

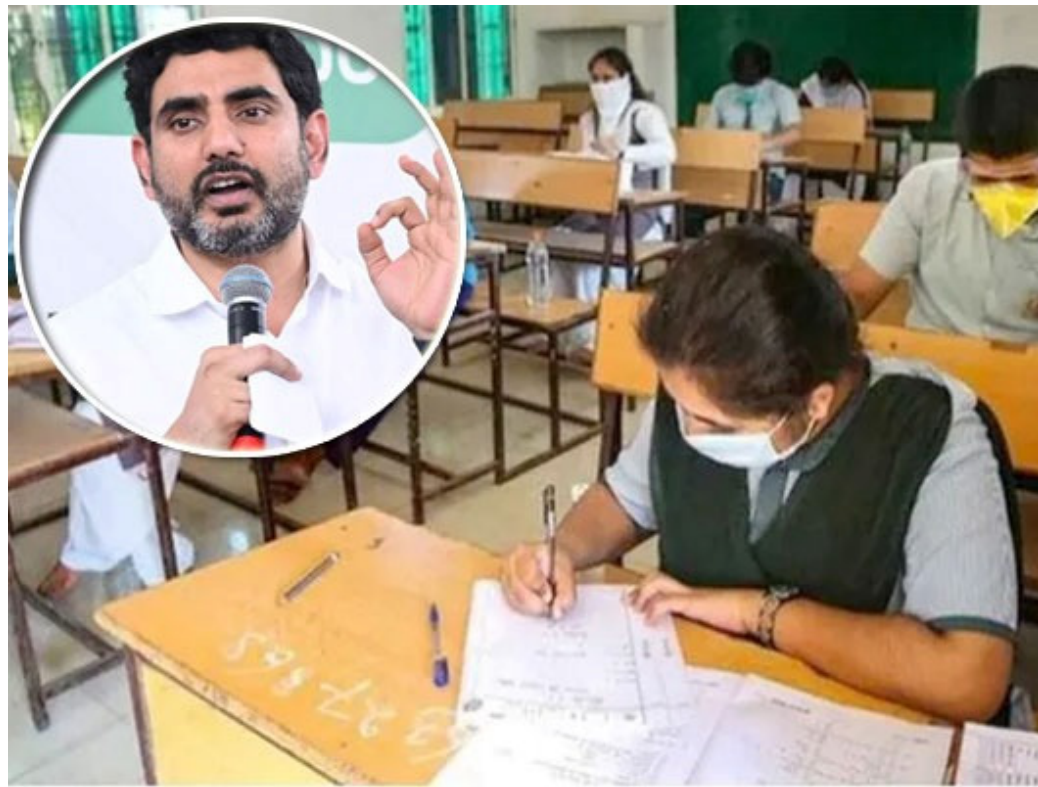


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# Revaluation Row Triggers Up roar in State

Govt Faces Tough Questions Over 10th Class Marks Scandal



AP SSC RVRC MARCH (2024 and 2025) Marks Ranges

SNO	MARKS RANGE	YEAR 2025	%	YEAR 2024	%
1	NO CHANGE	55,188	83.16%	46,699	83.50%
2	RANGE 1 TO 5	8,863	13.36%	7,430	13.28%
3	RANGE 6 TO 10	1,506	2.27%	1,114	1.99%
4	RANGE 11 TO 15	343	0.52%	232	0.41%
5	RANGE 16 TO 20	163	0.25%	146	0.26%
6	RANGE 21 TO 25	86	0.13%	58	0.10%
7	RANGE 26 TO 30	56	0.08%	87	0.16%
8	RANGE 31 TO 35	35	0.05%	63	0.11%
9	RANGE 36 TO 40	31	0.05%	34	0.06%
10	RANGE 41 TO 45	21	0.03%	23	0.04%
11	RANGE 46 TO 50	33	0.05%	20	0.04%
12	RANGE 51 TO 55	11	0.02%	9	0.02%
13	RANGE 56 TO 60	13	0.02%	7	0.01%
14	RANGE 61 TO 65	5	0.01%	4	0.01%
15	RANGE 66 TO 70	4	0.01%	1	0.00%
16	RANGE 71 TO 75	3	0.00%	0	0.00%
17	RANGE 76 TO 80	2	0.00%	2	0.00%
18	RANGE 81 TO 85	0	0.00%	1	0.00%
19	RANGE 86 TO 90	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
20	RANGE 91 TO 95	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
21	RANGE 96 TO 100	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL		66,363		55,930	

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A major controversy has erupted in the state after over 11,175 students saw changes in their SSC marks following revaluation, including shocking cases where two students gained up to 80 marks. As the department falls under HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, the issue has taken a political turn, leaving government officials scrambling to contain the damage amid criticism from parents, educators, and opposition parties. The Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) revealed that out of 34,709 students who applied for rechecking, 11,175 answer scripts recorded changes in marks, with 3,119 cases showing discrepancies exceeding five marks. “These larger changes made up just 0.068% of the total answer scripts evaluated,” said Dr. K.V. Srinivasulu Reddy, Director of Government Examinations, while assuring that “the Directorate has acted with full responsibility to correct them and ensure accountability.”

In the current academic year 2015, a total of 66,363 scripts were submitted for review, including 64,251 for reverification and 2,112 for re-counting. Of these, 11,175 cases resulted in changes, accounting for 17% of the total. The mass corrections have raised concerns about the integrity of the evaluation process. Teachers, however, blame systemic pressure and unrealistic targets set by the department. “We were expected to evaluate 40 scripts a day, but in reality,

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## Environmental Protection is Everyone’s Responsibility: CM

- “Can we expect clean air without planting trees?” – CM N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Green cover target: 37% by 2029, 50% by 2047
- Girls must contribute to the environment through the ‘Seed Rakhi’ campaign
- Appointment of ‘Andhra Forest Man’ Ankarao as Advisor to Forest & Environment Department
- Mission launched to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day
- CM plants trees along with Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan in ADC Park, Ananthavaram, Amaravati

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati, June 5, 2025:

“Protecting the environment is everyone’s responsibility. Every citizen must contribute to the mission of Swachh Andhra. Is it fair to expect clean air without planting trees? Andhra Pradesh will set an example for the nation in environmental protection,” said CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, addressing the Vanamahotsavam event on World Environment Day at Ananthavaram in Tulluru Mandal. He planted saplings with Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan in the ADC Park and inspected pollution control stalls set up near the venue. Target: 50% Green Cover by 2047 “It is a matter of great pride to launch the initiative to plant one crore saplings in a single day. By the next Environment Day, we aim to grow 5.58 crore saplings. Currently, Andhra Pradesh has 37,421 sq. km of forest area, which is 23% of the total state area. Including greenery outside forests, the state’s green cover stands at 30.05%. Our goal is to increase this to 50% by 2047. We must become a national role model in greenery.

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## Top Maoist Leader Sudhakar Killed in Chhattisgarh Encounter

- Fierce gunfight erupts in Bijapur Forest, Sudhakar gunned down
- ₹1 crore reward Maoist leader, active for 40 years, eliminated

TPN Correspondent | Bijapur

In a major blow to the outlawed Maoist party, senior Central Committee member Tentu Lakshmi Narasimhachalam alias Sudhakar was killed in a fierce encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur district. The exchange of fire occurred in the Indravati Tiger Reserve area during a joint combing operation by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task Force (STF) in the early hours of Thursday. Sudhakar, who was carrying a reward of ₹1 crore, was one of the most wanted Maoist leaders, with a presence across Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra. He had been involved in the Maoist movement for nearly four decades and was known by multiple aliases including Gautam, Anand, Chanti Balakrishna, Ramaraju, and Somanna. A native of Satyavolu village in Pedapadu mandal of Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh, he also



participated in the 2004 peace talks with the then united Andhra Pradesh government. Bijapur Superintendent of Police Dr. Jitendra Yadav confirmed the encounter and the recovery of arms and explosives from the site. However, an official confirmation regarding Sudhakar’s identity and death is awaited. Security officials stated that the death toll may increase as the combing operation in the dense forest continues. This encounter marks the third major Maoist central committee leader eliminated by security forces in the past six months,

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## Deputy CM vows massive tree plantation drive

- Honors environmentalist Kumera Ankarao
- Targets forest fire prevention and awareness

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Environment Minister Pawan Kalyan gave an emotional speech at the World Environment Day programme in Ananthavaram, Amaravati. He announced a target of planting at least one crore saplings in the state by this day next year as a contribution to environmental protection. He stated that programs like forest fire prevention and raising environmental awareness will be undertaken. Pawan specially mentioned environmentalist Kumera Ankarao, who was moved by seeing a bird die from eating plastic waste at the age of 14 and has dedicated over three decades to environmental protection. Pawan humbly expressed that he probably is not as qualified as Ankarao but is greatly inspired by his work in protecting the Nallamala forests. He thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu and



officials for inviting Ankarao to the programme. He praised Chief Minister Chandrababu as his inspiration in environmental protection, highlighting Chandrababu’s initiatives like the “Tree-Water” program. Pawan vowed to discharge his responsibilities as Environment Minister effectively under the Chief Minister’s guidance. He assured that by this time next year, beyond planting one crore saplings, efforts to

prevent forest fires, educate sheep and goat herders, and reduce deforestation will be undertaken. He promised to return with more experience and speak further. Explaining the importance of trees, Pawan recalled how they used to be used as signposts to homes, emphasizing that life is unimaginable without trees which are essential for everyone, not just birds. He reiterated his commitment to achieving the Chief Minister’s goal of 50 percent greenery in Andhra Pradesh. “The Chief Minister has set a target of 50 percent forest cover, not 33 percent. Let us work hard to make Andhra Pradesh a leader in forest conservation and urban forestry,” he said. Pawan concluded by saying he will accept suggestions and advice from the Chief Minister and work to achieve the set targets, earning the Chief Minister’s appreciation.





# Environmental Protection is...

Continued from page 1

The previous governments planted trees only for photo-ops. Today, global warming is a serious threat. Rainfall is declining, groundwater is depleting, agriculture is at risk, and people are falling ill due to fluoride contamination. To escape this crisis, everyone must plant trees.”

**CM’s Personal Commitment to the Environment**

“In the past, when former Chief Ministers traveled by helicopter, trees along the roads were cut down for visibility. We ensure trees are protected during our visits. Planting trees is our duty; cutting them down is a crime. In some countries, felling trees without government permission leads to jail. Whenever Vanajeevi (Forest Man) Ramaiah met me, he brought a sapling. He dedicated his life to raising awareness about tree planting across villages. He is an inspiration. In my childhood, a social activist named Keshava Naidu in our village worked to protect forests. These influences inspired me deeply. I am glad that the Environment Department, so close to my heart, is now being managed by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.”

**Seed Rakhi Campaign for Environmental Protection**

“Plastic is extremely hazardous—it destroys nature. When animals eat plastic, the milk they produce affects us. Rotten chicken is being used as fish feed. That’s why we are launching the Swachh Andhra initiative focused on environmental conservation. We have started initiatives to generate power from waste. Waste-to-energy plants have been set up in Guntur and Visakhapatnam. The previous government neglected this area. We utilize 90% of dry urban waste for energy. Compost units are being established in rural areas. We’ve already set up 157 Reduce-Reuse-Recycle centers in 87 municipalities. By October 2, all 17 municipal corporations will be free from single-use plastic, and by June 5 next year, the entire state will be plastic-free. We will develop urban forests in all 175 constituencies. Girls should tie Seed Rakhis made from seeds of plants representing their siblings’ birth stars, contributing to environmental well-being.”

Amaravati – The Green Capital of the Future

“TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP together made history in AP, and today marks one year since that historic moment. We are moving from destruction toward rebuilding the state. We’ve initiated innovative programs and are advancing boldly.

Amaravati will be the guiding light for future generations. It is our fortune to live in the capital of the gods. We will develop Amaravati into a beautiful city, introducing Miyawaki-style and international-standard gardens. From a state once struggling with power supply, we’ve now reached a stage where households can generate power from rooftops.

We will provide free 2 KW solar panels for SC/ST families and make Andhra Pradesh a national leader in green energy.”

**K Ankarao appointed as Advisor**

“On June 21, we will host International Yoga Day in Visakhapatnam under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We aim to organize yoga for 5 lakh people in a single day, and 2 crore people across 1 lakh centers in the state, to set a Guinness World Record. We will distribute Yoga certificates to 25 lakh people. Yoga must become part of our daily lives. Through AYUSH, we are promoting both online and offline yoga training in every home.

## Top Maoist...

Continued from page1

and comes just weeks after the killing of another top Maoist, Nambala Keshav Rao. Analysts see this as a crippling setback to the Maoist movement, significantly weakening its central command.

Meanwhile, Bastar IG P. Sundar Raju revealed that two other high-profile Maoist leaders, Bandi Prakash and Papa Rao, were also believed to be present in the same region. Prakash, who holds the post of Telangana State Committee member and is in charge of recruitment and propaganda, carries a ₹25 lakh reward, while Papa Rao, a guerrilla warfare expert accused in several IED attacks, has a ₹20 lakh bounty.

