



BUZZ POINTS



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CM Babu's Labour Day Gift: Big Welfare Boost for Workers

Pamidimukkala(Krishna Dist),May01|TPN Bureau

On the occasion of International Workers' Day (May Day), Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a series of major welfare initiatives aimed at improving the lives of workers across the state. Speaking at a Labour Day event held in Pamidimukkala village of Krishna district on Friday the Chief Minister emphasized that the NDA government's goal is to bring happiness to every poor household.

He stated that under previous administrations, people had suffered and lost hope, but his government had restored confidence and development. During the event, he presented "Shrama Shakti" awards to outstanding workers and personally distributed pensions to beneficiaries.

Highlighting new initiatives, Naidu announced the establishment of 15 modern "Labour Addas" across the state. These centers will not only provide shelter but also function as skill development hubs to enhance workers' capabilities.



He stressed that workers' children should rise to the level of becoming industrialists.

The government is also providing 15,000 annually to auto drivers, 25,000 for the marriage of construction workers, and 20,000 as maternity assistance.

Overall, 615 crore is being spent for the welfare of 88 lakh unorganized workers in the state.

The Chief Minister further revealed that over 63,000 crore has been distributed as pensions to 62.47 lakh beneficiaries in the past 22 months.

He noted that Andhra Pradesh spends 33,000 crore annually on pensions—an unprecedented figure in the country. Welfare schemes like Anna Canteens and free gas cylinders under women empowerment programs are also being implemented.

Focusing on development, Naidu said that the Machilipatnam (Bandar) Port project is 57% complete and will be finished by December. Road expansion works under the Bharatmala project, including a six-lane highway between Vijayawada and Machilipatnam, are progressing rapidly. He also mentioned major investments from companies like Google and Reliance, along with renewed momentum in the Amaravati capital project.

Criticizing the previous government, Naidu accused it of destructive governance and urged people not to trust such forces again. He reaffirmed his commitment to the public, stating that he would directly assess MLAs' performance through the people and aims to make the Telugu community number one globally.



"Books to Business: A Heritage Campus Caught in Corporate Crossfire"

Rajahmundry, May01|TPN Bureau

A century-old educational institution that once stood as a beacon of hope for underprivileged girls is now at the center of a growing controversy involving alleged irregular land leasing, corporate expansion, and institutional silence.

The Schade Girls High School, established over 115 years ago on the banks of the Godavari River, has long served as a sanctuary of education for thousands of marginalized young women. Managed under the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC), the institution symbolized empowerment through education. Today, however, its legacy appears threatened by what critics describe as a calculated "corporate takeover" under the guise of a lease agreement.

Lease or Loophole? According to internal bylaws of AELC, institutional assets—especially those tied to educational and community welfare—are not to be leased to non-Christian entities, except under exceptional circumstances that directly benefit the community. Despite this, portions of the Schade School campus in Rajahmundry were reportedly leased to a private individual based in Guntur. This individual is said to have subsequently sub-leased

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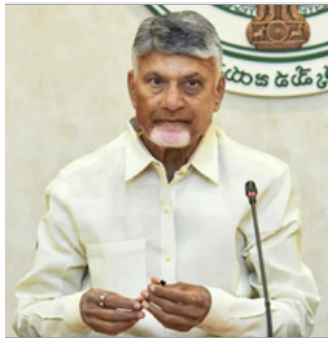
Govt. Notifies Five Model E-Mobility Cities to Boost Green Urban Transport

Amaravati, May01 | TPN Bureau

In a significant push towards sustainable and future-ready urban mobility, the Andhra Pradesh government on Friday announced five model E-Mobility cities across the state. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to build a technology-driven, eco-friendly transport ecosystem.

The selected cities—Visakhapatnam (North Andhra), Rajahmundry (Godavari region), Vijayawada (Central Andhra), Nellore (South Andhra), and Tirupati (Rayalseema)—represent the state's five administrative regions.

The announcement comes alongside the operationalisation of the Andhra Pradesh Sustainable Electric Mobility Policy (4.0) 2024–29. The Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department has approved a comprehensive operational framework and strategic roadmap for implementing the policy across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).



According to official sources, the initiative aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a leading hub for electric mobility adoption, EV infrastructure

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Tirumala Laddu Ghee Scam: Probe Report Holds Former TTD EO Singhal Responsible

Amaravati, May01|TPN Bureau

Sensational findings have emerged in the controversy surrounding the alleged use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of Tirumala Srivari Laddu prasadam. A one-member commission headed by former Chief Secretary Dinesh Kumar, appointed by the government to investigate the matter, has submitted its report, placing primary responsibility on former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal. The commission clearly stated that Anil Kumar Singhal failed in his duty to prevent the circumstances that led to the adulteration of ghee. According to the report, administrative lapses during his tenure, lack of proper oversight, and failure to strictly enforce supplier regulations directly contributed to this serious lapse.



The report further criticized the absence of transparency in the ghee procurement process and pointed out that systems meant to ensure quality checks were effectively weakened, indirectly enabling the supply of adulterated ghee.

The commission also observed that during the previous government's tenure, tender norms for ghee procurement were deliberately relaxed. These changes allegedly favored companies offering lower prices, which ultimately allowed substandard suppliers to enter the system. Between 2019 and 2024, approximately 6 million kilograms of adulterated ghee are estimated to have been supplied to Tirumala, pointing to a large-scale corruption angle behind the scandal.

Apart from Anil Kumar Singhal, the commission also held then Additional Executive Officer Dharma Reddy and Financial Advisor Balaji accountable for failing to discharge their duties effectively. Despite receiving complaints regarding the poor quality of ghee, they reportedly did not take appropriate action. The commission questioned their inaction and intentions, suggesting serious negligence. Earlier, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) had already recommended strict disciplinary action against these officials, and the commission's findings further reinforce those recommendations.

However, a significant point of discussion is the absence of any mention of former TTD chairpersons in the report. During the 2019–2024 period, YV Subba Reddy and Bhumana Karunakar Reddy served as chairmen. Opposition leaders, particularly from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), have alleged that the ghee adulteration scam involved YV Subba Reddy and influential figures linked to the Tadepalli establishment. In a related development, SIT officials have already arrested Appanna, a personal assistant to YV Subba Reddy, and are interrogating him. Appanna had also served as Protocol OSD at AP Bhavan in New Delhi during the previous government's tenure. Investigations reportedly revealed that he was directly involved in collecting money. Despite these developments, the commission report does not mention either Appanna or YV Subba Reddy, raising further questions and debate over the scope and completeness of the inquiry.

Marking the occasion of May Day, Andhra Pradesh Minister Vasamsetti Subhash asserted that the Alliance government has restored dignity, security, and livelihood opportunities for workers across the state. Speaking at a Praja Vedika in Pamidimukkala village, he said the government's policies are firmly rooted in worker welfare, symbolized by the "wheel" on the TDP flag, representing labor and progress.

Pamidimukkala (Krishna District), May 01|TPN Bureau

The Minister launched a sharp critique of the previous administration led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that its policies drove away industries and left workers, particularly in the construction sector, in distress. "Over the past five years, workers suffered immense hardship, with many pushed into hunger and uncertainty," he said, adding that the lack of sand availability had severely impacted construction activity and livelihoods.

Highlighting the current government's achievements, Subhash noted that since the Alliance assumed power, investments worth lakhs of crores have been attracted to Andhra Pradesh, generating employment opportunities. "Today, nearly 20 lakh construction workers are gainfully employed. Not only local workers, but laborers from other states are also coming here in search of jobs," he said. The Minister also revealed plans to establish 'Integrated Centers' in five cities initially, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu proposing to expand the initiative to 15 cities. These centers aim to streamline employment access and provide support services for workers.



Chandrababu Naidu Inaugurates LV Prasad Eye Care Center in Gudlavalleru

Gudlavalleru, May 01|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday inaugurated the newly constructed LV Prasad Eye Institute Care Center in Gudlavalleru, marking a significant step toward improving access to advanced eye care services in Krishna district. The Chief Minister attended the event as part of his district tour, accompanied by Minister for Medical and Health Satyakumar Yadav. After unveiling the inaugural plaque, he toured the

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Grand May Day Celebrations Across Andhra Pradesh; Leaders Reaffirm Commitment to Workers' Welfare

Amaravati, May01 | TPN Bureau

International Workers' Day was observed with great enthusiasm and grandeur across Andhra Pradesh, with widespread participation from workers, political leaders, and public representatives. The occasion highlighted the importance of labor in driving the state's and nation's progress. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that every hardworking individual deserves equal respect, regardless of their profession. He described May Day as a historic occasion dedicated to recognizing the tireless contributions of workers, particularly farmers and agricultural laborers, who form the backbone of economic growth. He stressed that true progress can be achieved only when workers and farmers move forward together.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan lauded workers as the driving force behind the nation's development. He highlighted the critical role played by unorganized sector workers and daily wage laborers, and reiterated the government's commitment to their dignity and welfare. He also noted reforms such as replacing the term "coolies" with "workers" and enhancing compensation measures under employment schemes.



In West Godavari district, Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu marked the occasion by participating in a rickshaw rally in Palakollu, pedaling a rickshaw for 4 kilometers under intense heat alongside workers. He described the experience as deeply fulfilling and reiterated the crucial role workers play in industrial and economic progress.

On social media platform X, Pawan Kalyan shared a video showcasing grassroots initiatives like "Magic Drains" and "Farm Ponds," featuring insights from leaders and personalities including Assembly Speaker Ayanna Patrudu, actor Nani, and badminton star P. V. Sindhu. Minister Nara Lokesh extended greetings to workers, stating that development is rooted in hard work and asserting that "there is no world without the worker." He reaffirmed the government's dedication to implementing welfare programs that ensure dignity and better living conditions for laborers.

Similarly, Minister Vasamsetti Subhash underlined that workers' labor forms the foundation of national growth. He called for efforts to improve the living standards of workers and urged them to celebrate May Day with pride. Celebrations were also held in districts such as Anakapalli and Kurnool, where labor organizations emphasized the need to protect workers' rights and resist any dilution of labor laws achieved through historic struggles. Leaders and unions called for unity among workers to safeguard their interests. Overall, the statewide celebrations reinforced the message that workers remain central to development and that their welfare continues to be a key priority for the government.

Minister Atchannaidu highlighted workers as the driving force of development and farmers as the backbone of the economy. He assured that the government is focused on ensuring respect, social security, and welfare for both groups.

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The Minister launched a sharp critique of the previous administration led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that its policies drove away industries and left workers, particularly in the construction sector, in distress. "Over the past five years, workers suffered immense hardship, with many pushed into hunger and uncertainty," he said, adding that the lack of sand availability had severely impacted construction activity and livelihoods.

Alliance Government Ensures Worker Security and Welfare, Says Minister Subhash



Highlighting the current government's achievements, Subhash noted that since the Alliance assumed power, investments worth lakhs of crores have been attracted to Andhra Pradesh, generating employment opportunities. "Today, nearly 20 lakh construction workers are gainfully employed. Not only local workers, but laborers from other states are also coming here in search of jobs," he said. The Minister also revealed plans to establish 'Integrated Centers' in five cities initially, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu proposing to expand the initiative to 15 cities. These centers aim to streamline employment access and provide support services for workers.

Subhash further alleged that welfare funds meant for workers were misused by the previous regime. "They showed no concern for workers' well-being. In contrast, our government has resolved their hardships and ensured both security and assurance," he stated.

Meanwhile, Pamarru MLA Varla Kumar Raja extended May Day greetings to workers and praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's governance. He described Naidu as a leader deeply committed to the welfare of the poor, highlighting initiatives such as doorstep pension delivery.

