

BUZZ POINTS



PM Modi Celebrates 50 Years of Sikkim's Statehood, Hails Development and Natural Beauty

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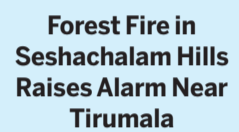
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Google's Arrival is a Game Changer for State: CM Naidu

Visakhapatnam, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu described April 28 as a historic day for the state, marking the beginning of a transformative phase with Google's entry into Visakhapatnam. He called the project a "game changer" for Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a massive AI data center being developed by Google at Taraluvada, with an investment of 1.35 lakh crore. He stated that the facility would act as a major growth engine not just for the state, but for the entire country.

Naidu emphasized that Google's decision to set up operations in Visakhapatnam is a matter of pride for North Andhra, noting that it is expected to be one of the largest



data centers in Asia. He added that leading companies like Bharti Airtel are also key partners in advancing the region's digital infrastructure.

The project is slated for completion by September 2028. Highlighting future prospects,

Naidu said artificial intelligence services would soon expand across multiple sectors, boosting innovation and economic growth. He also announced that within 60 days, water from the Godavari River would be supplied

to Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli, strengthening regional resources.

On infrastructure, the Chief Minister reiterated that the Polavaram Project would be completed before the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram. He further revealed that the first phase of the ArcelorMittal steel plant would be ready by the end of 2028.

Positioning Visakhapatnam as a future AI hub, Naidu said the city would evolve into an "AI City," while Anakapalli would emerge as a major economic district similar to Rangareddy. He concluded by affirming that Andhra Pradesh is becoming a gateway for technology in India, with the government committed not just to signing agreements but ensuring their execution on the ground.

Visakhapatnam Set to Transform from Steel City to Data City: Nara Lokesh

Visakhapatnam, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Visakhapatnam is poised for a major transformation from a traditional "Steel City" into a global "Data City," said Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday. The announcement came during the foundation-laying ceremony of a massive Google Cloud AI Hub in Tarluvada village of Visakhapatnam district.

The project was formally inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in the presence of Google Global Infrastructure Vice President BikashKoley. The event marked a significant milestone, with the project being developed in partnership with AdaniConneX and Airtel Nxta. With an estimated investment of \$15 billion, the project is among the largest foreign direct investments (FDI) in India. Spread across 600 acres in Tarluvada, Rambilli, and Adavivaram, the facility will house a 1-gigawatt hyperscale AI data center. Speaking at the event, Lokesh described the initiative as a "golden chapter" in Visakhapatnam's history. He noted that the city, long known for its steel industry, will now gain global recognition as a hub for data and artificial intelligence. He also expressed gratitude to partner companies and local farmers who contributed land

for the project.

Lokesh emphasized that the swift arrival of global giants like Google and ArcelorMittal reflects the state's improved business environment. He credited the "double-engine government" model for accelerating industrial growth, adding that Andhra Pradesh is attracting nearly 25% of the country's total investments with support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The minister stated that the project would bring in investments worth 1.35 lakh crore and generate large-scale employment opportunities. Jobs are expected across sectors such as cybersecurity, cloud computing, and mechanical engineering. He reiterated the government's goal of creating 2 million jobs while ensuring balanced regional development. Lokesh also criticized opposition parties for attempting to stall development through legal challenges but asserted that progress would not be hindered. He outlined an ambitious vision to develop the Visakhapatnam region into India's first "trillion-dollar economic zone." Drawing parallels with Hyderabad's transformation into a global IT hub under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, Lokesh said the new AI data center would place Andhra Pradesh on a fresh trajectory of technological and economic growth.

Alleged Attack on Former MLA Sparks Tensions

CH. Durga Prasad

Narsipatnam: An alleged attack on former MLA Umashankar Ganesh in Narsipatnam has triggered political tensions, raising serious concerns over law and order and the misuse of power in the region. The incident reportedly occurred when the former legislator visited the SrushtiKshetram area to question ongoing construction activity despite a High Court stay order. The project, which involves proposed development near a large water body, has been a subject of controversy, with allegations that the land, spread across nearly 50 acres



and of significant value, is being targeted under the guise of religious development. According to reports, Umashankar Ganesh had earlier challenged the project in court, securing a stay on the works. However, construction activity allegedly resumed during late hours, prompting him to rush

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Allegations of Irregularities in Laddu Contract at Durga Temple Spark Concern

Kumar Chand Pullagura

Vijayawada: The ladduprasadam contract at the famous Goddess Kanaka Durga Temple has come under scrutiny amid allegations of a lack of transparency and continued monopoly by a single contractor for nearly two decades.

Located atop Indrakeeladri Hill, the temple attracts thousands of devotees daily, with ladduprasadam emerging as a major source of revenue. Along with pulihora, laddus are among the most sought-after offerings, valued for their longer shelf life and spiritual significance.

Concerns have been raised over the reported continuation of the laddu contract under



one individual, Visweswara Rao, for an extended period. Critics argue that the temple, which functions under the Endowments Department, is required to follow a transparent tender process for awarding such contracts.

As per standard norms, contracts must be allotted through

open bidding, ensuring equal opportunity to all eligible participants. Typically, the contract is awarded to the L-1 bidder, the one quoting the lowest price, while maintaining quality standards. Authorities also hold the power to cancel contracts if conditions are not met. However, allegations suggest that these procedures are not being strictly followed in the case of the laddu contract. Instead, officials are said to have repeatedly awarded it to the same individual, citing his experience, raising questions about fairness and adherence to rules. The contractor, however, maintains that his longstanding experience

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KodaliNani Trying to Enter BJP....?

Speculation grows over Nani's political recalibration

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Political circles in Krishna district are abuzz with speculation over the next move of former minister and senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader KodaliSriVenkateswara Rao, popularly known as KodaliNani. Known for his aggressive rhetoric during his tenure in power, often targeting political opponents and even their families, Nani is now at the centre of discussions suggesting a possible political shift.

Observers note that some saw his past statements and confrontational style as contributing to political backlash against his party. In the current scenario, questions are being raised on whether he is exploring new political ground, with growing chatter hinting at



a possible inclination towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Over the past few years, the BJP's role in state politics has evolved uniquely. While the party continues to dominate at the national level, establishing a strong independent base in the State has remained a chal-

lenge. At the same time, political observers point out that leaders facing uncertainty or legal and political pressures have, in some cases, gravitated towards the BJP, viewing it as a platform that offers both relevance and protection. This perception gained ground after



developments following the 2019 elections, when leaders like SujanaChowdary and C.M. Ramesh shifted to the BJP amid mounting pressures. Their transition, widely discussed in political circles, is often cited as an example of strategic realignment during

turbulent times. Now, similar discussions are emerging around KodaliNani. After maintaining a relatively low profile following the 2024 elections, citing health reasons and even describing himself humorously to the

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Is it appropriate for Deputy Speaker Raghurama to humiliate the Collector?

Malla Chandra Sekhar

The Amaravati State Committee of the APJAC has strongly condemned the remarks made by Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Kanumuru Raghu Rama Krishna Raju against the Bapatla District Collector. In a statement issued on Tuesday, APJAC leaders, including Chairman BopparajuVenkateswarlu, Secretary General Polisetti Damodara Rao, Associate Chairman T.V. Phani Perraju, and Treasurer Thimmisarthi Nagaswara Rao, described the Deputy Speaker's comments as "derogatory, inappropriate, and unbecoming of a person holding a constitutional office."

The controversy stems from

remarks made by the Deputy Speaker on April 27 during a media interaction regarding the cancellation of a Scheduled Caste (SC) certificate issued to Pastor Anand. APJAC alleged that Raju made sarcastic and disrespectful comments targeting the Bapatla District Collector and District Magistrate, including references related to caste. The committee stated that such public criticism undermines the dignity of administrative institutions.

The organization emphasized that if the Deputy Speaker believed the Collector had acted improperly, he should have pursued formal channels by filing a complaint with the government instead of making public statements that could



erode public trust. "District Collectors represent the government at the district level and command public

confidence. Publicly ridiculing such Officials is unfortunate and damaging," the committee said. APJAC reiterated that it

will oppose any attempts to insult or demean government officials, especially by individuals in responsible constitutional positions.

Earlier, while addressing a separate controversy related to the Ramalayam temple in Akividu, Raju dismissed allegations about the demolition of a temple dedicated to Gonthamma, stating that no such temple existed and that the Ramalayam was constructed with all necessary permissions. During the same interaction, he also questioned the handling of the Pastor Anand issue by the district administration, expressing anger toward the Bapatla District Collector. The core issue revolves around Pastor Anand, whose

Scheduled Caste certificate is under scrutiny. The case originates from a dispute between Anand and AkkalaRamireddy from Kothapalem village in Pittalavanipalem mandal of Bapatla district. Ramireddy had filed a complaint nearly five years ago seeking cancellation of Anand's SC certificate. The matter gained legal significance after courts ruled that individuals who convert to Christianity are not eligible for SC benefits. This position was upheld by the Supreme Court last month. Following the apex court's ruling, district authorities revived the pending complaint. Bapatla District Collector Vinod Kumar ordered an inquiry under the provisions of the AP SC, ST, BC Regula-

tion of Issue of Community Certificates Act, 1993. A district-level scrutiny committee was constituted under the Joint Collector, comprising five members including officials from social welfare, tribal welfare, and backward classes welfare departments. The committee issued notices to both parties, summoning them for a hearing on April 18. While Ramireddy appeared and presented his arguments, Pastor Anand was absent. The committee has now scheduled a second hearing on May 1. Fresh notices will be issued to both parties, and the final report will be submitted to the District Collector, based on which further action will be taken.



KodaliNani Trying to Enter BJP...?

continued

media as unemployed, he has recently resurfaced in public life. His movements in late March and early April have drawn attention, particularly his association with BJP leader and Nagpur South MLA Mohan Mate.

During this period, Nani, along with Mohan Mate and his family members, visited prominent temples including Sri KalahastiswaraSwamy temple in Srikalahasti, Sri VenkateswaraSwamy temple in Tirumala, and Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada. He also visited Dr. B.R. AmbedkarSmruthiVanam in Vijayawada. Though these visits were initially viewed as personal or spiritual in nature, they have since taken on political significance amid the ongoing speculation. Further adding to the narrative is the sudden rise of YelamanchiliSaweswara Rao, a close relative of Nani, within the RSS structure. His elevation to a district-level role soon after joining has raised eyebrows, with some questioning whether it reflects a broader political strategy.

A meeting held on April 19 at K-Convention Hall in Lingavaram village, reportedly owned by Nani, has intensified

the buzz. The gathering, attended by several prominent figures from Krishna district, has led to speculation about possible political realignments. While details remain unclear, the timing and context have fueled discussions across Gudiwada. These developments are being viewed with caution, particularly by leaders and supporters of alliance parties like the TDP and Jana Sena. Given the BJP's alliance with the TDP, any perceived proximity between Nani, who has been a vocal critic of TDP leadership and the BJP ecosystem, could create confusion among cadres and impact political equations at the grassroots level. At the same time, some residents and political observers see these developments as part of a broader strategy for political survival and repositioning. Nani himself has remained silent on the issue, neither confirming nor denying the speculation.

As the situation unfolds, a key question lingers in Gudiwada—are these merely coincidental developments or do they signal a calculated political shift? The coming weeks are likely to provide clearer answers, as all eyes remain on KodaliNani's next move.

Allegations of Irregularities in Laddu Contract at Durga Temple Spark Concern

continued

and ability to manage large-scale prasadam production justify the continued allotment. He has reportedly denied any undue influence or involvement of temple officials in securing the contract. Observers say that if a proper tender system were implemented, it would allow new bidders to participate, promoting competition and transparency. The absence of such a process has led to growing suspicion among devotees and stakeholders. Amid mounting criticism, there are increasing demands for a detailed inquiry into the contract allocation process. Many are urging higher authorities to examine whether established guidelines have been bypassed and to ensure that temple administration upholds transparency and accountability in managing its affairs.

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Alleged Attack on Former MLA Sparks Tensions

continued

to the site. When he questioned those present about continuing work in violation of the court's directive, tensions escalated. It is alleged that a group at the location confronted the former MLA, questioned his authority, and resorted to pelting stones at his vehicle, damaging its windows. The situation forced him to leave the spot, raising alarm over the brazenness of the act carried out in public view. The incident has since gained traction, with political circles debating the backing behind such actions. Allegations have surfaced linking supporters of senior politi-

cal leader and Speaker AyyannaPatrudu to the episode, though no official confirmation has been made so far.

Meanwhile, YSRCP leaders have lodged a complaint with the police, demanding a thorough investigation and action against those responsible, including AyyannaPatrudu and his nine aides. They have also submitted the names of individuals allegedly involved in the attack.

The episode has intensified concerns over governance and accountability, with opposition voices alleging that such incidents reflect a growing trend of intimidation and disregard for legal processes.



Chandrababu Naidu Leads Landmark \$15 Billion Google AI Hub Launch in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam, April 28 | TPN Bureau:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the Google Cloud India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam, calling it a transformative moment in the state's technological journey. The project, backed by Google with an investment of \$15 billion, is among the largest foreign direct investments in India. Sharing the stage with Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Naidu described the 1-gigawatt hyperscale data centre as a "game changer" that will position Andhra Pradesh as the AI data gateway of the nation. Spread across nearly 600 acres in Tharluwada, Adavivaram, and Rambilli, the facility is targeted for completion by September 2028. Recalling his role in building

Cyberabad three decades ago, Naidu expressed confidence that Visakhapatnam would similarly evolve into a global hub for digital innovation and wealth creation. He assured full government support, including water supply from the Godavari River, to fast-track the project.

Highlighting governance innovation, Naidu said AI tools from Google would enhance administrative efficiency, even assisting him as a virtual secretary. He added that the project would generate large-scale employment and attract global talent back to the state. The Chief Minister also announced that Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the Bhogapuram International Airport in July, further boosting the region's growth prospects.

AP Govt Signals Crackdown on Petrol Bunks

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government is preparing to take strict action against petrol bunk operators who deliberately create artificial shortages of petrol and diesel. Authorities have warned that heavy penalties will be imposed on those found engaging in such practices.

According to officials, some petrol bunk operators have been exploiting public concerns by citing war-related fears and spreading rumors about potential price hikes. These tactics are reportedly being used to withhold fuel supplies and sell them on the black market for higher profits.

The situation has been further fueled by speculation following recent elections in oth-



er states, leading to expectations of rising fuel prices. Taking advantage of this, certain operators are allegedly attempting to maximize their gains. The state government has made it clear that

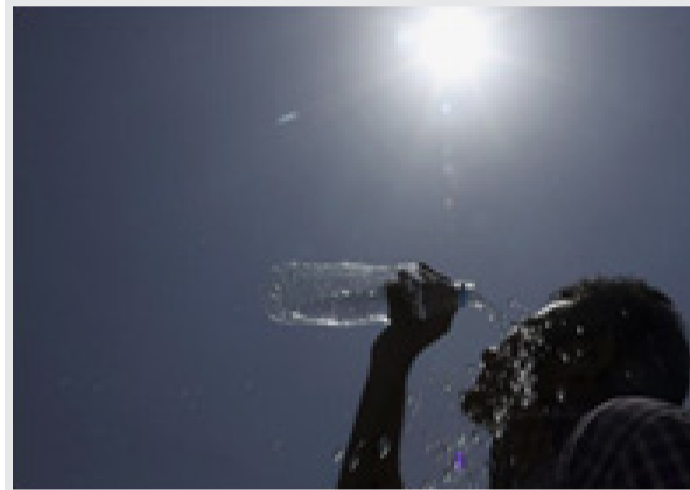
if such practices continue, it will not hesitate to seize petrol bunks involved in creating artificial scarcity. These measures aim to ensure fair availability of fuel and prevent exploitation of consumers.

Isolated Rainfall Likely in State

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Large parts of the state continued to experience dry weather on Tuesday, with no rainfall reported across Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema in the past 24 hours. According to the Meteorological Centre in Amaravati, temperatures remained high, with Jangamaheswarapuram recording a scorching 42.7°C, while Aroyavaram registered a minimum of 24.0°C.

Officials stated that there has been no significant change in temperatures across the regions, although some areas in Rayalaseema reported slightly above-normal conditions. Despite the prevailing dry spell, the weather department has predicted light to moderate rainfall or thundershow-



ers at isolated locations in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Rayalaseema over the coming days. Meanwhile, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh is expected to remain largely dry, with hot

and humid conditions causing discomfort. Authorities have also warned of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds in some areas, urging residents to remain cautious.