Authorities have since intensified the search operations in the region, fearing the presence of more top Maoist operatives. The operations are part of a continued effort to dismantle the Maoist command structure and neutralize their influence across South Bastar and adjoining states.

# ‘AI Hackathon’ to Revolutionize Policing in AP

## CM to inaugurate the 3-day event on June 27

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a significant step towards integrating cutting-edge technology into governance, the Andhra Pradesh Police Department has announced the organization of a national-level “AI Hackathon” to be held on January 27, 28, and 29, 2026, at R.V.R. & J.C. College of Engineering in Guntur. The prestigious event will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta, in his announcement, highlighted that the primary aim of the hackathon is to identify Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions that enhance policing and public service delivery. “This initiative reflects the Chief Minister’s vision of using modern technologies for effective and transparent governance,” he said. The DGP emphasized that the hackathon would provide a strategic platform for developing scientific and practical AI tools tailored to real-world policing challenges. As part of the preparation, eight problem statements have been cu-



rated by senior IPS officers in collaboration with knowledge partner 4SightsAI, which has played a crucial role in designing and conceptualizing the hackathon framework. “The solutions generated from the hackathon will not stop at theory. Selected innovations will be piloted in districts, and upon success,

with India AI to promote responsible AI adoption in law enforcement across the state. Participation in the hackathon is completely free, with no entry fee, and selected participants will be offered free accommodation. Winning teams will receive certificates and share a total cash prize of ₹10 lakhs, with evaluation to be conducted by a

scaled up across the state for wider application,” DGP Gupta said. He further noted that this hackathon is just the beginning of a continuous collaboration between the police and the tech industry, adding that a new research and development wing, named PRISM, has been launched to nurture and implement these AI-based solutions. The DGP also revealed that the AP Police plans to enter a strategic partnership

jury comprising senior IPS officers, IT experts, and academic researchers. So far, around 30 teams have registered to compete, including several premier institutions and startups from India and abroad. Each participating team will comprise 3 to 4 members tasked with developing AI solutions during the event. In addition to the hackathon, DGP Gupta shed light on the department’s ongoing technology-driven efforts. “We have been using drones extensively in cities like Vijayawada for regular patrol and enforcement. CCTV coverage has also significantly increased across the state,” he said. The department is actively pursuing citizen-friendly policing and ensuring public engagement through local issue resolution and community outreach programs. Calling the AI Hackathon a “milestone moment” for law enforcement in the digital age, DGP Gupta urged innovative minds, tech firms, and academic institutions to join the effort and contribute to transforming policing for the betterment of society.

## Bapatla Leads State With 60% Progress in P-4 Guide Registration - Collector Reviews Development Programs

TPN Correspondent | Bapatla

Bapatla: District Collector J Venkata Murali announced that Bapatla district has achieved 60 percent progress in the registration of P-4 guides, securing the first position in the state. He chaired a review meeting with district officers, MPDOs, and tehsildars from related departments at the local collector’s camp office on Thursday, focusing on P-4, Yoga Andhra, and environmental protection programs. The Collector emphasized that village-level meetings should be held involving the guides to plan and implement the P-4 program effectively. He stated that to date, three thousand guides have been registered under P-4. Officials were urged to create awareness about the selection and adoption of gold families by the guides. A committee consisting of the MPDO, tehsildar,

deputy MPDO, deputy tehsildar, and Velugu APM should coordinate the efforts. He clarified that mandal-level officials bear the responsibility for executing the program on the ground. Collector Murali instructed that only individuals with an annual income exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs and who legally pay taxes should be registered as guides. These guides must identify the specific needs of the gold families they adopt and provide the necessary assistance. Records should be maintained to reflect how guides are helping these families, whether their needs are being met, and if additional help is required. He also recommended establishing WhatsApp groups at the village level to connect guides and gold families. The Collector congratulated officials for achieving 100 percent registration of guides in Ballikurava and Jengapuluru mandals.

## Bhoomipooja Held for Andhra’s First Master Autism Support Centre

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

In a significant step toward inclusive education and therapeutic care, the bhoomipooja ceremony was held for Andhra Pradesh’s first Master Autism Support Centre at ZPHS Chinakakkani, Mangalagiri. The ceremony was led by Mr. Javvadhi Kiranchandhu, Chairman of the Agricultural Marketing Company, Mangalagiri. The upcoming integrated centre is being designed with a unique therapeutic approach grounded in the Agastya Protocol of Ayurveda, which focuses on neurobiological stabilization in children with autism. Once completed, it will be a comprehensive facility combining traditional Ayurvedic practices with modern therapeutic interventions to support not only children with autism but also other differently-abled students. A sensory walk and multi-activi-

ty playground is being developed to stimulate motor and sensory skills. Around this area, a herbal garden will be cultivated as part of the therapeutic process. Significantly, each child participating in therapy will be encouraged to plant a herbal plant and dedicate a corner of the garden in their name, fostering both emotional bonding and environmental awareness. Officials said the centre will serve as a learning and resource hub, integrating therapies, education, and emotional support under one roof. “This centre reflects a visionary step in combining India’s traditional knowledge systems with inclusive education strategies,” an official associated with the project remarked. The initiative is expected to make Mangalagiri a model for neuro-divergent-friendly infrastructure and holistic developmental therapy across Andhra Pradesh.

## Revaluation...

Continued from page 1

many of us had to rush through 45 to 50 scripts, without time for even necessities like food or restroom breaks,” said one teacher involved in the evaluation process.

Another teacher echoed the concern: “There is no second layer of scrutiny anymore and the posting of marks is now done by the same teacher. Earlier, separate officers handled verification, but now the same teacher must evaluate and scrutinize. This dual role increases the chances of errors, especially under stress.”

According to official data, 45.96 lakh answer scripts were evaluated by 16,482 assistant examiners, 5,494 special assistants, and 2,747 chief examiners this year. However, teachers say that the workload, combined with the department’s push to release results quickly, has compromised quality. Critics also point to flaws in the software used for result processing, adding another layer of complexity.

In an attempt to show accountability, the government has suspended five teachers. But this move has drawn criticism for scapegoating educators while failing to address deeper systemic flaws. “The officials who imposed these unrealistic timelines are equally, if not more, responsible,” a teachers’ union representative said off the record.

The mishandling has also impacted the RGUKT-IIIT admission process, as many students feared losing seats due to incorrect scores. The application deadline has now been extended to June 10, 2025. “To facilitate students, we requested RGUKT to provide a special application window, and they agreed,” added Dr. Reddy.

While the DGE claims an overall accuracy rate of 99.76%, the scandal has exposed serious lapses in planning, monitoring, and technological infrastructure. The reverification and revaluation process has revealed not just clerical errors, but a need for structural reform.

## Bondada Group steps forward as lead partner Masula Fest 2025

TPN Correspondent | Krishna

In a powerful stride toward promoting sustainable tourism and regional development, Bondada Group has announced its proud partnership as the driving force behind Masula Fest 2025—a one-of-its-kind beach festival set to take place at Manginapudi Beach in Machilipatnam, Krishna district. The much-anticipated festival aims to showcase the vibrant coastal culture of Bharat while promoting eco-friendly tourism and economic growth in the region. Scheduled to draw national and international attention, Masula Fest 2025 is not just a cultural event—it’s being described as a movement to reposition Andhra Pradesh’s coastline on the global tourism map.

Bondada Group, known for its contributions to India’s infrastructure and energy sectors, sees this partnership as an extension of its nation-building vision. “We believe infrastructure is not only about constructing physical structures—it’s about empowering communities and shaping futures,” the company said in its official statement.

By supporting Masula Fest 2025, Bondada Group seeks to blend development with identity—enhancing community pride, creating economic opportunity, and highlighting the natural beauty and rich heritage of the region. The event will feature cultural programs, environmental awareness drives, adventure sports, and interactive sessions focused on sustainable living.

Officials associated with the event believe the festival will serve as a platform for both local entrepreneurs and artisans, bringing visibility to the region’s unique offerings.

## EPPO pension documents to be issued digitally: AG Shantipriya Employees advised to apply 3 months before retirement

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

In a significant step towards easing the pension sanction process for government employees, Principal Accountant General (AG) Shantipriya announced that pension documents will soon be issued electronically to retirees across Andhra Pradesh. She made this announcement during a special pension adalat held at Kasturba Kalakshetra in Nellore on Wednesday. During the event, pension sanction documents were handed over directly to 55 retirees, and GPF authorization letters were given to 15 others. Addressing the gathering, Shantipriya stressed the importance of understanding the pension sanction process at the AG’s office. She noted that applications can and should be submitted up to three months before retirement to avoid unnecessary delays.

She explained that from this month onwards, EPPO pension sanction documents will be issued electronically to retiring employees from departments like Treasury, Pay and Accounts, APGLI, and others under the Finance Department. From next month, this facility will expand to all departments, starting with the Education Department.

Employees will be required to fill out their pension proposals online, attach the necessary documents, and submit them through their Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs). These proposals will be reviewed, and the sanction documents will be sent digitally.





## Kodali Backstabbed Gudivada People, Says MLA Ramu

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu has launched a scathing attack on former minister and ex-MLA Kodali Nani, accusing him of betraying the people of the constituency and indulging in corruption and dirty politics. Speaking at a public meeting held at the Gudivada Market Committee premises on Wednesday, Ramu did not hold back in his criticism and warned that any attempts to obstruct development in the constituency would not be tolerated.

Ramu alleged that during his tenure as minister, Kodali Nani had misused his power and amassed wealth through corrupt means. He accused Nani of weakening government institutions and ruling unilaterally, and claimed that the people of Gudivada had given a clear verdict against such anarchy in the elections held exactly one year ago. “He called it ‘backstabbing day’ today, but in reality, it was the people who delivered their verdict against his betrayal and misrule,” Ramu said. “What moral ground does Kodali Nani have to talk about betrayal when he himself played with the future of the people for two decades?”

He recalled how Kodali Nani once publicly declared that he would quit politics and clean Chandrababu Naidu's shoes if the latter won in Kuppam and he lost in Gudivada. “Now that both those things have happened, I ask—where is Kodali Nani hiding? Why hasn't he shown his face in Gudivada for a year?” Ramu questioned.

The MLA also condemned the recent protests by YSRCP leaders in the name of ‘backstabbing day’, calling them road dramas. He said people are no longer ready to trust those who once crushed institutions and are now trying to gain sympathy on the streets. Ramu further warned that any move to hinder the development initiatives currently underway in the constituency would be met with a strong response. “We will not remain silent if anyone, including Kodali Nani, tries to obstruct the progress and welfare programs being implemented in Gudivada,” he declared.

## Case on Ambati for Obstructing Police Duty in Guntur



TPN Correspondent | Guntur

A case has been registered against YSRCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu at the Pattabhipuram police station for allegedly obstructing police duties during a protest held in Guntur. The incident took place on Wednesday during the YSR Congress Party's 'Backstabbing Day' demonstration. Ambati Rambabu, who took part in the protest, was seen arguing aggressively with police officers when they attempted to control the situation and enforce restrictions. He reportedly used harsh language against the officials and accused them of deliberately disrupting the YSRCP program. A senior police officer, in turn, confronted Rambabu, leading to a heated verbal exchange between the two sides. The dramatic face-off, where both parties were seen pointing fingers at each other, was captured on video and quickly spread across social media platforms, sparking public debate.

Following the incident, the police filed a case under Section 353 of the Indian Penal Code, which pertains to assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging their duty. The case names Ambati Rambabu and several other YSRCP leaders who were present at the protest site and allegedly involved in obstructing police activity. The clash has further intensified the political climate in Andhra Pradesh, where tensions between the ruling coalition and the opposition YSRCP continue to escalate. While Ambati and his supporters claim the protest was peaceful until provoked by authorities, the police maintain that their actions were necessary to maintain law and order.

# Govt's Goal Is One Crore Saplings: Minister Gottipati Ravikumar

TPN Correspondent | Addanki

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar has emphasized the state government's commitment to environmental protection, stating that planting and preserving saplings is a collective responsibility. On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Minister participated in the Vana Mahotsavam program organized at Chandalur in Panguluru mandal of Addanki constituency and planted saplings alongside local officials and the public.

Speaking at the event, Minister Ravikumar criticized the previous YSRCP government for environmental neglect. “During Jagan Mohan Reddy's rule, Chief Minister visits often meant cutting down hundreds of saplings. In contrast, our coalition government led by CM Chandrababu Naidu is determined to prioritize environmental protection and public health,” he remarked.

He urged people in every village to treat sapling plantation as a festival, inspired by CM Chandrababu



Naidu's ambitious one crore saplings initiative under the Vana Mahotsavam campaign. “Everyone should take responsibility to plant and care for at least one tree. Love for plants must begin at

the individual level,” he added. After the plantation drive, Minister Ravikumar visited Janakavaram village in Panguluru mandal to meet the family of a deceased farmer and extended

financial assistance to the grieving family. He assured them that the coalition government would always stand by farmers in their times of need.