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“Books to Business: A Heritage Campus Caught in Corporate Crossfire”

continued

the land to a major private hospital group.

This chain of agreements has raised serious questions about procedural violations and possible premeditated land diversion. Critics argue that such arrangements undermine both the spirit and letter of institutional governance.

Vanishing Classrooms, Rising Towers

Ground reports indicate a stark contrast between commitments and reality. While the agreement allegedly mandated construction of new school facilities to compensate for land use, there is little visible progress on that front. Instead, large-scale hospital infrastructure is rapidly taking shape—overshadowing the aging and neglected school buildings nearby.

Students and local observers claim that basic amenities for the school have deteriorated, with infrastructure falling into disrepair even as commercial construction accelerates.

Silenced Voices

Initial resistance from local Christian groups and community leaders was visible, with protests and public demonstrations demanding accountability. However, these movements appear to have dissipated abruptly. Several locals allege that influential figures may have been “persuaded” to withdraw opposition, though no official confirmation exists.

The sudden silence has fueled speculation about internal compromise and weakened institutional oversight.

Unanswered Questions

The controversy leaves sev-

eral critical questions hanging:

- Why have elected representatives not intervened in a matter affecting public interest and heritage?
- Have custodians of church properties failed in their responsibility to safeguard community assets?
- Is financial gain being prioritized over the educational future of underprivileged girls?

A Legacy at Risk

What is unfolding in Rajahmundry is not merely a land dispute—it is a test of institutional integrity, community responsibility, and governance transparency. The potential loss of a historic educational space to commercial interests has sparked concern among educators, activists, and citizens alike.

Call for Accountability

Stakeholders are now calling for a thorough investigation into the lease agreements, immediate halt to further commercial expansion, and restoration of the school’s infrastructure and autonomy. There is also a growing demand for independent oversight to ensure that such heritage institutions are protected from similar encroachments in the future.

As the debate intensifies, one thing remains clear: the fate of Schade Girls High School will not only determine the future of its students but also set a precedent for how society values education versus enterprise.

The question remains—will the system wake up before it is too late?

Govt. Notifies Five Model E-Mobility Cities to Boost Green Urban Transport

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development, and sustainable urban transport systems. It aligns with the state’s long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality in the transport sector by 2047.

The framework outlines the development of high-density EV charging infrastructure, including one charging station per 3×3 km grid within cities and one every 30 km along highways and green corridors. It also includes plans for battery swapping stations, green routes, zero-emission zones, and integrated electric mobility systems.

To support the initiative, the government has allocated a dedicated corpus fund of Rs 250 crore, with Rs 50 crore earmarked for each model city. The funds will be used for infrastructure development, grid strengthening, fleet electrification, innovation pilots, and consumer adoption programs.

The implementation will follow a phased approach cover-

ing EV charging networks, electric public transport, green freight corridors, renewable energy integration, and smart mobility planning. Dedicated City E-Mobility Cells (CEMCs) will also be established to oversee execution.

City-specific strategies have been proposed to address local needs. Visakhapatnam will focus on green tourism mobility, electric BRTS corridors, and freight systems. Vijayawada will develop green routes and logistics-focused EV infrastructure. Rajahmundry will see electrification of river transport and goods corridors, while Nellore will emphasize EV logistics for fisheries and coastal transport. Tirupati will implement full electrification of Tirumala shuttle services and establish zero-emission zones for pilgrim mobility.

The initiative marks a major step in transforming urban transport across Andhra Pradesh into a cleaner, more efficient, and sustainable system.



Chandrababu Naidu Inaugurates LV Prasad Eye Care Center in Gudlavalleru

continued

facility and interacted with staff to review the available medical equipment and services. The center, built at an estimated cost of 7 crore, is located on Penjendra Road near Gudlavalleru Engineering College. It was established with generous contributions from the families of Jasti Subbarao and Polavarapu Satyanaraya-

na Rao, who donated both the one-acre land parcel and funding for the building.

The hospital aims to provide high-quality and affordable eye care to residents of Krishna district and nearby regions. With the launch of this facility, locals are expected to benefit from reduced dependence on distant cities such as Hyderabad for specialized treatment.

Pithapuram Rising: Pawan Kalyan’s Vision Sparks All-Round Development

Amaravati, May01|TPN Bureau

Pithapuram constituency is witnessing rapid transformation as a series of large-scale development initiatives take shape under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. With a focus on ensuring that development translates into visible improvements in people’s lives, works worth hundreds of crores are currently underway across multiple sectors. Efforts to uplift living conditions have begun in nearly 30 slums within Pithapuram town, where essential infrastructure such as roads, drainage systems, and drinking water facilities are being upgraded. These measures are expected to significantly improve the quality of life for thousands of residents. Infrastructure development is gaining pace, with the Pithapuram Railway Station undergoing modernization under the Amrit Bharat Scheme, while the RTC bus stand is also being renovated. In the Uppada coastal region, authorities are preparing to construct a massive sea protection wall aimed at preventing coastal erosion and safeguarding local communities.



Road connectivity is being strengthened through projects worth 800 crore across Kakinada district, including 234 crore specifically allocated for Pithapuram constituency. These works are expected to enhance transportation and boost economic activity.

To generate employment, an MSME Park is being developed with plug-and-play facilities for small-scale industries. This initiative is aimed at creating local job opportunities and supporting entrepreneurship.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, a Water Grid Project is being implemented to ensure access to clean drinking water across several mandals. In the healthcare sector, the Pithapuram Community Health Center is being upgraded into a 100-bed hospital with

improved infrastructure and medical services.

Educational facilities are also being enhanced, with government hostels receiving modern amenities and Gurukulam schools offering corporate-standard training. A Skill Hub established under APSSDC is providing training to youth, while frequent job fairs are helping connect job seekers with employment opportunities. Sports and tourism are receiving attention through the development of rural sports training centers, modernization of the indoor stadium, and plans to establish a Hotel Management Institute in Uppada. Industrial growth is also being encouraged through investments aimed at turning the constituency into a hub for economic activity.

Rising Mercury Levels Trigger Warnings

Amaravati, May01|TPN Bureau

The State Meteorological Department has issued a warning that severe heatwave conditions are expected across the state, with record-breaking temperatures likely to be recorded in several districts on Saturday, affecting 64 mandals including those in Vizianagaram, Manyam, Polavaram, NTR, Guntur, Palnadu, Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore, and Tirupati, while at the same time some regions may witness light rains accompanied by lightning due to a trough extending from South Odisha across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh up to the Gulf of Mannar.

On Friday, the state experienced intense heat as a maximum temperature of 45.9 degrees Celsius was recorded in



Piduguralla of Palnadu district, and according to State Disaster Management Authority Managing Director Prahar Jain, temperatures exceeded 41 degrees Celsius in 252 mandals across 20 districts, indicating the widespread impact of the heatwave, although the intensity of the heat is expected to decrease slightly on Sunday and Monday with the possibility of cloudy weather, scattered rains, and gusty

winds in some areas.

Authorities have advised the public to remain cautious by avoiding direct exposure to the sun during peak hours, staying hydrated, carrying umbrellas, and wearing light, breathable clothing, while farmers, agricultural workers, and herdsmen have been specifically warned not to take shelter under trees during thunderstorms due to the risk of lightning strikes.

New Lease Rent Guidelines Rolled Out for Municipal Properties

Amaravati, May01|TPN Bureau

In a major urban governance reform, the Andhra Pradesh government has revised lease rent policies for shops and commercial properties owned by urban local bodies (ULBs), aiming to boost revenues and reduce litigation. Under G.O. 92 issued by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) department, the earlier system of a steep 33 % rent hike every three years has been replaced with a more balanced 7 % annual increase.

This decision follows a detailed review by Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, who



examined challenges faced by municipalities and studied practices in other states. The previous policy, introduced in 2011, led to widespread disputes, with 584 leaseholders across 18 ULBs approaching courts, leaving 9.43 crore in pending collections. The re-

form also introduces floor-wise rent rationalisation: first-floor shops will have rents 20% lower than ground-floor units, and upper floors 30% lower, addressing long-standing vacancies. Additionally, lease auction upset prices will now be determined based on market value, nearby rents, or a 7% increase over previous rents, whichever is higher.

Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana stated that the policy balances revenue generation with affordability, while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu aims to ensure municipal properties remain productive assets and support small businesses.

Praja Darbar Completes 50 Weeks, Resolves Over 900 Public Grievances

Amaravati, May 01|TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish Babu’s ‘Praja Darbar’ program successfully completed 50 weeks, emerging as a trusted platform for addressing public grievances. Over this period, 1,265 complaints were received, with more than 921 issues moved toward resolution, reflecting its effectiveness.

The initiative has been instrumental in tackling key concerns such as CM Relief Fund assistance, housing, ration cards, employment, pensions, and healthcare services. Its structured approach—prompt



response, consistent follow-up, and resolution—has earned public confidence.

While legal and personal financial disputes remain outside its scope, the program offers guidance on employment

and skill development for youth. Notably, in its 50th week, immediate aid was provided to a differently-abled woman needing an artificial limb, highlighting its humanitarian commitment.

Alliance Government Ensures Worker Security and Welfare, Says Minister Subhash

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“Earlier, people feared the beginning of the month due to financial stress. Today, they welcome it with relief because of timely pensions,” the MLA said. He also criticized the previous government for neglecting agriculture, claiming it had made farming seem unviable. According to Varla Kumar Raja, the current coalition gov-

ernment ensures payments to farmers within 24 hours of procuring grain, boosting confidence among the farming community. “With Chandran-na’s leadership, farmers can now say they have no worries,” he remarked. The MLA concluded by stating that consistent resolution of public issues would ensure the long-term success of the coalition government.



Grand Maha Kumbhabhishekam Held with Fervor

Movva, May 01|TPN Bureau

A grand spiritual celebration marked the consecration of the new idol and Maha Kumbhabhishekam of Lord Bala Tripuri Srimukha Linggeswara Swamy at Karakampadu village in Movva Mandal of Krishna district on Friday. The ceremony was conducted with great devotion, drawing a large gathering of devotees from surrounding areas.

State Minister for Housing, Information and Public Relations, Kolusu Parthasarathy, attended the event along with his family and participated in special rituals. He was accorded a traditional welcome with Purna Kumbham by Vedic scholars and later took part in Homa and idol consecration rituals. Priests offered Teertha and Prasadam, blessing the Minister and his family.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that the coalition government aims

to restore the past glory of temples across the state by ensuring daily rituals like Dhupa, Deepa, and Naivedyam, thereby preserving spiritual and cultural traditions. He noted that temples symbolize the Indian way of life and that improving facilities for devotees remains a priority.

Special prayers were also offered for Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, seeking continued success in state development, and for timely rains and farmers’ prosperity. A Raja Shyamala Yagam was performed for the well-being of the state and its people.

Additionally, rituals were conducted for Nara Lokesh, praying for his success and future leadership roles. Ministers including Kollu Ravindra, Anagani Satya Prasad and MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry, along with other leaders and thousands of devotees, participated in the ceremony.

85% Pass Rate Achieved by Welfare Residential Schools

Amaravati, May01|TPN Bureau

Students from Social Welfare Residential Schools delivered an impressive performance in the SSC examinations held in March 2026, according to an official press note released on May 1. Out of 6,494 students who appeared, 5,541 successfully passed, registering an overall pass percentage of 85.32%. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kona-seema district emerged as the top performer with a pass rate of 95.48%, followed by Parvathipuram Manyam (94.55%), Krishna (93.75%), Visakhapat-

nam (93.15%), and Srikakulam (92.34%). Among individual achievers, Ponugumati Hasini from Krishna district secured the state’s top rank with 591 marks out of 600. Shruti from Srikakulam scored 589 marks, while Sreenitya from YSR district obtained 588 marks.

