, it highlighted the ease with which facial recognition can be used in public spaces, making Meta’s potential integration of the technology all the more concerning.

The concern here is not just about the power of facial recognition but also

the ethical implications of using such technology without giving individuals a choice to opt out. If Meta moves forward with this feature, it could significantly impact personal privacy and surveillance, leading to questions about how such technology should be regulated. The smart glasses are designed to enhance convenience, but the introduction of facial recognition could lead to serious societal consequences if not properly managed.

## Design the Skyline: UAE residents can win Rs 23L in Burj Khalifa design competition

In a unique fusion of art, innovation, and urban architecture, Dubai-based real estate giant Emaar has launched an open call inviting residents and creatives across the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to design a projection for the iconic Burj Khalifa. The winner of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will receive a cash prize of AED 100,000 (approximately ₹23 lakh), and have their work displayed on the world’s tallest building.

Running from May 6 to May 26, this initiative opens up a rare creative platform for artists, designers, and visual storytellers to showcase their talent on a global stage. Participants are encouraged to submit original projection videos or animations that embody themes of creativity, innovation, and Dubai’s vibrant cultural spirit.

In a statement, Mohamed Alabbar, Founder of Emaar, expressed his vision behind the initiative. “At Emaar, we believe that talent knows no boundaries. Burj Khalifa stands not only as a symbol of human achievement but also as a canvas for creativity and innovation — open to everyone with a talent to share,” he said.

“Through initiatives like this, we reaffirm our commitment to nurturing creativity and providing a platform where ideas can reach new heights. We are proud to open our doors to every dreamer, artist, and innovator, offering them the opportunity to contribute to our collective story of achievement,” Alabbar added.

Submissions must in-

clude a three-minute dynamic visual projection that aligns with the technical specifications required for the Burj Khalifa’s advanced lighting and projection systems. Detailed guidelines regarding format, resolution, and mapping criteria are available on the official Burj Khalifa website.

To participate, applicants must send their entries to [opencall@emaar.ae](mailto:opencall@emaar.ae) along with a short concept description that outlines the inspiration and narrative behind their design. The winning entry will not only receive a substantial monetary award but will also become part of the visual identity of Dubai’s skyline — a monumental honour for any creative.

With this open call, Emaar is turning the Burj Khalifa into a beacon of artistic expression, providing a powerful stage for emerging and established creatives alike to make their mark in lights.





# Rohit Sharma Retires from Test Cricket, Continues in ODIs and IPL



### 'Hitman' ends Test career

Rohit Sharma, 38, announced his retirement from Test cricket on May 7, 2025. Having already retired from T20Is, he will continue to play in ODIs.

International career: 2007-2025

	M	Inn	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100/50
Tests	67	116	4301	212	40.57	57.05	12/18
ODI	273	265	11,168	264	48.76	92.80	32/58
T20I	159	151	4231	121	32.05	140.89	5/32

Major trophies

T20 World Cup (2024, 2027)

Asia Cup (2018, 2023)

Champions League T20 (2013)

IPL (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020)

Source: ESPN CricInfo

In a move that caught few by surprise, Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket on May 8, 2025, via an Instagram story. The 38-year-old's decision comes after a difficult tour of Australia, where he managed just 31 runs from five innings. Following that tour, he had already dropped himself from the final Test in Sydney, signaling the end of his Test career. The Indian selectors had also reportedly decided not to retain him as captain for the upcoming England tour, further confirming that his time in the longest format was nearing its end.

Rohit, who had previously retired from T20 Internationals, will continue to represent India in One Day Internationals (ODIs), where he has been one of the game's greats. Known for his spectacular batting and phenomenal strike rate, he has amassed over 11,000 runs in ODIs, including leading India to victory in the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy. Recently, he was named 'Player of the Match' for his 76-run performance

against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy, and has maintained his impressive form in the IPL with the Mumbai Indians, despite a slow start to the season.

Rohit's journey in Test cricket began in 2013 against the West Indies, following an injury delay in 2010. His debut match saw him score an impressive 177 runs at number six. While he showed early promise in the longer format, his Test career was never as consistent as his success in ODIs. Despite a fine total of 4,301 runs from 67 Tests, with an average of 40.57 and 12 centuries, his Test career was often interrupted by injury and inconsistency.

For now, Rohit will continue to lead India in ODIs and remain a key figure in the IPL, where his leadership and batting are crucial. His retirement from Test cricket marks the end of an era, but his legacy in the shorter formats will continue to shine.

# PBKS vs DC Called Off Amid Security Concerns in Dharamsala

The highly anticipated IPL 2025 match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala was abandoned due to security concerns stemming from regional unrest. The decision to call off Match 58 came after a sudden power outage during the game, followed by the activation of air raid alerts in nearby areas, including a black-out in Jammu, approximately 200 kilometers away.