In addition, the Minister visited several other villages in the Addanki constituency to meet families of deceased party activists. In Thammavaram village of Korisapadu mandal, he met the family of Venkat Rao, a party worker who died in a recent accident, and provided financial support. He encouraged all Telugu Desam activists to take party membership so they can be eligible for the associated insurance benefits.

Minister Gottipati also visited the families of other party workers who had passed away due to various reasons, offering moral and financial support. He reiterated that both the party and the government would ensure that such loyal workers and their families are not left behind.

“We are not just planting saplings; we are nurturing a greener, healthier future for the next generation,” the Minister concluded.



## Listen To Their Concerns: Sharmila Appeals to Minister Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

AP Congress chief YS Sharmila has expressed strong concern over the ongoing Mega DSC recruitment process, which is set to begin today in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing her appeal directly to Education Minister Nara Lokesh, she demanded that the government immediately respond to the appeals of the candidates and extend support by offering a more reasonable preparation window.

Sharmila pointed out that around 3.5 lakh candidates are in severe mental distress due to the short duration between notification and examination. “Lakhs of aspirants are saying that the government's claim of a Mega DSC is misleading. They feel cheated and unprepared, having been given only 45 days of preparation time,” she remarked in a post on social media.

She further criticized the government's response to the demands, stating that brushing aside calls for a postponement as a “political conspiracy” reveals the coalition government's arrogance. “These candidates are not political tools; they are unemployed youth seeking a fair chance. Ignoring their voices is dictatorial,” she said.

Sharmila strongly argued that 90 days of preparation time is a minimum necessity for such a significant recruitment process, particularly when candidates are expected to cover a vast syllabus spanning nearly 90 textbooks. “Is it reasonable to expect them to be fully prepared in such a short time? It is impossible, and the government should respond compassionately,” she added.

She also extended her support to candidates' requests for changes in the exam model. “The demand to conduct the DSC in a single district and single paper format instead of using the normalization method is valid. The government must take a closer look at it,” she urged.

Sharmila concluded by appealing to the coalition government on behalf of the Congress party to re-evaluate the concerns raised and act immediately in the interest of the candidates' mental and academic well-being.

## AB Venkateswara Rao writes LawCET in Ongole

TPN Correspondent | Ongole

Retired IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao, a former senior official in the Andhra Pradesh police service, appeared for the Law Common Entrance Test (LawCET) today at the Rise Engineering College examination center in Ongole. His participation in the exam has drawn public attention, particularly in light of his prolonged suspension during the previous government's tenure.

Rao, known for his distinguished service, faced considerable hardships under the previous YSR Congress Party (YCP) regime. He was subjected to a suspension that spanned nearly four years, imposed in two separate installments. The first suspension lasted from



February 8, 2020, to February 7, 2022, followed by another from June 28, 2022, to May 30, 2024. Reports at the time suggested that the suspensions were politically motivated, and various allegations against him were widely criticized as being partisan in nature.

Following his suspension, AB Venkateswara Rao returned to service as the Commissioner of Printing and Stationery and

later retired in the same post. With the change in political leadership, the current TDP-JSP-BJP coalition government took a favorable view of his case and officially regularized the entire suspension period.

In this new chapter of his life, Rao's decision to pursue a law degree has sparked interest. His appearance at the LawCET examination was noted by several observers as a symbolic step towards continuing his public engagement through the legal profession.

Rao's move is seen as an attempt to seek new avenues of service, potentially within legal and civil rights fields, as he transitions from his role in law enforcement to possibly becoming a legal practitioner or advisor.

## Chandrababu's Surety means Backstab Guarantee...



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

In a strong display of dissent against the Andhra Pradesh coalition government, YSR Congress Party (YCP) organized a protest titled 'BackStab Day' in Kadapa district, which received what leaders called an “unexpected and overwhelming response.” Speaking to the media, Kadapa district YCP president Ravindranath Reddy declared that the protest has proven the extent of public opposition to the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance.

The protest was called by YCP Chief Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy to highlight the alleged failures and betrayals of the alliance government. Ravindranath Reddy stated that people from all 175 constituencies

of Andhra Pradesh voluntarily participated in the rally. “They came here to express their anger at Chandrababu Naidu's back-breaking rule. What the coalition gave is not a development guarantee, but a backache guarantee,” he remarked sarcastically. He accused the government of failing to implement its pre-election promises, stating that women, youth, and farmers were all betrayed. “Despite harassment, police restrictions, and false cases against our leaders, the public stood with us. That shows their frustration with this Red Book-driven regime,” he said, referring to the administrative handbook being used by the current government.

Ravindranath also ridiculed claims that Kadapa had turned

into a TDP stronghold, asserting that the protest turnout revealed the entire state as Y.S. Jagan's stronghold instead. He emphasized that people had clearly rejected the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance, which he accused of cheating all sections of society. “The YCP will continue to fight until the promises made by the coalition are fulfilled. If not, we will launch more movements across the state,” Ravindranath warned. He added that YCP is confident of winning all seats whenever elections are held again, driven by the unwavering public support.

The protest event also saw participation from Deputy Mayor Nityananda Reddy, leaders Puli Sunil, Jayachandra Reddy, several corporators, and other key YCP functionaries.



# Govt Committed to Resolving Employees' Issues, Says Minister Kandula Durgesh

**Minister pledges to address employee problems one by one**  
**Salaries now paid promptly on the first of every month**  
**Government ready for discussions with employee unions**  
**Plans to revive tribunal for employee-government coordination**

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
Minister for State Welfare, Kandula Durgesh, assured government employees that the coalition government is committed to solving all their problems one by one. Speaking as the chief guest at the State Council Conference organized by the Andhra Pradesh Government Employees Association at the Vijayawada SS Convention Hall on Thursday, Minister Durgesh emphasized the government's readiness to resolve employee grievances through constructive dialogue with the employment unions. Highlighting the improvement from the previous government's irregular salary payments, he noted that government employees now receive their salaries on the first day of every

month. "Steps will be taken to ensure this practice continues as desired," he added. Minister Durgesh said the coalition government will take the lead in formulating and implementing a clear action plan to address employee issues, with decisions taken only after thorough discussions with employee representatives. He underlined the immense role government employees play in administration and congratulated the employment association leadership for their advice and support over the past year. Recalling the challenges faced during the previous government's tenure, where employees feared arrests for raising issues, Minister Durgesh said the current government is fully prepared to work towards resolving all

problems through dialogue. The Minister also expressed agreement with the association's demand to bring awareness of employee issues before a sitting or retired judge. "Employees and the government must co-operate to make administration more effective and popular," he stated. Despite financial challenges, the coalition government remains committed to the welfare of employees. Minister Durgesh referred to a tribunal that existed during NTR's government to coordinate between employees and the administration, which was abolished by the previous regime. He assured that he will discuss the possibility of reinstating this tribunal with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He praised the Chief Minister's



commitment to employee matters and reiterated that fulfilling promises made before elections is a priority. Acknowledging the pivotal role of employees in forming the coalition government, Minister Durgesh appreciated the leadership of AP Government Employees Association President KR Suryanarayana. He mentioned that the association's representatives will take the initiative to engage with the Deputy Chief Minister on employee is-

sues. Following the event, employee unions submitted a memorandum containing their demands to Minister Kandula Durgesh. The program was also attended by MLC Perabathula Rajasekharam of the Graduate Constituency of Both Godavari Districts, General Secretary Ramesh Kumar, association leaders, and numerous government employees.

## Gannavaram Greens to Grow; Industrial Push Planned

• **MLA Venkata Rao leads World Environment Day sapling drive**

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna**  
On World Environment Day, Gannavaram MLA and Government Whip Yarlagadda Venkata Rao, along with coalition leaders and activists, planted saplings across the constituency. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Venkata Rao emphasized that environmental protection is a shared responsibility. He announced a major plan to develop 2.7 kilometers of greenery near Gannavaram International Airport, with work already started after discussions with relevant authorities. Venkata Rao noted that greenery had been neglected in the previous government but promised to double the existing 45,000 square meters of green space between the airport and Ramavarappadu. He expressed confidence that Gannavaram's greenery will soon rival that of Bangalore and Hyderabad airports. The MLA further committed to relentless efforts to beautify Gannavaram and make development a core agenda. Addressing economic growth, Venkata Rao highlighted ongoing industrial progress, mentioning 427 companies starting work ahead of the Malavalli AP IIC carrier inauguration. He warned that lands allocated to industries will be reclaimed if no



work begins within six months. Additionally, 50 acres in Veerappaneni Gudem have been earmarked for industrial development. Venkata Rao attributed Krishna district's relative lag in development to the lack of industries, despite its political and social prominence. He announced plans for a delegation of seven MLAs and a minister from Krishna district to meet Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu soon to discuss district issues. Reflecting on the past, he criticized the previous YSRCP government for neglecting development over five years.

## RCB Fan Celebrations Turn Tragic in Vijayawada

**Midnight rally leads to youth's death; unruly behavior draws public ire**

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Fanatic cricket celebrations took a tragic turn in Vijayawada on Tuesday midnight, as a 30-year-old youth lost his life during a rally celebrating Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) victory. The incident has sparked widespread criticism over the reckless behavior of fans on city roads. According to police reports, the deceased has been identified as Tadigiri Shekhar, a resident of Winchipeta and an employee at the Railway Parcel Office. After RCB's win, Shekhar joined his friends Srinath and Uday Kumar in a celebratory bike rally. At approximately 12:15 am, while passing Chaitanya College on Bandaru Road, the bike lost control and all three fell on the road. Tragically, a car coming from



behind ran over Shekhar, severely injuring him. Despite being rushed to the government hospital by his friends, he succumbed to his injuries around 1 am. Circle Inspector Prakash confirmed the registration of a case and said an inves-

tigation is currently underway. The tragedy has cast a shadow over the victory celebrations, which otherwise were marked by scenes of extreme fan enthusiasm that bordered on chaos. Videos circulating on social media

show groups of youth engaging in unruly behavior — boarding moving private buses, tying and dragging barricades with bikes, and even planting saplings on the road divider in the name of celebration. More than fifty individuals reportedly climbed atop private travel buses, causing panic among passengers. Their actions disrupted traffic and endangered public safety. Many residents have expressed strong disapproval of such conduct, calling for restraint and responsibility during public celebrations. While the excitement over RCB's success was palpable across the city, the unfortunate death and ensuing disorder have turned what should have been a joyous occasion into a moment of mourning and reflection.

## Protect Nature's Balance: MLA Vasantha Krishnaprasad

• **World Environment Day celebrated in Vijayawada Rural**  
• **MLA urges everyone to plant and protect trees**  
• **Plant a tree in your mother's name till August 15**

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**  
World Environment Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Thursday morning at Kothuru Tadepalli village in Vijayawada Rural Mandal. The event was graced by Andhra Pradesh State Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education Minister and NTR District In-charge Minister Y. Satyakumar Yadav, NTR District Collector G. Lakshminisha, and Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishnaprasad. MLA Vasantha Krishnaprasad highlighted the vital role of plants in providing oxygen, emphasizing that without oxygen, human survival is impossible. He noted the unusual recent rains even in Rohini Karthe, reflecting major atmospheric changes. Recalling the past, he said people lived without fans, then got used to

fans and air conditioners, but now cannot live without both. He pointed out that natural disasters and untimely rains like those that once hit Budameru have severely disrupted life, often caused by indiscriminate tree cutting that upsets nature's balance. He urged everyone to develop social consciousness toward planting trees, stating that trees should be planted at homes, government offices, and private establishments alike. He likened the protection of plants to protecting children and mentioned his own efforts in planting trees as a social responsibility, calling for tree planting to become a daily habit and for living in harmony with nature.



On this occasion, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, he urged all citizens to plant a tree in the name of their mother between now and August 15, protect it, and contribute to saving the environment. Officials from various departments, NDA alliance leaders, and others participated in the event.

## Ration Shop Seized in Ibrahimpatnam Over Rice Stock Discrepancy

**TPN Correspondent | Ibrahimpatnam**  
Civil Supplies and Revenue officials seized ration shop number 6 located on the street in front of the Ibrahimpatnam Tahsildar's office on Wednesday. The officials conducted a surprise raid after receiving information that ration rice was being hoarded illegally in the shop. During the inspection, it was found that there was a discrepancy of 600 kilograms of rice in the shop's stock. As a result, a 6A case was registered recommending to the Joint Collector to seize the shop and suspend the dealer, V. Shantha Kumari. Civil Supplies Deputy Tahsildar Ramakrishna and Revenue staff participated in the raid.

Meanwhile, Tahsildar Y. Venkateswarlu carried out inspections of ration shops in Tummalapalem and Ibrahimpatnam mandals. The purpose was to verify whether ration distribution was being carried out properly. During these inspections, officials were instructed to complete the distribution of ration to the homes of elderly and disabled individuals. Revenue staff also participated in these efforts.





# World Environment Day Celebrated in Sri City with Green Milestones

**TPN | C Shekar**  
**Tirupati:** Sri City marked World Environment Day on Thursday with a series of significant initiatives aimed at environmental sustainability, including the launch of the sixth phase of the Miyawaki plantation drive and the inauguration of new solar energy plants by local industries.