Officials noted that 2,659 students passed in first class, with several others scoring above 500 marks. Authorities attributed the success to the combined efforts of teachers, students, and parents, and reaffirmed their commitment to further improving educational outcomes.

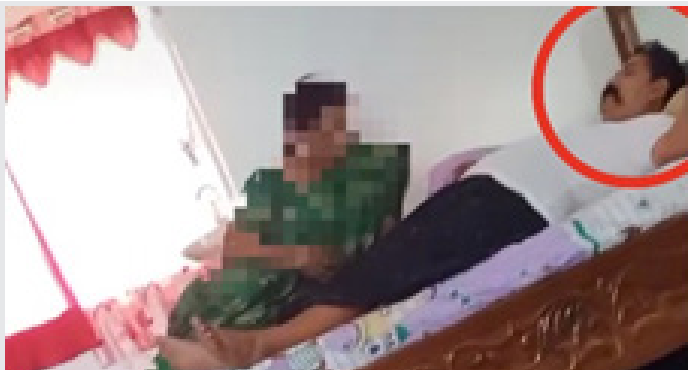
A.P. Registers Record 5,543 Crore Tax Revenue in April, Up 12%

Amaravati, May01|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh posted its highest-ever monthly commercial tax revenue of 5,543.33 crore in April 2026, marking a robust 12.08 % year-on-year growth from 4,945.92 crore in April 2025. Despite the revenue impact of GST 2.0 rate rationalisation—estimated at 8,000 crore annually—the state delivered a strong start to the 2026–27 fiscal. Net GST collections rose 6.83 % to 3,796.91 crore, while gross GST (excluding cess) reached 4,323.07 crore. Petroleum VAT collections surged 26.72 % to 1,613.36 crore, and professional tax increased 21.15 % to 42.90 crore. The Centre’s IGST settlement also grew 12.97 % to 2,194.89 crore. Officials attributed the growth to technology-driven enforcement and AI-based compliance monitoring. Advanced systems now track fake



invoicing, GST mismatches and suspicious tax credit claims in real time. UPI analytics helped identify over 20,000 unregistered PAN holders, bringing more businesses into the tax net. Further reforms include linking GST registrations with electricity accounts and integrating data from sectors like construction, mining and food delivery platforms. Professional tax collections also rose sharply in 2025–26 due to Aadhaar-linked employer verification. The state aims to strengthen revenue further through AI-led audits and has set a 751 crore professional tax target for 2026–27.



Vinukonda CI in Viral Video Row, Assault Case Filed; Hunt On

Vinukonda,May01|TPN Bureau

A major controversy has erupted in Andhra Pradesh after a viral video allegedly showed Vinukonda Circle Inspector Chinna Mallayya in an intimate situation with a woman. The footage, widely circulated on social media, triggered shock within the police department and sparked public outrage. Following a complaint by a woman identified as Dhanalakshmi, police registered a case against the officer, accusing him of physical assault.

According to the complainant, she recorded the video her-

self when the officer was with another woman. Enraged by being filmed, he allegedly attacked her. The incident has raised serious concerns over abuse of authority and misconduct by a serving officer. Sources indicate that Chinna Mallayya is currently absconding, with special police teams deployed to trace his whereabouts. Officials believe further details may emerge once he is apprehended. Notably, this is not his first controversy. Previous allegations include threatening a political leader and disciplinary issues, placing him under scrutiny once again.

National Lok Adalat in Andhra Pradesh Postponed to July 11, 2026

Amaravati, May 01|TPN Bureau

The A.P. State Legal Services Authority (APSLSA), Amaravati, has announced the postponement of the National Lok Adalat originally scheduled for May 9, 2026. As per official communication issued by Member Secretary Smt. B.S.V. Himabindu, the event will now be conducted on July 11, 2026, which falls on the second Sat-

urday. The decision was taken following directions from the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Executive Chairperson of APSLSA. All District Legal Services Authorities across Andhra Pradesh have been instructed to inform concerned parties about the revised date. The Lok Adalat aims to facilitate speedy and amicable settlement of pending legal disputes across various courts.



Demand for Railway Recruitment Board in Vijayawada Gains Momentum

Vijayawada,May01|TPN Bureau

A group of unemployed individuals has urged authorities to establish a Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) in Vijayawada through the Janata Varadhi initiative at the BJP state office. They highlighted that the only RRB under South Central Railway is in Visakhapatnam, causing hardships for candi-

dates, especially from Krishna and Guntur districts. Petitioners said a Vijayawada RRB would improve accessibility, reduce travel costs, and benefit marginalized communities. R. Manohar Kumar submitted a memorandum, requesting immediate action, emphasizing that the move would support unemployed youth and serve the broader interests of the state's aspiring job seekers.



Gujarat and Maharashtra Formation Day Celebrations at Lok Bhavan

Vijayawada,May01|TPN Bureau

As part of the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, Andhra Pradesh Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer attended the Gujarat and Maharashtra State Formation Day celebrations held at Lok Bhavan on Friday as the chief guest. The program commenced with video messages from Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and

Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma. Subsequently, Kumari Vaishnavi performed folk songs, while members of the Gujarati Samaj presented a Garba dance performance. The Governor's Joint Secretary P.S. Surya Prakash, Lok Bhavan officials and staff, and students from Gujarat and Maharashtra studying in educational institutions across Vijayawada and its surrounding areas attended the event.



Rahul Leads DC Revival with Dominant Chase

In a high-scoring thriller in Jaipur, Delhi Capitals snapped their three-match losing streak with a commanding seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League 2026 season. Chasing a daunting target of 226, Delhi rode on a sensational opening partnership and a clinical finish to seal the victory with five balls to spare.

The chase was built on a blistering 110-run stand between KL Rahul and Pathum Nissanka. Rahul was in sublime touch, smashing 75 off just 40 deliveries, combining elegance with controlled aggression. Nissanka complemented him perfectly with a fluent 62 off 33 balls, keeping the required rate in check from the outset. Their aggressive intent ensured Delhi Capitals stayed ahead in what seemed like a daunting pursuit. After the departure of both openers, the middle order maintained composure. Tristan Stubbs (18 not out) and Ashutosh Sharma (25 not out) calmly guided the team home, finishing the chase in style and ensuring there were no late hiccups.

Earlier, Rajasthan Royals posted an imposing 225/6 after being put in to bat. Skipper Ri-



yan Parag led from the front with a magnificent 90 off 50 balls, marking his return to form with his first major contribution of the season. Parag, who had faced criticism following a recent off-field controversy, responded emphatically with the bat. He stitched a crucial partnership with Dhruv Jurel, who added a steady 42 runs.

Late fireworks came from Donovan Ferreira, who hammered an unbeaten 47 off just 14 balls, propelling Rajasthan to a formidable total. However, their effort was slightly dented by a disciplined bowling performance from Mitchell Starc.

The left-arm pacer picked up 3/40, including the crucial wicket of Parag at a key moment.

Despite setting a massive target, Rajasthan Royals' bowling unit struggled to contain Delhi's aggressive batting lineup. The loss highlights their inconsistency this season, while Delhi Capitals will take confidence from this much-needed victory as they look to rebuild momentum in the tournament.

With this win, Delhi Capitals not only ended their losing run but also sent a strong message to the rest of the league about their batting firepower and resilience under pressure.

Statewide Protests Escalate Against Senior Commercial Taxes Official

Amaravati,May01|TPN Bureau

Statewide protests by employees of the Commercial Taxes Department intensified for the third consecutive day, with participation from staff across all levels, including Class IV employees. Demonstrators raised strong slogans opposing a senior official, alleging administrative harassment and misuse of authority. The agitation has gained widespread support from various employee unions and field-level officers, many of whom have expressed solidarity indirectly. Protesters claim that the official has taken retaliatory actions, including submitting inaccurate records before the court and failing to provide required information in an ongoing contempt case. The High Court has adjourned the matter to next Tuesday. Employees have also alleged that misleading propaganda is being spread by certain higher



officials, portraying inflated revenue achievements under the current leadership. According to the unions, these claims do not match official GST revenue data released by the central finance authorities. Criticism has also been directed at the centralized registration system, which employees say has enabled thousands of bogus registra-

tions, leading to large-scale tax evasion. They estimate that over 3,000 crore in taxes remains uncollected from non-genuine taxpayers. The association has urged the state government to immediately intervene, order a fair inquiry, and appoint a senior IAS officer to restore transparency, accountability, and unity within the department.

APPSC Announces Certificate Verification Schedule for Multiple Posts on May 12

Vijayawada, May 01|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission has released a common notification announcing the schedule for verification of original certificates for candidates shortlisted in various recruitment examinations conducted in January 2026. The verification process pertains to three different posts notified under Notifications 24/2025, 25/2025, and 26/2025. The lists of provisionally qualified candidates have been made available on the Commission's official website. According to the Commission, the certificate verification for all three posts will be conducted on May 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the APPSC office located in the New HODs Building, 2nd Floor, M.G. Road, opposite Indira Gandhi Munic-



ipal Stadium, Vijayawada. The posts included in this verification schedule are: Inspector of Factories in A.P. Factories Service (Limited Recruitment) Royalty Inspector in A.P. Mines & Geology Service (Limited Recruitment) Warden, Grade-I in Welfare of Differently Aabled, Transgender and Senior Citizens Subordinate Service (General Recruitment) The written examinations for these posts were held be-

tween January 27 and January 29, 2026, in various sessions. Candidates who have been shortlisted are required to download their call letters, checklists, attestation forms, and other necessary documents from the official APPSC website. While individual call letters will be dispatched, candidates who do not receive them in time are advised to download the same online and attend the verification as scheduled. Notably, candidates appearing for the Warden, Grade-I post will also have to undergo a Computer Proficiency Test (CPT) on the same day following the certificate verification process. The Commission has advised all candidates to carefully follow instructions mentioned in the memos and ensure they carry all required documents to avoid disqualification.



Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital Construction Launched in Amaravati

Amaravati,May01|TPN Bureau

Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna has officially inaugurated the construction works of the Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Amaravati, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh. The hospital is being developed near Thullur with an estimated cost of 750 crore. The state government has allotted 21 acres of land for the project. In the first phase, a 500-bed hospital will be built. Addressing the gathering, Balakrishna said that construction began only after securing all necessary government approv-

als. He mentioned that people have long been waiting for advanced healthcare services in Amaravati.

He further stated that the hospital will be developed with international standards and equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology. Highlighting another milestone, he noted that the Basavatarakam Hospital in Hyderabad is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and a grand event is planned for June 22. Invitations will be extended to the Chief Ministers of both Telugu states as well as Union Ministers, he added.

Four Food Safety Officials Suspended for Negligence in Duties

Mangalagiri,May01|TPN Bureau

The State Medical and Health Department has taken disciplinary action against four employees for irresponsibility in the discharge of their duties. The suspended officials include Superintendent D. Sirisha and Senior Assistants G. Akhil, Sangeetha Rao, and J. Sujatha, all working at the Food Safety Department headquarters under the Institute of Preventive Medicine in Mangalagiri. J. Sujatha was suspended for taking unauthorized leave and failing to re-

spond properly regarding the release of financial benefits to a retired employee. The remaining three officials were found guilty of not complying with instructions from higher authorities, despite repeated warnings, and showing no improvement in their conduct.

The action was taken following an inquiry conducted on complaints received, under the directions of State Medical and Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav. Veerapandian, In-charge Director and Commissioner, issued the suspension orders, emphasizing strict accountability.