Infosys to Set Up 750-Crore Campus in Visakhapatnam

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau:

In a significant boost to Andhra Pradesh's IT sector, Infosys has been allotted 20 acres of land in Visakhapatnam by the state government. Official orders have been issued as part of the government's strategy to transform the coastal city into a major IT hub. The company is expected to invest around 750 crore in the new campus, which is likely to generate substantial employment opportunities. In the initial phase, nearly 7,000 jobs are anticipated, offering a major boost to local youth and job seekers across the state. The proposed IT/ITES campus will focus on software services, technology-driven solutions, and business process operations, further strengthening the region's digital ecosystem.



The Andhra Pradesh government has been actively pursuing investments from leading industries and IT firms. The entry of Infosys is seen as a milestone in these efforts, enhancing the state's attractive-

ness for future investments. Experts believe this development will accelerate economic growth, improve infrastructure, and position Visakhapatnam as one of India's emerging IT destinations.

Strict Action Against Fuel Diversion, Warns Minister Manohar

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Tuesday held a teleconference to review the ongoing fuel situation and issued strict directives against diversion of petrol and diesel. He instructed officials to take firm action against petrol bunks that falsely claim shortage despite having adequate stock. The Minister noted that a majority of complaints received on the toll-free consumer helpline 1967 relate to denial of fuel by petrol pumps. He directed district authorities to compile reports and initiate necessary action against erring outlets. Manohar observed that petrol bunk closures are gradually decreasing and fuel dispatches from oil companies have picked up pace. He stressed that incoming supplies must fully reach



consumers without disruption. Emphasizing support for the farming sector, he directed officials to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply, particularly to aqua farmers and during the

Rabi harvest season. He also called for vigilance against rumours on social media and warned of criminal action against those creating artificial shortages.



Forest Fire in Seshachalam Hills Raises Alarm Near Tirumala

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau

A recent forest fire in the Seshachalam Hills, which act as a natural protective cover for Tirumala, has raised serious concerns among environmentalists and devotees. The blaze spread rapidly in the Mondodikona and Jeevakona regions, affecting nearly two kilometers of forest area. Its proximity to red sanders reserves and frequently visited pilgrimage spots has heightened the risk. The exact cause remains unclear, though officials suspect

human error, such as careless disposal of cigarettes or intentional mischief. Dry leaves and grass during summer make the forest highly vulnerable to fires. The Seshachalam forests are home to rare medicinal plants and wildlife like deer and peacocks, now under threat. Difficult terrain is hampering fire-fighting efforts, prompting the use of fire lines and traditional control methods. Authorities stress stricter vigilance and responsible behavior from visitors to prevent future incidents.

Person Attacks MLA's Convoy

Rentichintala, April 28 | TPN Bureau

An attack was carried out on the convoy of Macherla MLA Julakanti Brahma Reddy on Monday night. According to police reports, the MLA was traveling from Veldurthi to attend Brahmagari festival in Pasarlapadu village of Rentachintalamandal. While passing through the village bypass near a cremation ground around 9 PM, an unidentified person hurled a beer bottle from the darkness. The bottle struck the escort vehicle in front of the

MLA's car. Police immediately responded and apprehended Sheikh Saida, a YSRCP activist from Mittagudipadu village, who was allegedly involved in the attack. During the chase, Saida fell and suffered a leg fracture. He was shifted to the government hospital in Gurazala for treatment. Police stated that two other suspects, Gopal and Raju from Pasarlapadu, are currently absconding. Gurazala DSP Maheshwara Rao visited the scene and confirmed that a detailed investigation is underway.

Centre Invites Nominations for PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau

The Government of India has opened nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP), a prestigious national award that honours exceptional achievements by children across diverse fields such as bravery, sports, social service, science and technology, environment, and arts and culture.

Nominations can be submitted online through the National Awards Portal, with the last date for applications set as July 31, 2026. The process allows both self-nominations and recommendations from citizens.

Children aged between 5 and 18 years as of July 31, 2026, who are Indian citizens residing in the country, are eligible for the award. The honours are conferred annually on young achievers whose accomplish-



ments deserve national recognition.

The government has clarified that applications will be accepted only through the National Awards Portal, where detailed guidelines and eligibility criteria are also available.

APGECET 2026 Kicks Off with Strong Attendance

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau:

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) successfully conducted the first day of the APGECET 2026 examination on Tuesday, marking the beginning of the three-day entrance test for admissions into post-graduate courses in Engineering and Pharmacy.

According to an official press note issued by APSCHE Secretary Prof. B. Tirupati Rao, the examination witnessed a significant turnout of candidates across both sessions. A total of 8,031 candidates were scheduled to appear on Day 1. Of these, 3,927 candidates attended the first session, while 3,812 candidates appeared in the second session. The attendance percentage stood notably high, with Ses-



sion 1 recording 92.89% attendance and Session 2 registering 77.59%. Overall participation reflected strong interest among aspirants seeking postgraduate opportunities in technical and pharmaceutical education. Authorities reported that the examination process was conducted smoothly without any major disruptions. The remaining sessions of APGECET 2026 will continue over the next two days. Officials have urged media outlets to widely disseminate the information as the entrance test plays a crucial role in shaping academic prospects for thousands of students across the state.



Government Colluding with Black Marketeers: Avinash Reddy

New Delhi, April 28 | TPN Bureau
The ongoing fuel crisis in Andhra Pradesh has reached the national stage, with YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) intensifying its protest in New Delhi. On Wednesday, party MP Y. S. Avinash Reddy met Union Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal and lodged a formal complaint over the worsening fuel shortages across the state.

Government, accusing it of colluding with black market operators instead of addressing public distress. He expressed concern over the heavy losses faced by farmers during the ongoing Rabi harvest season due to diesel shortages. Aqua farmers, he added, are also suffering as their aerators have stopped functioning without adequate fuel supply.



TDP Leaders Congratulate Y.V.B. Rajendra Prasad on New Role

Uyyuru, April 28 | TPN Bureau
TDP National Vice President Y.V.B. Rajendra Prasad was warmly felicitated at his residence in Uyyuru by leaders of the Srikrishnadevaraya Kapu Welfare Association and TDP members from Uppuluru and Kankipadu. The leaders congratulated him on his new role and expressed their support.

under the leadership of N. Chandrababu Naidu, the state is progressing across all sectors. He highlighted that while attracting investments, the coalition government is also committed to implementing welfare schemes for the poor and marginalized sections.

Atchannaidu Assures No Diesel Shortage for Aqua Farmers

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau
Reaffirming the state government's support to the aquaculture sector, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Tuesday assured that there would be no disruption in diesel supply to aqua farmers, despite ongoing power interruptions. The minister highlighted that aquaculture remains a key contributor to the state economy, covering nearly 2.34 lakh hectares.



litres per week. Atchannaidu said the government has implemented strict monitoring measures, directing district authorities to ensure continuous diesel availability. He urged farmers not to panic, assuring full government support.

Machilipatnam Port to Be Completed by December, Says Minister Kollu Ravindra

Machilipatnam, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra on Tuesday asserted that the long-pending Machilipatnam (Bandaru) Port project will be completed by December this year. He also strongly criticized the stance of YSRCP leaders regarding the port's development, the media, the minister alleged that opposition leaders were attempting to mislead the public with "diversion politics" and emotional rhetoric.



The minister also launched a sharp attack on specific opposition figures, accusing them of corruption, mismanagement, and making false promises about the port in the past. He claimed that some leaders who had earlier vowed to resign if the port was not realized had failed to fulfill their commitments.

the previous government, stating that commissions were prioritized over development. He warned that any attempts to spread misinformation or create political unrest among the public would not be tolerated.

Government Mismanagement Behind Petrol Shortage: Sajjala

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau:

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh over the ongoing petrol and diesel shortage, blaming it on administrative failure. Addressing the media, he questioned whether a functioning government exists in the state or if it is "pretending to be asleep."



like the Google Data Center were initiated during the tenure of Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy through collaborations involving the Adani Group. He questioned the current government's ability to attract investments if it cannot ensure basic fuel supply.

against coalition MLAs allegedly involved in such incidents. "There is no real governance in Andhra Pradesh today; it has become a burden on the people," he said.

"MLA Brahma Reddy Blames Pinnelli Brothers for Attack"

Karampudi, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Macherla MLA Julakanti Brahma Reddy has alleged that a recent attack on his vehicle convoy was carried out as part of a premeditated plan by former MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy and his associates. Speaking at a press conference held at the Veldurthi camp office on Tuesday, Brahma Reddy strongly condemned the incident, stating that the attack took place near Pasarlapadu, where unidentified individuals reportedly hurled liquor bottles at his convoy under the cover of darkness.



lenged former MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy to a public debate on development works, claiming that he is ready to expose alleged corruption, exploitation, and irregularities during the latter's tenure. According to Brahma Reddy, significant development works worth crores have been undertaken in the Macherla constituency after the formation of the current coalition government.

further attacks on leaders and workers of his party would have serious consequences. He emphasized that maintaining peace and ensuring development in the constituency remains his priority, in line with the directions of party leader N. Chandrababu Naidu.



"TDP Goons Attack Ganesh on Speaker Ayyanna's Orders"

Narsipatnam, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Narsipatnam witnessed heightened political tensions as leaders of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) from North Andhra strongly condemned an alleged attack on former MLA Petla Uma Shankar Ganesh. Party leaders expressed outrage, calling the incident a disturbing example of what they described as an emerging "culture of violence" in the region. Senior leaders including Gudivada Amarnath, Budi Mutyala Naidu, Karanam Dharmasri, Tippala Nagireddy, and Malasala Bharath visited Ganesh at his residence to extend their support.

behalf of local farmers and residents. During the attack, his vehicle was reportedly vandalized, and his personal assistant was assaulted. Gudivada Amarnath alleged that individuals involved in serious criminal cases, including murder and drug-related offenses, carried out the assault using sticks and iron rods. He further claimed that threats were issued openly, even in the presence of police personnel. The leaders also criticized the state government's law and order situation, alleging an increase in political violence and false cases against opposition members.

YSRCP Seeks Comprehensive Probe into Anantapur Honey Trap Racket

Anantapur, April 28 | TPN Bureau:

Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy, former MLA of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), has demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the alleged honey trap racket operating in Anantapur district. Addressing the media at the party's district office, he questioned why authorities have so far acted only against lower-level operatives while allegedly shielding the key masterminds behind the operation. The racket reportedly involved targeting affluent individuals through fake social media profiles, luring them into compromising situations, recording videos, and extorting money and property. Prakash Reddy stated that the scandal has severely tarnished the image of Anantapur and criticized claims that influential political figures had no role in the case.



certain police personnel, including suspensions and dismissals, he termed the response inadequate. He accused those in power of enabling a criminal network that exploits vulnerable women and extorts victims. He called for the case to be handed over to central or state investigative agencies such as the CBI or CID, emphasizing that justice would only be served if the entire conspiracy is exposed and all those responsible are held accountable.

AP Targets 6 Lakh Solar Connections in 100 Days

Tadepalli, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has directed officials to complete 6 lakh PM Surya Ghar connections within 100 days, prioritizing SC and ST beneficiaries. During a review meeting at the Tadepalli camp office, attended by senior power department officials and contractors, the minister emphasized strict adherence to timelines set by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Ravi Kumar instructed each DISCOM to achieve a minimum of 2,000 connections per day to meet the ambitious target within three months. He warned contractors against delays and stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards in implementation. Highlighting the government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable energy access, the minister called for continuous monitoring and accountability at all levels.

MLA Holds PrajaDarbar, 47 Grievances Addressed

Reddigudem(NTR Dist)April 28 | TPN Bureau: Mylavaram MLA Vasantha VenkataKrishnaprasad conducted a PrajaDarbar at the Mandal Parishad office in Reddigudemmandal on Tuesday, receiving public grievances and directing officials to resolve issues swiftly. As many as 47 petitions were submitted covering revenue, police, panchayat raj, electricity, roads and other personal issues. He stressed accountability and warned that negligence would not be tolerated, instructing officials to ensure time-bound solutions and explain delays transparently to citizens.

He also inaugurated a summer knowledge camp at the Mylavaram library branch, encouraging students to utilize library resources during vacations and engage in learning activities. Later, he opened a dining hall attached to a KalyanaMandapam in Pathanaguru village, appreciating local leaders for contributing development funds for community welfare projects. He reaffirmed focus on grassroots development across the constituency in the coming days.

Delay in 'Jaladhara' Works Will Not Be Tolerated, Says MLA in PrajaDarbar

Mopidevi (Krishna Dist), April 28 | TPN Bureau: Avinigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad has made it clear that negligence in implementing government programmes will not be tolerated. He stated this while conducting a 'PrajaDarbar' at the Mopidevi Mandal Parishad office on Tuesday. The MLA expressed concern over delays in 'Jaladhara' works, a key state initiative, and questioned officials on the lack of timely proposals and resolutions, which he said was affecting fund allocation for development activities. He directed Village Special Officers and Panchayat Secretaries to act responsibly

and ensure all works are executed in line with government guidelines. Constituency Special Officer PenumudiSaibabu also expressed strong displeasure over the slow progress and warned of strict disciplinary action, including suspension, for continued negligence. He highlighted Mopidevi Mandal's poor performance compared to others in the constituency. The MLA received 42 public petitions and assured prompt resolution. He also instructed officials to protect newly constructed rural roads from damage caused by heavy vehicles and ensure proper maintenance and regulation.

YSRCP Urges Relief for BDS Interns at NTR University

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau: The NTR District Doctors' Wing of the YSR Congress Party has urged the administration of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences to urgently address concerns raised by final-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) students regarding the immediate transition from final examinations to compulsory internship duties. Chairman Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav said students are being moved directly into full-time clinical postings without any break after completing their final exams, which he said is causing significant physical and mental stress. He noted that the demanding nature of final-year examinations followed by uninterrupted 365-day internship duties is affecting student well-being and may also impact the quality of patient care. The Doctors' Wing also expressed concern over financial uncertainty faced by students during this transition period. Many students are reportedly

bearing hostel and mess expenses on their own while awaiting clarity on stipend payments and internship formalities. Questions have also been raised about whether the days worked before result declaration will be counted toward the mandatory internship period and whether stipends will be paid from the date of posting. The organization has called on university authorities to provide a mandatory break between examinations and internship commencement, ensure that all working days are properly counted and compensated, and issue clear, uniform guidelines across all affiliated dental colleges to avoid ambiguity and ensure fairness. Dr. Yadav stated that students contributing to clinical services must receive clarity and financial support. He added that administrative uncertainty and workload pressure on young dental professionals should be addressed promptly in the interest of student welfare and effective healthcare training.

Contract Workers' Protest Intensifies at Government Hospital in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau: The agitation by contract sanitation workers at the Government General Hospital intensified on Tuesday, entering its second day. The workers are demanding clearance of three months' pending wages, payment of Provident Fund (PF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) dues, job security, and timely monthly salaries. As part of the protest, workers staged a rally from the dharna camp to the hospital superinten-

dent's office, insisting that officials and the contractor appear in person and provide a clear assurance. Although discussions were held between the superintendent, other officials, union leaders, and workers, they failed to yield results due to the absence of the contractor. The workers highlighted their severe financial distress, stating that non-payment of wages has left them unable to pay house rents, electricity bills, and loans. They also expressed concern that for the past five months, there has

ADC Cracks Down on Poor Worker Facilities in Amaravati Camps

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Cracking the whip on inadequate facilities in labour camps, Chairperson and Managing Director of Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) Lakshmi Parthasarathi on Tuesday directed contracting agencies to immediately upgrade food, accommodation, and basic amenities for migrant workers engaged in construction works across Amaravati.

During an inspection tour, she visited labour camps at Lingayapalem, Thullur, Ananthavaram, and along N-13 and N-16 roads, reviewing arrangements related to food, sanitation, drinking water, and housing. She expressed strong dissatisfaction over the lack of basic amenities at the Mega Labour Camp near E-4 Road and ordered immediate provi-



sion of electricity and safe drinking water. At the BSR Central Kitchen, she examined meal menus for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and enquired about facilities for women and children. She also interacted with workers, including drivers working night shifts, to assess availability of cots and fans. Stressing zero tolerance for lapses, she urged workers to report grievances promptly. Senior engineers and officials accompanied her.