Senior Environmental Engineer S.S. Murali from the Tirupati Zonal Office of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) attended as chief guest and took part in the Miyawaki sapling planting program held at the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Sri City. In his address, Murali emphasized the importance of World Environment Day in spreading awareness and promoting actionable



steps toward protecting the environment. He praised Sri City's consistent eco-friendly efforts and called upon both industries and surrounding communities to actively participate in environmental protection initiatives. Participants took a pledge based on the message from the State Environment, Forest,

and Technology Department, committing themselves to sustainability and conservation efforts. Sri City Managing Director Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy, in his message, highlighted the relevance of the "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle (3R)" principle in building a sustainable future. He stressed that Sri City has

integrated the 3R approach across its operations, focusing on pollution prevention, waste management, and long-term sustainability. Dr. Sannareddy noted that the Miyawaki plantation initiative plays a crucial role in replicating forest-like greenery in industrial zones. He also underscored the ongoing "Green & Clean" campaign, which aims to raise awareness and encourage participation from both industry and local communities in building an eco-friendly Sri City. Sri City's Horticulture Officer Madhusudhan Reddy announced that over 10 lakh saplings have been planted across the industrial zone to date. With 92,000 saplings already planted in five previous Miyawaki phases, the sixth phase

added 8,000 more saplings, taking the total to the million mark. The ongoing initiative involves planting 1 lakh saplings of 40 native species that contribute to soil health, biodiversity, and aesthetic value. Officials and staff from APPCB, the Forest Department, and industries including Nova Air, Bombay Coating, Sundram Fasteners, and Panasonic participated enthusiastically in the event by planting saplings in their respective premises. Solar Energy Expansion in Sri City Adding momentum to Sri City's eco-drive, Mondelez and Bergin Pipes inaugurated their new solar power plants on the same day. Mondelez commissioned a 6.2 MW solar facility, now the largest industrial solar plant in

Sri City. Bergin Pipes installed a 350 kW plant as part of its second-phase expansion. Sri City MD Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy and Mondelez Vice President (Supply Chain) Venkat Venepally inaugurated the units, along with Rutger Albert, CEO of Hill & Smith Holdings, who attended as chief guest. As part of its sustainability roadmap, 31 industries in Sri City are now generating a combined 46 MW of solar energy through rooftop and ground-mounted systems, contributing to 25% of the city's total power consumption. With strong participation from industry leaders and government officials, Sri City continues to set an example in environmentally responsible industrial development.

## Thieves Ram Car Into Cops in Kuppam...

**Haryana gang tries to ram police at check post  
CI opens fire in self-defense — one thief injured  
Car abandoned; 5-member gang flees; manhunt launched**

**TPN Correspondent | Chittoor District**  
A dramatic midnight chase unfolded in Kuppam, Chittoor district, when an inter-state gang of thieves from Haryana attempted to escape a police check by ramming their car into officers on duty. In a swift response, Rural Circle Inspector Mallesh Yadav opened fire in self-defense, injuring the car driver. The assailants later abandoned the vehicle and fled, triggering a manhunt along the Andhra-Tamil Nadu border.

The incident took place around 10:30 pm on Tuesday at the Thambiganipalle check post along the Krishnagiri-Palamaneru national highway. Based on credible intelligence that the Haryana-based gang was trying to cross the border via Kuppam, local police, under the supervision of DSP Parthasarathy, initiated vehicle checks.

When a Scorpio car with a Karnataka registration approached the checkpoint, the police signaled it to stop. As two constables approached the vehicle, the occupants suddenly reversed the car at high speed in an apparent attempt to ram into them. Thanks to their alertness, the constables quickly jumped aside, narrowly escaping a potential fatal attack.

CI Mallesh Yadav, confirming that the suspects were indeed the gang in question, opened fire with his service revolver. One bullet reportedly hit the driver in the thigh. Despite this, the assailants managed to speed away in the car. The police launched a high-alert search opera-



tion, splitting into multiple teams and deploying dog squads. Extensive checks were carried out in and around Palarlapalle, Paramasamudram, Bevanapalle, Vaddipalle, Gonuguru, and Vendugampalle. The abandoned Scorpio car was later found near Paramasamudram Lake, indicating that the gang had fled on foot. Eyewitnesses claimed there were five individuals in the vehicle. DSP Parthasarathy confirmed that a case of attempt to murder has been registered against the gang. He said the border security has been tightened and a thorough investigation is underway. "The gang is believed to be involved in thefts across several states. We urge citizens to immediately report any suspicious movements," he stated.

## Four Killed, Ten Injured as Car Rams Auto in Nellore

**Laborers were on their way to tobacco grading work when tragedy struck**

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
A tragic road accident at AS Peta Cross Road in Atmakur Mandal of Potti Sriramulu Nellore District claimed the lives of four agricultural laborers and left ten others injured in the early hours of Thursday. The incident occurred when a speeding car collided head-on with an auto carrying the workers.

According to the police, the laborers were travelling from Venkata Raoipalli to Musthapuram village for tobacco grading work. At AS Peta Cross Road, a car came at high speed and rammed into their auto, resulting in a devastating impact that killed four laborers on the spot. Five others sustained serious injuries and were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, while additional injured passengers received preliminary care at local facilities.

Upon receiving information, police rushed to the scene, carried out rescue operations, and shifted the bodies to the government hospital for postmortem. A case has been registered, and an investigation into the cause of the accident is currently underway.

District Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy expressed profound grief over the loss of lives and instructed officials to ensure the best possible medical care for the injured. He also assured that the government will extend necessary support to the families of the deceased and the injured.

The accident has cast a pall of gloom over the local farming community, with residents expressing sorrow and concern over the safety of daily-wage laborers who often travel in unsafe conditions due to lack of proper transportation.

## Environment Is the Future of Our Children: Bojjala Brindamma

**TPN | C Shekar**  
**Tirupati:** Telugu Desam Party leaders organized a plant distribution program in the 34th ward of Srikalahasti town, with the event witnessing active participation from local leaders and environmental advocates. Bojjala Brindamma, mother of Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy, attended the event as the chief guest and delivered a heartfelt message on the significance of environmental protection.

Speaking on the occasion, Bojjala Brindamma expressed deep concern over the growing threat of pollution caused by global warming. "The environment is the future of future generations. The changes in weather patterns and irregular rainfall are alarming signs of what lies ahead," she said. Stressing the importance of early awareness, Brindamma appealed to everyone to encourage children to take part in tree plantation activities to build a green and sustainable tomorrow.

The event was spearheaded by Kannavaram

Haribabu, State Member of Gandla Telikula BC Sadhikara Samithi, who played a key role in mobilizing local participation. The plant distribution aimed at promoting tree plantation in the community and creating awareness about the urgent need for environmental conservation.

Several prominent TDP leaders and social representatives took part in the event, including TDP State Secretaries Gali Chalapathi Naidu, Dr. Gummadipudi, Dasharatha Achari, Parliament Rythu Vice President Prakash Naidu, former Thottambedu Mandal Presidents Gali Murali Naidu and Peta Balaji Reddy, and former Councillor Mohan Goud.

Also present were BC Cell Presidents Poluru Srinivasulu Reddy, Kallappa Reddy, MS Reddy, Nagaraju Reddy, Armugam, Murali Reddy, Vajram Kishore, Venkatesh Prakash, Muni Raja Yadav and others, who supported the initiative by encouraging locals to adopt tree planting as a regular practice.



## Youth Should Be a Part of Environmental Protection: MP Vemireddy

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
Nellore Member of Parliament Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy urged the youth to actively participate in environmental protection, highlighting the efforts of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to increase the state's forest area. He addressed the Vana Mahotsav program held at Nagaravanam in Nellore Rural on the occasion of World Environment Day on Thursday, where he participated as the chief guest.

In-charge Collector Karthik, DFO Mohammed Basha, RDO Anusha, TDP leader Kotamreddy Giridhar Reddy, and Nagar Corporation Commissioner Nandan also participated by planting saplings during the event. MP Vemireddy expressed his happiness at participating in the Vana Mahotsav in response to the call from CM Chandrababu Naidu. He noted that June 5 is observed globally as World Environment Day by the United Nations and praised the state government's efforts to commemorate the day with a large-scale tree-planting campaign.

He said planting one crore saplings across Andhra Pradesh in a single day is a commendable initiative, with district authorities ready to plant around 4.25 lakh saplings in Nellore alone. MP Vemireddy emphasized the importance of planting trees along both sides of educational institutions, hospitals, government offices, bus stands, and roads. Currently, the state boasts 30.5 percent greenery, and the Chief Minister has set a target to increase this to 50 percent by 2047.

Speaking passionately, he likened a sapling to a good friend, underscoring the need to protect trees from indiscriminate cutting. He also called for reducing plastic use amid rising pollution lev-



els affecting water and air quality. He expressed hope that sustained efforts like the Vana Mahotsav will help Andhra Pradesh become a cleaner and greener state.

In-charge Collector Karthik spoke on the occasion about the urgent need to ban plastic, especially single-use plastic, which severely impacts public health. He emphasized that banning plastic should not merely be a slogan but a lifestyle change embraced by everyone. Karthik encouraged the public to adopt the four Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, and replace, suggesting the use of jute and wooden products as alternatives to plastic in daily life. He assured that meaningful results will follow only when such practices become ingrained in society.

The event concluded with a pledge for environmental protection, followed by a prize ceremony honoring students who demonstrated talent in various fields. Officials from the Forest Department and other dignitaries also participated in the program.



# World Environment Day 2025: A Planet Pleads While Humanity Sleeps

Every June 5th, World Environment Day calls for global reflection. But in 2025, reflection is no longer enough. Our planet is suffocating under the weight of unchecked industrialization, unsustainable lifestyles, and broken promises. From blazing wildfires to rising seas, from disappearing species to toxic urban air, the Earth is sending distress signals we can no longer afford to ignore. World Environment Day 2025 must mark a decisive shift—from symbolism to action, from intention to commitment.

### The Planet’s Alarming Reality

We are witnessing an unprecedented environmental breakdown. Glaciers are melting at record speeds. Forests are vanishing to make way for unchecked development. Rivers once worshipped and life-giving now run black with waste. Cities are choking—some literally—with air quality dipping to dangerously unlivable levels. Climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is here, it is real, and it is accelerating. Every delayed action, every watered-down policy, every denial of science is a betrayal to both our present and our posterity.

### The Human Price of Neglect

Behind every fallen tree and poisoned river is a human story. Displaced families, dying farmers, sick children—all paying the price for our apathy. In India alone, extreme weather events have claimed thousands of lives in the past decade. Floods, droughts, and heatwaves have disrupted food systems, strained healthcare infrastructure, and deepened poverty. And yet, even with all this suf-



fering, environmental concerns are often sidelined in national priorities. It’s as if we’re rearranging furniture in a house that’s already on fire.

### Ignoring the Crisis: A Global Hypocrisy

World leaders proclaim grand sustainability goals at climate summits. Corporate giants flood social media with green campaigns. Governments announce ‘eco-friendly’ policies. But behind the polished rhetoric lies a sobering truth: most of these promises lack teeth. India has pledged net-zero emissions by 2070, a reduction of 1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions by 2030, and a target of generating 50% of its power from renewable sources. Yet the gap between commitment and execution remains vast. Fossil fuel subsidies contin-

ue. Forest lands are diverted for infrastructure. Sustainable policies are diluted under economic pressure. Globally, the scenario is no different. Only a fraction of the Paris Agreement signatories are on track to meet their goals. Climate finance commitments to developing countries are unmet. Plastic production is rising. Carbon emissions are still climbing. It’s not a lack of solutions—but a lack of will. The world talks the talk, but rarely walks it.

### The Cost of Complacency

What will it take for us to wake up? Perhaps it’s realizing that this isn’t about polar bears or remote islands anymore. This is about us. Our homes. Our health. Our children. The next generation is inheriting a scorched earth. Food



security is threatened as agricultural zones shrink and water sources dry up. Disease patterns are shifting with changing climates. Mass migrations will become the norm as parts of the planet become uninhabitable. By continuing to ignore environmental degradation, we are actively compromising the very systems that support life—air, water, soil, and climate.

The Missing Link: Environmental Awareness and Education One of the most tragic oversights in our sustainability mission is the neglect of environmental education. Particularly in technical and professional education, it is treated as a peripheral, non-credit subject. A senior official recently questioned, “Why should technical students learn about the environment? Isn’t it more important to teach them how to code or build?” But what use is innovation that ignores ecological balance? What good is engineering that accelerates destruction? Environmental education must be transformative. It must equip students not just with knowledge, but with the values, skills, and sense of urgency re-

quired to tackle real-world sustainability challenges. We cannot build a green future with a generation that is environmentally illiterate.

### The Road Ahead: Radical but Possible

Despite the grim scenario, hope is not lost. The solutions are known. The science is clear. The technology exists. What we need is massive collective willpower. Here’s how we move forward:

### Zero Emissions and Zero Discharge Must Be Non-Negotiable

- We must rapidly decarbonize all sectors—energy, transport, manufacturing, and agriculture. This means a full transition from fossil fuels to renewables. It also means enforcing strict waste discharge policies, encouraging circular economies, and holding violators accountable.