From Challenges to Triumph

Vijayawada,May01|TPN Bureau

In a remarkable feat, 21 Children with Special Needs (CwSN) from Andhra Pradesh successfully reached the Everest Base Camp in Nepal, situated at an altitude of 5,364 meters, and hoisted the state flag. The team completed the challenging 16-day expedition with determination and returned safely to Vijayawada on Friday. The students met Samagra Shiksha State Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao, IAS, at the State Office, where they shared their experiences and the hardships

faced during the journey. Praising their resilience, Srinivasa Rao said the achievement has brought pride to the state and stands as an inspiration to others. He highlighted how the students overcame physical and financial challenges to accomplish this milestone.

He credited the initiative and encouragement of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, along with the rigorous training under Samagra Shiksha. ASPD K. Ravindranath Reddy, officials, and parents attended the programme.

Union Minister Rammohan Launches 'Matsya Sagarmala' Program

Srikakulam, May01|TPN Bureau

Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu on Saturday inaugurated the Matsya Sagarmala programme at Erramukkam in Sompeta mandal, aimed at addressing key issues faced by coastal fishing communities in the district.

The Union Minister said that under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Coal India Limited has allocated 4 crore for the initiative. He noted that 1,600 solar lights have already been installed in fishing villages to help fishermen who face difficulties during night hours. Announcing further development measures, he said beach roads would be constructed in 100 fishing villages across Srikakulam district, along with the installation of 1,400 additional solar lights. Concrete (CC) roads would also be laid in every village, he added. Rammohan Naidu reiterated



that both the Central and State governments are committed to the welfare of fishermen and confirmed that eligible beneficiaries are receiving fishermen's allowance. He also outlined plans to promote tourism by developing coastal areas, stating that Baruva Beach would be upgraded as a Blue Flag beach. On infrastructure, the Minister assured that the Mulapeta Port would be completed soon and dedicated to the nation, paving the way for industrial growth. He further said the Bhogapuram Airport would become operational shortly.



Bapatla Police Shine Globally

Chirala, May01|TPN Bureau

Bapatla District Police brought pride to Andhra Pradesh by securing five medals at the World Masters Sports Championship 2026 held in Si Racha, Thailand, from April 17 to 20. The international event, organized by the World Masters Sports Federation, witnessed outstanding performances from the district's officers in athletics events. Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah congratulated the medal winners, stating that their achievements have elevated the prestige of the police department on the global stage.

The athletes paid a courtesy visit to the MLA, who felicitated them and honored their accomplishments. Inspector Surepalli Subbarao excelled in the 40+ category, winning gold medals in both the 100m and 200m races. Ch. Nagaraju from the Special Branch secured a gold in shot put along with additional medals in javelin throw and discus throw. Gatram Umamaheswara Rao (45+) clinched gold in long jump and triple jump, while Adigopula Sambasiva Rao (45+) earned gold in the 100m and silver in the 200m. Their success has been widely applauded across the district.



AIDWA Calls for Workers' Unity at May Day Event

Bapatla, May01|TPN Bureau
May Day was observed across Bapatla under the leadership of CITU, with flag-hoisting ceremonies held at multiple locations followed by a rally from Agriculture College to the Old Bus Stand. Addressing the gathering, AIDWA State Secretary D. Ramadevi highlighted the historic significance of May Day, stating that the progress of nations rests on the tireless efforts of workers. She recalled the 1886 Chicago struggle for an eight-hour workday, de-

scribing May Day as a symbol of workers' dignity and sacrifice. She noted that May Day has been observed in India since 1923 and stressed that workers continue to face challenges amid privatization and globalization. Ramadevi called for improved wages and working conditions and urged workers to oppose policies extending working hours. CITU leaders and large numbers of workers participated, emphasizing unity as the strength of labour movements.



May Day Celebrations in Kadapa

Kadapa, May01|TPN Bureau

Grand May Day celebrations were held at the YSR Congress Party office under the leadership of YSRUC District President Joshua and City President Nagaraju. Former Deputy Chief Minister Amzath Basha attended as chief guest and praised welfare initiatives introduced by Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, including the Vahana Mi-

tra scheme supporting auto drivers. He criticized the reported termination of long-serving contract workers at RIMS, questioning the fairness of such decisions while retirement age for regular employees is being increased. He assured that the party would fight against this injustice. Extending May Day greetings, he emphasized unity among workers as the key to achieving their goals. Several local leaders participated.

Massive Irregularities in Anganwadi Services

Anantapur, May01|TPN Bureau

Serious allegations of misappropriation have emerged from Yerragunta village in Raptadu Mandal near Anantapur. Villagers accuse Anganwadi teacher G. Sulochana Reddy of diverting nutrition supplies meant for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under government welfare schemes. Residents allege that essential items such as Take-Home Ration (THR), Balamrutham, eggs, milk, and chickkis are not reaching beneficiaries. Despite submitting complaints with evidence to the District Collector through the grievance system, no concrete action has reportedly been taken. Villagers further claim that false attendance records are being maintained by listing children from other villages and those already attending schools. This, they say, ena-



bles diversion of additional supplies for personal gain. A joint petition signed by villagers, including the Sarpanch, has called for a detailed inquiry, but officials are accused of delaying action. Allegations of possible collusion by super-

visory staff have also surfaced. Meanwhile, complainants report facing threats from the teacher's husband. Frustrated villagers now plan to approach higher authorities and stage protests if action is not taken.

SP Promotes 'Shakti App' in Bapatla

Bapatla, May 01|TPN Bureau

District Superintendent of Police Uma Maheshwar reiterated that women's safety remains the top priority for the police, while addressing an awareness seminar at Bapatla Women's Engineering College on Friday. Interacting with nearly 2,000 female students, he discussed challenges faced by women and highlighted the importance of the 'Shakti App' for emergency support. He explained that by pressing the SOS button on the app, nearby police or special 'Shakti' teams would respond within minutes. Five dedicated teams are already patrolling public places across the district under a "Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution" strategy. The SP



warned that strict action would be taken against eve-teasing and ragging. He also shared emergency helpline numbers, including 112, 181,

1091, 1098, and 1930. Officials and college management members attended the program, encouraging students to stay aware and confident.

CITU Demands Scrapping of Labour Codes

Tirupati, May 01|TPN Bureau

CITU State Vice President Kandarapu Murali called upon workers to intensify their struggle for the abolition of the four labour codes introduced by the central government, describing them as a threat to hard-earned workers' rights. Speaking at a May Day flag-hoisting event in Yashoda Nagar, he criticized moves toward extending work hours, alleging they favor corporate interests over labour welfare. Leaders highlighted key demands, including regularization of contract workers in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), implementation of equal pay for equal work in universities, and improved job security in industries facing instability. Concerns were also raised over women's safety, opposing com-



pulsory night shifts. Union representatives and women's groups pledged to intensify

their agitation, emphasizing continued collective action to safeguard labour rights.

Mega Blood Donation Drive Held in Guntur on May Day

Guntur, May 01|TPN Bureau

A mega blood donation camp was organized at the Red Cross Blood Bank here on the occasion of May Day under the banner of 'Connect', a joint forum of civic organizations, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. N.V. Sundarachari, Principal of Guntur Medical Col-

lege, who also donated blood and highlighted the life-saving value of voluntary donation. State Red Cross Chairman Y.D. Rama Rao, the chief guest, lauded the initiative and revealed that 1.16 lakh units of blood were collected across the state last year, with 6,000 units supplied free to Thalassemia patients. He emphasized the need for increased donations, especially during summer when short-

ages intensify. Speakers noted that only 70 percent of the state's blood requirement is currently met and urged youth participation. They stressed that one unit of blood can save up to three lives. Around 125 donors, including 100 students from Master Minds, participated. Several civic leaders and Red Cross members attended the event and appreciated the donors' contribution.



Guntakal Grapples with Hazardous Excavations

Ananthapur, May01|TPN Bureau

In Guntakal, indiscriminate road excavations allegedly carried out under the guise of Airtel cable works have turned daily commuting into a dangerous ordeal. Residents across the town report that major roads, including areas near Dharmavaram Gate and Kasapuram Road, are riddled with open pits, loose soil, and damaged surfaces, severely disrupting traffic flow. Motorists are facing long delays, while pedestrians—especially children and the elderly—struggle to navigate unsafe streets. Public anger is mounting as

several excavation sites have been left incomplete, with no effort to restore roads. Locals allege that municipal negligence has worsened the situation, despite repeated complaints. Adding to concerns, drinking water pipelines reportedly damaged during digging have raised fears of sewage contamination, posing serious public health risks. Emergency services are also affected, with ambulances and fire vehicles facing delays. Residents are urging the district administration to intervene immediately, ensure road restoration, and hold responsible officials accountable for the ongoing crisis.

Free Power Scheme for Weavers

Tirupati, May01|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has implemented a Free Electricity Scheme for handloom and powerloom workers, effective April 1, 2026, in a move aimed at boosting the rural economy and supporting traditional livelihoods. Under the scheme, handloom families are eligible for up to 200 units of free electricity per month, while powerloom units can avail up to 500 units. Officials said the initiative is designed to offset rising production costs and raw material prices affecting the weaving sector. In Tirupati district, 2,588 handloom families and 1,208 powerloom workers have already benefited from the

scheme. District Handloom and Textiles Officer P. Vijayanand said the sector plays a crucial role in generating employment and preserving traditional skills. He added that the subsidy would provide timely financial relief to weavers. Weavers in the district have welcomed the decision and thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for implementing the promise. Statewide, the government expects the scheme to benefit over 1.04 lakh weaving families, with an estimated annual outlay of 150 crore. Officials have advised eligible beneficiaries who are yet to receive the benefit to contact the District Handloom and Textiles Department for assistance.



Foundation Stone Laid for Health Center

Chirala, May01|TPN Bureau

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Friday for a new health center in Ramakrishnapuram village, Chirala Mandal, with an estimated cost of 36 lakhs. The foundation stone was laid by MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah, who emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening rural healthcare. He stated that

the facility will improve access to primary medical services for villagers, including healthcare for women and children, regular health check-ups, and nutritional awareness programs. The center aims to enhance overall public health and ensure better medical support in the area. The event was attended by alliance leaders, local representatives, village elders, and members of women's self-help groups.

Praja Darbar Focuses on Swift Resolution of Public Grievances

Kadapa, May01|TPN Bureau

Government Whip and MLA Madhavi Reddy reaffirmed that addressing public issues remains the top priority of the coalition government. Speaking at a Praja Darbar held at the MLA camp office, she, along with TDP Zonal Coordinator Srinivasa Reddy, interacted with residents from across the constituency. Citi-

zens presented their grievances, and the leaders promptly reviewed petitions and directed officials to resolve them without delay. Madhavi Reddy emphasized that the initiative aims to ensure quick and effective solutions for people's concerns and will be conducted regularly to maintain direct communication with the public and improve governance efficiency.



NTR Bharosa Pensions Reach Doorsteps

Kurnool, May 01 | TPN Bureau
District Collector Dr. A. Siri announced that 103.90 crore worth of NTR Bharosa pensions are being distributed to 2,35,260 beneficiaries in Kurnool district for May. As part of the initiative, pensions are delivered directly to beneficiaries' homes. During a visit to a local labor colony, the Collector

personally handed over pensions to elderly, disabled, and widowed individuals. She interacted warmly with beneficiaries, inquiring about their well-being and timely receipt of pensions. The Collector also encouraged them to utilize government welfare schemes for economic development. Several district officials participated in the program.