Opposition Alleges Conspiracy Behind Fuel Shortage

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Vellampalli Srinivas Rao has launched a strong attack on the state government over the ongoing petrol and diesel shortage, terming it a failure of governance. He conducted a field inspection at an HP petrol bunk near Bank Center in Bhavanipuram, where he interacted with motorists facing long delays and empty fuel stations. He pointed out that despite indents being

placed on April 25, fuel had not been supplied, causing widespread inconvenience. According to him, nearly 70 percent of petrol stations across the state are displaying "No Stock" boards, while the government continues to insist that there is no shortage. Alleging an "artificial crisis," he accused authorities of colluding with oil companies and creating scarcity ahead of price revisions. He also criticized ministers for being away on foreign trips

while citizens struggle for fuel, and questioned the effectiveness of command control systems in monitoring essential supplies. A protest was organized near the New India Hotel in Gandhi Nagar, Vijayawada, demanding immediate intervention. Former MLA Malladi Vishnu Vardhan and YSR Congress Party leaders participated, accusing the government of negligence and demanding urgent restoration of normal fuel supply across the state.

APPSC Releases Provisional Lists for Fisheries, Junior Lecturer Posts

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) on Tuesday released provisional selection lists for two recruitments, Assistant Inspector of Fisheries and Junior Lecturer in Library Science, conducted under limited recruitment notifications.

The list for Assistant Inspector of Fisheries posts was released under Notification No. 23/2025 dated September 24, 2025, while the Junior Lecturer (Library Science) results were announced under Notification



No. 14/2025 dated September 16, 2025. In an official statement, the Commission said the lists have been published on its website

for candidates to access. Aspirants who participated in the selection process can check their results online. APPSC clarified that selections are provisional and subject to verification of certificates and fulfillment of eligibility criteria. Further instructions regarding document verification and appointments will be issued in due course. The recruitments are expected to strengthen both the Fisheries Department and Intermediate Education sector by filling key vacancies across the State



VMC Steps Up Park Development and Maintenance for Summer Rush

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanaachandra H has launched a focused drive to improve park maintenance across the city during the summer holidays. During an inspection on Tuesday, he visited Muthyalampadu, Satyanarayapuram, Gandhinagar and Hanumanpet, reviewing ongoing works and directing officials to keep parks clean, safe and visitor-friendly. At ASR Park, he inspected the open-air gym and stressed regular maintenance

and increased public use. At Gora Park, he called for better seating and improved ambience, while at Chitturiv-isweswarayya Park, he instructed officials to set up a cricket practice net for children. The Commissioner emphasized strict sanitation, regular monitoring and prompt repairs to ensure a pleasant environment for visitors throughout the summer. Senior officials, including Deputy Director of Horticulture Chandrasekar and Executive Engineer Prabhakar, accompanied him during the inspection.

Interest waiver for loan beneficiaries

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare (SCP) Department has issued fresh instructions regarding the implementation of loan schemes under the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and the National SafaiKaramcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

According to G.O. Rt. No. 319 dated 31 December 2025, the government has directed officials to expedite the sanction and disbursement of loans under these corporations. The order emphasizes that all pending applications must be completed and processed within the stipulated timeline. The government has fixed April 30, 2026 as the final deadline for completing the processing of all loan applications. Beneficiaries who have already applied must ensure that all required documentation and verification processes are completed before this date. Applications that remain incomplete beyond the deadline will not be considered further. District authorities and concerned departments have been instructed to take necessary steps to ensure timely completion of the scheme implementation and to avoid delays in benefiting eligible applicants under NSFDC and NSKFDC programs.



Agri Officers Welcome Promotions

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau:

The State Agricultural Officers' Association has welcomed the government's decision to clear long-pending promotions in the Agriculture Department after a gap of nearly seven years. The association representatives met Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Tuesday and expressed their gratitude for resolving the issue and enabling smooth cadre advancement. As per association leaders, the long-stalled promotions from Assistant Directors of Agriculture (ADAs) to Deputy Directors (DDs) were taken up repeatedly with the Chief Minister and the

agriculture minister. Following their intervention, approval was granted for the promotion of 37 ADAs to the DD cadre. The minister also ensured that eligible officers were given prompt postings based on their preferences. Minister Atchannaidu stated that higher positions come with greater responsibilities and advised officers to actively promote modern agricultural technologies among farmers. He stressed that improved awareness at the field level would enhance productivity and increase farm income. Association president Dr. Balabhaskar and general secretary Dr. D. Praveen, along with other members, attended the meeting.

CM Chandrababu Honoured for IT Push, Youth Seek Age Relaxation

Visakhapatnam, April 28 | TPN
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was honoured by AP Nirudyoga JAC State President Samayam Hemanth Kumar for his efforts in attracting global investments and strengthening Andhra Pradesh's development prospects. Hemanth Kumar praised the government for bringing major IT companies, including Google, to Visakhapatnam and for securing Amaravati as the state capital. He said these initiatives have laid a strong foundation for employment opportunities and positioned Visakhapatnam as an emerging IT hub on par with Hyderabad.

derabad. He also expressed gratitude to Education Minister Nara Lokesh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their support in facilitating investments and infrastructure growth in the state. As part of the event, Hemanth Kumar symbolically crowned the Chief Minister and submitted a representation seeking an increase of at least four years in the upper age limit for competitive examinations. He noted that many candidates lost eligibility due to delays in job notifications in previous years. Responding to the request, the Chief Minister assured a positive consideration.

CSMRS Team Reviews Material Quality at Polavaram Project

Polavaram, April 28 | TPN
A team of experts from the Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS) conducted an extensive inspection at the Polavaram Project on Tuesday, focusing on the quality of soil, rock, and other construction materials used in the nationally significant irrigation project.



The expert team, comprising specialists Anvesh, Gaurav Pandey, Uday Chakravarthy, and Harinder Singh Prakash, carried out detailed assessments of materials being utilized in various components of the project. The visit follows a recent inspection by the same team to evaluate concrete quality in different structures. During the latest inspection, scientists closely examined materials used in the construction of the Earth-Cum-Rock Fill (ECRF) dam, one of the project's most critical structures. Soil and rock materials used in other ongoing works were also scrutinized to ensure adherence to prescribed engineering standards.

Further, the team conducted inspections in Gap-1 and Gap-2 construction zones, including ring tests on materials already used in executed works. At Kothuru, additional soil samples prepared for project use were examined, with select samples being earmarked for advanced testing at the central laboratory in New Delhi. Officials from the Quality Control Wing, including technical staff, accompanied the team throughout the inspection. The review is expected to reinforce quality compliance and ensure the long-term structural integrity of the Polavaram Project.

Officials from the Water Resources Department and the project executing agency provided full cooperation, briefing the team on quality assurance protocols and material sourcing practices. Senior officials, including Superintending Engineer Ramachandra Rao and Executive Engineer D. Srinivas, along with representatives from the executing agency, were present during the inspection.

RSS 'Shiksha Varg' Training Camp from May 1

East Godavari, April 28 | TPN
A 'Shiksha Varg' training camp organized by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh will commence from May 1 at Vikas College in Korukonda village of Rajanagar constituency. BJP leader Kambala Srinivas urged people to participate in large numbers, stating that

the training aims to instill patriotism, discipline, and a spirit of service among youth and citizens. The camp will begin after lunch on May 1 and is open to participants from Class 9 students up to individuals aged 60. Organizers have made it mandatory for attendees to wear khaki shorts and white shirts during the sessions.

Srinivas said the programme is designed to strengthen national spirit and encourage responsible citizenship. He described the training as a valuable opportunity for individuals interested in contributing to society and the nation. He appealed to interested persons to take part actively and make the camp a success.

NMC Flags Alleged Irregularities, Harassment at Kadapa Medical College

Vijayawada, April 28 | TPN Bureau

A department at Government Medical College (KMC), Kadapa, has allegedly collected money from postgraduate (PG) students for departmental expenses, raising concerns over financial burden and administrative practices within the institution. The allegations are casting a shadow over the college's image and raising questions about the administration's oversight.



According to a grievance received by the National Medical Commission (NMC), multiple issues have been flagged regarding the conduct and functioning of faculty members and the overall academic environment. The Postgraduate Medical Education Board (PG-MEB) of the NMC has forwarded the complaint to the college administration, seeking an inquiry and appropriate action.

The complaint alleges that PG students were asked to contribute significant amounts towards departmental expenses such as maintenance works and other requirements, which students found unfair and burdensome. Further, students have raised serious allegations of unprofessional behaviour by a senior faculty member, claiming that PGs were subjected to humiliation and insulting language even during academic discussions. The grievance states that such remarks have had a demoralising effect on students.

The complaint also highlights that PG students are being overburdened with teaching responsibilities, including handling classes for undergraduate courses, nursing, and para-medical courses, while faculty participation in teaching is reportedly limited. Students alleged that despite a formal schedule, much of the academic workload is being shifted onto them.

In addition, junior PGs are said to be burdened with excessive non-academic and clerical work, along with pressure related to thesis and departmental tasks. Concerns were also raised about harsh treatment by senior staff. Taking cognizance of the issue, the NMC has directed the college authorities to look into the matter and ensure a fair and respectful academic environment for students.

The response from the Director of Medical Education, Vice Chancellor of Dr NTR UHS and the college administration is awaited.

Heatwave Alert Across Andhra Pradesh as Temperatures Cross 44°C

Amaravati, April 28 | TPN
The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has issued a heatwave alert as temperatures continue to soar across the state, with several regions recording extreme heat conditions.

trough extending from Rayalaseema to the Comorin region may bring scattered light rainfall accompanied by lightning in parts of Manyam, Alluri, Polavaram, Kurnool, Nandyal, and Anantapur districts. Farmers and cattle herders have been advised to avoid taking shelter under trees during thunderstorms due to the risk of lightning strikes.

According to Managing Director Prakhari Jain, the highest temperature of 44.3°C was recorded on Tuesday in Cumbum and Ontimitta. Out of 28 districts, as many as 140 mandals across 16 districts witnessed temperatures exceeding 41°C, indicating widespread heat stress.

The disaster management authority has issued public health advisories, cautioning people against venturing outdoors during peak afternoon hours unless necessary. Special care has been advised for individuals with heart conditions, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

For Wednesday, severe heatwave conditions are likely in 21 mandals of Vizianagaram and Parvathipuram Manyam districts, while heatwave conditions are expected in seven additional mandals. Authorities have urged residents to remain cautious as temperatures are expected to remain high.

Residents have been urged to stay hydrated by drinking water regularly and to take protective measures such as wearing sunglasses and covering exposed body parts to avoid heat-related illnesses.

At the same time, a weather



MP-Based Gang Busted in Bapatla; 30.8 Lakh Worth Property Recovered

Bapatla, April 28 | TPN
In a major breakthrough, Bapatla district police arrested three members of a highly dangerous gang from Madhya Pradesh involved in a series of crimes across southern states, including Andhra Pradesh.

Police identified the accused as Bhuru Makwana, Ramesh Machar, and Santosh Bhuriya, all from Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. During the operation, officials seized stolen property worth 30.88 lakh, including 137 grams of gold, 1.5 kg of silver, 5 lakh in cash, and two-wheelers.

According to District SP B. Uma Maheshwar, the accused were linked to 18 offences spanning districts such as Bapatla, Guntur, Prakasam, and Nellore. The arrests were made on Tuesday following a detailed investigation using CCTV footage, fingerprints, and technical evidence.

The gang came to light after a violent robbery at a residence in Chirala in January, where the victims were assaulted and gold ornaments were looted. Special teams led by senior officers tracked the suspects across multiple locations before apprehending them.

The gang came to light after a violent robbery at a residence in Chirala in January, where

Police said the gang was involved in burglaries, chain snatching, and vehicle theft across multiple states. Further investigation is underway.

Full Bail Granted to YS Bhaskar Reddy in Viveka Murder Case

Kadapa, April 28 | TPN
The Telangana High Court has granted full bail to Y. S. Bhaskar Reddy, an accused in the murder case of former minister Y. S. Vivekananda Reddy.

after noting that the Central Bureau of Investigation had completed its investigation and filed the final charge sheet.

Earlier, Bhaskar Reddy was on conditional bail with restrictions on travel and regular appearances before police. The court relaxed these conditions

With no further interrogation pending, the court granted unconditional bail, allowing him to travel freely. Bhaskar Reddy was arrested in 2023. Following the court's decision, his supporters expressed relief.

Collector Warns of Action Over Delay in Govt Works

Nizampatnam, April 28 | TPN

Bapatla District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar has directed officials to complete all ongoing government building works within stipulated timelines, warning that negligence will invite strict action. During an inspection visit to Borravari-

palem village in Nizampatnam mandal, the Collector reviewed construction of the village clinic, building, pump house, and drinking water tank. He questioned officials over delays and stressed the need for quality execution without lapses. Accompanied by District Panchayat Officer L. Prabhakar Rao and RWS SE

Anantha Raju, he instructed authorities to ensure adequate supply of safe drinking water to residents. The Collector also directed panchayat staff to plant flowering plants around water tanks to enhance the surroundings and maintain village cleanliness. Local officials and staff participated in the inspection programme.

Collector Calls for Comprehensive Plan to Curb Road Accidents

Kurnool, April 28 | TPN

District Collector Dr. A. Siri has directed officials to implement a comprehensive action plan to reduce road accidents, stressing the need for coordinated efforts among all departments. Chairing a District Road Safety Committee meeting with SP Vikrant Patil, the Collector said road safety must be treated as a top priority. She ordered immediate

resolution of land acquisition issues for road widening in Ralladoddi village and instructed officials to identify accident-prone "black spots" and submit reports. The Collector directed departments to repair potholes, clear roadside vegetation, install speed breakers, and ensure proper lighting on highways. Plans were also outlined to ease congestion by widening key roads in Kurnool town and regulat-

ing roadside vendors. SP Vikrant Patil emphasized strict enforcement of traffic rules and enhanced highway surveillance. Officials also highlighted ongoing measures, including action against drunk driving and vehicle fitness checks. The Collector stressed that all measures must be implemented effectively to save lives and improve road safety across the district.

Swachh Claims vs Ground Reality Garbage Chokes Chirala Roads

Malla Chandra Sekhar
Bapatla: Despite tall claims of transforming Chirala into a clean town under the "Swachh Andhra - Swachh Chirala" initiative, ground reality presents a starkly different picture, with sanitation conditions deteriorating across key areas.

frustration over what they call a gap between official claims and on-ground execution. While sanitation drives and slogans continue to be highlighted in official communications, people say there is little visible improvement in waste management practices.

Heaps of garbage have accumulated on several major roads, occupying more than half of the carriageway and severely affecting vehicular movement. What were once busy thoroughfares are now narrowed by mounds of waste, forcing motorists to navigate through congested and unhygienic stretches. Residents say the situation has made daily commuting increasingly difficult. The accumulated garbage has also led to foul odours and raised serious public health concerns. Locals allege that despite repeated complaints, municipal authorities have failed to respond effectively. Many describe the condition as unbearable, especially in densely populated areas where waste remains uncleared for days.

Civic activists point out that poor garbage clearance, lack of regular monitoring, and inadequate manpower could be contributing to the worsening situation. They stress that sustained efforts, rather than symbolic campaigns, are required to maintain urban cleanliness. Citizens have urged higher authorities to intervene and ensure accountability within the municipal system. They are demanding immediate clearance of garbage, better waste collection mechanisms, and regular supervision to prevent recurrence. As Chirala continues to grapple with mounting sanitation issues, the situation highlights the urgent need for effective implementation of cleanliness initiatives, beyond slogans and announcements.

Minister Lokesh Leads Talks to Bring Carrier GCC to Vizag

Visakhapatnam, April 28 | TPN Bureau:

Minister Nara Lokesh held discussions in Visakhapatnam with Sundar Narayanan of Carrier Global Corporation, urging the company to establish a Global Capability Center (GCC) in the city. Highlighting Vizag's rapid growth in IT, logistics, and industry, Lokesh

proposed advanced manufacturing for data center cooling and predictive HVAC systems to support AI-driven demand. He also suggested developing a large-scale refrigeration and cold-chain export hub. Carrier, a global leader in intelligent climate and energy solutions, had an estimated market capitalization of \$52.92 billion as of April 2026.