### Policy with Purpose

- Governments must stop treating climate action as optional. Every policy—urban planning, transport, education, and industry—must be climate-aligned. Incentives for sustainable practices must expand. Non-compliance must invite real consequences, not token penalties.

### Business Beyond Greenwashing

- Industries must go beyond CSR checkboxes. They must adopt ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) principles with integrity. Environmental impact assessments must be strengthened—not diluted under economic pressure.

### Empowered

### Communities

- True sustainability begins at the grassroots. Local innovations—rainwater harvesting, organic farming, community forests—must be supported and scaled. Citizens must be given platforms to participate in environmental governance.

### An Education Revolution

- Environmental education must not be limited to textbooks or token activities. It should be immersive, action-oriented, and integrated into every discipline—from architecture to economics. Teachers must be trained, curricula must evolve, and sustainability must become a culture, not a chapter.

### World Environment Day 2025: A Turning Point or Just Another Date?

World Environment Day should not be a day of guilt—but of resolve. Let it not be reduced to hashtags and symbolic gestures. Let this be the year we commit—to real, measurable, irreversible change. To the leaders: your decisions today will echo for centuries. Be bold. To the educators: your lessons can shape a planet-positive generation. Be relentless. To the youth: your voices are powerful. Be loud. To every citizen: your choices matter. Be conscious. We stand at a crossroads. One path leads to ecological collapse. The other to regeneration. The Earth is not asking for charity—it is demanding justice. “The planet is wounded, but not beyond healing. Our hands hold both the poison and the cure.” This World Environment Day, let us rise—not just to protect our environment, but to protect our very future.

## Digital India 2.0: Using Artificial Intelligence to Break Bureaucratic Barriers and End Corruption

### A Vision for New Age Governance

As India steps confidently into the 21st century as a global leader in economy and technology, it’s time to rethink governance. Outdated, analog administration cannot support a digital economy. The lingering paper-based bureaucracy and procedural delays have stifled progress and eroded public trust. The solution is a bold, transformative strategy: fully digitizing governance through AI, data analytics, and automation. This shift may seem daunting to existing systems, but it is essential.

### Corruption in Traditional Bureaucracy

India’s colonial-era bureaucratic system prioritizes control over public service, leading to excessive paperwork, lack of transparency, service delays, favoritism, and grassroots corruption. Citizens struggle to access essential services like land records, business licenses, healthcare approvals, and welfare benefits, resulting in significant economic, psychological, and moral impacts, especially on the poorest communities.

### The Opportunity: What Digitalisation and AI Can

### Achieve

India has the technological capabilities, digital expertise, and infrastructure required to lead a second digital revolution — one that goes beyond commerce and finance to include public governance itself: Transparent and Traceable Processes • Each document, transaction, and decision can be digitally time-stamped and recorded. Blockchain technology can protect government records (such as land titles, contracts, and tenders) from alteration. Public dashboards can make government performance measurable and transparent.

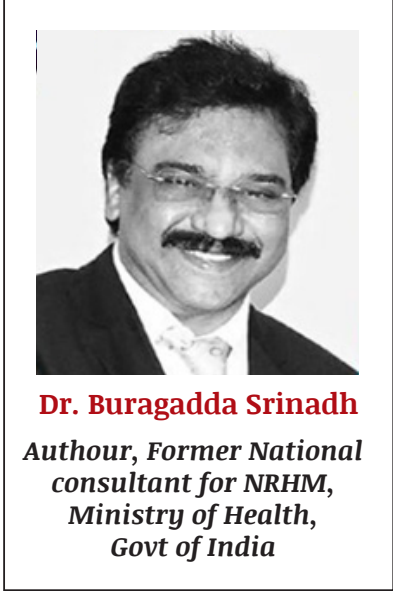
### AI-Driven Efficiency and Citizen Empowerment

AI can enhance the efficiency of conventional approval processes, thereby conserving time and minimizing human involvement. Algorithms are capable of identifying anomalies in governmental expenditures, benefit distributions, or contractor performance. Predictive analytics can pinpoint sectors susceptible to corruption, fraudulent beneficiaries, or inefficient programs. AI-driven chatbots and mobile applications can assist citizens in navigating procedures without requiring intermediaries. Biometric and



Aadhaar-based authentication guarantees that rightful beneficiaries obtain services directly. E-governance portals provide individuals with real-time updates regarding their applications, thus minimizing the need to engage in follow-ups

through bribery. Reduction in Discretionary Powers Decisions made by digital systems adheres to established and transparent regulations. AI removes the potential for subjective bias, favoritism, or political influence. For instance, AI-driven



assessments for land allotment or scheme eligibility ensure fair and evidence-based results

### Case Studies & Global Models

- **Estonia:** A digital-first government where 99% of public services are online, and corruption is nearly absent.
- **Singapore:** AI and big data tools predict and prevent fraud in real estate and welfare schemes.
- **India’s own Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker:** These have shown that digital infrastructure, when used smartly, can transform

### lives. Challenges — and the Path to Overcome Them

Admittedly, such a shift won’t be easy. Resistance from vested interests who benefit from opacity and corruption. Fear among lower bureaucracy of job losses or reduced influence. Digital illiteracy in some rural or underserved areas. But these challenges can be addressed through capacity building and training of government staff in digital tools. Ensuring inclusive digital access via mobile apps and local service centers. A strong legal and policy framework to govern AI usage ethically and transparently.

### A Call to Action.

India’s ambition to be a \$5 trillion economy and a leader in global tech requires modern administrative systems. A digital economy needs a digital government. Envision a New India where citizens can quickly obtain licenses, land disputes are settled with verified records, and health permits are managed by fair systems. We must reject corruption and inefficiency. Let’s leverage technology to strengthen governance, ensuring justice and dignity for all citizens.





## Mohan Bhagwat Cites Churchill to Emphasize Unity Amid Indo-Pak Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday called for continued national unity and self-reliance in defence, cautioning that challenges from Pakistan remain unresolved. Speaking at an RSS event in Nagpur, Bhagwat invoked a historic reference to Winston Churchill during World War II to underscore the critical role of public support and societal resolve in times of national crisis.

Referring to India's recent military response to the Pakistan-sponsored Pahalgam terror attack, Bhagwat praised the nation's collective strength under Operation Sindoor. He lauded the government, armed forces, political leaders, and citizens for standing together during the crisis, describing it as "the grandest form of democracy."

"The political class rose above differences for the country. The society demonstrated unparalleled unity. This unity must become a permanent fixture because the threat is not over," Bhagwat said, warning that Pakistan continues to engage in proxy warfare against India.

Drawing a parallel with Churchill's leadership during WWII, Bhagwat recounted how the former British Prime Minister turned to everyday citizens to guide a pivotal wartime decision. "When Churchill's cabinet urged him to negotiate peace with Hitler, he rode the London metro to hear the people's voice. The people told him to keep fighting. Encouraged, Churchill famously declared in Parliament that the British would fight in the streets and hills until victory. After the war, he told the people, 'You are the lions; I only roared for you,'" Bhagwat narrated.

He used this historical anecdote to urge Indians to remain resolute, stating, "The strength of a nation lies not just in its government or army, but in its people."

Bhagwat concluded by emphasizing that Indian society is inherently united, and this unity must be preserved to overcome future threats.

## PM Modi Launches Ambitious Aravalli Green Wall Project on World Environment Day

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project, a major initiative aimed at rejuvenating the ancient Aravalli mountain range that spans Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi. Marking the occasion, PM Modi planted a sapling at Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali Park in New Delhi, reinforcing his government's commitment to tackling the environmental challenges facing the region.

The Aravalli range, one of the oldest mountain ranges on Earth, has been increasingly threatened by deforestation, mining, encroachment, and desertification, leading to degraded land and reduced water availability. PM Modi highlighted the government's focus on restoring this fragile ecosystem by working closely with local administrations to improve water systems, curb dust storms, and prevent the eastward expansion of the Thar desert.

The project will develop a five-kilometer green buffer zone stretching across 29 districts in the three states and the Union



Territory of Delhi, covering a vast area of 6.45 million hectares. Nearly 42 percent of this area is currently degraded, with Rajasthan accounting for the majority of the damage. Through afforestation, reforestation, and restoration of water bodies, the project aims to enhance biodiversity, improve soil fertility, and boost water availability in the region.

Utilizing traditional and innovative planting techniques, especially in urban and semi-urban areas, plantation activities will be geo-tagged and monitored through the Meri LiFE portal for transparency and efficiency. Around 1,000 nurseries are planned to support these efforts.

The initiative is expected to combat air pollution, create carbon

sinks to meet India's climate targets, and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. Additionally, it will generate employment and income opportunities for local communities. Chief ministers of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat also participated in the launch, signaling strong regional cooperation for this critical environmental mission.

## Shashi Tharoor Leads All-Party Delegation in High-Level Talks with US Vice President JD Vance

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

An all-party Indian parliamentary delegation, led by Congress MP Dr. Shashi Tharoor, held a significant meeting with US Vice President JD Vance in Washington on Thursday. The discussion focused on counter-terrorism, regional security, and advancing the India-US strategic partnership, amid ongoing global security challenges and recent terrorist attacks in India.

The Embassy of India in the US shared on X (formerly Twitter) that the delegation's meeting with Vice President Vance included detailed discussions on strengthening cooperation in key areas, including security and technological exchange.



Tharoor, echoing the sentiment, called the interaction "constructive and productive," noting a strong alignment of interests between the two nations. Vice President Vance had visited India in April when the Pahalgam terror attack took place. Following the incident, he personally called Prime Minister Narendra Modi to

condemn the attack and express the US's full support in combating terrorism. In a social media post, he wrote, "Usha and I extend our condolences to the victims... Our thoughts and prayers are with them. Earlier, the Indian delegation met members of the Indian diaspora and US Congress, including Congressman Gregory Meeks, who

reiterated bipartisan support for the US-India partnership. The delegation also addressed the Indian and American press, highlighting India's position on counter-terrorism and Operation Sindoor — India's recent strategic response to cross-border terrorism.

Speaking to media at the Council on Foreign Relations, Tharoor emphasized that the visit aims to communicate India's narrative and gather international support. "So far, every person we've met has strongly condemned the attack and supported India's right to defend itself," he said, adding that the attack came during a period of economic optimism in Kashmir, making it especially disruptive.

## Starlink Posied to launch in India soon as DoT nears GMPCS license approval

TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh

Starlink, Elon Musk's satellite internet venture under SpaceX, is reportedly on the verge of launching its services in India after moving closer to securing the necessary regulatory approvals. According to recent reports, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is expected to grant Starlink the Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) license imminently. This license is crucial for satellite-based network providers, allowing them to deploy satellite terminals while adhering to global communication standards.

Last month, Starlink received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the DoT, which required the company to meet certain security compliance criteria by June 7. Sources reveal that Starlink has fulfilled these requirements and provided undertakings on other regulatory guidelines, clearing a significant hurdle for its entry into the Indian market.

Following the license approval, Starlink must obtain additional authorizations from India's space regulator, In-SPaCE, and the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), both of which are reported to be in the final stages of review. Once these are secured, Starlink will be allocated provisional spectrum to operate its services.

However, the actual rollout of Starlink's satellite internet services is not immediate. The company needs to establish essential infrastructure, including gateways and a Network Operations Centre, and ensure lawful inter-



ception capabilities as per Indian regulations. This setup phase is estimated to take around nine months before commercial operations can begin.

Meanwhile, Starlink may face competition from Amazon's satellite internet project, Kuiper. However, Amazon Kuiper is expected to experience delays as it still awaits its LoI from the DoT, even though it has reportedly met most regulatory mandates.

Starlink's entry could revolutionize internet access in India, especially in remote and underserved areas, with expected pricing reportedly under Rs. 850 per month, making satellite internet more accessible across the country.

## Second Consecration Ceremony Held at Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Ganga Dussehra

TPN Correspondent | Ayodhya

A historic second consecration ceremony took place at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya, marking another significant milestone in the temple's development. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led the rituals, which included the ceremonial installation of deities in eight newly constructed temples on the first floor of the complex, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Ganga Dussehra.

The central highlight was the consecration of Raja Ram, symbolizing Lord Ram as a sovereign ruler, along with other deities like Lord Shiva, Ganesha, Hanuman, Surya, Goddess Annapurna, Bhagwati, and Sheshavatar. According to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the elaborate rituals began early in the morning with a yajna at 6:30 AM, followed by a havan and synchronized ceremonies across the shrines aided by modern technology for remote viewing and coordination.

This was the second major Pran-Pratishtha (idol consecration) after the installation of Ram Lalla on January 22, 2024, an event attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The recent ceremony was described by Adityanath as a "new expres-



sion of Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat," invoking unity and national pride.

Temple trustee Anil Mishra emphasized the Vedic rigor of the rituals, calling the ceremony the fruit of "centuries of penance and faith." Ayodhya astrologers highlighted the spiritual potency of Ganga Dussehra, suggesting that any sacred act on this day yields amplified spiritual rewards.