TIRUPATI POLICE UNVEIL 4-STEP PLAN, INTRODUCE TEST KITS TO ELIMINATE GANJA

TIRUPATI, MAY 01 | TPN BUREAU
In a strong anti-narcotics drive, Tirupati District Superintendent of Police L. Subbaraidu, IPS, announced a four-step strategy to make the district marijuana-free. The initiative blends strict enforcement, technology, and community awareness. Police have introduced specialised medical test kits to identify ganja users, to be deployed across sub-divisions and educational institutions based on credible inputs.

Data from positive cases will help trace supply networks and support rehabilitation. The action plan includes awareness campaigns, strict enforcement against traffickers, detention of repeat offenders under the PIT NDPS Act, and testing with reform measures. Sixteen habitual offenders have been identified, with 12 already jailed. Citizens are urged to report drug activities via 1972 or 112, with assured confidentiality.



Sanitation workers' services are invaluable: MLA Bojjala Sudhir Reddy

Srikalahasti, May 01 | TPN Bureau
On the occasion of World Workers' Day (May Day), Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudhir Reddy grandly honored the sanitation staff of Srikalahasti town. Speaking at the program held in the town on Friday, he stated that the services of the sanitation staff, who work tirelessly to keep our town clean and healthy, are extremely precious. He specifically praised the efforts of these sanitation workers who serve society with dedication every day and play a crucial role in protecting public health. He assured that the government remains committed to the welfare of workers at all times. Municipal officials, public representatives, and sanitation workers participated in this event.

Nationwide Emergency Alert Test to Trigger Siren on Mobile Phones Today

Amaravati, May 01 | TPN Bureau
Millions of mobile phone users across India may hear a loud siren sound on their devices today as part of a nationwide emergency alert system test. Authorities have urged citizens not to panic, clarifying that this is only a trial run designed to evaluate a new disaster warning mechanism. The system, known as 'SACHET', has been jointly developed by the Department of Telecommunications and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Its purpose is to enable rapid communication during emergencies such as earthquakes, floods, and cyclones, ensuring that alerts reach people in affected areas within seconds. During the test, users will receive a message marked 'Emergency Alert', accompanied by a high-volume siren that may sound even if the phone is set to silent mode. Officials emphasize that no action is required from the public, as the alert is purely for testing system efficiency. The technology operates on the internationally recognized Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and is already deployed across 36 states and Union Territories. By delivering location-based alerts, the system aims to minimize loss of life during disasters. Citizens are encouraged to stay informed and spread awareness to avoid unnecessary concern.

Gusty Winds Ravage Mango Crop

Rayachoti, May 01 | TPN Bureau

Mango farmers in Annamayya district are reeling under severe losses after strong gusty winds lashed orchards in Lakkireddipalli mandal on Thursday night. Already burdened by low yields due to adverse weather, pests, and diseases, farmers saw their remaining crop fall prematurely, shattering hopes of recovery. Villages including Palemgolapalli, B. Yerragudi, Dinnepadu, Maddirevula, and Kasurirajugaripalli were badly affected as unripe mangoes dropped to the ground, rendering them unsellable. With market prices already low, the damage has pushed farmers into deep distress. Many have abandoned the fallen fruit in their fields, unable to recover even basic costs.



Adding to their frustration, farmers recall paying 2,250 per acre last year towards a weather-based insurance scheme, yet no compensation has been provided. Meanwhile, middlemen continue to exploit growers, offering minimal prices. Farmers allege government apathy and demand immediate compensation, warning that repeated losses are driving them deeper into debt and uncertainty.

Nellore Set to Emerge as 96,000 Crore Industrial Hub

Nellore, May 1 | TPN BUREAU

Nellore is poised for massive industrial growth with a proposed investment of 96,000 crore, positioning the district as a key economic hub in Andhra Pradesh. Tirupati Economic Region CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena, during a review meeting at the Nellore Collectorate, praised the district administration for its proactive approach in advancing industrial and priority sectors.



He noted that the state has been divided into three economic zones—Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, and Tirupati—with Nellore included in the Tirupati region, which covers nine districts. Development will be overseen by Apex and Screening Committees. District Collector Himanshu Shukla highlighted that BP-

CL's major investment requires 6,000 acres, of which 4,200 acres have already been acquired. Key infrastructure projects include a greenfield airport at Dagadarthi and expansions of Ramayapatnam and Krishnapatnam ports. Other initiatives include the

Sagar Defense Engineering Company at Juvvaladinne, development of Kris City, and the Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbor for local fishermen. Officials emphasized coordinated efforts to achieve the state's ambitious economic growth targets.

Home Minister Anitha Distributes Pensions and Highlights Development

Payakaraopeta May 01 | TPN Bureau

Vangalapudi Anitha conducted an extensive tour of the Payakaraopeta constituency, receiving a warm welcome from villagers in Ramachandrapuram of Kotauratla Mandal. Women greeted her with traditional Harathi as she went door-to-door distributing pensions.



During the visit, the Minister unveiled a statue of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao and later offered prayers at the Gangamma Thalli temple in Sunkupuru village. Extending greetings on International Workers' Day, she emphasized that workers and farmers are the backbone of the nation's economy. Anitha expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for reappointing her as a Politburo member. She stated that villages are witnessing all-round development under the NDA government,

contrasting it with the previous administration. Highlighting ongoing works, she noted 1.16 crore development in Ramachandrapuram and major investments in the constituency. She added that upcoming industries, including a proposed steel plant, would transform the region and create employment opportunities.

Buddha Jayanti Celebrations in Vemagiri

Rajamundry, May 01 | TPN Bureau

The 2688th birth anniversary of Gautama Buddha was celebrated with devotion at Maitreya Buddha Vihara in Vemagiri near Rajamundry. Beginning at 11 AM on Friday the event drew large crowds who participated in Buddha

Vandanas and Dhamma discourses, creating a serene spiritual atmosphere. The 84-foot "Walking Buddha" statue stood as a major attraction. Organized by the Bharatiya Baudha Mahasabha under Acharya Dammajyothi Bethala Sudarshanam, the celebrations honored 15 Dhamma Mitras for their social contributions. Leaders and speakers emphasized Buddha's message of equality, liberty, and fraternity. Free Buddhist literature was distributed, encouraging people to adopt his teachings. The event served not only as a commemorative celebration but also as a platform to inspire social awakening among the Bahujan community.



Strict Measures on Fertilizer Use for Kharif 2026

Kadapa, May 01 | TPN Bureau

Kadapa District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri has ordered strict monitoring of fertilizer supply and usage for Kharif 2026 to prevent diversion, hoarding, and black marketing. At a district task force meeting, he warned that rising fertilizer sales could create shortages for farmers. Officials were directed to conduct daily inspections of shops and warehouses and take action

against misuse under the Fertilizer Control Order. Coordination among police and other departments was emphasized to stop illegal transport. The Collector also promoted balanced fertilizer use through Soil Health Cards and encouraged alternatives like bio-fertilizers and NPK. Farmer awareness programs and maintaining buffer stocks at service centers were also mandated.

Narayana Distributes Pensions, Promises Green Nellore

Nellore, May 01 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Ponguru Narayana personally launched doorstep pension distribution in Mansur Nagar's 42nd Division, creating a festive atmosphere. Interacting with the elderly, disabled, and widows, he said the government achieved a 99% success rate in delivering pensions on the first day of each month. He credited Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for raising pensions to 4,000 and clearing three months' arrears.

Narayana highlighted that Andhra Pradesh now offers the highest pensions in India, including 6,000 for the disabled and up to 15,000 for the bedridden, with 10,000 support for chronic illness patients. Despite heavy debt, he said the government is restoring systems and attracting investments. He vowed to develop Nellore into a "Green City" with tree plantations and improved infrastructure, and announced grand plans for the upcoming TDP Mahanadu.



Collector's Surprise Check at Puthalapattu PHC Stresses Accountability

Chittoor, May 1 | TPN BUREAU

District Collector Sumit Kumar conducted a surprise inspection at the Primary Health Center (PHC) in Puthalapattu mandal, underscoring the government's focus on quality rural healthcare. He reviewed staff attendance, warned against delays, and insisted on strict punctuality. The Collector examined the Sanjeevani Project, pharmacy stocks, lab facilities, and overall sanitation.

Interacting directly with patients, he assessed treatment quality and staff behavior. He reiterated zero tolerance for negligence and warned of strict action against defaulters. Officials were instructed to maintain hygiene and ensure availability of emergency medicines. Medical staff, including Dr. Priyanka and other health officials, attended the inspection, reinforcing accountability in public healthcare services.

Relief for Raghurama Krishna raju in Bank Loan Default Case

New Delhi, May 01 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development, the Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi has granted bail to Raghurama Krishnaraju, the Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA from Undi constituency, in a bank loan default case. Appearing in person before the court on Thursday, Krishnaraju, who is listed as Accused No. 2 (A-2) in the case, secured bail with a condition that he shall not be arrested during the ongoing investigation. The court granted relief upon submission of a surety bond of 50,000. The case, being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), involves allegations related to large-scale bank loan defaults.

Alongside Krishnaraju, four other accused individuals were also granted relief by the court. During the hearing, defense counsel representing the accused sought additional time to review the extensive charge sheet filed by the CBI, which reportedly runs over 15,000 pages. Taking note of the request, the court adjourned further proceedings to July 6, 2026, allowing adequate time for document scrutiny. Additionally, the court directed concerned authorities to submit details regarding the liquidation status of the companies named as accused in the case. The matter is expected to resume after the defense completes its examination of the charge sheet and related records.

Sabarimala Hearing Before 9-Judge Bench Raises Bigger Question

The ongoing hearings in the Supreme Court over the Sabarimala issue have evolved far beyond the question of temple entry for women. What began as a legal dispute about religious practices has now expanded into a broader constitutional debate involving gender equality, religious freedom, and even the possibility of a gradual move toward a Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

At the heart of the matter is a nine-judge Constitution Bench, which is examining fundamental questions about how religious practices align with constitutional values. While the Sabarimala case originally dealt with the restriction on women of menstruating age entering the temple, the current proceedings are exploring whether such exclusionary customs can survive in a modern democracy committed to equality and dignity.

The court is not merely revisiting the 2018 verdict that allowed women of all ages into the Sabarimala temple. Instead, it is addressing deeper constitutional issues, particularly the balance between the right to religious freedom under Articles 25 and 26, and the fundamental rights to equality and life.

This broader scope means the outcome could influence several other disputes involving religious customs and women's rights across communities. Issues such as the rights of Parsi women, practices within the Dawoodi Bohra community, and gender-related concerns in Muslim personal law are all indirectly tied to the principles being debated.

During the hearings, an important question emerged: can the judiciary play a role in

gradually implementing a Uniform Civil Code?

Justice JoymalyaBagchi raised the idea of an "incremental Uniform Civil Code." This concept suggests that in the absence of a comprehensive law enacted by Parliament, courts could progressively strike down discriminatory practices across religions.

In India, personal laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and other family matters vary by religion. A Uniform Civil Code, as envisioned in the Constitution's Directive Principles, would replace these with a single set of laws applicable to all citizens. However, political, cultural, and social complexities have delayed its implementation.

The court's suggestion of an incremental approach reflects the reality that judicial decisions have already played a role in reforming personal laws over time.

Historically, the Supreme Court has intervened in cases where personal laws were seen as discriminatory. These interventions have often advanced women's rights, even in the absence of legislative reforms.

For instance, in the Shah Bano case (1985), the court upheld a Muslim woman's right to maintenance after divorce. Although the ruling was later diluted by legislation, subsequent judgments restored aspects of that protection. Similarly, the court struck down instant triple talaq in 2018, declaring it unconstitutional.

Other landmark rulings, such as those concerning property rights of Christian women and ongoing disputes in minority communities, highlight a pattern: the judiciary



often steps in when legislative action is absent or delayed.