According to IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal, the match was called off as a "precautionary step" after reports emerged of missile activity and intercepts in Jammu. Initially attributed to floodlight malfunction, the stadium lost lighting tower by tower until only one remained functional. Fans were subsequently evacuated, and both teams were taken off the field for their safety.

At the time of abandonment, Punjab Kings were in a commanding position at 122/1 in 10.1 overs. Priyansh Arya had played a blistering knock of 70 off 34 balls before being dismissed by T Natarajan, while Prabhsimran Singh remained unbeaten at 50 from 28 deliveries. The top order's explosive start set a strong foundation before the match came to an abrupt halt.

Reports also noted sirens and blackouts in Dharamsala, possibly linked to national security protocols in response

to the Jammu incident, where Pakistani missiles were reportedly intercepted. This raised speculation about the continuation of the IPL 2025 season, with sources indicating that a final decision on the league's fate may be announced by Friday, May 9.

Both franchises had much at stake, with Punjab Kings in excellent form this season. However, safety took precedence, and authorities acted swiftly to prevent any potential risks. Fans were left disappointed, but the organizers prioritized caution amid escalating regional tensions. As the situation develops, the future of the remaining IPL 2025 matches remains uncertain.

# PSG Defeats Arsenal to Reach Second Champions League Final, Set to Face Inter Milan

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) secured their place in the UEFA Champions League final for the second time in five years, defeating Arsenal 2-1 in the second leg of their semifinal on May 7, 2025, with a 3-1 aggregate win. The French side will now face Inter Milan in the final, following their dramatic victory over Barcelona in the other semifinal.



PSG weathered an early storm from Arsenal, with goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma making several crucial saves to keep the Gunners at bay. Despite Arsenal's fast start, PSG struck first in the 27th minute when Fabian Ruiz capitalized on a defensive error by

Arsenal's Thomas Partey. Ruiz latched onto the ball and smashed a powerful shot past Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya to give PSG the lead.

In the second half, PSG sealed their win when Achraf Hakimi scored in the 72nd minute after a clever one-two with Ousmane Dembélé, who had just come on as a substitute. Arse-

nal's hopes were briefly revived when Bukayo Saka scored in the 76th minute, but a missed opportunity from Saka moments later, when he blazed a clear chance over the bar, ensured PSG's progression to the final.

Although Arsenal fought valiantly, their efforts fell short, and they were denied a first Champions League final appearance since 2006. Despite missing a penalty earlier in the match, PSG's composure and defensive resilience, along with the brilliance of Donnarumma in goal, ensured they progressed.

PSG, under coach Luis Enrique, have shown significant improvement since their last final appearance in 2020, and now they face a historic showdown against Inter Milan on May 31 in Munich. This will be the first-ever meeting between the two teams in European competition, and the final will mark the first Champions League final between an Italian and French team since 1993.

# India Defeats South Africa by 23 Runs to Set Up Tri-Series Final Against Sri Lanka

India secured a 23-run victory over South Africa in the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series on May 7, 2025, thanks to a brilliant career-best century from Jemimah Rodrigues. India's 337/9 total proved to be too much for South Africa, who could only manage 314/7 in response. This result has set up a title clash with Sri Lanka in the final.



Rodrigues' stunning 123 off 101 balls, which included 15 boundaries and a six, anchored India's innings. She shared valuable partnerships, including an 88-run stand with opener Smriti Mandhana (51) and a 122-run partnership with Deepti Sharma (93). Rodrigues was dismissed in the 43rd over while attempting a shot over the offside, but her knock had already put India in a commanding position.

Deepti, who played a classy

93-run knock, ensured India continued to pile on the runs after Rodrigues' departure. South Africa's bowlers, led by Masabata Klaas (2/51), Nadine de Klerk (2/54), and Nonkululeko Mlaba (2/71), struggled to contain India's batters.

In reply, South Africa faced a challenging target and lost their first wicket early, with Lara Goodall departing for just 7. Tazmin Brits (26) and Miane Smit (39) rebuilt with a 63-run partnership for the second wicket, but India's bowlers kept the pressure on, limiting South Africa to ones and twos. Despite a valiant effort from

Annerie Dercksen, who scored 81 off 80 balls, and stand-in captain Chloe Tryon, who contributed 67 off 43 balls, the required run rate kept climbing.

In the final overs, South Africa's hopes faded as they struggled to maintain the pace. After a brief halt due to poor light, Tryon and Nadine de Klerk added 15 more runs, but it wasn't enough.

India's win secured them six points from the round-robin phase, and they now await Sri Lanka in the final. South Africa, having lost all three of their games, have been eliminated from the tournament.