The Ram Temple, located on the site of the demolished Babri Masjid, has been at the heart of a decades-long legal and political struggle. The Supreme Court's 2019 verdict allowed temple construction, while a separate five-acre plot was allocated for a mosque elsewhere. Pilgrims gathered in large numbers, marking what many see as a spiritual and cultural renaissance.



# "We Don't Want Them": Donald Trump Puts US Travel Ban On These 12 Countries

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has signed a new travel ban targeting nationals from 12 countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, and Yemen, citing national security concerns after a recent attack in Colorado. The move revives one of the most controversial policies from his first term.

The ban fully restricts entry for citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Additionally, a partial ban applies to travelers from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. Both bans will take effect on Monday, according to the White House.

Trump linked the new ban to a makeshift flamethrower attack on a Jewish protest in Boulder, Colorado, allegedly carried out by Mohammed Sabry Soliman, who is said to have been in the US illegally. "We don't want them," Trump declared in a video message from the Oval Office, emphasizing the need for stricter vetting of foreign nationals entering the country.

He compared the latest restrictions to his 2017 travel ban, which targeted mostly



Muslim-majority countries and sparked global travel disruptions. Trump claimed that earlier ban prevented terror attacks in the US similar to those seen in Europe.

The White House defended the measure as a way to keep America safe from "dangerous foreign actors" and highlighted concerns over countries with poor vetting systems, high visa overstay rates, or those unwilling to share threat information.

Countries like Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen were singled out for

lacking competent authorities to process passports and vet applicants. Iran was labeled a state sponsor of terrorism amid ongoing nuclear negotiations.

Trump also announced a visa ban on foreign students admitted to Harvard University, escalating his crackdown on institutions he views as politically liberal. The travel ban is expected to face legal challenges, continuing the contentious debate over immigration and national security policies under Trump's administration.

## NATO's New Military Build-Up: Plans for Major Arms Purchases Underway



TPN Correspondent | Brussels

NATO defence ministers are poised to approve ambitious new targets for military equipment purchases aimed at strengthening the alliance's defence across Europe, the Arctic, and the North Atlantic. This move is part of a broader US-led effort to boost security spending among the 32 member nations.

The upcoming 'capability targets' will specify priority acquisitions such as advanced air defence systems, long-range missiles, artillery, ammunition, drones, and critical support assets like air-to-air refuelling, heavy air transport, and logistics capabilities. While each member country's specific plans remain classified, the goal is to address current gaps and prepare for defence needs over the next several years.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte highlighted the importance of these decisions, stating, "Today we decide on the capability targets. From there, we will assess the gaps we have, not only to be able to defend ourselves today, but also three, five, seven years from now." He also emphasized that securing funding for these investments will be a key challenge.

Ahead of the NATO summit scheduled for June 24-25, where US President Donald Trump and other leaders will set new defence investment goals, the alliance is pushing members to maintain combat-ready forces. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth stressed, "To be an alliance, you've got to be more than flags. You got to be more than conferences. You need to keep combat ready capabilities."

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, European allies and Canada have accelerated military spending significantly, focusing heavily on arms and ammunition purchases. This increased defence investment underscores the growing urgency within NATO to bolster collective security and readiness amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

## India Red-Flags \$800 Million Asian Development Bank Aid Package To Pakistan



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has voiced strong reservations about the \$800 million aid package approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Pakistan, citing fears that the funds could be misused amid Pakistan's increasing defence expenditure and economic instability. The concerns come as Pakistan's military exercises significant control over the country's economic policies through the Special Investment Facilitation Council, led by the army top brass.

Despite facing a severe economic crisis marked by a declining tax-to-GDP ratio, depleted foreign exchange reserves, and soaring inflation, Pakistan's military-driven government continues to prioritize defence spending. India has warned that this entrenched military influence risks policy reversals and ineffective economic reforms, which are critical conditions tied to international aid.

Officials pointed to Pakistan's poor track record in implementing reforms mandated by multilateral institutions, noting that the aid funds might be diverted toward military hardware acquisitions. Recent purchases of fighter jets from China and increased drone deployments, especially following Operation Sindoor, underscore the growing focus on military capabilities despite the fragile economic situation.

India also highlighted Pakistan's repeated requests for bailouts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the country seeking its 24th IMF package, underscoring the ineffectiveness of past economic programmes supported by both the IMF and ADB. These failures have prevented Pakistan from achieving sustainable macro-economic stability.

Additionally, India criticized Pakistan's ongoing support for cross-border terrorism, which has worsened regional security. Islamabad's unsatisfactory record in complying with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements—particularly in investigating and prosecuting leaders of UN-designated terrorist groups and freezing criminal assets—was also flagged as a major concern.



## Elon Musk Urges Americans to "Kill the Bill" Over Trump's Record Spending Legislation

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has launched a fierce attack on US President Donald Trump's latest spending bill, urging Americans to contact their lawmakers and "KILL the BILL." Musk's condemnation comes just days after he left his role as a "special government employee" leading the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), where he aimed to cut government waste.

Highlighting the legislation as the largest increase in the US debt ceiling ever, Musk warned that "America is in the fast lane to debt slavery." He criticized the bill for massively expanding the deficit and increasing the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion, calling it the "Debt Slavery Bill." Musk stressed the urgent need for a complete rewrite of the legislation to avoid further financial damage.

Posting on X, Musk encouraged citizens to call their senators and representatives, stating, "Bankrupting America is NOT ok! KILL the BILL." His intervention arrives at a critical juncture as the bill—described by Trump as "big" and "beautiful"—aims to deliver sweeping tax cuts alongside expanded military spending.

The measure narrowly passed the House last month amid fierce opposition from Democrats and a handful of Republicans. Musk's vow to "fire all the politicians who betrayed the American people" in upcoming midterm elections has caused ripples within Republican ranks, especially given his significant financial backing of GOP candidates. His criticism could threaten incumbents facing primary challenges and complicate Republicans' efforts to hold onto Congressional majorities.

The White House has responded cautiously. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt reaffirmed Trump's support for the bill, stating, "This is one big, beautiful bill, and he's sticking to it." The administration aims to finalize the legislation by July 4, with the Treasury warning that failure to raise the borrowing limit by August risks America's first sovereign debt default.



## 'Can't Risk Losing Money': Indian Students Pause American Dream Amid Visa Troubles

Amid increasing uncertainty over US student visas, many Indian families are pausing plans to send their children to American universities—once seen as the ultimate symbol of success. Families often invest their entire life savings to secure a place in US colleges, but recent visa troubles have caused a sharp decline in enrollments.

Subash Devatwal, who runs an education consultancy in Ahmedabad, shared that student inquiries have plummeted. His organization, which previously helped over 100 students annually, now assists only around 10. This drop comes after the Trump administration introduced strict social media vetting and paused all student visa interviews worldwide, leaving many students in limbo.

"The students are in shock. Many spend years preparing for this opportunity," Devatwal told The Guardian. Indian students typically face tuition fees ranging from \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year, making the stakes extremely high. As a result, students and families are reconsidering their options.

One such parent, Brijesh Patel from Surat, revealed he sold his wife's jewelry and borrowed money from relatives to fund his son's US education. However, with visa delays, he now plans to wait a year, fearing the financial risk of a visa denial. "It's not just my son's dream; it's the dream of all of us," he said, emphasizing the sacrifices made by the entire family. Meanwhile, education experts like Piyush Bhartiya, co-founder of AdmitKard, note a clear shift in student interest toward countries like the UK, Germany, Ireland, and the Netherlands.



# Market Rally: Sensex Jumps 443 Points, Nifty Gains 130 on Rate Cut Hopes and Global Cues



Domestic stock markets performed well today. Benchmark indices gained heavily on Thursday. Positive signals were received from global markets. On the other hand, foreign institutional investors resumed buying in the wake of fluctuations in American bond yields and a decline in the value of the dollar. Expectations that the RBI will cut interest rates by 25 basis points on Friday filled positive sentiment among investors. Overall, the Nifty rose by 130 points and the Sensex by 443 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,196 in the previous session, opened at 81,196 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 80,983. It reached an intraday high of 81,911. It finally closed at

81,442 with a gain of 443 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,691, touched a low of 24,613 and a high of 24,899. It closed at 24,750, up 130 points. The Nifty Bank rose 84 points to settle at 55,760.

In the Nifty50, 32 companies gained and 18 lost. Eternal, Dr. Reddy's, Trent, PowerGrid, ICICI Bank were the top gainers. IndusIndBank, Tata Consumer, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv lost the most. Realty, pharma, healthcare, finance, telecom, metal, IT, oil, FMCG indices rose. Private bank, auto, media, PSU bank indices rose.



Today, the market breadth in NSE turned in favor of buyers. Out of 2973 stocks traded, 1738 gained. 1144 lost. 72 shares reached 52-week highs and 21 shares reached 52-week lows. 126 reached the upper circuit and 43 reached the lower circuit.

The rupee strengthened by 11 paise to settle at 85.79 against the dollar. Welspun Corporation won an export order. HSBC maintained a buy rating on Mahindra & Mahindra with a target price of Rs. 3470. Jefferies maintained a buy rating on Welspun at Rs. 185. CDSL shares rose more than 4% today. Bharat Electronics won an order worth Rs. 2323 crore. Citi has maintained a buy rating on PB Fintech with a target price of Rs 2185. Intellect Design has secured an order from a South African bank. Jagul Prepaid has acquired Dice Enterprises for Rs 123 crore. Hindustan Aeronautics has clarified that talks with American company GE are progressing.

**Dr. Reddy's Laboratories**  
Dr. Reddy's posted strong Q4 FY25 results with a net profit of ₹1,594 crore, marking a 22% YoY increase. Revenue

**Dr.Reddy's**  
rose 20% YoY to ₹8,506 crore, driven by

growth in both domestic and international markets. The company declared a dividend of ₹8 per share. The acquisition of the nicotine therapy business added to its topline. Overall, performance was healthy with solid margins.

**Hindustan Zinc**  
  
**HINDUSTAN ZINC**

Hindustan Zinc reported excellent Q4 results. Net profit rose 47% YoY to ₹3,003 crore, and revenue grew 20% YoY to ₹9,087 crore. The company benefited from higher zinc prices, strong by-product sales, and lower costs. Operating and net margins remained strong at 42% and 33%, respectively, showing operational efficiency.

**JSW Infrastructure**  
JSW Infra posted a 57% YoY rise in Q4 net profit to ₹516 crore, on a 14% increase in revenue to ₹1,372 crore. Cargo volume grew 5% to 31.2 million tonnes, and EBITDA reached ₹730 crore. The

**JSW Infrastructure**

company continues to show strong momentum in the port and logistics sector. Full-year net profit stood at ₹1,521 crore, up 31% YoY.

**Coforge**  
Coforge's Q4 net profit stood at ₹261 crore, up 21% YoY, with revenue growing 4.7% YoY to ₹3,410 crore. EBIT also rose by 15.5%. The company's operating margin improved to 13.2% due to better cost controls. Despite global IT headwinds, Coforge delivered a steady quarter.

**Coforge**

**PB Fintech (Policybazaar)**  
PB Fintech delivered a net profit of ₹171 crore, a massive 185% YoY jump in Q4 FY25. Revenue climbed 38% YoY to ₹1,508 crore, thanks to a 46% rise in

**PB Fintech Limited**

core insurance revenue. The company is showing clear signs of profitability and scalability across its online insurance and lending platforms.

## Government Approves 187 Startups for Income Tax Exemption, Boosting Innovation



The government on Thursday announced the approval of 187 startups for income tax exemption under the revamped Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. This tax benefit allows eligible startups to claim a 100% deduction on profits for any three consecutive years within a ten-year period from their incorporation date, providing crucial financial relief during their early growth stages.

Designed to encourage innovation, job creation, and wealth generation, the income tax exemption scheme supports emerging businesses as they navigate formative years. The approvals were made during a recent meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB), according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

With this latest batch, over 3,700 startups have now received income tax exemptions since the scheme's inception. The government further expanded the eligibility window in the Union Budget 2025-26, allowing startups incorporated before April 1, 2030, to apply for the benefits, giving newer ventures more time and opportunity to avail these incentives.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has introduced a revised evaluation framework aimed at making the application process more structured and transparent. Complete applications are now reviewed within 120 days, ensuring faster decision-making and minimizing procedural delays.

Startups that did not secure approval in this round have been encouraged to reassess and refine their applications. DPIIT advises applicants to focus on demonstrating technological innovation, scalability, market potential, and a clear contribution to employment and economic growth.

This renewed push highlights the government's commitment to fostering a robust startup ecosystem, recognizing the vital role startups play in driving India's economic development and global competitiveness.

## RBI's MPC Likely to Cut Rates by 25 bps, Focus on Sustaining Growth Momentum

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to continue its focus on supporting India's economic growth, with a likely 25 basis points (bps) cut in the repo rate at its upcoming June meeting, according to CareEdge Ratings. The data intelligence firm suggests that the rate-cut cycle, which began in February, will proceed cautiously with the RBI maintaining an accommodative stance amid evolving global uncertainties.