This piecemeal evolution of rights is what the court now refers to as an "incremental" approach—one that could gradually lead toward uniformity in civil laws without a single sweeping reform.

Despite being a long-standing political promise, particularly by the current government, the Uniform Civil Code has not yet been implemented. One major reason is the complexity of India's social fabric.

Different communities have distinct traditions and prac-

tices, many of which are deeply tied to identity and belief systems. Tribal rights, minority protections, and concerns about cultural autonomy make the idea of a single civil law framework highly sensitive.

As a result, the absence of a comprehensive law has left courts to handle disputes on a case-by-case basis. This has led to a situation where constitutional courts frequently determine whether specific religious practices are valid under the Constitution.

The nine-judge bench now faces a crucial challenge: defining the limits of religious

freedom.

One key issue is whether practices that are discriminatory, especially toward women, can be justified as essential religious practices. The court must also clarify how "constitutional morality" interacts with religious beliefs and traditions.

In doing so, the bench is expected to address questions it has previously avoided, such as:

- What constitutes an essential religious practice?
- Can constitutional principles override religious customs?

How should conflicts between equality and faith be resolved?

These questions are central not just to Sabarimala but to the broader legal landscape of India. A significant aspect of the case is its impact on gender justice. The court is examining whether exclusionary practices, like barring women from places of worship, can stand in light of constitutional guarantees of equality and dignity. If the court takes a strong stand against such practices, it could set a precedent affecting multiple religions and communities. This would further reinforce the

idea that fundamental rights take precedence over discriminatory customs.

In effect, the judiciary could continue to act as a catalyst for reform, especially in areas where legislative action remains slow. While the court cannot enact a Uniform Civil Code, that power lies with Parliament, it can shape the legal framework through its judgments.

By consistently invalidating discriminatory practices and aligning personal laws with constitutional values, the judiciary may indirectly pave the way for greater uniformity. This gradual harmonisation could reduce disparities between different personal laws over time.

However, this approach also raises questions about the limits of judicial power. Critics argue that sweeping social reforms should come from elected representatives rather than the courts.

The Sabarimala case, now before a nine-judge bench, represents a pivotal moment in India's constitutional journey. What began as a dispute over temple entry has transformed into a broader debate about the relationship between religion, equality, and the rule of law. The idea of an incremental Uniform Civil Code highlights the evolving role of the judiciary in addressing social inequalities. While a comprehensive UCC may still be distant, the court's decisions could gradually reshape personal laws and promote greater equality. Ultimately, the outcome of these hearings will not only determine the future of the Sabarimala issue but also influence how India navigates the delicate balance between faith and fundamental rights in the years to come.

A New US Bill Threatens Indian Students' Future

A fresh legislative proposal backed by a group of American lawmakers has triggered deep anxiety among Indian students studying in the United States. The bill, which targets a key post-study work programme, could significantly disrupt the career pathways of thousands of international students, particularly those from India, who form one of the largest student communities in the US.

At the centre of the controversy is the Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme, a long-standing policy that allows international students on F-1 visas to work in the US after completing their studies. For many, especially those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, OPT is not just an opportunity, it is a crucial bridge between education and long-term employment.

OPT enables international students to gain practical work experience in their field of study for up to one year, with an extension of up to two additional years for STEM graduates. For Indian students, this period is vital. It allows them to:

- Gain professional experience in a competitive global market
 - Repay substantial education loans
 - Transition to longer-term work visas such as the H-1B
- Without OPT, the pathway from classroom to career in the US becomes significantly narrower. Students would be forced to secure a job and an H-1B visa almost immediately after graduation—an outcome that is both difficult and uncertain due to the visa's limited availability and lottery-based system.

The bill introduced by around 35 US lawmakers aims to dismantle or significantly alter the OPT programme. If passed, it could eliminate the ability of international students to remain in the US for work after completing their studies. This would mean that students who have spent years, and often large sums of money, earn-



ing degrees in the US might have to leave the country almost immediately after graduation unless they secure alternative work visas.

The implications are profound. More than 300,000 Indian students are currently studying in the US, many of whom rely on OPT as a stepping stone to build their careers. The proposal has sparked widespread concern among Indian students and their families. For many, studying in the US involves significant financial investment, often funded through loans. OPT provides a critical window to earn, gain experience, and stabilise financially.

Without it, students may face:

- Immediate departure from the US after graduation
- Difficulty repaying education loans
- Loss of job opportunities in global firms

The uncertainty has already begun to affect student decisions. Reports suggest that some students are reconsidering their plans to study in the US, while others are exploring alternative destinations such as Canada, the UK, or Europe—countries that offer more predictable post-study work options.

One of the biggest challenges in the absence of OPT is the H-1B visa system. This visa allows US companies to hire for-

eign workers in specialised fields, but the number of visas issued each year is capped.

- As a result:
- Competition is extremely high
 - Selection is based on a lottery system
 - Many qualified candidates are left without opportunities

Currently, OPT serves as a buffer, giving students time to secure employment and apply for H-1B visas. Without it, the transition becomes abrupt and uncertain.

The proposed bill is not just a concern for students—it also has broader implications for the US economy and higher education system.

International students contribute significantly to:

- University revenues through tuition fees
 - Research and innovation, especially in STEM fields
 - The workforce in sectors facing skill shortages
- If OPT is removed, experts warn that the US could lose its attractiveness as a top destination for global talent. This could lead to:
- Declining international student enrolment
 - Reduced diversity in academic institutions
 - Talent shifting to competing countries

The bill is part of a larger debate in the US over immigra-

tion and employment policies. Supporters argue that limiting programmes like OPT could protect domestic jobs and reduce reliance on foreign workers.

However, critics believe that such measures could backfire by:

- Driving away highly skilled talent
- Weakening innovation and competitiveness
- Benefiting rival economies that actively attract international students

Interestingly, there is also a contrasting legislative effort underway. A separate bipartisan proposal seeks to protect and formalise the OPT programme, recognising its importance in retaining global talent and supporting the US economy. This highlights a deep divide within US policy-making circles on how to approach international education and skilled immigration. For now, the bill remains a proposal and has not yet become law. However, its introduction alone has created significant uncertainty. Students nearing graduation are particularly anxious, as their immediate future depends on whether they can secure employment and visa sponsorship in time. Universities, too, are watching closely, aware that policy changes could reshape the global education landscape. The proposed US bill has brought into sharp focus the fragile balance between immigration policy and global talent mobility. For Indian students, the stakes are especially high, as their academic aspirations are closely tied to career opportunities in the US. If the OPT programme is weakened or removed, it could fundamentally alter the appeal of the United States as a destination for higher education. At the same time, it may open doors for other countries eager to attract skilled graduates. Ultimately, the debate goes beyond policy—it is about the future of global education, talent, and opportunity.

FROM FIELDS TO GLOBAL TABLES

India's Food Story at a Turning Point

RICH AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE
India is among the largest producers of food grains, fruits, vegetables, milk and marine products.

THE GAP
Only 12-13% of agricultural produce is processed.

A huge opportunity
to create value, jobs and exports.

THE SOLUTION
PLI SCHEME FOR FOOD PROCESSING
Incentivising investment, innovation and global competitiveness.

HIGHER VALUE BETTER FUTURE
From farm to fork, creating high-quality, safe, nutritious and convenient food for a changing India and the world.

GLOBAL AMBITION
Building Indian food brands that win global markets and make India a global food leader.

VISION: From Food Security to Food Leadership

Empowering Farmers **Strengthening Industry** **Creating Jobs** **Serving the World**

From food security to food leadership

The Transformative Impact of the PLI Scheme in Food Processing

India's economic story is entering a decisive phase. For decades, growth was defined by output—how much we produced, how much we exported, how much we consumed. Today, the conversation is shifting toward value—how intelligently we convert our strengths into globally competitive products. Nowhere is this transition more visible, or more necessary, than in the food processing sector. India is a global agricultural powerhouse. It ranks among the largest producers of food grains, fruits, vegetables, milk, and marine products. This vast production base has long ensured national food security. Yet, for years, much of this produce moved from farms to markets with minimal processing, limiting both farmer incomes and export potential. With only about 12-13 percent of agricultural output processed, India has been leaving enormous value on the table. This gap is not a weakness—it is an opportunity. The next phase of India's growth lies in transforming raw agricultural abundance into high-value, branded, and globally marketable food products. Recognizing this, the government introduced the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) in

2021, with a clear objective: incentivize investment, innovation, and scale.

The scheme's design reflects a modern understanding of the sector. It focuses on high-potential categories like ready-to-eat foods, processed fruits and vegetables, and marine products—segments aligned with both domestic demand and export growth. Equally important is its emphasis on MSMEs, ensuring that small businesses are not left behind in the transition to a more sophisticated food ecosystem. One of the most thoughtful aspects of the initiative is its millet push. By integrating traditional, climate-resilient grains into modern food products, the scheme bridges heritage with innovation. It promotes healthier diets while supporting sustainable agriculture—an approach that is both economically and environmentally sound.

The results so far are encouraging. Investments have surged, new processing capacities have been built, and job creation has exceeded expectations. Notably, the food processing PLI has delivered a disproportionate share of employment compared to its share in total incentives, underscoring its labour-intensive nature. But policy success alone is not the full story.

Changing consumer behaviour is also driving this transformation. A young, urban population increasingly demands convenience, hygiene, and nutrition. Ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products are no longer luxuries—they are necessities in fast-paced urban life. India now stands at a turning point. It has already secured food security; the next goal is food leadership. If sustained with the right mix of policy support, private investment, and innovation, the country can evolve from being a supplier of raw produce to a global hub of high-quality food products. The journey from farm to global shelf has begun—and this time, India is aiming not just to feed the world, but to lead it.



Sh. Avinash Joshi,
Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

India, Italy Exchange Military Cooperation Plan for 2026–27 During Rajnath-Crosetto Talks

India and Italy on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening defence ties, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting his Italian counterpart Guido Crosetto and exchanging a detailed roadmap for bilateral military cooperation for 2026–27.

The meeting focused on expanding collaboration between the armed forces of the two countries, with both sides reviewing ongoing engagements and identifying new areas for cooperation. Officials said the exchanged plan

aims to provide a structured framework for defence interactions over the next two years.

Discussions covered a wide range of areas, including joint training programmes, military exchanges, and coordinated exercises. The roadmap is expected to enhance operational synergy and deepen institutional links between the Indian and Italian armed forces.

A key highlight of the talks was the emphasis on defence industry cooperation. Both ministers explored possibilities for co-development and

co-production of defence equipment, aligning with India's push for self-reliance in the sector. Collaboration in advanced defence technologies was also discussed as a potential area of growth.

The meeting also reflected the growing strategic alignment between the two countries on regional and global security issues. Both sides underlined the importance of maintaining peace and stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

The engagement is part of broader efforts to strengthen India-Italy relations, which

have been expanding steadily across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, and technology.

Officials said the exchange of the military cooperation plan marks a significant step towards institutionalising defence ties and ensuring sustained collaboration in the coming years.

As both nations look to deepen their strategic partnership, the roadmap is expected to serve as a foundation for enhanced defence cooperation and mutual engagement.



PM Modi Greets Nation on Buddha Purnima, Calls for Renewed Commitment to Peace and Compassion

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday extended his greetings to citizens across the country on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, urging people to embrace the teachings of Lord Buddha and strengthen the values of peace, compassion, and harmony in society.

In his message, the Prime Minister highlighted India's deep-rooted commitment to the ideals of Gautama Buddha and expressed hope that his teachings would inspire greater unity and joy among people.