Amaravati Quantum Valley: A New Economic Horizon for Andhra Pradesh



Dr. Yuvaraju Chinnam,
Pro Vice-Chancellor
(Professor of Computer
Science and Engineering)
Malla Reddy (MR) Deemed
to be University, Hyderabad,

India The proposed Amaravati Quantum Valley deserves to be viewed not simply as a technology project, but as a transformative economic initiative with the potential to reshape the future of Andhra Pradesh. In an era where prosperity increasingly depends on innovation, research, and high-value industries, the state's decision to invest in quantum technologies may prove to be one of its most consequential policy choices. Across the world, regions that embraced emerging technologies early, whether in information technology, biotechnology, or renewable energy have enjoyed sustained growth, global investment, and superior employment opportunities. Quantum technology now stands at the threshold of becoming the

next great industrial revolution. If Andhra Pradesh positions itself wisely, Amaravati could become one of India's foremost centres of this new economy. Quantum computing and related technologies are expected to influence multiple sectors in the coming decades. These include healthcare, finance, agriculture, cybersecurity, logistics, defence, telecommunications, and advanced manufacturing. Unlike traditional industries, such sectors create high-value output with lower dependence on land and raw materials. Their true capital lies in knowledge, talent, patents, and research capability. This is where Amaravati Quantum Valley gains significance. The initiative can help Andhra Pradesh transition from a largely resource-



based and service-driven economy into a knowledge-driven economy. For decades, the state has been known for agriculture, aquaculture, ports, pharmaceuticals, and infrastructure. While these remain vital sectors, long-term prosperity increasingly requires participation in frontier industries that command global demand and pre-

mium investment. The economic benefits of such a project can be substantial. First, it can attract domestic and foreign investment into the state. Global technology companies, research institutions, venture capital firms, and startups often cluster around specialised innovation zones. Once credibility is established, capital follows

talent, and talent follows opportunity. Second, the project can generate employment across multiple levels. While highly skilled jobs for engineers, scientists, programmers, and researchers will emerge directly, the indirect benefits are equally important. Construction, transport, hospitality, education, legal services, urban retail, real es-

tate, and professional consulting sectors all stand to benefit from the growth of an innovation ecosystem. Third, Amaravati Quantum Valley can accelerate urban development in the capital region. Cities prosper when they become centres of ideas and enterprise. The growth of Amaravati can positively influence surrounding areas such as Vijayawada, Guntur, Tenali, and Mangalagiri through improved infrastructure, higher incomes, stronger demand, and better connectivity. However, technology parks alone do not guarantee success. Buildings and announcements cannot substitute for ecosystem planning. If Amaravati Quantum Valley is to succeed, Andhra Pradesh must invest equally in human capital. Universities must be strengthened. Engineering colleges must modernise curricula. Students need exposure to mathematics, coding, artificial intelligence, and advanced sciences. Faculty development, research grants, startup incubation, and industry partnerships must become policy priorities. The state must also learn from the IT revolution. Cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad

did not grow through isolated projects, but through continuity of policy, infrastructure readiness, entrepreneurial culture, and institutional confidence. Investors value stability as much as incentives. Therefore, Amaravati Quantum Valley should be approached as a twenty-year economic mission rather than a short-term political announcement. It requires bipartisan commitment, administrative efficiency, and a long-term roadmap that survives electoral cycles. If managed wisely, the rewards could be historic. Andhra Pradesh has often demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and ambition. It now has an opportunity to become a national leader in one of the world's most strategic technologies. Amaravati Quantum Valley can become more than a research park; it can become the symbol of a new economic identity for the state. The future wealth of nations will be built not only on land, labour, and capital, but on intelligence, innovation, and scientific leadership. By investing in quantum technologies today, Andhra Pradesh may well be investing in the prosperity of generations to come.



Will Women Voters Decide Bengal's Political Future in Phase 2?

The second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections has turned one of the most important political questions of this season into a serious national debate: are women voters now the most decisive force in Bengal politics? With record-breaking turnout, rising female participation, and shifting political loyts, the answer appears to be increasingly yes.

West Bengal has witnessed an extraordinary voter turnout of nearly 92 percent, a figure rarely seen in Indian elections. Even after accounting for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls—which removed nearly 90 lakh names due to duplication, death, or migration—the scale of participation remains remarkable. Such massive turnout usually signals deep political churn, but in Bengal this time, the real story may lie not just in how many voted, but who voted more.

Women voters have outnumbered men at polling booths by nearly 2 percent in both West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, according to election observers. This may appear like a small difference, but politically, it is highly significant. For decades, women were often seen as voters who simply mirrored the political preferences of male family members. That assumption no longer holds true. In recent elections across India, women have emerged as an independent and highly influential voting bloc, often shaping outcomes in unexpected ways.

The Bihar Assembly election offered a strong example of this shift. Despite widespread predictions of anti-incumbency against the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government, women voters strongly backed the ruling alliance, helping secure its return to power. Welfare schemes targeted at women, direct financial support, and concerns over safety and stability played a major role in that outcome. Bengal may now be witnessing a similar moment. Traditionally, women voters in West Bengal have been one of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's strongest

support bases. Her image as "Didi" and welfare initiatives such as Lakshmi Bhandar, Kanyashree, and other women-focused schemes have built deep emotional and political trust among female voters. This support was crucial in her historic 2011 victory that ended the Left Front's 34-year rule and has remained central to Trinamool Congress's dominance since then.

However, the situation in 2026 is more complex.

While Mamata Banerjee personally remains popular among many women, dissatisfaction with her government has grown due to corruption allegations, unemployment, weak infrastructure, and concerns about law and order. This creates a political contradiction: voters may still trust Mamata, but they may be unhappy with the system around her. Analysts describe this as a battle between "Mamata's popularity and her government's unpopularity."

This distinction matters greatly in Phase 2, especially in southern Bengal and the Presidency region—areas considered Mamata Banerjee's political fortress. These constituencies include Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, and parts of North and South 24 Parganas. Historically, women in these regions have stood firmly with her, even during the years of Left dominance and political violence. If that loyalty weakens, the consequences could be dramatic.

The BJP understands this clearly and has built much of its strategy around breaking into this female voter base. The party is focusing heavily on booth management, welfare messaging, and local dissatisfaction. Improved security due to stronger central and paramilitary presence has also increased female turnout in sensitive areas where fear previously discouraged participation. This could work to the BJP's advantage by making the contest more competitive.

Another unpredictable factor is the issue of women's safety, especially when linked with communal or political

tensions. Female voters across India have often shown a tendency to rise above caste and religion-based polarization and vote based on practical concerns like welfare, education, healthcare, and household economics. But when personal security becomes a dominant concern, voting behavior can change sharply. Bengal's political atmosphere this year includes precisely such uncertainty.

Interestingly, the usual assumption that high turnout automatically means anti-incumbency may not apply here. Recent political studies suggest that when women vote in larger numbers than men, the advantage can actually shift toward the incumbent—especially if welfare delivery has been strong and consistent. This pattern has been observed in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and several other states. In Bengal too, female turnout may either reinforce Mamata's support or reveal a silent revolt.

That is why Phase 2 is so critical. It is not simply about urban versus rural voting, or BJP versus TMC. It is about whether Bengal's women still believe that "Paribartan" (change) delivered real transformation in their lives. If they do, Mamata Banerjee remains secure. If they feel disappointed, Bengal could witness one of its biggest political shocks in years.

In many ways, women voters are no longer just another demographic category—they are the electoral centre of gravity. Their participation is reshaping Indian democracy, forcing parties to rethink campaign strategies, governance priorities, and political messaging. For the BJP, the path to victory runs through Bengal's women. For Mamata Banerjee, political survival depends on retaining their trust. As counting day approaches, the final verdict may not be written by rallies, speeches, or television debates—but by the quiet, determined choices made by millions of women inside polling booths. Bengal's future may very well rest in their hands.

The Five Districts That Once Ended Left Rule – Can They Now Challenge Mamata Banerjee?

In West Bengal politics, history often repeats itself through geography. For decades, five districts surrounding the Presidency region have played the role of kingmakers, deciding which party ultimately governs the state. In 2011, these districts were central to ending the 34-year Left Front rule and bringing Mamata Banerjee to power. Now, as the 2026 Assembly elections unfold, the same question dominates political discussions: can these very districts become the reason for Mamata's political decline?

The five crucial districts are Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, and Nadia. Together, they account for 108 of the 294 seats in the West Bengal Assembly—more than one-third of the total strength. This makes them not just electorally important, but politically decisive. In Phase 2 of the current elections, these districts are once again at the centre of attention, with 108 seats becoming the key battleground of Bengal's future. These districts have a long-standing pattern of voting overwhelmingly for one dominant political force rather than splitting support across parties. This tendency has shaped Bengal's political destiny since the Left Front first came to power in 1977. Whoever dominates this belt usually finds the road to the Chief Minister's office much easier.

The region is also symbolically powerful. It includes Kolkata, the cultural and intellectual heart of Bengal, as well as areas historically known for political violence, organizational muscle, and ideological battles. It has produced Chief Ministers across generations—from Jyoti Basu's Satgachia base in South 24 Parganas to Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's Jadavpur and Mamata Banerjee's Bhabanipur stronghold in Kolkata.

The electoral numbers explain why this region matters so much.

In 2006, when the Left Front won its final full-term victory under Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, it secured 72 out of these 108 seats. That dominance helped preserve the Left's statewide hold despite Mamata Banerjee's growing popularity elsewhere. The Presidency belt remained the Left's fortress, ensuring continuity of power.



But by 2011, the fortress collapsed dramatically.

The Singur and Nandigram movements had transformed Bengal's political mood. Land acquisition protests, farmer anger, and anti-incumbency against the Left created the momentum Mamata Banerjee needed. Contesting in alliance with the Congress, the Trinamool Congress swept 82 of the 108 seats in these five districts. That victory signaled the end of the Left Front's 34-year rule and brought Mamata Banerjee to power. The AITC itself went on to win 184 seats statewide, ending one of the longest-serving elected communist governments in the world.

At the time, many analysts believed the result was temporary—a "fluke" created by unusual circumstances. They argued that the Left's deep organization in these districts would eventually bring it back. That prediction proved wrong.

In 2016, Trinamool Congress, contesting alone, improved further and won 91 of these 108 seats. In 2021, despite a major BJP challenge across Bengal, Mamata's party increased that number again to 97 seats. This showed that the Presidency region had not just voted for change—it had become Mamata's political fortress.

This is why 2026 is so significant.

If a party wins 97 out of 108 seats in one region, reaching the majority mark of 148 becomes relatively easy. It only needs 51 more seats from the

remaining 186 constituencies. This mathematical advantage explains why both the BJP and TMC are treating these districts as the true battlefield of the election.

For the BJP, success in North Bengal alone is not enough. The party understands that unless it breaks through Mamata's dominance in the Presidency region, forming a government remains nearly impossible. That is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and top BJP campaigners have concentrated their efforts here. Their mission is clear: breach Mamata's citadel.

However, this is far from easy.

The social composition, local networks, and enduring personal popularity of Mamata Banerjee still strongly favour the Trinamool Congress. Welfare schemes, women-centric policies, and her image as "Didi" continue to resonate deeply, especially among female voters. Add to this the local organizational strength and booth-level control of TMC, and the advantage still appears to lie with the ruling party. Yet, controversy and voter intimidation remain major concerns in these districts.

Recent developments have once again brought attention to the region's political tensions. Election observer Ajay Sharma reportedly warned against voter intimidation in South 24 Parganas after receiving complaints linked to pow-

erful local leaders. The issue became more controversial when TMC candidate Jahangir Khan publicly responded with aggressive rhetoric, reflecting the atmosphere of fear and confrontation that often shadows elections in this belt.

This is not new. Violence and intimidation have historically shaped elections here, often influencing turnout and public confidence. The region's reputation for combining cultural sophistication with political brutality remains one of Bengal's most complex contradictions.

That is why the outcome of these five districts will likely define the 2026 verdict.

If Mamata Banerjee retains her dominance here, the Trinamool Congress remains politically secure. But if the BJP manages even a serious breach—especially in urban and semi-urban seats—it could trigger a chain reaction across Bengal. Just as the Left's collapse in 2011 began here, a weakening of Mamata's hold could begin in the same place.

In politics, some regions do not just elect governments—they create history.

Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, and Nadia have done it before. The question now is whether they are preparing to do it again. On counting day, Bengal may discover that its future was decided not across the entire state, but in these five districts that have always held the real power.

PM Modi Celebrates 50 Years of Sikkim's Statehood, Hails Development and Natural Beauty



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday celebrated Sikkim's 50th anniversary of statehood, describing the Himalayan state as the "Heaven of the East" and praising its natural beauty, cultural harmony, and development journey during his visit to Gangtok. The Prime Minister's two-day visit to Sikkim marked a major ceremonial occasion, as the state completed 50 years since its integration into the Indian Union. He attended the golden jubilee celebrations and participated in several events highlighting Sikkim's growth over the decades. Addressing the event, PM Modi expressed admiration for Sikkim's ecological richness, especially its orchids, scenic landscapes, and biodiversity. He said the state stands as a model of peace, cleanliness, and sustainable development, and continues to play an important role in India's Northeast growth story.

He also highlighted Sikkim's cultural unity and peaceful society, noting that the state reflects the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" — a vision of national integration through diversity. During the celebrations, the Prime Minister also underlined the central government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure in Sikkim. He referred to key connectivity projects, including rail and road development, aimed at improving access to the landlocked Himalayan state. Officials said the visit also included inauguration and foundation-laying of multiple development projects worth thousands of crores, covering sectors such as healthcare, tourism, education, and infrastructure. These initiatives are expected to boost economic activity, improve connectivity with the rest of the country, and promote tourism in the region. PM Modi also engaged with local communities during his visit, including interacting with young people in Gangtok. His informal participation in a football game with children drew attention and reflected his emphasis on youth engagement and sports promotion. The Prime Minister shared pictures and messages on social media, calling it an "energising experience" and highlighting the importance of fitness and sports culture among India's youth. The golden jubilee celebrations mark a significant milestone for Sikkim, which became the 22nd state of India in 1975. Over the past five decades, the state has been widely recognised for its environmental conservation efforts, organic farming initiatives, and tourism-driven economy. The celebrations in Gangtok featured cultural performances, public events, and participation from senior leaders and citizens, making it a historic occasion for the state. PM Modi's visit and his "Heaven of the East" remark reflect both symbolic appreciation and policy focus on Sikkim's development. As the state enters its next phase of growth, the emphasis remains on connectivity, sustainability, and youth empowerment, with the Centre promising continued support for its progress.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is also expected to play an important role in finalising the new cabinet structure. **Why the expansion matters** The proposed reshuffle is significant for several reasons: • It aims to address long-standing demands from MLAs for cabinet positions • It is expected to strengthen administrative efficiency in the state government • It will help manage internal party equations ahead of future political challenges • It could reshape the power structure within Karnataka Congress With Siddaramaiah's expected Delhi visit approaching, Karnataka appears to be moving closer to a key political decision. If the Congress high command gives its approval, the cabinet expansion could be announced soon, marking an important step in the state's political and administrative roadmap.

Political tensions continue to rise in Punjab as the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) may face further defections, with two Lok Sabha MPs allegedly planning to leave the party. The claim comes at a time when AAP is already dealing with multiple high-profile exits and growing internal instability. According to SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, based on what he described as "sources," two AAP MPs are likely to quit the party soon. He hinted that more political realignments could be on the way following recent exits that have already shaken the party's structure in Parliament. Majithia also suggested that AAP's internal situation is worsening after a series of defections, particularly in its parliamentary ranks. However, the Aam Aadmi Party has not officially responded to these fresh claims yet. The development comes shortly after AAP suffered a major setback in the Rajya Sabha, where several MPs reportedly left the party and aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This reduced AAP's representation significantly in the Upper House and triggered strong political reactions across parties. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had earlier condemned the defectors, calling them "traitors" and accusing them of abandoning the party for personal gain. Opposition leaders, on the other hand, have described the situation as a sign of deeper instability within AAP's Punjab unit. Some political observers believe that the recent wave of defections reflects internal disagreements and concerns over ticket distribution ahead of future elections. AAP currently holds power in Punjab, and any large-scale defection could have serious political consequences. Analysts warn that even a small shift in numbers could weaken the party's organisational strength in the state and affect its standing ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Recent political commentary has also suggested that continued internal rifts or defections could create a major challenge for AAP's governance in Punjab, especially if public confidence begins to decline. Opposition parties like SAD and Congress are closely watching the situation. Leaders from these parties have repeatedly claimed that more AAP MLAs and MPs may switch sides, although no official confirmation has emerged so far. Some opposition figures argue that the current political churn could eventually reshape Punjab's political landscape, potentially strengthening rival parties if defections continue. While the Akali Dal's claim of two more AAP MPs switching sides remains unverified, it adds to the growing narrative of political instability within the ruling party in Punjab. With AAP already facing multiple exits in recent weeks, the coming days will be crucial in determining whether the party can stabilise its ranks or face further fragmentation.