CareEdge noted that the current healthy growth momentum, combined with easing money market rates, may prompt the RBI to take measured steps in policy easing, making a larger rate cut less likely at this meeting. The report anticipates a dovish tone from the MPC, balancing optimism on domestic growth with caution over external risks.

Retail inflation has notably eased, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) falling to a six-year low of 3.2% in April 2025. Inflation has remained below the 4% threshold for three consecutive months, largely driven by a decline in food and beverage prices, which dropped to 2.1% in April from a peak of 9.7% in October 2024.

Despite improved economic indicators, external headwinds remain a concern for the MPC. India's real GDP growth stood at 6.5% for FY24-25, with a strong 7.4% expansion in Q4, up from 6.2% in Q3. However, private consumption moderated to 6% in Q4 from 8.1% in Q3. Rural demand is expected to



stay supported by favorable agricultural output and easing inflation, while urban demand shows a mixed outlook.

The report highlights challenges such as subdued manufacturing growth, uneven consumption, delayed private capital expenditure recovery, and weak exports. These factors underline the importance of sustained policy support to ensure broad-based growth amidst global uncertainties. The MPC's decisions, scheduled for Friday, will closely monitor these dynamics.

## Consumer Price Index Inflation Expected to Ease to Six-Year Low of 3% in May

Inflation in India is projected to ease further, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) expected to moderate to 3.0 percent in May, marking a six-year low, according to a recent report by Union Bank of India (UBI). This decline is largely attributed to the sequential softening in prices of essential food items like cereals and pulses, even as prices in other sectors began to firm up.

Data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed that retail inflation in April fell to 3.16 percent from 3.34 percent in March, continuing the trend of easing consumer prices. CPI inflation is a critical economic indicator that measures the rate at which prices of goods and services consumed by households increase over time, impacting purchasing power and



monetary policy decisions.

The UBI report further noted that inflation excluding vegetables remained steady at 4.11 percent, while core inflation—which excludes volatile food and fuel prices—saw a slight uptick to 4.18 percent. This increase in core inflation

is largely due to a low base effect from the previous year rather than a significant rise in prices.

Despite the slight rise in core inflation, the report emphasized that weak consumer demand and stable prices of most commodities, with the exception of precious metals, are expected to keep core inflation well-contained in the near term.

This moderation in inflation provides some relief for policymakers and consumers alike, as it helps preserve purchasing power while allowing the Reserve Bank of India more flexibility in setting interest rates to support economic growth. The outlook remains cautiously optimistic, balancing easing food prices with signs of strengthening demand in other segments of the economy.



# Man Buys Coke, Receives 1 Euro Coin Instead of ₹5 Change—Gets Unexpected Windfall

In a quirky incident that’s catching attention online, a man in India received a surprising return on his cash transaction—literally. After purchasing a Coca-Cola can, he expected standard Indian currency as change, but instead received a 1 Euro coin, worth far more than the ₹5 he was supposed to get.

The story was shared by a Reddit user named @QuickOriginal on the popular subreddit r/indiasocial. According to the post, the user paid in cash for a Coke can and was handed back two coins as change by the shopkeeper. Without thinking much, he pocketed them and went home. It was only later, upon inspecting the coins more closely, that he noticed something odd.

To his surprise, one of the coins was not Indian at all—it was a 1 Euro coin. Currently, 1 Euro equals approximately ₹97, making it nearly 19 times the value of the ₹5 coin he was expecting. While many might have felt inconvenienced, the man expressed

both shock and amusement at the unexpected exchange.

The post quickly gained traction among Reddit users, sparking light-hearted discussions about the occasional benefits of using cash over digital payments. One user joked, “That’s the best ₹5 change anyone’s ever gotten,” while another quipped, “Plot twist: the shopkeeper was a secret Santa.”

Despite the growing preference for UPI and digital wallets in India, this incident reminds us that cash still brings its share of surprises—sometimes quite literally. It’s unclear whether the shopkeeper knowingly handed over the Euro coin or if it was an honest mistake, perhaps confusing it with a ₹5 coin, as both are similar in size and shape. For now, the lucky buyer holds on to a coin that’s more valuable than he bargained for—and probably has a funny story to tell every time he looks at it.



## Indian Railways' ‘Royal’ Salute to RCB's Historic IPL 2025 Win Goes Viral



After an 18-year-long wait, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finally lifted their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy in 2025, defeating Punjab Kings in a thrilling final on June 3. The country erupted in celebration, and among the many tributes pouring in, one from the Ministry of Railways stood out for its creativity and relatability.

In a post shared on X (formerly Twitter), the Ministry of Railways joined the nation in celebrating the victory of the Rajat Patidar-led RCB. The Ministry posted a photo of a train featuring bright red coaches—RCB’s signature color—with a caption that read: “Today, every red coach feels a little more royal! #IPL2025.”

The gesture resonated with fans, who

flooded the comment section with appreciation. One fan called the tribute “Royal and loyal,” while another quipped, “Looks like the red coaches just got their crown jewels—long live the royal ride!” Another enthusiastic supporter wrote, “This is RCB power.”

However, not all reactions were celebratory. Some users took the opportunity to raise concerns about Indian Railways’ services. One person wrote, “Railways are the country’s backbone. Please streamline Tatkal ticket booking—will be grateful.” Another added, “Hope this energy translates into washroom floor improvements in trains.”

The excitement surrounding RCB’s victory continued beyond social media. The

team announced a grand victory parade in Bengaluru on June 4, starting at 3:30 PM from Vidhana Soudha and concluding at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

RCB shared an emotional message on X for their fans, saying, “This one’s for you, 12th Man Army. For every cheer, every tear, every year. Loyalty is Royalty, and today the crown is yours.” Even cricketing legend AB de Villiers flew to Ahmedabad to witness the momentous final and support his longtime teammate Virat Kohli. As the match ended, an emotional Kohli was seen soaking in the long-awaited victory—an iconic moment in IPL history and a proud milestone for RCB and its loyal fanbase.

## “2.5 Hours, No Food”: Assam Professor Slams Zomato Over Delivery Delay, Sparks Online Debate

In a digital age where food delivery platforms promise convenience and speed, a woman’s frustrating experience with Zomato has stirred widespread attention. Shrestha Paul, an Assistant Professor of English from Assam, took to LinkedIn to express her disappointment after a dinner order turned into a two-and-a-half-hour ordeal with no food to show for it.

Paul placed an order for two mutton biryanis from the restaurant Oudh through Zomato at 11:30 PM. However, the delivery process quickly became a nightmare. According to her post, the first delivery agent arrived late and handed over the wrong order. When she raised a complaint, Zomato offered a coupon as compensation—an offer she dismissed as an inadequate “band-aid.”



Determined to salvage her dinner, she placed a fresh order. Despite sharing live location details and providing real-time assistance, the second delivery agent reportedly failed to find her address. By the time she posted the update, it was 1:53 AM.

“It is now 1:53 AM, nearly 2.5 hours later, and not only do we not have our food, but we’ve had to stay up, coordinate, follow up, and be disappointed twice,” she wrote. Frustrated and hungry, she concluded, “Re-funds do not fill a stomach, Zomato.”

Paul’s strongly worded question—“Can your platform handle trust?”—resonated with many users, triggering discussions on service accountability in the food delivery sector.

Zomato responded to her post, acknowledging the issue and calling it “disappointing to hear.” The company requested her contact details to investigate further, writing, “Your experience truly matters to us... Please help us with your registered mobile number so we can check what went wrong.”

This isn’t the first time Zomato’s service has come under scrutiny. In a previous incident, a customer received non-vegetarian food instead of the vegetarian meal she had ordered—raising serious concerns around food labeling and delivery accuracy.

As digital services become a lifeline for everyday needs, users are calling not just for faster delivery, but for greater reliability, transparency, and empathy from tech-driven platforms.

## The World’s Longest Road Trip: 14 Countries, 30,000 km, and Zero U-Turns

If you think a road trip across a few states is a big deal, wait until you hear about the Pan-American Highway — the longest continuous motorable road on Earth. Spanning approximately 30,000 kilometers, this legendary route stretches from the icy landscapes of Prudhoe Bay in Alaska all the way to the southern tip of South America, ending in Ushuaia, Argentina.

What makes the Pan-American Highway truly epic is its scale: it weaves through 14 countries, across varied terrains like arctic tundra, deserts, tropical rainforests, and soaring mountains. And despite its immense length, the route doesn’t require a single U-turn. That’s right — a straight drive (barring natural curves) from top to bottom of the American continents.

The journey starts in North America, moving through the United States, Mexico, and several Central American nations including Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. After a short, nearly impassable jungle stretch known as the Darién Gap, the route picks up again in South America, taking travelers through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and finally Argentina.

The numbers are almost unbelievable. Even if you drive 500 kilometers every single day, the entire journey would still take more than two months to complete. And that’s without factoring in sightseeing, rest days, weather conditions, or

border crossings — which are all part of the experience.

Unlike short getaways or weekend drives, the Pan-American Highway is an adventure of a lifetime. It offers travelers a front-row seat to some of the world’s most breathtaking natural wonders, diverse cultures, and iconic landmarks.

While India has its fair share of scenic routes — such as the Leh-Manali highway or the coastal drive to Rameshwaram — the Pan-American Highway stands in a league of its own. It’s not just a road trip; it’s a global expedition on wheels.

Whether you’re a seasoned traveler or a dreamer with a map, the Pan-American Highway is a route that promises more than just distance — it promises stories, endurance, and the adventure of a lifetime.







## England Announce 14-Member Squad for India Test Series, Jamie Overton’s Recall Raises Eyebrows

England on Thursday named their 14-member squad for the upcoming first Test against India at Headingley, with a surprise inclusion of all-rounder Jamie Overton. Overton, who has been a regular in England’s white-ball teams, earned his lone Test cap against New Zealand in 2022, where he made a memorable impact with two wickets and an unexpected 97 runs with the bat.

Despite this recall, Overton’s fitness remains uncertain as he recently broke a finger during the one-day internationals against the West Indies. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed that the 31-year-old will be “assessed and reviewed daily” by the medical team ahead of the Test starting on June 20.

Injury woes have also sidelined Surrey teammate Gus Atkinson, who is out with a hamstring injury sustained during England’s recent Test victory against Zimbabwe. To bolster the pace attack, England has recalled experienced pacemen Chris Woakes and Brydon Carse, both returning from injury layoffs. Woakes could challenge Sam Cook for a spot in the playing XI, though Cook retains his place in the squad following a steady debut series against Zimbabwe.

One of the major talking points in the squad announcement is the return of young top-order batsman Jacob Bethell. The 21-year-old impressed during his debut Test series in New Zealand late last year, notching three half-centuries at number three and maintaining a solid average of 52. Bethell arrives fresh from a successful Indian Premier League campaign, where he won the title with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Bethell’s return creates a selection dilemma for England’s top order, as vice-captain Ollie Pope and Zak Crawley, both of whom scored centuries in Zimbabwe, now face increased competition for spots. The five-match Test series against India will kick off at Headingley on June 20, with England looking to field a strong and balanced side.

### England Squad:

Ben Stokes (capt), Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wkt), Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes

## French Open 2025: Djokovic Battles Past Zverev, Sets Semifinal Clash with Top Seed Sinner

Novak Djokovic continued his pursuit of tennis history on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, with a hard-fought four-set win over Alexander Zverev in the French Open quarterfinals. The 38-year-old Serbian champion overcame a sluggish start to defeat the third-seeded German 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 at Roland Garros.

With the victory, Djokovic secured his 101st win at the French Open, reinforcing his legacy on the Parisian clay. The match lasted three hours and 17 minutes, showcasing the veteran’s signature resilience and tactical brilliance.

This win moves Djokovic just two steps away from a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam singles title, a feat no player—male or female—has ever achieved. Already the record-holder for most men’s major titles, the Serbian star now prepares for a high-stakes semifinal showdown against top seed Jannik Sinner.

Sinner, who has emerged as one of the most consistent performers on tour in 2025, had a much smoother route to the final four. The Italian swept past Kazakhstan’s Alexander Bublik



in straight sets, winning 6-1, 7-5, 6-0 earlier on Wednesday. Known for his composed baseline game and precision shot-making, Sinner continues to chase his first French Open crown.

The semifinal between Djokovic and Sinner is expected to be one of the tournament’s biggest highlights. While Djokovic brings unmatched experience and Grand Slam pedigree, Sinner enters the match as the ATP world number one, brimming with confidence and momentum.

This clash of generations promises high drama on the red clay of Roland Garros, with both players carrying massive stakes. For Djokovic, it’s about making history. For Sinner, it’s about carving his name into tennis’s elite by toppling a legend. As the French Open enters its final stretch, fans can look forward to a thrilling conclusion, with history on the line and rising stars ready to challenge the established order.

## World No. 361 Lois Boisson Stuns French Open 2025

### Reaches Semi-Finals After Beating Mirra Andreeva

Lois Boisson, ranked 361st in the world, continued her fairytale run at the 2025 French Open by defeating sixth seed Mirra Andreeva to secure a spot in the semi-finals. The 22-year-old Frenchwoman triumphed 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 on a lively Court Philippe Chatrier, becoming the lowest-ranked woman to reach a Grand Slam semi-final in 40 years and the first Frenchwoman to do so since Marion Bartoli in 2011.