"Best wishes on Buddha Purnima. Our commitment towards realising the ideals of Lord Buddha is very strong. May his thoughts deepen the spirit of joy and togetherness in our society," Modi said in a post on X.

He also called upon citizens to use the occasion to reaffirm their dedication to following the path shown by Lord Buddha, which emphasises goodwill, non-violence, and compassion in everyday life.

Referring to Buddhist philosophy, the Prime Minister shared a Sanskrit subhashi-



tam, noting that Gautama Buddha taught that understanding the absence of a permanent self and following the Eightfold Path—including right view, right intention, and right conduct—can lead to freedom from suffering and attainment of lasting peace.

Buddha Purnima, observed by millions in India and across the world, marks the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha. The

day holds great spiritual significance and is associated with messages of tolerance, mindfulness, and ethical living.

The Prime Minister's message comes as people across the country celebrate the festival with prayers, community gatherings, and acts of charity, reflecting the enduring relevance of Buddha's teachings in modern times.

Kolkata Police Ban Large Gatherings at Counting Centres After Midnight Tension

Kolkata Police on Friday imposed restrictions on large gatherings around multiple vote counting centres following a night of tension and confusion during the ongoing election counting process.

The decision came after political drama unfolded late at night at a few counting locations, where allegations of irregularities sparked protests and raised concerns among party workers. To prevent any escalation, authorities issued prohibitory orders at seven counting centres across the city.

The controversy began when members of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) claimed that "suspicious activities" were taking place inside certain counting premises. The allegations led to heated exchanges and a brief standoff, prompting officials to step in



and review the situation.

However, election authorities later clarified that no irregularities had occurred. Officials explained that the activity in question was part of the routine process of segregating postal ballots. Due to temporary electricity-related issues in the strong rooms, some work was carried out using torchlight, which reportedly caused confusion among observers and political representatives.

West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal assured that all procedures were being conducted strictly in accordance with Election Commission guidelines. Following the clarification, the

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Commercial LPG Prices Surge by 993, No Change in Domestic Cooking Gas Rates

Commercial LPG cylinder prices were sharply increased by 993 on Friday, marking a significant rise that is expected to impact businesses across sectors, particularly the hospitality industry. However, domestic LPG prices and key fuel rates such as petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for local use remain unchanged.

The latest revision applies to 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders used by restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments. Following the hike, the cost of a commercial cylinder has risen substantially, adding to operational expenses for businesses that rely heavily on cooking gas.

Despite the steep increase in commercial LPG rates, oil marketing companies have kept domestic cooking gas prices steady, offering relief to household consumers. Petrol and diesel prices have also not been

altered, maintaining stability in retail fuel costs.

Officials indicated that the price hike is linked to rising global energy prices and ongoing geopolitical tensions affecting supply chains. While commercial fuel rates have been adjusted to reflect international trends, the government has continued to shield domestic consumers from price volatility.

The increase is likely to have a cascading effect, especially on small and medium businesses in the food and hospitality sectors. Industry observers say the higher input costs could lead to an increase in menu prices and services in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices for domestic airlines have remained unchanged, although there have been adjustments in fuel prices for international operations in



line with global market conditions. This is one of the steepest hikes in commercial LPG prices in recent months and reflects sustained pressure on energy costs. Analysts note that while households have been protected from price fluctuations so far, commercial users

continue to bear the brunt of rising fuel expenses.

As global energy markets remain uncertain, further revisions in fuel prices cannot be ruled out, especially for commercial segments more directly linked to international pricing trends.

RaGa Targets Centre Over LPG Price Hike, Calls It 'Post-Election Burden'

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday criticised the Centre over the recent sharp hike in commercial LPG prices, alleging that the move was timed deliberately after elections and describing it as a "post-election burden" on citizens. The criticism comes after oil marketing companies raised the price of commercial LPG cylinders by 993, a move that is expected to significantly impact businesses, especially in the hospitality and food sectors.

Reacting to the development, Gandhi said the government had avoided increasing prices during the election period and imposed the hike only after voting concluded. He suggested that such decisions reflect a pattern in which price revisions are delayed for political

reasons and implemented later, placing the financial burden on the public.

The Congress leader also raised concerns about the broader impact of the hike, warning that increased fuel costs could lead to higher prices for goods and services. Since commercial LPG is widely used by restaurants, hotels, and small businesses, the price rise is likely to push up operational costs, which may eventually be passed on to consumers. The issue has triggered a wider political response, with opposition parties criticising the government over rising inflation and fuel prices. Leaders from several parties have questioned the Centre's economic management and accused it of failing to control the cost of essential commodities.

Meanwhile, the government has maintained that domestic LPG prices remain unchanged, offering relief to household consumers. Petrol and diesel prices have also not been revised, even as global energy markets continue to remain volatile.

The LPG price hike has now emerged as a key political flashpoint, with opposition parties seeking to highlight its impact on everyday life and the economy. Analysts say the issue could gain further traction in public discourse, especially if rising input costs begin to affect retail prices.

As debates over inflation and fuel pricing intensify, the development is likely to remain at the centre of political and economic discussions in the coming days.

IMD Forecasts Excess May Rains Across India, Warns of Warmer Nights and Ongoing Heatwave Conditions

India is expected to witness above-normal rainfall in May, even as night-time temperatures remain higher than usual across several regions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its latest weather outlook.

According to the IMD, rainfall during the month is likely to be more than 110% of the long-period average, offering some relief from the intense summer heat being experienced in many parts of the country. However, the weather office has cautioned that minimum temperatures, or night-time temperatures, are expected to stay above normal in several regions, including central, eastern, and southern India. This could lead to increased discomfort, as warmer nights reduce the cooling effect typically felt after sunset.

The IMD also indicated that heatwave conditions are likely to persist in parts of the country, particularly in eastern and western regions, as well as central



India. These conditions are expected to contribute to higher energy demand, especially for cooling. Despite the overall positive rainfall outlook, regional variations are likely. Some areas may receive significant rainfall, while others could continue to experience dry spells and above-normal temperatures. Meteorologists have linked these changing weather patterns to broader climatic factors, including oceanic conditions and the possible influence of El Niño, which can affect rainfall and temperature distribution across India.

The forecast comes at a time when concerns over heat stress and water availability remain high. While increased rainfall in May may provide temporary relief, the overall outlook for the upcoming monsoon season remains uncertain. Officials have advised people to stay cautious and prepared for fluctuating weather conditions, including heatwaves and sudden spells of rain. The IMD's latest prediction highlights the mixed nature of India's weather patterns, with both relief and challenges expected in the coming weeks.

Dharavi Redevelopment Among World's Most Challenging Projects, Says Gautam Adani

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Friday described the Dharavi redevelopment initiative as one of the most complex and challenging projects globally, calling it a "massive human transformation exercise" aimed at improving the lives of millions.

Speaking on the occasion of International Labour Day, Adani addressed employees across the group and highlighted the scale and significance of the project, which seeks to transform Mumbai's Dharavi—one of Asia's largest slums—into a modern urban space.

He said the initiative is not just about infrastructure development but about creating meaningful change in the lives of residents. Emphasising its importance, Adani noted that the project stands out as one of the most demanding assignments undertaken by the group. The Adani Group chairman pointed out that Dharavi represents both the resilience of its people and the challenges of urban development. He stressed the need to address



long-standing issues related to housing, sanitation, and basic amenities while preserving the livelihoods of those living in the area. The redevelopment project is being executed through a special purpose vehicle under a public-private partnership between the Adani Group and the Maharashtra government. The plan aims to provide better housing, improved infrastructure, and en-

hanced living conditions for residents, while also integrating the area into the city's broader development framework. Adani also acknowledged the role of workers and employees in driving such large-scale initiatives. Marking Labour Day, he praised their contributions and highlighted their importance in achieving the group's goals.

He further indicated that the

Dharavi project reflects a broader commitment to social responsibility, going beyond business objectives to address critical urban challenges.

The redevelopment of Dharavi is considered one of India's most ambitious urban transformation efforts. Given its scale and complexity, the project is expected to have significant social and economic implications once completed.

US Blockade Strangles Iran’s Oil Exports, Crude Piles Up in Floating Storage

Iran's oil industry is under mounting pressure after a US-led naval blockade sharply curtailed its crude exports, forcing millions of barrels to remain unsold and stored at sea, according to recent reports.

The blockade, imposed amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, has significantly disrupted Iran's ability to ship oil through key routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz. As a result, the country's exports have plunged dramatically compared to previous months, dealing a major blow to one of its most vital revenue streams.

With limited options to move its oil, Iran has resorted to storing large quantities of crude in tankers anchored offshore. These vessels are

now being used as floating storage units, holding tens of millions of barrels that cannot reach international buyers. Additional volumes are also accumulating at onshore storage facilities, raising concerns about capacity constraints in the near future.

Energy analysts warn that if the situation continues, Iran could soon run out of available storage space. This would likely force authorities to cut production, a move that could have longer-term consequences for the country's oil infrastructure and economic stability.

The blockade has also intensified financial strain on Iran's economy. Oil exports are a key source of government revenue, and the sharp decline in shipments has contributed to rising inflation,

currency pressure, and broader economic challenges. While Iran has attempted to maintain limited exports through alternative channels, including shipments to select buyers, these efforts have not been enough to offset the losses.

The impact of the disruption is being felt beyond Iran. Global oil markets have reacted strongly, with crude prices rising amid fears of tighter supply. The situation has added to inflationary concerns worldwide, as higher energy costs typically translate into increased prices for transportation, manufacturing, and essential goods.

Market experts say the crisis underscores the fragile nature of global energy supply chains, where geopolitical developments can quickly

influence prices and availability. The Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil shipments, remains at the center of these concerns, with any prolonged disruption likely to have widespread consequences.

Looking ahead, the future of Iran's oil sector remains uncertain. If the blockade persists, the country may be forced into deeper production cuts, further tightening global supply. At the same time, any diplomatic breakthrough or easing of tensions could quickly change the trajectory of both Iranian exports and global oil prices.

For now, the situation continues to evolve, with Iran's growing crude stockpile serving as a visible sign of a deepening energy and geopolitical crisis.



Rats Bite Sleeping Children in Gaza Camps as Sanitation Crisis Deepens

Gaza: A worsening humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Gaza's displacement camps, where rat infestations are reportedly attacking sleeping children and spreading disease amid collapsing sanitation systems. According to recent reports, rodents and parasites have overrun makeshift camps housing displaced Palestinians, with families describing horrifying scenes of rats entering tents at night and biting children on their hands and feet as they sleep.

The crisis comes as more than 2 million people have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict, many of whom now live in overcrowded shelters lacking basic sanitation facilities.

With garbage piling up, sewage systems destroyed, and clean water scarce, camps have become breeding grounds for rodents and disease. Aid agencies warn that these deteriorating living conditions are directly contributing to the surge in infestations. Children have emerged as the worst affected. Families report that rats frequently bite young children while they are asleep, forcing parents to remain awake in shifts to protect them. Medical officials say hospitals are recording increasing cases of rodent-related injuries and infections, particularly among children, the elderly, and those already weakened by poor living conditions.

There are also growing fears of disease outbreaks, includ-

ing rat-bite fever and other infections linked to unsanitary environments.

Beyond physical harm, the infestation is also destroying what little belongings displaced families have left. In one case, a young woman discovered that rats had chewed through her wedding clothes stored in a tent just days before her wedding, highlighting the emotional toll of the crisis.

Residents say traditional pest control measures are largely ineffective in the current conditions, where tents and damaged buildings offer easy access for rodents.