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ED Freezes 3,034 Crore Assets of Anil Ambani Group in Money Laundering Probe



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth 3,034 crore linked to the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation, marking another major development in the long-running probe against the business conglomerate. According to official reports, the action has been taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and is connected to alleged financial irregularities involving group companies, including Reliance Communications and Reliance Infrastructure. The latest attachment reportedly includes a mix of high-value properties and financial holdings. These include residential properties, land parcels, and equity shares linked to Reliance Infrastructure and associated entities. Among the identified assets are properties in Mumbai, a farmhouse in Khandal, land in Gujarat's Sanand region, and a significant number of shares held by group-linked firms. Authorities say these assets are believed to be connected to alleged diversion and misuse of borrowed funds. With this latest action, the total value of assets attached in cases linked to the Anil Ambani group has reportedly risen to over 19,000 crore, reflecting the scale of the ongoing investigation. Officials claim the broader probe focuses on alleged bank fraud, fund diversion, and financial mismanage-

ment involving loans taken from multiple financial institutions over several years. The investigation into the Anil Ambani-led group has been ongoing for several years and involves multiple agencies, including the CBI and ED. The case is primarily based on allegations that loans obtained by group companies were not properly utilised and were allegedly routed through complex financial structures. Earlier investigations have already resulted in multiple asset freezes and seizures, with authorities stating that the total amount under scrutiny runs into tens of thousands of crores. The latest action adds to increasing regulatory pressure on the group's legacy businesses, particularly in telecom and infrastructure sectors, many of which have already faced financial stress or insolvency proceedings. Authorities say the objective of the ongoing probe is to trace alleged proceeds of crime and prevent further movement or liquidation of disputed assets during investigation. The freezing of 3,034 crore worth of assets marks a significant escalation in the ED's action against the Anil Ambani group. With total attachments now crossing 19,000 crore, the case remains one of the largest financial crime investigations in India's corporate sector, and further developments are expected as the probe continues.

Siddaramaiah Likely to Visit Delhi as Karnataka Cabinet Expansion Nears

The long-awaited cabinet expansion in Karnataka is expected to gain momentum soon, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah likely to travel to New Delhi in the first week of May to seek approval from the Congress high command, according to reports. The visit, which is expected around May 6, comes amid increasing internal discussions within the Karnataka Congress over a possible reshuffle of the state cabinet. The move is being closely watched as it could reshape the balance of power within the ruling party in the state. The issue of cabinet expansion has been pending for several months, with repeated demands from party legislators seeking ministerial positions. Senior Congress leaders have recently intensified their visits to Delhi, signalling that a final decision may be approaching. Party sources suggest that the leadership is now actively working on finalising a list of ministers, while also trying to

manage competing claims from different factions within the state unit. During his proposed visit, Siddaramaiah is expected to hold discussions with senior Congress leaders in the national capital. The meetings are likely to focus on finalising names for the cabinet expansion and securing the party high command's approval before any formal announcement is made. The decision is seen as crucial, as the Congress leadership aims to ensure internal consensus and avoid factional disputes within the Karnataka unit. The cabinet reshuffle is also linked to internal balancing within the state Congress, where multiple leaders are vying for ministerial roles. The party is reportedly trying to accommodate regional and caste-based representation while maintaining stability in governance. Coordination between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and

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"More Defections to Hit AAP in Punjab?" Akali Dal Claims Two MPs May Switch Sides

Political tensions continue to rise in Punjab as the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) may face further defections, with two Lok Sabha MPs allegedly planning to leave the party. The claim comes at a time when AAP is already dealing with multiple high-profile exits and growing internal instability. According to SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, based on what he described as "sources," two AAP MPs are likely to quit the party soon. He hinted that more political realignments could be on the way following recent exits that have already shaken the party's structure in Parliament. Majithia also suggested that AAP's internal situation is worsening after a series of defections, particularly in its parliamentary ranks. However, the Aam Aadmi Party has not officially responded to these fresh claims yet. The development comes shortly after AAP suffered a major setback in the Rajya Sabha, where several MPs reportedly left the party and aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This reduced AAP's representation significantly in the Upper House and triggered strong political reactions across parties. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had earlier condemned the defectors, calling them "traitors" and accusing them of abandoning the party for personal gain. Opposition leaders, on the other hand, have described the situation as a sign of deeper instability within AAP's Punjab unit. Some political observers believe that the recent wave of defections reflects internal disagreements and concerns over ticket distribution ahead of future elections. AAP currently holds power in Punjab, and any large-scale defection could have serious political consequences. Analysts warn that even a small shift in numbers could weaken the party's organisational strength in the state and affect its standing ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Recent political commentary has also suggested that continued internal rifts or defections could create a major challenge for AAP's governance in Punjab, especially if public confidence begins to decline. Opposition parties like SAD and Congress are closely watching the situation. Leaders from these parties have repeatedly claimed that more AAP MLAs and MPs may switch sides, although no official confirmation has emerged so far. Some opposition figures argue that the current political churn could eventually reshape Punjab's political landscape, potentially strengthening rival parties if defections continue. While the Akali Dal's claim of two more AAP MPs switching sides remains unverified, it adds to the growing narrative of political instability within the ruling party in Punjab. With AAP already facing multiple exits in recent weeks, the coming days will be crucial in determining whether the party can stabilise its ranks or face further fragmentation.

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CCTV Staff Arrested for Watching Pirated Version of Vijay's 'Jana Nayagan' at Chennai Poll Hub

In a shocking incident during the Tamil Nadu Assembly election process, a CCTV operator deployed at the Anna University counting centre in Chennai was arrested for allegedly watching a pirated version of actor Vijay's upcoming film Jana Nayagan inside the control room meant for election surveillance. The incident came to light after officials discovered that the staff member was viewing the unreleased film in the CCTV monitoring room, where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were being kept under strict security after polling. The centre was one of the designated strong rooms where EVMs were

stored under round-the-clock surveillance. Following the completion of polling for the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, EVMs were secured in three strong rooms across Chennai, including one at Anna University. These centres were under high security and monitored continuously through CCTV systems to ensure transparency and prevent tampering. However, instead of monitoring the surveillance feeds, the accused allegedly used the control room to watch a pirated version of Vijay's much-awaited film Jana Nayagan, which has not yet received certification and is still awaiting official theatrical release. Authorities treated the matter seriously due to both the election security implications and the film piracy angle. Jana Nayagan has already been at the centre of a major piracy controversy after clips and even the full movie reportedly leaked online earlier this month. Several arrests have already been made by the Tamil Nadu Cyber Crime Wing in connection with the illegal circulation of the film. The latest arrest adds another layer to the growing scandal, especially because the pirated content was being accessed inside a sensitive election monitoring facility. Police officials said the accused was taken into custody and further investigation is underway to determine whether he had any role in sharing or distributing the pirated content beyond personal viewing. The leak of Jana Nayagan has triggered strong reactions from the Tamil film industry. Several leading actors and filmmakers have condemned piracy and urged audiences not to support illegal circulation of unreleased content. The film, starring Vijay and directed by H. Vinoth, is one of the most anticipated releases of the year and has already faced multiple delays due to certification issues and legal complications. The incident has also raised concerns over discipline and monitoring at election-related facilities. Officials are now reviewing whether there were any lapses in supervision at the counting centre and whether stricter protocols are needed for staff assigned to sensitive polling duties. The arrest of a CCTV operator for watching a pirated version of Jana Nayagan inside a poll surveillance room has sparked both political and cinematic controversy. With election security and film piracy intersecting in an unusual way, the case has drawn widespread attention across Tamil Nadu.

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Trump Faces Iran Crisis as War Powers Deadline, Escalation Risks and Diplomacy Collide

A fast-developing geopolitical situation involving former U.S. President Donald Trump and Iran has created a high-stakes standoff, with legal deadlines, military pressures, and diplomatic uncertainty converging into what analysts describe as a "critical reckoning moment."

According to reports, Trump is operating under strict constraints tied to the U.S. War Powers framework, which requires either Congressional approval or withdrawal of military action within a limited timeframe. He is believed to have until around May 1 to secure authorisation from the U.S. Congress or end ongoing military operations linked to the Iran conflict. Failure to meet this requirement could trigger legal and constitutional challenges within the United

States. The situation has created what experts describe as a "three-path scenario" crisis, where the conflict could move in one of three directions depending on political and military decisions in the coming days.

The first and most optimistic scenario involves a negotiated diplomatic settlement between the United States and Iran. In this case, both sides would agree to de-escalate tensions, potentially through a temporary ceasefire or broader strategic agreement. However, deep mistrust between the two nations makes this outcome uncertain.

The second option involves Trump seeking formal Congressional approval through an Authorisation for Use of Military Force (AUMF). If

granted, this would legally extend U.S. military operations and provide political cover for continued engagement. However, given the divided nature of U.S. politics, securing approval may be difficult and time-consuming.

The third and most dangerous scenario is continued military action without formal Congressional backing past the legal deadline. Such a move could intensify constitutional debate within the United States while simultaneously escalating tensions with Iran, increasing the risk of wider regional conflict.

The crisis is being shaped by two overlapping deadlines. The first is the legal War Powers deadline, which restricts prolonged military engagement without legislative approval. The second is an informal diplomatic timeline

tied to ongoing negotiations and battlefield developments in the region.

Together, these deadlines are significantly limiting strategic flexibility and forcing rapid decision-making at a time when tensions are already high.

The Iran conflict has already begun affecting global markets and energy stability. Any escalation in the region risks disrupting oil supply routes, particularly through strategic chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz. This has contributed to volatility in global crude oil prices and added inflationary pressure worldwide.

Analysts warn that the outcome of this crisis could have far-reaching consequences, not only for U.S.-Iran relations but also for global security architecture, energy mar-



kets, and regional stability across the Middle East.

With legal deadlines approaching and diplomatic options narrowing, the Trump-

Iran situation has entered a decisive phase. The coming days are expected to determine whether the crisis moves toward de-escalation

through diplomacy or intensifies into a broader geopolitical confrontation with global implications.

Iran Offers Conditional Reopening of Strait of Hormuz

Iran has reportedly indicated willingness to reopen the Strait of Hormuz for global shipping, but only under a set of conditions that are unlikely to be accepted by the United States, raising fresh concerns over continued tensions in one of the world's most critical maritime routes.

The Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of global oil shipments pass, has been a major flashpoint amid the ongoing Iran-U.S. conflict. Any disruption in this waterway has immediate implications for global energy supplies and oil prices.

According to reports, Iran has proposed allowing free movement of commercial vessels through the strait if the United States agrees to ease military pressure in the region. Tehran is also seeking a reduction in naval operations near its coastline and a delay in negotiations related to its nuclear programme.

Iran's Key Conditions

- Iran's proposal reportedly includes three core demands:
 - Lifting or easing of the U.S. naval blockade and military pressure around Iranian ports
 - Reduction in American military presence in sensitive maritime zones
 - Postponement of nuclear-related negotiations to a later stage of diplomatic talks
- Iran argues that reopening the Strait of Hormuz should be treated as a separate humanitarian and economic issue,



rather than being directly tied to nuclear discussions or sanctions-related negotiations.

The United States, however, is expected to reject these conditions. Officials close to the Trump administration believe that separating maritime access from nuclear compliance would weaken long-term strategic leverage over Iran.

Washington has repeatedly maintained that any easing of pressure must be linked to strict guarantees regarding Iran's nuclear activities. This position makes acceptance of Iran's phased proposal highly unlikely.

Former President Donald Trump and his team are reportedly reviewing the proposal, but early signals suggest skepticism over Tehran's intentions and concerns that it could use maritime concessions as a tactical advantage without making substantive security commitments.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most strategically important chokepoints in global trade. Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supply passes through this narrow waterway, making it extremely sensitive to geopolitical tensions.

Any closure or restriction of the strait tends to trigger immediate spikes in crude oil prices, disrupt shipping routes, and increase global inflationary pressure. Markets have already reacted to earlier tensions with volatility in energy prices.

Despite Iran's conditional offer, analysts say the gap between the two sides remains wide. While Iran is seeking relief from military pressure before entering deeper negotiations, the United States insists that security and nuclear concerns must be addressed simultaneously.

This fundamental disagreement has created a diplomatic deadlock, with limited signs of compromise in the short term.

The proposal highlights both the possibility of de-escalation and the difficulty of achieving it. While reopening the Strait of Hormuz could ease global market tensions, political disagreements continue to block progress. For now, the situation remains fragile, with the world closely watching whether diplomacy can prevent further escalation in one of the most critical energy corridors on the planet.

Oil Giants Earn \$3,000 Per Second as Energy Crisis Deepens Amid Iran Conflict

Global oil and gas companies are earning record-breaking profits while millions of households struggle with rising fuel and electricity costs, according to a new Oxfam report highlighted by NDTV. The report links the surge in corporate earnings to elevated global oil prices driven by ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly the Iran conflict and disruptions in key shipping routes.

The analysis estimates that six of the world's largest oil and gas companies are collectively earning around \$3,000 every second in profits in 2026. These firms include global energy majors such as ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron, TotalEnergies, and ConocoPhillips. Together, they are projected to generate nearly \$94 billion in fossil fuel profits this year alone.

This sharp rise in earnings is being driven primarily by sustained high crude oil prices. Brent crude has remained elevated due to supply concerns linked to geopolitical instability, particularly tensions affecting the Middle East and key maritime routes like the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption in these routes has a direct impact on global oil availability, pushing prices higher almost immediately.

While oil companies benefit from these price surges, consumers are facing the opposite reality. The report highlights



that households across several countries, including the United States and parts of Europe and Asia, are struggling with rising energy bills. Increased fuel costs have also led to higher transportation expenses, food inflation, and overall cost-of-living pressures.

Oxfam describes this growing gap as a "windfall profit crisis," where corporations benefit disproportionately from global instability while ordinary citizens absorb the economic shock. The report argues that war-driven price spikes have significantly widened inequality between energy producers and consumers.

The Iran conflict has played

a major role in worsening the situation. Ongoing tensions have raised fears of supply disruptions, especially in critical oil shipping corridors. Even the possibility of instability in these regions is enough to push crude prices higher, reflecting how sensitive global markets are to geopolitical risks.

In response to rising costs, several governments have introduced temporary relief measures such as fuel subsidies or tax reductions. However, these measures have also strained public finances, limiting resources available for other development needs.

The report has renewed global discussions around windfall

taxes on energy companies. Advocates argue that excess profits made during crisis periods should be taxed more heavily and redirected toward public welfare programs and clean energy investments. Critics, however, warn that such measures could discourage investment in the energy sector.

Overall, the Oxfam findings highlight a stark global contrast: record-breaking profits for oil giants on one side, and increasing financial pressure on households on the other. As geopolitical tensions continue to influence global energy markets, this imbalance is expected to remain a major economic and political issue worldwide.

Dawood Ibrahim Aide Salim Dola Extradited to India in Major Drug Case

In a significant breakthrough for Indian security agencies, Salim Dola, a close associate of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, has been extradited to India from Istanbul in a major drug trafficking case. The development marks a key success in India's ongoing crackdown on international narcotics networks linked to organised crime syndicates.

According to reports, Dola was detained in Istanbul in a coordinated operation involving Turkey's National Intelligence Organisation and local police. He was later brought to India under tight security arrangements and is currently being handled by Indian investigative agencies for further questioning and legal proceedings. Investigators describe Salim Dola as a major player in a transnational drug trafficking syndicate that operated across India, the UAE, and Turkey. He is alleged to have run a multi-state narcotics network after fleeing India nearly a decade ago, continuing operations from abroad. Authorities believe Dola played a crucial role in supplying synthetic drugs, including mephedrone, as part of a wider cartel linked to Dawood Ibrahim's organised crime network. His operations are estimated to be part of a multi-thousand-crore illegal drug trade spanning multiple



countries.