**Brief Scores:**  
India: 337/9 (Rodrigues 123, Deepti 93, Mandhana 51; Klaas 2/51, de Klerk 2/54)  
South Africa: 314/7 (Dercksen 81, Tryon 67; Amanjot 3/59, Deepti 2/57)

# Sania Mirza Applauds Women Officers Behind 'Operation Sindoor' Briefing

Former Indian tennis star Sania Mirza took to social media to praise two women officers for their powerful media briefing on India's successful execution of "Operation Sindoor." The operation, carried out by the Indian Army and Air Force, targeted nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025.



Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh were part of the briefing, which was led by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. Mirza shared a post by journalist Faye D'Souza, who highlighted the significance of the photo showing the two women officers alongside Misri. D'Souza remarked, "The messaging in this very powerful photo perfectly captures who we are as a nation." Mirza, celebrating the moment, shared the post, emphasizing the strength and unity represented by the women from different religions.

Colonel Qureshi discussed the operation's importance, stating that it marked a shift in strategy after three decades of Pakistan's construction of terror infrastructure across PoK and Pakistan. The operation's aim was to dismantle these facilities and prevent further attacks. The targets included key areas such as Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Bahawalpur, which have long been suspected of hosting terrorist

camps.

In total, over 70 terrorists were killed, and more than 60 were injured in the missile strikes. The operation is seen as a proportionate response to the April 22 attack, which killed 26 people, including a Nepali national. Mirza's post praised the professionalism and power of the women officers, showing solidarity with the Indian armed forces and celebrating their contributions to the nation's security.

This historic briefing, led by two strong women in the Indian military, has struck a chord with the public and garnered widespread support for the operation and its message.





# Ram Pothineni’s RAPO 22 Title Glimpse to Be Unveiled on May 15

Tollywood star Ram Pothineni is set to return to the big screen with his 22nd film, tentatively titled RAPO 22, under the direction of Mahesh Babu P. Known for his previous hit Miss Shetty Mr. Shetty, Mahesh Babu P is teaming up with Ram for an emotional, romantic drama that promises to resonate with a wide audience.

RAPO 22 stars the rising actress Bhagyashree Bose as the female lead, fresh off her recent success in Tollywood. The film’s storyline reportedly centers on a passionate fan named Sagar, whose obsession with his favorite actor defines his journey. The theme explores the deep emotional connection fans often have with their idols, making it a relatable experience for the audience.

Excitement around the film is building as the production team has announced that the title glimpse will be unveiled on May 15, coinciding with Ram Pothineni’s birthday. The announcement was made via a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), which read: “ONE FAN. ONE SHOW. A MILLION EMOTIONS. Get ready to meet ‘Sagar’—the fanboy we all will relate to.”

While the official title is yet to be confirmed, the name “Andhra King Thaluka” is currently being rumored across fan circles and social media.

RAPO 22 is being bankrolled by leading production house Mythri Movie Makers, known for backing some of the biggest recent blockbusters in Telugu cinema. The music is being composed by the energetic and versatile duo Vivek–Mervin, who are expected to bring a youthful and emotional soundtrack to the film.



Ram Pothineni has reportedly undergone a complete makeover for his role in RAPO 22, adding further intrigue to the character of Sagar. Sources close to the project say the actor is deeply invested in the role and aiming for a powerful comeback.

With its emotionally rich plot and a promising cast and crew, RAPO 22 is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu films in the coming months.



## Sree Vishnu’s Single Promises Entertainment, Drama, and Exciting Debuts

Sree Vishnu’s upcoming film Single, scheduled for a grand release on May 9, 2025, is generating plenty of buzz with its trailer, which has captivated audiences and sparked interest. The film is expected to offer a healthy dose of entertainment, drama, and comedy, making it one of the most anticipated releases of the year.

According to the makers, the second half of Single is set to bring the laughs, with Venela Kishore’s role being a major highlight. Known for his impeccable comedic timing, Kishore is expected to deliver some of the funniest moments in the film, providing plenty of light-hearted

entertainment. His presence is likely to be a crowd-puller, and fans are eager to see how his character unfolds.

For Ketika Sharma, Single represents a significant opportunity to showcase her talent. After gaining some recognition with her song in Robinhood, Sharma is determined to make a solid impact with this film. She has high hopes for its success, as the role offers her a strong and prominent character, potentially setting the stage for even greater recognition in the industry.

Adding to the excitement, Single marks the Telugu debut of Ivana, the breakout star of Love Today. Ivana’s

role in the film is being described as significant, and if the movie performs well at the box office, it could be a major turning point in her career. The opportunity to shine in a prominent role is sure to elevate her profile in the Telugu film industry.