Boisson, who was set to compete last year but missed the tournament due to a knee injury, impressed the passionate home crowd with her fearless play. She struck 24 winners against the Russian sixth seed, building on her earlier upset of world No. 3 Jessica Pegula in the fourth round.

The match was a nail-biter. Andreeva had set points at 5-3 in the first set but failed to convert. Boisson battled through a tense 12th game and a dramatic tiebreak, rallying to take the first set. In the second, Andreeva surged to a 3-0



lead but soon began to unravel under pressure. After a series of errors and a warning for smashing her ball into the stands, the 18-year-old showed frustration, culminating in boos from the crowd when she disputed a line call.

Boisson seized the momentum, winning six straight games to close out the match and claim a sensational victory.

Boisson’s next challenge is second seed Coco Gauff, who came back from a set down to defeat Madison Keys 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-1 in another hard-fought quarter-final. Gauff, last year’s runner-up, aims to go further this year.

Meanwhile, Iga Swiatek faces Aryna Sabalenka in Thursday’s other semi-final, both chasing a place in the final and Swiatek’s fourth consecutive Roland Garros title.



## Cristiano Ronaldo Breaks Germany Curse with 137th International Goal to Send Portugal to Nations League Final

Cristiano Ronaldo ended his long-standing hoodoo against Germany by scoring the winning goal in Portugal’s thrilling 2-1 victory over the Germans in Munich on Wednesday. His decisive goal, a close-range tap-in in the 68th minute, not only secured Portugal’s place in the Nations League final but also marked his record-extending 137th international goal.

The match, delayed by 10 minutes due to a violent storm that left hailstones scattered across the pitch, saw Germany take the lead early in the second half. Florian Wirtz showcased his skill with a brilliant solo run and finished it off with a low header to put Germany ahead three minutes after halftime. Despite Portugal’s spirited effort, it was their young winger Francisco Conceicao who sparked the comeback with a stunning 35-metre solo goal, curling the ball past Germany’s goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Ronaldo, who had missed two good chances earlier in the game, made no mistake when the opportunity came. He calmly tapped in a pass from Nuno Mendes to put Portugal ahead, ending his five-game losing streak against Germany — his longest without a win against any national team.

Portugal, who won the inaugural Nations League in 2019, will now face either Spain or France in the final scheduled for Sunday at the same venue. Germany, meanwhile, suffered a rare setback after losing just one of their previous 17 matches under coach Julian Nagelsmann.

## India Announces Final 25-Member Squad for AFC Asian Cup Qualifier Against Hong Kong

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has confirmed a trimmed 25-player squad for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Hong Kong on June 10. Head coach Manolo Marquez made the announcement after assessing performances during the recent international friendly tour in Thailand.

Initially, a 28-member squad was named for the Thailand tour, where India faced a 2-0 defeat in a FIFA international friendly. Following the match, goalkeeper Hrithik Tiwari and defenders Mehtab Singh and Subhashish Bose were released from the squad and are set to return to India. The remaining players have now

shifted to Bangkok to prepare for the critical qualifier.

India began their qualification campaign in March with a goalless draw against Bangladesh. With all four teams in the group currently level on one point each, the upcoming fixture carries added pressure and significance. In Wednesday’s friendly against Thailand, India showcased moments of creativity and resilience, but were undone by defensive errors and missed chances. Thailand capitalized with goals from Benjamin Davis (8’) and Poramet Arjvilai (59’) to secure the win. Despite the loss, Marquez noted encouraging signs of progress

as the team focuses on regrouping for the crucial encounter with Hong Kong.

### Final 25-member squad for the Hong Kong match:

Goalkeepers: Vishal Kaith, Gurmeet Singh Chahal, Amrinder Singh  
Defenders: Naorem Roshan Singh, Rahul Bheke, Chinglensana Singh, Anwar Ali, Boris Singh, Sandesh Jhingam, Asish Rai, Abhishek Singh  
Midfielders: Suresh Wangjam, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Ayush Chhetri, Udanta Singh, Lalengmawia Ralte, Liston Colaco, Ashique Kuruniyan, Brandon Fernandes, Nikhil Prabhu  
Forwards: Sunil Chhetri, Edmund Lal-



rindika, Manvir Singh, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Lallianzuala Chhangte  
**Head Coach: Manolo Marquez**

India will aim to gain momentum and secure a vital three points in their quest for AFC Asian Cup qualification.





## Ravi Teja’s RT76 Officially Launched, Shoot Begins June 16

Telugu cinema’s “Mass Maharaja” Ravi Teja has officially announced his next film, marking his first collaboration with acclaimed director Kishore Tirumala. The project, which is yet to be titled, promises to be a full-fledged entertainer packed with the high-octane action and energy synonymous with Ravi Teja’s brand.

The announcement comes as Ravi Teja wraps up shooting for Mass Jathara, which is slated for release on August 27th, coinciding with the festive occasion of Vinayaka Chavithi. The actor, known for juggling multiple projects, isn’t slowing down — instead, he’s diving straight into his next venture with Kishore Tirumala.

This upcoming film will be produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, a production house that has been backing several big-ticket Telugu films in recent years. The project was officially launched and is expected to go on floors shortly, with the regular shoot beginning soon.

Described as a mass entertainer with emotional depth, the film is expected to highlight Ravi Teja in a lively, ac-

tion-driven role with strong commercial appeal — a signature style both he and director Kishore Tirumala are known for. While Ravi Teja brings his energetic screen presence, Tirumala is known for his knack for blending emotion, humor, and drama, which makes this combination one to look forward to.

The makers have kept other key details, including the female lead, music composer, and supporting cast, under wraps for now. These updates will be revealed in the coming weeks as production progresses.

This project is especially anticipated by fans as it combines Ravi Teja’s mass appeal with Kishore Tirumala’s storytelling finesse. Industry insiders are already predicting it to be a potential crowd-puller.

With Mass Jathara on its way to theaters soon and this new film set to begin shooting, Ravi Teja’s 2025 lineup is shaping up to be both busy and exciting.

Stay tuned for more updates on this high-voltage entertainer!

## Thug Life Review: A Star-Studded Crime Drama That Misses the Mark

**Movie Title:** Thug Life  
**Release Date:** June 5, 2025  
**Rating:** 2.5/5  
**Cast:** Kamal Haasan, Silambarasan TR, Trisha, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Ashok Selvan, Abhirami, Joju George, Nasser, Mahesh Manjrekar  
**Director:** Mani Ratnam  
**Music:** A.R. Rahman  
**Cinematography:** Ravi K. Chandran  
**Editor:** Sreekar Prasad

Thug Life, the much-anticipated reunion between cinematic legends Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam, arrives with high expectations. Billed as a gripping gangster drama, the film aims big but ultimately struggles to deliver a compelling experience.

### Story Overview:

Set in the underworld of New Delhi, Thug Life follows Rangaraya Sakthiraju (Kamal Haasan), a feared gangster, who adopts Amar (Simbu) after a shootout. Years later, Amar inherits the empire, but a twist of fate pits him against his mentor. What causes their fallout? Will Sakthiraju survive the betrayal? The narrative attempts to explore themes of loyalty, power, and revenge.

### What Works:



Kamal Haasan is passable in the lead role, particularly in scenes showcasing his character at various ages. His confrontations with Simbu and Nasser have flashes of intensity. Simbu’s performance holds weight in the first half, and Abhirami makes the most of her limited role. Nasser also leaves a mark in a few emotional moments.

### Where It Falters:

Despite its powerhouse cast and creative team, Thug Life is dragged down by a predictable and thin storyline. The second half lacks energy and emotional payoff. Simbu’s character, initially promising, fades without resolution. Trisha’s role feels underdeveloped, while other talented actors like Ashok Selvan, Aishwarya Lekshmi, and Joju George

are severely underutilized.

Technically, Mani Ratnam’s direction lacks his signature narrative depth. The screenplay, co-written with Kamal, fails to captivate. AR Rahman’s music is surprisingly forgettable. Editing is inconsistent, and the pacing feels off, though the visuals and production values are decent.

### Verdict:

Thug Life is a classic example of star power overshadowed by weak storytelling. Despite the historic collaboration between Kamal and Mani Ratnam, the film fails to rise to the occasion. For fans expecting a gripping gangster saga or vintage Mani magic, this one may fall short of expectations.

## Chennai Love Story Creates Buzz with Promising Glimpse and Mani Sharma’s Music



The upcoming film Chennai Love Story is quickly becoming the talk of the town, stirring excitement among audiences and industry insiders alike. Directed and produced by Sai Rajesh, who gained acclaim with cult hits like Colour Photo and Baby, this new project reunites him with popular producer SKN. The film

stars Kiran Abhavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles, promising a fresh and engaging love story.

Recently, the filmmakers unveiled the title and released a brief glimpse of the film, which immediately caught the attention of viewers. In today’s era, audiences are highly selective and often form opinions early, but Chennai Love Story has successfully captured interest with just its first look. The concept, paired with a soundtrack by the legendary composer Mani Sharma, is generating significant buzz.

Mani Sharma, widely respected as “Melody Brahma,” is known for his soulful compositions, and his in-

volvement is seen as a major advantage for the film. His music has resonated with millions, and fans are eager for what promises to be a chart-topping album that complements the emotional depth of the story.

After the success of Baby, both Sai Rajesh and producer SKN took a careful two-year pause, choosing not to rush but instead wait for the perfect story that could replicate their past successes. Their patience appears to be paying off, with Chennai Love Story already being hailed as a potential blockbuster in the making.

The teaser has ignited a wave of excitement on social media, creating a strong buzz not only among fans but also in trade and business circles. The SKN-Sai Rajesh collaboration has a proven track record of box office hits and profitable ventures, which has led to growing inquiries and anticipation from distributors and buyers.

With a compelling story, a talented cast, and Mani Sharma’s melodious soundtrack, Chennai Love Story is shaping up to be one of the most eagerly awaited films of the year.

## ‘Vikram’ Makes Silent Yet Strong Impact in Japan with Impressive Collections

The blockbuster film Vikram, starring the legendary Kamal Haasan and directed by the acclaimed Lokesh Kanagaraj, has quietly made its debut in Japan, drawing significant attention despite a very limited release. Known for its gripping storyline and powerful performances, Vikram has been a massive hit since its release three years ago, captivating audiences worldwide with its intense action and compelling narrative.

Interestingly, the film was released in Japan on May 30, just days before its three-year anniversary, but without much fanfare or wide publicity. The release was limited to only 55 screens across the country, a small footprint compared to major international film launches. Despite this limited exposure, Vikram managed to garner a strong box



office performance, collecting approximately 8.4 million Japanese yen within just a few days. This amount translates to over 50 lakh Indian rupees, a remarkable achievement given the film’s modest release scale.

The strong collections indicate that Vikram has resonated well with Japanese audiences, marking a significant milestone for a Tamil-language film in a foreign market. The film’s unique blend of action, suspense, and emotion-

al depth has evidently found appeal beyond its original audience base.

One of the key highlights of Vikram is its music, composed by the talented Anirudh Ravichander, whose soundtrack has been widely praised for enhancing the film’s intense atmosphere. The film also boasts powerful performances from a stellar cast, including Vijay Sethupathi, Suriya, and Fahadh Faasil, who have played pivotal roles contributing to the movie’s success.

Vikram’s quiet yet successful release in Japan showcases the growing global reach of Indian cinema and the increasing appetite for diverse storytelling across different cultures. It stands as a testament to the film’s universal appeal and the rising influence of Tamil cinema on the world stage.

## Malayalam Star Nivin Pauly Joins Lokesh Kanagaraj’s Cinematic Universe in Raghava Lawrence’s Benz

The ever-expanding Lokesh Kanagaraj Cinematic Universe (LCU) has just added another exciting name to its roster. Malayalam cinema’s leading star Nivin Pauly is officially stepping into the LCU with the upcoming action thriller Benz, headlined by Raghava Lawrence.

While director Lokesh Kanagaraj is currently busy with post-production work on his much-anticipated Rajinikanth-starrer Coolie, he’s also producing Benz under his home banner G Squad. The project is being co-produced by Sudhan Sundaram and Jagadish Palanisamy, two names known for backing distinctive cinema.

Benz is being helmed by Remo and Sulthan fame Bakkiyaraj Kannan, who also serves as the film’s writer. Unlike other main-

stream LCU entries, Benz takes a darker turn—it’s described as a gory, no-holds-barred action thriller, with no romantic subplot or heroine. Lokesh Kanagaraj himself confirmed in a recent interview that the film is focused purely on brutal storytelling and intense action, breaking away from commercial formulae.

The film stars Raghava Lawrence in the lead role, and the latest buzz confirms that Nivin Pauly will be portraying the primary antagonist. Known for his charismatic screen presence and versatility in Malayalam cinema, Nivin’s entry into the LCU marks a significant crossover moment and adds fresh intrigue to the project. Fans are eager to see how his character will contribute to the ever-evolving narrative threads of the LCU.