Dola has been on the radar of Indian law enforcement agencies for years. Mumbai Police and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had previously investigated his involvement in drug manufacturing and distribution networks. He had also been linked to multiple cases involving synthetic narcotics production and smuggling operations. Officials say he was earlier arrested in India as well but managed to secure bail and later fled the country, after which he continued operating from overseas locations.

His extradition is being seen as a major success for Indian intelligence and enforcement agencies, especially in efforts to dismantle drug syndicates with international reach. Agencies are now expected to question him in detail to unwind financial trails, supply chains, and other key members of the network.

Dola is also expected to be handed over to Mumbai Police

and the NCB for further investigation into pending drug trafficking cases and alleged links to organised crime groups.

The case comes amid a broader crackdown on international drug trafficking networks linked to underworld organisations. Authorities have intensified operations targeting supply chains, financial transactions, and key operatives working across borders. Officials say the extradition could provide crucial intelligence on how synthetic drugs are manufactured and distributed across multiple countries, and may lead to further arrests in the coming months. Salim Dola's extradition marks a major step forward in India's fight against organised drug trafficking networks. With investigations now underway, agencies are expected to dig deeper into his international links and the broader criminal ecosystem connected to Dawood Ibrahim's network.

Kash Patel Excluded From Kill List "Because He Is Hindu," Report Claims

Investigators probing the White House Correspondents' Dinner shooting have revealed new details from the suspect's manifesto, including a striking claim that FBI Director Kash Patel was deliberately excluded from the target list due to his religion, according to reports cited by NDTV.

The suspect, identified as Cole Allen, allegedly authored a 1,052-word manifesto before the attack in which he laid out his intent to target senior U.S. administration officials present at the event. However, FBI Director Kash Patel was explicitly left off the list of intended targets, a detail that has drawn widespread attention.

The document reportedly stated that "administration officials (not including Patel) are targets," without providing a detailed explanation for the exclusion. Investigators noted that the manifesto clearly outlined a ranking of political figures, with Patel uniquely separated from other high-ranking officials.

While no direct reasoning was initially given in the text, sources suggest that Allen's writings indicated he was focused specifically on targeting Trump administration figures rather than law enforcement-linked individuals.

According to reports, one of the theories being examined by



investigators is that Patel was excluded because of his Hindu background. The claim has not been independently verified, but it is being considered among several possible explanations for the selective targeting mentioned in the manifesto. Officials have also pointed out that Allen appeared to distinguish between categories of potential targets, suggesting he may have intentionally avoided certain individuals associated with law enforcement agencies while focusing on political leadership.

The manifesto also reportedly included detailed "rules of engagement," outlining how different groups would be

treated during the attack. Secret Service personnel were considered conditional targets, while hotel staff and other non-official individuals were not part of the primary list, according to investigators.

Despite this structure, authorities say the document acknowledged the possibility of broader violence if circumstances escalated, underscoring the severity of the planned attack. Federal agencies continue to examine Allen's communications, ideological motivations, and online activity to understand the full scope of the attack plan. The FBI is also reviewing how the suspect managed to bypass initial secu-

rity layers before being apprehended at the scene.

The shooting, which targeted a high-profile political and media gathering, has triggered renewed debate over event security in Washington and prompted calls for tighter protection protocols. The revelation that Kash Patel may have been excluded from the alleged kill list due to his religion has added a new layer of complexity to an already high-profile investigation. However, officials caution that the motive remains under active review, and multiple theories are still being assessed as authorities reconstruct the suspect's intent and planning.

Sensex, Nifty Slip on April 28 as Rising Crude and Banking Pressure Weigh on Markets

Indian stock markets turned volatile on April 28, 2026, with both Sensex and Nifty slipping into the red after a cautious start. Rising crude oil prices, foreign fund outflows, and weakness in banking stocks created pressure on investor sentiment, leading to a weak close in the market. By the afternoon session, the BSE Sensex was down around 417 points at 76,887, while the NSE Nifty 50 slipped 97 points to 23,996. Market breadth remained slightly negative, with about 1,802 shares advancing and 2,058 declining, showing mixed sentiment across sectors. Later in the session, the weakness deepened slightly, and the Nifty closed around the crucial 24,000 mark while Sensex ended nearly 330 points lower. The decline

came after the strong rally seen in the previous trading session, where both indices had gained sharply. One of the biggest reasons behind the market pressure was the sharp rise in crude oil prices. Brent crude remained above \$107-109 per barrel as geopolitical tensions involving the US and Iran increased concerns over global supply disruptions. Higher oil prices are usually negative for India because the country imports most of its crude requirements, which can increase inflation and pressure the rupee. Banking stocks also dragged the market lower. PSU banks and private banks saw selling pressure after the Reserve Bank of India introduced new asset classification and provisioning norms that will come into effect from

April 2027. Investors fear these rules may increase provisioning requirements for lenders. Nifty Bank dropped nearly 1%, with stocks like Union Bank, Canara Bank, Axis Bank, and SBI among the major losers. However, not all sectors were weak. Oil and gas stocks performed strongly due to rising crude prices. ONGC touched a 52-week high and gained nearly 4%, while Coal India emerged as one of the top gainers after strong quarterly earnings. Metal stocks also showed strength and helped limit the broader market fall. Among individual stocks, Coal India rose sharply after its Q4 results, while UltraTech Cement, Varun Beverages, and Piramal Finance also remained in focus because of earnings updates

and brokerage upgrades. On the other hand, airline stocks like IndiGo and SpiceJet faced pressure as higher crude prices raised concerns over aviation fuel costs. Analysts believe the 24,200-24,300 zone remains an important resistance area for Nifty, while the 24,000 level is a key short-term support. If Nifty falls below this zone, further profit booking may be seen. Overall, April 28 was a reminder that global events continue to strongly influence Indian markets. With oil prices rising and banking concerns increasing, investors are likely to remain cautious in the coming sessions. The next few trading days will be important in deciding whether this is just temporary profit booking or the beginning of a deeper correction.



Brent Crude Crosses \$111, ONGC Gains While Oil Marketing Stocks Slip

Brent crude prices continued their strong rally on April 28, 2026, rising for the sixth straight session and crossing the \$111 per barrel mark for the first time since April 7. This sharp rise in global oil prices created a mixed reaction in Indian energy stocks—upstream companies like ONGC and Oil India gained strongly, while oil marketing companies (OMCs) such as BPCL, HPCL, and IOC came under pressure.



The biggest gainer was Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), whose shares jumped more than 4%, touching a fresh 52-week high of around 298.6 on the NSE. Oil India also saw strong buying interest. These companies benefit directly from higher crude prices because they are involved in exploration and production of oil. When global crude prices rise, their realizations and earnings improve significantly, which boosts investor confidence.

Brent crude futures for July 2026 delivery on London's ICE crossed the \$111 level mainly due to growing geopolitical tensions involving the US and Iran, which raised fears of supply disruptions in the Middle East. Since India imports a large share of its crude oil needs, such price spikes immediately affect domestic markets and investor sentiment. Reuters also reported Brent moving above \$110 as a key reason behind weakness in broader Indian equities.

While upstream companies

gained, OMC stocks moved in the opposite direction. Shares of Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL), and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) fell by up to 2%. These companies refine crude and sell petrol, diesel, and LPG. Rising crude prices increase their input costs, and if they are unable to fully pass on the higher prices to consumers due to pricing controls or competitive pressure, their profit margins shrink. Airline stocks also faced pressure for the same reason. Higher crude prices lead to more expensive aviation turbine fuel (ATF), which increases operating costs for airlines like IndiGo and SpiceJet. This is why crude price movements often affect not just energy stocks, but also transportation and broader market sentiment.

The broader stock market

also reflected this caution. Sensex and Nifty ended lower, with investors worried about inflation risks and the impact of expensive oil on India's economy. Since higher crude prices can weaken the rupee and increase import bills, markets tend to react negatively when Brent rises sharply.

For investors, the current trend shows a clear divide: upstream oil producers like ONGC and Oil India may continue to benefit if crude stays elevated, while refiners and fuel retailers could remain under pressure.

As long as geopolitical tensions remain high and supply concerns continue, crude oil prices are likely to stay volatile. That means energy stocks could remain among the most closely watched counters in the market over the next few weeks.

Eternal Q4 Profit Jumps 71% QoQ to `174 Crore, Beats Estimates

Eternal Ltd, the parent company of Zomato and Blinkit, reported a strong set of fourth-quarter results for FY26, with net profit rising sharply and revenue showing massive growth. The company's better-than-expected performance helped its shares recover partially after early losses in the market.

For the January-March 2026 quarter, Eternal posted a consolidated net profit of 174 crore, marking a 71% rise quarter-on-quarter from 102 crore in the previous quarter. On a year-on-year basis, profit surged by an impressive 346% compared to 39 crore in the same period last year. This strong growth came ahead of analyst expectations, making it one of the company's best quarterly performances in recent times.

The company's revenue from operations also showed remarkable expansion. Revenue jumped 196% year-on-year to 17,292 crore in Q4, compared to 5,833 crore a year ago. Sequentially, revenue increased from 16,315 crore in the December quarter, showing steady business momentum across all major segments. Blinkit's strong



quick-commerce growth played a major role in this revenue surge, along with stable performance from Zomato's food delivery business.

Eternal currently operates four major businesses—Zomato (food delivery), Blinkit (quick commerce), District, and Hyperpure. Among these, Blinkit has emerged as one of the strongest growth drivers. The quick-commerce business continues to expand rapidly as more customers shift toward instant delivery for groceries and daily essentials. Analysts had expected Blinkit to be

key factor behind strong Q4 results, and the final numbers confirmed that trend.

Before the results were announced, Eternal shares were under pressure and had fallen more than 3% during the trading session. The stock was trading around 247-248 on the NSE after touching intraday lows near 245. However, once the strong earnings numbers were released, the stock recovered part of its losses as investor confidence improved. Despite short-term weakness, the company still commands a massive market capitalization

of over 2.3 lakh crore.

Brokerages had estimated net profit in the range of 125 crore to 140 crore for the quarter, so the reported 174 crore clearly exceeded market expectations. This positive surprise strengthened sentiment around the stock, especially after recent concerns about competition in quick commerce and profitability pressures.

Founder Deepinder Goyal also highlighted the company's scale in his shareholder communication, stating that over 109 million Indians completed transactions worth more than \$10 billion last year through Blinkit, District, and Zomato. This reflects the company's growing influence across food delivery, shopping, and lifestyle services.

Overall, Eternal's Q4 results show strong execution and improving profitability. With Blinkit driving growth and Zomato maintaining stability, the company appears well-positioned for further expansion. Investors will now closely watch whether this momentum continues in FY27, especially as competition in the quick-commerce space becomes even more intense.

IndiGo and SpiceJet Stocks Fall as Crude Surge Pushes Aviation Fuel Costs Higher

Indian aviation stocks came under strong selling pressure on April 28, 2026, as rising global crude oil prices pushed up jet fuel costs and triggered concerns over airline margins. IndiGo emerged as one of the top losers on the Nifty, while SpiceJet also fell sharply amid broader weakness in the sector.



IndiGo shares dropped nearly 2%, making it one of the biggest drags on the Nifty index during the trading session. SpiceJet, which is already under financial stress, fell nearly 4%, extending its recent volatility. The decline came as investors reacted to a sustained rally in crude oil prices, which have now crossed the \$110-111 per barrel mark in global markets.

The main concern for airlines is the rise in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) costs. ATF is one of the largest operating expenses for airlines, and its price is closely linked to crude oil. When crude rises sharply, airlines face immediate pressure on profitability, especially in a competitive fare environment where passing on costs to customers is not always possible.

The recent spike in Brent crude has been driven by global supply worries and geopolitical tensions, particularly involving the US and Iran,

which have raised fears of disruptions in key oil shipping routes. Brent has extended its gains for several sessions, further worsening sentiment for fuel-sensitive sectors like aviation.

While crude oil producers such as ONGC benefit from higher prices, the aviation sector is on the opposite side of the trade. Rising fuel costs directly impact airline margins, cash flows, and ticket pricing strategies. This is why oil price rallies often create a "split reaction" in the market—upstream energy companies gain while airlines and refiners struggle.

IndiGo, which dominates the Indian aviation market with strong domestic traffic, is generally considered more resilient compared to peers. However, even IndiGo is not immune to fuel cost inflation. SpiceJet, already dealing with financial and operational challenges, tends to react more sharply to such cost pressures,

which explains its steeper decline.

Broader market sentiment was also weak on the day, with Sensex and Nifty trading lower amid rising crude prices and sectoral pressure. Investors are increasingly cautious as higher oil prices raise concerns about inflation, currency weakness, and overall corporate profitability in India's import-dependent economy.

Market analysts believe that if Brent crude remains above the \$110 level for a sustained period, airlines could face further earnings pressure in the coming quarters. Fuel costs may rise faster than demand recovery, putting additional strain on margins.

For now, the aviation sector remains highly sensitive to global oil trends. Any further spike in crude could continue to weigh on IndiGo, SpiceJet, and other airline stocks, while a cooling of oil prices would likely bring relief to the sector.

Maruti Suzuki Q4 Profit Falls 6.5%, Declares 140 Dividend Despite Strong Revenue Growth

Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest passenger carmaker, reported a mixed set of Q4 FY26 results, with profit declining even as revenue posted strong growth. The company also announced a final dividend for shareholders, helping partially offset weak earnings sentiment.

For the January-March 2026 quarter, Maruti Suzuki's consolidated net profit fell 6.5% year-on-year to 3,659 crore, compared to the same period last year. On a standalone basis, profit dropped around 7% to 3,591 crore. The decline came despite strong operational performance, indicating pressure from non-operating factors such as taxes and lower other income.

Interestingly, the company's revenue performance remained robust. Revenue from operations rose sharply by about 28% year-on-year to around 52,400 crore, driven by higher sales volumes, improved realisations, and steady demand across key models. This shows that core business momentum in India's auto sector continues to remain healthy despite profit pressure. However, the bottom line was impacted by multiple factors. A significant decline in other income, higher tax expenses, and cost pressures weighed on profitability. Other income dropped sharply compared to the previous year, while tax outgo increased, further affecting net earnings.

Despite the profit dip, Maruti Suzuki maintained its share-



holder-friendly approach and declared a final dividend of 140 per share for FY26. The announcement helped support investor sentiment, even as the stock reflected broader market caution following the results.

The results highlight an important trend in the automobile sector—strong demand is continuing, but profitability is becoming more sensitive to cost structures, input prices, and financial income fluctuations. Analysts also noted that while revenue growth is en-

couraging, margin pressures may persist in the near term due to rising costs and competitive pricing. Overall, Maruti Suzuki's Q4 performance presents a mixed picture:

- Strong revenue growth signals healthy demand in the Indian car market
- Profit decline reflects cost and non-operating pressures
- Dividend declaration provides some relief to investors

Going ahead, investors will closely watch how the company manages margins, pricing strategy, and export performance, especially as competition in the SUV segment intensifies and input costs remain volatile.

For now, Maruti Suzuki remains fundamentally strong in terms of scale and demand leadership—but profitability trends suggest that the auto sector is entering a more challenging margin environment even amid rising sales.

DEFORESTATION BLAMED AS BENGALURU BATTLES RECORD SUMMER HEAT

As Bengaluru records unusually high temperatures this summer, a senior Indian Forest Service officer has raised serious concerns over the city's disappearing green cover, blaming large-scale deforestation and unchecked urbanisation for the rising heat. Dipika Goyal Bajpai, a senior forest officer, recently shared her concerns on social media, stating that Bengaluru is experiencing heat "like never before." She pointed to the large-scale cutting of trees, widening of concrete roads, and the permanent loss of roadside greenery as major reasons behind the city's worsening climate conditions. Once famous for its cool weather and lush tree-lined avenues, Bengaluru has long been known as India's "Garden City." However, in recent years, the city has seen a sharp rise in temperatures,

with summer heat becoming increasingly unbearable for residents. This year, temperatures have crossed 39 degrees Celsius in several parts of the city, a level considered unusual for Bengaluru's traditionally moderate climate. According to Bajpai, the transformation of the city's landscape is directly linked to this change. She noted that rapid urban development has replaced open spaces and shaded roads with concrete structures, reducing the natural cooling effect once provided by trees and green spaces. She warned that the city could face even more severe consequences in the coming years if immediate corrective steps are not taken. Rising temperatures not only affect daily life but also increase energy consumption, worsen air quality, and put pressure on water resources and public health.