With an exciting cast, promising performances, and a compelling narrative, Single is shaping up to be a must-watch film. The combination of entertainment, drama, and comedy, along with the promise of powerful debuts, makes it a highly anticipated release this weekend. Fans are eagerly awaiting May 9, 2025, to see how the film delivers on its promises.

## Samantha Ruth Prabhu’s Subham Premieres to Rave Reviews



Samantha Ruth Prabhu has ventured into production with her debut project, Subham, which is directed by Praveen Kandregula. The film, slated for a theatrical release on May 9, 2025, had its premiere last night, and early reviews are overwhelmingly positive. The blend of comedy and horror, paired with a quirky tone, has struck a chord with audiences, earning Samantha praise for her strong start in the world of film pro-

duction.

Subham marks an exciting new chapter for the star, who has garnered attention not only for her acting but now as a producer with a distinctive vision. The film’s innovative mix of genres is seen as one of its strongest elements, capturing the attention of critics and viewers alike.

The cast of Subham includes a talented group of actors

such as Harshith Malgireddy, Shriya Kontham, Charan Peri, Shalini Kondepudi, Gavireddy Srinivas, and Shravani, each delivering solid performances that complement the unique storyline. The music, composed by Shor Police, adds to the film’s charm, while the background score by Vivek Sagar further enhances its eerie yet comedic atmosphere.

With Subham, Samantha Ruth Prabhu proves that her talents

extend beyond acting, offering audiences a refreshing cinematic experience. The positive reception to the premiere has generated excitement for its upcoming release in theatres, and fans are eager to see how the film performs at the box office.

Stay tuned for more updates as Subham prepares to hit the big screens tomorrow, promising a thrilling and entertaining ride.

## Wamiqa Gabbi’s “Bhool Chuk Maaf” Ditches Theatrical Release, Heads Straight to OTT

In a surprising move, Wamiqa Gabbi’s much-awaited film Bhool Chuk Maaf, which was slated for a theatrical release on May 9, 2025, will now skip theatres and instead premiere on Amazon Prime Video on May 16, 2025. The sudden shift has caught fans off guard, but there’s a clear reason behind this last-minute change.

Maddock Films, in partnership with Amazon MGM Studios, issued a statement explaining that the decision was made due to “recent events and heightened nationwide security drills,” prioritizing public safety and ease of access. Producer Dinesh Vijan confirmed that the film’s release strategy was adjusted with these concerns in mind, ensuring that audiences could still enjoy the film safely from their homes.

This change echoes the pandemic-era trend of films bypassing traditional theatrical releases in favor of direct-to-digital platforms. With this shift, Bhool Chuk Maaf may set a precedent for future OTT-first releases, though whether this will become a recurring strategy in the industry remains to be seen.

The film, directed by Karan Sharma, stars Rajkumar Rao alongside a talented ensemble



cast that includes Seema Pahwa, Sanjay Mishra, Raghubir Yadav, and Zakir Hussain. The music is composed by Tanishk Bagchi, with the score provided by Ketan Sodha, adding to the film’s intrigue.

While this change has left many curious, the decision to release Bhool Chuk Maaf on a streaming platform seems to reflect a careful consideration of the current climate, with a focus on delivering the film to audiences safely and efficiently. Fans will now have to wait a little longer but can still look forward to watching the film on Amazon Prime Video when it premieres on May 16.

## Bollywood Producers Rush to Register “Operation Sindoor” Title Amid Military Action

Following the recent launch of “Operation Sindoor” by the Indian Armed Forces in response to the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Bollywood producers are scrambling to secure the rights to the title. The operation, which targeted terror camps in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Pakistan, was carried out in retaliation for the tragic loss of 26 innocent tourists in the attack.

Since the operation’s announcement, multiple leading production houses have reportedly queued up to register the title “Operation Sindoor” for an upcoming film. Mahaveer Jain Films is currently in the lead, being the first production company to secure the title. Renowned filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar is also said to have followed suit, registering the title shortly after. Other major film studios, such as Zee Studios and T-Series, are also in the race, with plans to develop a film inspired by the operation and the Pahalgam attack.

The title “Operation Sindoor” is seen as a powerful and emotional choice, as it not only references the recent military strike but also serves as a tribute to the women who lost their husbands and family members in the terror attack. The title has already captured the attention of the industry, with many speculating which banner will ultimately secure the rights



to use it.

The frenzy to register the title reflects Bollywood’s ongoing interest in military-based films, which are often well-received by audiences. Movies like Border, URI: The Surgical Strike, Raazi, and Amanat have all enjoyed significant success, and this trend is likely influencing producers’ eagerness to capitalize on the current national sentiment surrounding the military’s decisive actions.

The industry is abuzz with anticipation, and according to the registration rules, the first producer to register the title will gain the rights to it. It remains to be seen which production house will officially announce a movie under the “Operation Sindoor” banner in the coming days.