To address the issue, the officer suggested aggressive roadside tree plantation, the creation of urban forest parks, and making tree planting mandatory in every residential site. She stressed that only large-scale green restoration efforts can provide long-term relief from the heat and help restore ecological balance. Her post quickly gained attention online, receiving thousands of views and sparking widespread discussion among citizens. Many social media users agreed with her concerns and blamed poor urban planning, illegal construction, and the destruction of lakes and forest areas for the city's environmental decline. Several users pointed out that development itself is not the problem, but the lack of scientific planning during expansion. They argued that

roads, tech parks, and high-rise buildings could have been developed without sacrificing so many trees. Others blamed builders and politicians for prioritising financial gains over environmental sustainability. Residents also highlighted how older roads lined with trees provided natural shade and cooler temperatures, while newer widened roads without greenery feel significantly hotter. Many said the difference is noticeable even during short travel within the city. Environmental experts have repeatedly warned that Bengaluru's rapid expansion has come at the cost of its lakes, wetlands, and tree cover. As the city continues to grow, balancing development with environmental protection has become one of its biggest challenges. The concerns raised by the forest officer reflect a larger



national issue—urban centres across India are facing rising temperatures due to shrinking green spaces and climate stress. Bengaluru, once considered a model of

pleasant urban living, is now becoming an example of how poor planning can reshape a city's climate. The message is clear: without urgent action to restore

green cover, Bengaluru may continue to lose not only its famous weather but also the environmental balance that once made it one of India's most liveable cities.

RAJASTHAN MAN'S 'DESI JUGAAD' TO BEAT HEAT GOES VIRAL AFTER MILK CAN GETS STUCK

In a bizarre incident from Rajasthan, a man's attempt to protect himself from the scorching summer heat turned into an unexpected roadside spectacle after a large metal milk can got stuck over his head.



The viral video, now widely shared on social media, shows the man standing helplessly by the roadside with a large milk container jammed around his head. According to reports, he had slipped the narrow opening of the can over his head while riding under the blazing sun, hoping it would shield him from the intense heat. However, once he stopped, he found himself unable to remove it.

Rajasthan has been witnessing extreme temperatures, with several areas recording above 44 degrees Celsius. In rural regions, where people often rely on quick improvisations to cope with harsh weather, such unusual "desi jugaad" methods are not uncommon. But in this case, the man's creative solution quickly turned into a stressful situation.

The metal can, commonly used for carrying milk, appeared easy to slip on because of its shape, but removing it proved much more difficult. The narrow neck of the container trapped his head firmly, leaving him visibly uncomfortable though reportedly unharmed. As the video shows, locals soon gathered around him,

some laughing at the unusual sight while others tried to help pull the can off. Several people attempted to free him by carefully tugging at the container, but the process was not easy. The man remained calm despite the awkward situation, standing patiently as bystanders worked to help him. The clip quickly attracted attention online, with social media users reacting with a mix of amusement and concern. Many joked about the risks of extreme "jugaad," while others pointed out how severe summer conditions are forcing people to come up with desperate solutions.

Some users said the incident reflected the growing challenge of coping with rising temperatures in many parts of India. Others stressed the importance of safer ways to protect oneself from heatwaves, such as using proper head coverings, staying hydrated, and avoiding unnecessary travel

during peak afternoon hours. Experts have repeatedly warned that heatwaves are becoming more frequent and intense across northern and western India. Rajasthan, known for its harsh summers, often faces some of the country's highest temperatures during April and May. While the man's unusual attempt may have provided a moment of internet humour, it also highlighted the real discomfort people face during extreme summer conditions. What began as a simple effort to escape the sun ended up becoming a viral lesson in why not every quick fix is a safe one. Thankfully, the man was not injured, and the incident ended with relief rather than harm. Still, his milk-can mishap has become one of the internet's most talked-about examples of how summer heat can inspire both creativity—and chaos.

INDIAN MAN'S LONDON VS INDIA HOME COMPARISON POST IGNITES ONLINE DEBATE

A social media post by an Indian user comparing housing in London with properties in India has sparked a heated online debate, once again highlighting the growing frustration among many over real estate prices and living conditions in major Indian cities.



The post, shared on X, featured a comparison between a spacious house in London's Wembley area and similarly priced homes in India. The user pointed out that the London property, reportedly costing around 5-6 crore, offers significantly more space, greenery and overall living comfort compared to what buyers get in Indian metros at similar prices.

The comparison quickly went viral, triggering a wave of reactions across social media platforms. Many users expressed shock at the stark difference in value, arguing that Indian real estate in cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru has become unaffordable and offers limited space in return for high prices. Supporters of the post said it reflects a harsh reality faced by India's middle class, where lifetime savings often go into purchasing small apartments in overcrowded urban areas. They argued that the contrast highlights issues like urban planning, population pressure and unchecked property

speculation.

However, not everyone agreed with the comparison. Several users pointed out that living costs, taxation systems, salaries and infrastructure quality differ significantly between India and the UK. They argued that direct comparisons between the two markets do not account for broader economic and social factors. Some critics also said that such posts often oversimplify complex housing issues and ignore regional differences within India itself, where property prices and living conditions vary widely. Despite the mixed reactions, the discussion once

again brought attention to India's ongoing real estate challenges. Rapid urbanisation, rising demand for housing, and limited land availability in major cities have all contributed to steep price increases over the years. At the same time, supply constraints and regulatory issues continue to impact affordability for average buyers. Experts note that while global comparisons can be striking, India's housing market operates under very different conditions compared to countries like the UK. Factors such as population density, income distribution, and infrastructure

development all play a major role in shaping property prices. Still, the viral post has struck a chord with many young professionals and middle-class families who feel increasingly priced out of home ownership in major Indian cities. For them, the comparison is less about geography and more about aspiration versus reality. As the debate continues online, the post has become another example of how everyday social media observations can quickly turn into larger conversations about inequality, urban living, and the future of housing in India.

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MAN SELLS AD SPACE ON HIS TOILET, BRANDS LINE UP FOR VIRAL MARKETING STUNT

In a bizarre but highly effective marketing experiment, a man from the United States has turned his toilet into an advertising platform, attracting well-known global brands and millions of online viewers in the process.



Nick Greenawalt, a Philadelphia-based content creator, initially began the idea as a joke after describing himself as "unemployed" on social media. What started as a humorous attempt to make money quickly evolved into a full-fledged viral marketing venture with a bold target—to earn \$1 million by monetising his bathroom space. The concept is simple but unusual: brands pay to have their advertisements displayed on or around his toilet setup, effectively turning an everyday household object into premium ad real estate. Surprisingly, the idea has caught on, with multiple companies eager to participate. Major consumer brands, including cleaning products and wellness companies, have already taken up space in the campaign. Even niche and grooming brands have joined in, treating the unusual platform as a creative way to reach audiences in a crowded digital advertising landscape. The marketing stunt has also drawn participation from a crypto payments firm, which claimed its toilet-based

advertisement generated massive engagement within just 24 hours. According to reports shared by the company, the campaign resulted in over a million video views, a surge in app downloads, and thousands of new followers—all at a fraction of traditional advertising costs. Greenawalt's videos showcasing these ads have gone viral multiple times, with some clips reportedly crossing tens of millions of views. His approach has turned what seemed like a personal joke into a widely discussed case study in unconventional marketing. The "toilet advertising" idea is also structured like a competition. Brands reportedly bid against each other for premium placement, with the highest-paying advertiser earning the informal title of "King of the Throne." This gamified system has added an extra layer of engagement, making the concept even more appealing to companies looking for viral attention. Social

media users have reacted with a mix of amusement and disbelief. While many are entertained by the creativity and humour behind the idea, others see

it as a reflection of how far digital marketing has evolved—where even the most unexpected spaces can become advertising platforms. Marketing observers note that the success of the experiment lies in its shock value and shareability. In an age where brands struggle to stand out online, unconventional ideas like this generate organic attention that traditional ads often fail to achieve. Critics, however, question whether such stunts represent sustainable marketing or just fleeting internet hype. They argue that while virality can bring short-term visibility, it may not always translate into long-term brand value. Despite the debate, the experiment has undeniably succeeded in capturing global attention. What began as a personal challenge has now turned into a viral business model, blurring the line between content creation, advertising, and entertainment.

CHINA'S "MOST PAMPERED CHILD" TOMB REVEALS LAVISH BURIAL

Archaeologists and historians have long been fascinated by the extraordinary burial of a young aristocratic girl from ancient China, whose tomb has come to symbolise both royal affection and extreme luxury in death.



The child, Li Jingxun, lived during the Sui dynasty nearly 1,400 years ago and died at the age of just nine. Despite her short life, she belonged to one of the most powerful families of her era, closely connected to imperial bloodlines. Raised inside the palace under the care of her influential grandmother, she was deeply cherished and treated with exceptional privilege. Her death during a summer retreat in 608 AD marked a moment of intense grief within the royal household. Historical accounts suggest that even the emperor ordered special mourning rituals, reflecting her high status despite her young age. What makes her story remarkable is the scale of her burial. Li Jingxun was laid to rest in a palace-like stone coffin, surrounded by hundreds of objects meant to accompany her into the afterlife. Archaeologists discovered more than

240 burial items inside her tomb, including gold and silver jewellery, silk garments, glassware, toys, cups and finely crafted animal figurines. One of the most striking finds was a delicate gold crown decorated with pearls and gemstone-like ornaments, designed in floral patterns that symbolised beauty and prosperity. The richness of the objects suggests not only immense wealth but also the emotional depth of her family's attachment. The tomb itself, discovered

in the mid-20th century, is considered one of the most complete and well-preserved burial sites from the Sui dynasty. Its structure resembles a miniature palace, reinforcing the idea that her family wanted to recreate a royal environment for her in the afterlife. Experts believe the burial reflects both cultural beliefs and family devotion. In ancient Chinese tradition, death was not seen as an end but as a continuation of life in another realm. Wealthy families often

placed valuable objects in tombs to ensure comfort and status for the deceased. Li Jingxun's story has gained renewed attention in recent years as images and reconstructions of her tomb circulate online, sparking fascination with ancient burial customs. While some view the lavishness as excessive, others see it as a powerful expression of love and loss. Historians note that her tomb stands out even among elite burials of the period, not just for its treasures but for its emotional significance. The warning inscriptions, ceremonial arrangements and carefully chosen objects all point to a deeply personal farewell by a grieving family. Today, many of the artefacts recovered from her tomb are preserved in museums, offering a rare glimpse into royal life during one of China's most transformative historical periods. The discovery continues to remind researchers how ancient societies combined power, belief and emotion in ways that still resonate centuries later—turning one child's resting place into a lasting symbol of devotion and imperial grandeur.

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Mumbai Indians Under Pressure as In-Form Sunrisers Hyderabad Arrive

Mumbai Indians are heading into a crucial IPL 2026 clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad with their campaign hanging in the balance. After a disappointing start to the season, MI are desperate for a strong comeback, while SRH arrive with confidence and winning momentum.

Tilak Varma's brilliant maiden IPL century against Gujarat Titans helped Mumbai Indians break a four-match losing streak, giving fans hope of a turnaround. However, that confidence was quickly shaken by a massive defeat against Chennai Super Kings, which once again exposed MI's inconsistency and pushed them deeper into trouble. The team is currently struggling in the lower half of the points table,

making every remaining game a must-win situation.

One of MI's biggest concerns this season has been the poor form of their senior stars. Captain Hardik Pandya has managed only 97 runs and three wickets so far, far below expectations from an all-round leader. Suryakumar Yadav, another major match-winner, has also not delivered consistently, scoring only 110 runs. When experienced players fail to lead from the front, pressure naturally shifts to younger players like Tilak Varma.

Adding to MI's worries, Mitchell Santner has been ruled out of the tournament with a shoulder injury, forcing the franchise to bring in South African spinner KeshavMaharaj as a replacement.

Injuries and poor form together have made MI's campaign even more difficult.

There is some positive news, though. Reports suggest Rohit Sharma is likely to return to the playing XI after recovering from a hamstring injury. His comeback could strengthen the batting lineup and provide much-needed stability at the top order. Rohit had scored 137 runs in four matches before getting injured, and his return could be a major boost for the five-time champions.

On the other side, Sunrisers Hyderabad are looking strong and balanced. They have climbed to the top half of the table after winning three consecutive matches. Abhishek Sharma's explosive form has been one of the biggest reasons behind SRH's revival, including a stunning unbeaten century against Delhi Capitals. Their bowling unit has also improved significantly, with players like EshanMalinga and Sakib stepping up in key moments. For Mumbai Indians, this match is not just about two points—it is about survival. Another defeat could seriously damage their playoff hopes. For Sunrisers Hyderabad, a win would further strengthen their position as one of the most dangerous teams in the tournament. At Wankhede, under lights, with both teams carrying very different momentum, this clash promises to be one of the most important matches of the IPL week.



“What Have You Done?” HemangBadani's Old Stephen Fleming Remark Comes Back to Haunt Him

Delhi Capitals coach HemangBadani is facing heavy criticism in IPL 2026 after his team's poor performances, and an old remark he made about Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming has now returned to haunt him.

Delhi Capitals are currently struggling in seventh place on the points table, and their crushing collapse against Royal Challengers Bengaluru made matters worse. DC were bowled out for just 75 runs, one of their worst batting performances this season, which triggered strong reactions from fans and former cricketers alike.

The controversy started because of Badani's earlier comments on Stephen Fleming's role at Chennai Super Kings. In the past, Badani had reportedly questioned how much credit Fleming deserved for CSK's long-term success and suggested that MS Dhoni's leadership was the bigger reason behind the franchise's dominance.

At that time, the comments created debate because Fleming is widely respected as one of the most successful coaches in IPL history. Under his guidance, CSK won multiple IPL titles and built one of the strongest team cultures in the league. Many cricket experts believed Badani's remarks were unfair and unnecessary.

Now, with Delhi Capitals underperforming badly under Badani's coaching, former India cricketer KrishnamachariSrikanth has openly criticized him.



Reacting strongly after DC's humiliating defeat, Srikanth questioned Badani's credibility and reminded him of those earlier comments.

Srikanth reportedly said, “What have you done?” and asked why Badani had targeted someone like Stephen Fleming without first proving himself as a coach. He also advised Badani to be more careful with his public statements in the future, especially when speaking about highly accomplished figures in cricket.

The criticism became even sharper because Chennai Super Kings, despite facing their own struggles this season, still continue to trust Fleming's leadership and experience. Fleming himself had recently said that criticism is fair when a team is not performing well, showing a calm and balanced response to pressure.

For Delhi Capitals, the big-

ger issue remains performance on the field. The team has looked inconsistent, with batting collapses and missed opportunities hurting their play-off chances. As head coach, Badani is naturally under the spotlight, and old statements are now being judged against present results.

In cricket, words often return louder when results do not support them. That is exactly what HemangBadani is experiencing now. His earlier criticism of Stephen Fleming, once seen as bold analysis, is now being used against him as Delhi Capitals continue to struggle.

For Badani, the only real answer will be results. If Delhi can recover and make a strong comeback, the criticism may fade. But until then, his past comments on Fleming will remain a talking point throughout the season.

ShreyasIyer Reveals the Taunt That Changed His Game

Punjab Kings captain ShreyasIyer has been one of the standout performers of IPL 2026, leading from the front with both his bat and captaincy. With PBKS sitting at the top of the points table, Iyer has been scoring runs at an impressive average of 70 and a strike rate of 186, showing a remarkable transformation in his T20 game. But behind this success lies a personal battle against criticism and constant doubts.

For years, one of the biggest criticisms against Iyer was his perceived weakness against short-pitched bowling. Opponents often targeted him with bouncers, and many experts and fans believed he would never fully overcome that flaw. It became one of the most talked-about limitations in his batting.

However, instead of letting the criticism break him, Iyer used it as motivation.

Speaking on JioStar's show Believe, Iyer openly admitted that such comments deeply affected him. He said he does not like hearing people say something is impossible for him to achieve. According to him, those words triggered a strong internal response and pushed him to work even harder.

“I have people around me who say that in this situation, you can't do it. It's impossible.



I don't like hearing that,” Iyer said. “Then in my mind, I decide that I have to prove them wrong.”

He explained that this mindset became even stronger during difficult phases like injuries. When he suffered a serious back injury, some peo-

ple reportedly told him he would never be the same player again. But Iyer refused to accept that idea.

Instead, he focused on rebuilding both mentally and physically. He said recovery after injury is not just about the body—it is about choosing the

right mindset and deciding what to focus on.

The “short-ball weakness” taunt remained with him for a long time. Iyer said that criticism especially “triggered” him and became the reason he changed his approach completely.

Earlier, when facing short balls, he would often try to take a single or keep the ball down safely. Now, his thinking is different.

“If I see a short ball in my zone, I am going to hit it for a six,” he said. That aggressive change is clearly visible this season. One of the strongest examples came when he smashed a six off JaspritBumrah's short ball—something that symbolized how far he has come against fast bowling.

Iyer also credited his longtime coach PravinAmre and mentor Abhishek Nayar for helping him improve. He said constant discussions, technical adjustments, and trust in the process helped him turn weakness into strength.

Today, ShreyasIyer is not just proving critics wrong—he is becoming one of the most reliable T20 batters in the country. His story shows that sometimes the strongest motivation comes from doubt. For Iyer, the taunts did not become a burden—they became fuel for success.

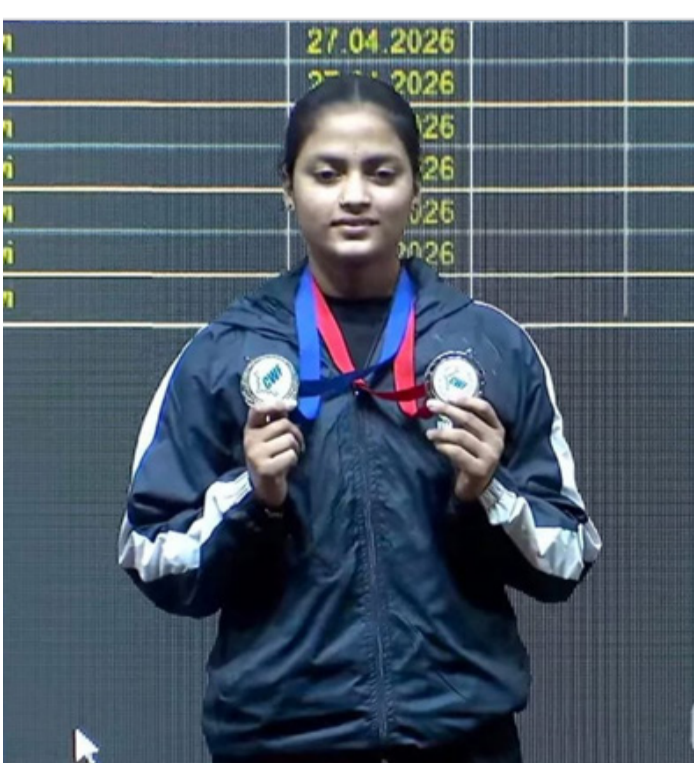
Telugu Talent Bhargavi Shines at Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship with Gold and Silver Medals

Indian weightlifter BellanaBhargavi from Andhra Pradesh has made the country proud with an outstanding performance at the ongoing Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship held in Samoa. The young athlete delivered a remarkable display of strength and consistency, winning two medals in different categories at the international event.

Hailing from Kondavelagada village in Vizianagaram district, Bhargavi clinched the gold medal in the Youth category and the silver medal in the Junior category, achieving a rare double podium finish in the same championship. Her performance has been widely appreciated as a significant achievement for Indian weightlifting on the global stage.

Bhargavi lifted a total of 180 kg, showcasing both power and technical precision. She successfully completed 78 kg in the snatch and 102 kg in the clean and jerk, securing her position among the top performers in the competition. Her consistency across both lifts played a key role in her medal-winning performance.

Behind this success is years of hard work, discipline, and focused training. Her coach, VulluriSrinivasa Rao, has been instrumental in shaping her technique and guiding her through competitive challenges. Bhargavi's journey from a



small village in Andhra Pradesh to an international podium is being seen as an inspiring story of determination and dedication. Sports experts believe her achievement highlights the growing strength of Indian women in weightlifting and reflects the country's improving grassroots sports ecosystem. Performances like these are expected to motivate more young athletes, especially

ly from rural backgrounds, to take up competitive sports seriously. Bhargavi's double medal win is not just a personal milestone but also a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh and Indian sports. Her success at the Commonwealth Championship adds to India's growing reputation in weightlifting and sets a strong example for upcoming athletes aiming for international success.

PM Modi Joins Children for Football Match in Gangtok

Prime Minister Narendra Modi created a cheerful and memorable moment during his visit to Sikkim by joining local children for a friendly game of football in Gangtok. The light-hearted interaction quickly went viral on social media, with many praising the Prime Minister's energetic participation and his connection with young people. During his two-day visit to Sikkim for the state's 50th year of statehood celebrations, PM Modi spent part of his morning playing football with youngsters on a ground in Gangtok. Sharing pictures and videos on social media, he wrote, “Nothing like playing some football with my young friends in Sikkim on a lovely Gangtok morning!” He also described it as an “energising football session” with the children. According to reports, while joining the children on the field, PM Modi jokingly asked them, “Mujhehara do ge?” (“Will you defeat me?”), creating smiles and laughter among the young players. The friendly challenge made the moment even more special and showed a relaxed side of the Prime Minister during an otherwise busy official visit.

Videos from the ground showed PM Modi dribbling the ball, taking part in the game with enthusiasm, scoring a goal, and even exchanging high-fives with the children. The visuals quickly spread online, with many users appreciating the simplicity and



warmth of the moment. Football is extremely popular in the northeastern states, especially in Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, making the gesture even more meaningful for local youth.

Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, has a strong football culture, and Paljor Stadium remains one of the important football venues in the region. Football often enjoys equal or even greater popularity than cricket in many northeastern states, and the region continues to produce some of India's finest football talent.

Apart from the football session, PM Modi's visit included several major official events. He attended the closing ceremony of Sikkim's 50th Statehood celebrations and was scheduled to inaugurate, launch, and lay the foundation stone for projects worth over 4,000 crore across sectors such as healthcare, education, tourism, infrastructure, and connectivity. These projects are aimed at supporting inclusive development in the state.

Earlier, he also interacted with Padma awardees, artists, social workers, sports persons,

and achievers from different fields. The visit reflected both governance and public outreach, combining official responsibilities with meaningful personal engagement.

The football match in Gangtok may have lasted only a short time, but it left a strong impression. For the children, it became a memorable morning with the Prime Minister. For the public, it showed how sport can create simple yet powerful human connections.

Sometimes, one friendly football game says more than a long political speech.



Ashu Reddy Moves Telangana High Court to Quash 9.35 Crore Cheating Case

Tollywood actress and Bigg Boss Telugu fame Ashu Reddy has approached the Telangana High Court seeking to quash the criminal case filed against her in the alleged 9.35 crore cheating case. The actress, who recently found herself in major legal trouble, is now taking legal steps to clear her name and challenge the FIR registered against her and her family.

The controversy began after a complaint was filed by Yenumula-Satyanarayana Murthy, a Hyderabad-origin man, on behalf of his son Y.V. Dharmendra, a London-based software engineer. According to the complaint, Dharmendra met Ashu Reddy, whose real name is VenkataAswini Reddy Koyya, in 2018 through mutual friends. It is alleged that Ashu promised to marry him despite his ongoing divorce process and gradually received huge financial support from him over the years. The complainant claims that nearly 9.35 crore was spent on her for personal expenses, luxury cars, gold, and even real estate purchases made in her name.

The complaint further states that when Dharmendra tried to formalize the marriage in 2020, Ashu allegedly refused. Later, a settlement discussion reportedly took place in the presence of actress Hema, where Ashu is said to have agreed to repay 70 lakh and even issued blank cheques. However, it is alleged that those cheques were later taken back and destroyed. Despite this, the relationship reportedly resumed after her mother and sister allegedly assured Dharmendra again that the marriage would happen. Financial transactions are said to have continued until 2025, including the purchase of a flat in Manikonda and gold worth nearly five kilograms.

Based on these allegations, Hyderabad's Central Crime Station (CCS) registered a cheating case not only against Ashu Reddy but also against her father Venkata Krishna Koyya, mother Yashoda Reddy, and sister Divya Reddy. The family is accused of using the promise of marriage to obtain money and assets from Dharmendra over several years.

As the news spread rapidly on social media and television, Ashu Reddy strongly denied all allegations. She stated that the accusations were false, misleading, and made without her consent being considered. Through her Instagram story, she warned that strict legal action would be taken against those spreading baseless scandal reports and false information about her.

Now, by moving the Telangana High Court, Ashu is trying to get the FIR quashed before the investigation progresses further. Her legal team reportedly argues that the case is based on false accusations and personal misunderstandings rather than criminal intent.

This case has become one of the most talked-about controversies in Tollywood, especially because of the large amount involved and the serious nature of the allegations. Fans and industry observers are now waiting to see how the High Court responds and whether Ashu Reddy will get legal relief in the coming days.



Chiranjeevi's 'Mega 158' Ready for Shoot

Megastar Chiranjeevi is moving ahead at full speed after delivering a blockbuster hit with Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu during Sankranti this year. While his fantasy film Vishwambhara is currently in post-production, fans have been eagerly waiting for updates on his next major project with director Bobby Kolli, tentatively titled Mega 158. Now, the makers have finally shared exciting news that has brought relief and excitement to mega fans.

Chiranjeevi currently has three films in hand. Along with Vishwambhara, he is preparing for Mega 158, directed by K.S. Ravindra (Bobby Kolli), and another project with director SrikanthOdele. Among these, Bobby's film has generated huge buzz because it marks the second collaboration between Chiranjeevi and Bobby after the massive success of WaltairVeerayya. Their previous film turned out to be a commercial blockbuster, which has naturally raised expectations for this upcoming entertainer.

The film is being produced by KVN Productions on a grand scale. Although the project was announced long ago, there were delays in starting the regular shoot. Reports suggested that the production house faced issues with another film, Jana Nayan, which led to postponements in the launch and shooting schedules of Mega 158. This also triggered rumors that the Chiranjeevi project had been shelved. However, the production house strongly denied such speculation and assured fans that the film was very much on track.

Now, the latest update confirms that preparations are progressing smoothly. On Tuesday, the makers released a special photo and revealed that the look test for Mega 158 has been successfully completed. They shared the update on social media with the striking caption, "Silence before violence," hinting that the film may carry a powerful mass-action backdrop with intense emotions. The makers also stated that the muhurtham ceremony and regular shooting details will be announced very soon.

Earlier reports suggested that the film's launch ceremony was planned for April, with regular shooting expected to begin shortly after. The project is said to feature a strong father-daughter emotional storyline, which adds a fresh layer to Chiranjeevi's character. This emotional angle is expected to be one of the major highlights of the film, alongside Bobby's signature mass presentation.

There has also been plenty of curiosity regarding the cast. While official confirmations are still awaited, names like Priyamani, PreityMukhundan, and even Bollywood veteran Anil Kapoor were discussed in reports, though it was later clarified that Anil Kapoor is not part of the project.

With the successful combination of Chiranjeevi and Bobby returning once again, expectations are naturally sky-high. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the official shooting schedule and the grand launch of Mega 158, hoping it will recreate the magic of WaltairVeerayya at the box office.

Ram Charan-ShrutiHaasan Special Song in Peddi Creates Buzz After Visuals Leak

Ram Charan's upcoming film Peddi is already one of the most awaited Telugu releases of 2026, and now a leaked glimpse from its special song shoot has taken social media by storm. The latest buzz is around actress ShrutiHaasan, who has reportedly joined the film for a high-voltage special dance number alongside Ram Charan, making fans even more excited about the project. Directed by BuchiBabu Sana, Peddi is a rural sports-action drama that stars Ram Charan in a powerful mass role. Janhvi Kapoor plays the female lead, while the film also features strong supporting actors like Shiva Rajkumar, JagapathiBabu, and Divyendu Sharma. With music composed by A.R. Rahman, expectations are already sky-high for the film's songs and background score. The film is now scheduled for a grand theatrical release on June 25, 2026, after being postponed from its earlier release date. For the past few weeks, there were many rumors about which actress would perform the special song with Ram Charan. Names like Mrunal Thakur, Samyuktha Menon, and Manasa Varanasi were widely discussed in media reports. However, the latest reports confirm that ShrutiHaasan has been finalized for

the glamorous dance number, ending all speculation. Filmfare also reported that Shruti has officially joined the project for this special performance.

According to reports, this special song is being designed as a high-energy mass number with a strong Uttarandhraflavor. A specially constructed grand set has been prepared in Janwada near Hyderabad for the shoot. ShrutiHaasan reportedly completed rehearsals and joined the filming schedule recently. The song is expected to be shot over a short but visually rich schedule with elaborate choreography and large-scale production design.

What made the situation even more interesting was the leak of visuals from the shoot. Some behind-the-scenes glimpses reportedly surfaced online, showing the grand scale of the set and the energetic vibe of the song. These visuals quickly

went viral among fans, creating huge excitement around the special number. Though the makers have not officially released the song visuals, the leaked content has only increased anticipation.

This song also marks a reunion between Ram Charan and ShrutiHaasan after their earlier successful collaboration in Yevadu, which makes the pairing even more special for fans. Their chemistry on screen was appreciated before, and audiences are now eager to see them together again in a mass dance number.

Meanwhile, the makers recently confirmed that only a few days of shooting are left for Peddi, and the film is nearing completion. Director BuchiBabu Sana even shared a fun selfie with Ram Charan from the set, increasing fan excitement.

With Ram Charan's powerful screen presence, ShrutiHaasan's glamour, and A.R. Rahman's music, this special song is expected to be one of the major highlights of Peddi. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the official release of the song and hoping it becomes a chartbuster even before the film hits theatres.



Samantha Working Hard to Create Strong Buzz for Maa Inti Bangaram

Star heroine Samantha Ruth Prabhu is putting all her efforts into making her upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaram a major success. After facing a few career setbacks and taking a break due to personal and health challenges, this film has become extremely important for her—not only as an actress but also as a producer.

Samantha has always been known as one of Tollywood's strongest female stars. She has delivered hits with top heroes and has also proved herself in solo lead films. However, after films like Shakuntalam and Yashoda failed to create the expected box office impact, Samantha's comeback became a big talking point. She then launched her own production house, Tralala Moving Pictures, and scored a positive result with Subham. Now, she is taking a bigger step with Maa Inti Bangaram, where she is both acting and producing.

The film is being directed by Nandini Reddy, who earlier worked successfully with Samantha in films like Oh! Baby and Jabardasth. Because of their strong past collaboration, expectations are naturally high. Industry insiders believe this project is equally important for both Samantha and Nandini Reddy, as both are looking for a strong commercial hit. Interestingly, despite the soft and family-friendly title Maa Inti Bangaram, the film is said to have a surprising action-packed storyline. Samantha will reportedly appear in two different shades—on one side as a simple middle-class woman in a family setting, and on the other side in a powerful action mode with a revenge-driven character arc. The teaser released earlier impressed audiences by showing Samantha in a completely new avatar, creating strong curiosity around the film. The makers are planning to release the film in May 2026, and reports



suggest that there is not much major competition around that release window. This gives the film a strong opportunity to perform well if the content connects with audiences. However, Samantha reportedly understands that in today's film market, regular promotions alone are not enough. To make a film successful, strong buzz, viral content, and smart publicity strategies are necessary to attract audiences to theatres. That is why Samantha is said to be focusing heavily on promotions and public attention for the film. Since this is her own production venture, she is expected to take extra care in marketing and presentation. Fans believe that if the trailer also creates the same impact as the teaser, the film could become one of the biggest female-led hits of the year.

For Samantha, Maa Inti Bangaram is more than just another release—it is a career-defining project. After years of waiting for a major solo success and after facing both personal and professional challenges, she is hoping this film will bring her back to the top.

If the film succeeds, it could mark not just a comeback, but the beginning of a powerful new phase in Samantha's career.

AELISHA YADAV



RISING STAR