Efforts to control the infestation have been limited. Aid workers point out that restrictions on essential supplies, including pest control materials, have made it difficult to tackle the growing problem effectively. As temperatures rise, experts warn the situation could deteriorate further, increasing the risk of widespread disease outbreaks. The rat infestation is seen as a symptom of a much larger crisis in Gaza, where infrastructure damage, lack of clean water, and overcrowding have created severe health risks. With sanitation systems largely collapsed and millions living in precarious conditions, humanitarian agencies caution that without urgent intervention, the situation could spiral into a broader public health disaster. For now, families in Gaza's camps continue to endure extreme conditions—where even sleep has become unsafe.

Kim Jong Un Hails ‘Self-Sacrificing’ North Korean Troops in Ukraine War

Pyongyang: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has praised a group of his country's soldiers who reportedly killed themselves during the Ukraine war to avoid capture, state media reports said, in a development that has drawn global attention and concern.

According to official accounts, the soldiers detonated explosives on themselves when faced with the possibility of being taken prisoner. Kim described their actions as acts of "heroism" and "supreme sacrifice," holding them up as examples of loyalty and dedication to the nation.

The remarks come amid continued speculation about North Korea's involvement in the Ukraine conflict. While Pyongyang has not formally confirmed deploying troops, multiple reports have suggest-

ed that North Korean personnel may be supporting Russian forces in various capacities.

State media portrayed the incident as a reflection of the military's ideological strength, emphasizing unwavering allegiance to the leadership. Kim reportedly commended the soldiers for choosing death over capture, reinforcing the regime's long-standing narrative that prioritises national honour and loyalty above individual life.

Analysts say the statement is consistent with North Korea's propaganda strategy, which often glorifies sacrifice and discipline within its armed forces. However, the incident has raised serious concerns internationally about the conditions under which such soldiers operate and the expectations placed on them in

conflict situations.

The development also adds a new dimension to the geopolitical landscape surrounding the Ukraine war. Any indication of North Korean involvement is likely to complicate the already tense global situation, potentially drawing further scrutiny from Western nations and international organisations.

Observers note that the lack of independent verification makes it difficult to fully assess the details of the reported incident. Nevertheless, the messaging from Pyongyang signals a continued emphasis on ideological commitment within its military ranks.

As the war in Ukraine continues, such developments highlight the broader and increasingly complex network of actors and narratives surrounding the conflict.



Power Struggle in Iran, President Moves to Oust Foreign Minister Amid Nuclear Talks Tensions

Tehran: A serious political rift has surfaced within Iran's leadership, with President Masoud Pezeshkian reportedly pushing for the removal of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi over disagreements related to nuclear negotiations and the growing influence of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on foreign policy.

According to reports, the President, along with Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, has expressed strong dissatisfaction with Araghchi's conduct during ongoing talks with the United States. The foreign minister is accused of aligning too closely with the IRGC and failing to adequately coordinate with the civilian government on key diplomatic decisions.

At the centre of the controversy are sensitive negotiations surrounding Iran's nuclear programme. Differences have emerged within the leadership over the approach to these talks, with some favouring a more diplomatic path while others advocate a harder stance. Araghchi's handling of the situation is believed to have intensified these divisions. Sources indicate that Araghchi has been acting in close consultation with senior IRGC figures, raising concerns among elected officials that the military establishment is exerting excessive influence over foreign policy. Critics within the government reportedly view this as a breach of protocol, arguing that the foreign minister should be directly accountable to the civilian leadership.

The reported move to re-

move Araghchi highlights long-standing tensions between Iran's elected government and the powerful IRGC, which has historically played a significant role in shaping strategic and security decisions. This latest development suggests that those tensions are now spilling into the country's diplomatic sphere.

The situation comes at a critical time for Iran, as it faces mounting economic challenges and international pressure. The outcome of its nuclear negotiations with the United States is seen as crucial for easing sanctions and stabilising the economy. Any internal discord could complicate these efforts and weaken Iran's negotiating position on the global stage. While there has been no official confirmation of Araghchi's dismissal, reports suggest that President Pezeshkian has warned of possible action if the current situation does not improve. Such a move would mark a significant shift in Iran's diplomatic leadership and could signal a change in strategy.

Analysts believe that the unfolding power struggle could have far-reaching implications, not only for Iran's internal political balance but also for its foreign relations. A change in leadership at the foreign ministry may alter the tone and direction of ongoing negotiations, particularly with Western nations.

As tensions continue to build, all eyes are on Tehran to see how the situation develops and whether the leadership can present a united front during a period of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

DOJ Releases Video of White House Dinner Shooting Suspect Cole Allen, Probe Intensifies

Washington: The United States Department of Justice has released new surveillance footage in connection with the shooting incident at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, identifying the suspect as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen and shedding more light on the sequence of events that unfolded at the high-profile gathering.

The incident occurred during the annual dinner at the Washington Hilton, attended by top political leaders, journalists, and dignitaries. Panic broke out after reports of gunfire near the venue, forcing authorities to quickly secure

the area and evacuate attendees.

According to investigators, Allen allegedly attempted to breach a security checkpoint while carrying multiple weapons. Officials said he had arrived at the venue prepared, with firearms and other items, and made a sudden move toward a restricted area, triggering an immediate response from security personnel.

The newly released video footage reportedly shows the suspect's movements leading up to the incident, including his presence near the security area and his attempt to push through controlled access

points. Authorities believe the footage strengthens their case, indicating premeditation and a deliberate effort to bypass security measures.

Law enforcement officials said a Secret Service agent was struck during the incident but was protected by a bulletproof vest, preventing serious injury. The swift reaction of security teams is credited with containing the situation before it could escalate further.

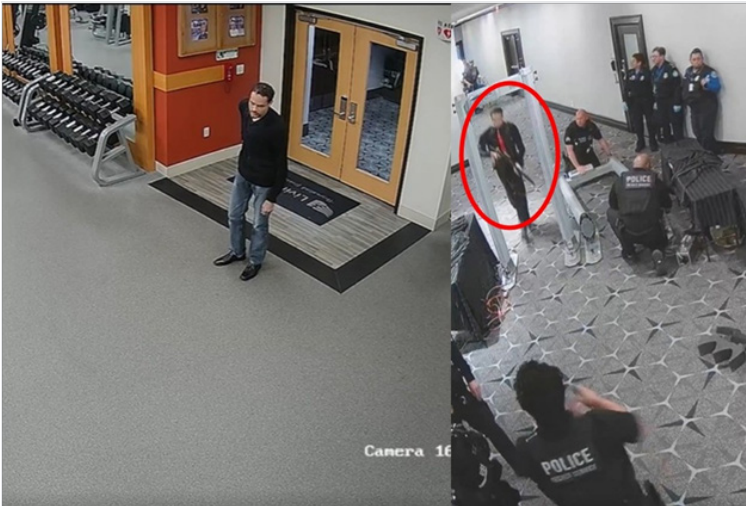
Allen has been charged with multiple serious federal offences, including attempted assassination, illegal transport of firearms for criminal

purposes, and use of a weapon during a violent act. Prosecutors allege that he travelled across state lines with the intent to carry out the attack.

Investigators are also examining the suspect's background and possible motives. Early findings suggest he may have harboured strong grievances against government officials, although authorities have not released full details. Officials are reviewing digital evidence, including messages and documents, as part of the ongoing probe. The suspect remains in federal custody, with prosecutors arguing that he poses a significant threat and

should not be granted bail. Legal proceedings are expected to continue in the coming weeks. The incident has raised fresh concerns about security arrangements at major public and political events in the United States. Despite strict protocols, the breach has prompted calls for a review of existing measures to prevent similar threats in the future.

As the investigation continues, authorities are working to establish a clearer picture of the suspect's planning, intent, and actions, while reinforcing security at high-profile gatherings across the country.



Wall Street Futures Mixed as Brent Crude Holds Near \$112, Investors Stay Cautious on Inflation and Global Signals

Global financial markets opened on a cautious note as Wall Street futures traded mixed while crude oil prices remained elevated, with Brent crude hovering close to the \$112 per barrel mark. The overall sentiment reflected uncertainty among investors who are closely tracking inflation trends, central bank policy signals, and geopolitical developments impacting energy markets.

Futures linked to major US indices showed a lack of clear direction. While some contracts indicated mild gains, others slipped slightly, suggesting that investors are still weighing conflict-

ing economic cues. The muted movement comes after a period of volatility in global markets, where concerns over interest rates and energy prices have repeatedly influenced trading sentiment.

Energy markets continued to remain in focus, with Brent crude stabilising near multi-month highs. The sustained elevated price level has been driven by tight global supply conditions, strong demand recovery in key regions, and ongoing geopolitical tensions affecting oil-producing areas. Analysts note that oil's firmness continues to act as a double-edged sword—sup-

porting energy stocks while raising concerns about inflationary pressure worldwide.

The persistence of high crude prices has kept inflation worries alive, especially in major economies where central banks are still working to balance growth with price stability. Higher energy costs often feed into broader inflation, affecting transportation, manufacturing, and consumer spending patterns.

Investors are also closely watching signals from the US Federal Reserve and other major central banks regarding future interest rate decisions. Any indication of

prolonged high interest rates tends to weigh on equity markets, particularly growth-oriented sectors such as technology.

In corporate news, market participants are awaiting key earnings updates from major companies, which are expected to provide further insight into how businesses are coping with rising costs and uncertain demand conditions. The earnings season is likely to play a crucial role in shaping short-term market direction.

Meanwhile, global markets are also reacting to mixed economic data from different regions, with some indicators pointing toward

slowing growth while others suggest resilience in consumer spending and employment.

Overall, the combination of steady oil prices and mixed futures indicates that investors are in a wait-and-watch mode. The absence of strong directional cues has led to cautious trading, as markets attempt to balance inflation risks with hopes of economic stability.

As the trading day progresses, attention will remain on crude oil movements, central bank commentary, and any fresh geopolitical developments that could influence global financial sentiment.



Escorts Kubota Shares in Focus After April Tractor Sales Jump 24%, Exports Show Weakness

Escorts Kubota is expected to remain in focus in the stock market on Monday after the company released its April sales update showing a mixed performance in its tractor business. While domestic demand recorded strong growth, export numbers declined, creating a balanced but cautious outlook for investors.

The company reported that its total tractor sales rose by around 24% in April compared to the previous period, driven primarily by robust domestic demand. The improvement is seen as a positive signal for India's rural economy, which is closely linked to agricultural activity, crop output, and seasonal demand for farm equipment.

However, the growth story was not uniform. Export sales of tractors declined during the same period, indicating continued weakness in overseas markets. This drop in exports partially offset the strong domestic performance, leading to a mixed overall sales picture.

In the domestic segment, de-

mand was supported by favourable agricultural conditions, including a healthy rabi harvest, better crop prices, and adequate reservoir water levels in key farming regions. These factors typically boost farmer income and encourage investment in tractors and other agricultural machinery.

Analysts note that tractor demand in India often reflects broader rural economic sentiment. When farm incomes improve, farmers tend to upgrade equipment, which benefits companies like Escorts Kubota. The latest sales figures suggest that rural demand continues to remain resilient despite broader economic uncertainties.

On the other hand, the decline in exports highlights challenges in international markets, which may include slower demand recovery, currency fluctuations, and global economic headwinds. Export performance has historically been more volatile compared to domestic sales for the company. From a market perspective, investors are likely to closely

watch Escorts Kubota's stock movement following the update. Strong domestic growth is generally seen as a positive indicator for future earnings, but weakness in exports could limit upside momentum in the near term. The company operates in a competitive tractor industry in India, where it competes with major players such as Mahindra & Mahindra. Industry performance is often influenced by monsoon patterns, government support for agriculture, and rural liquidity conditions.

Despite short-term fluctuations, the medium-term outlook for the tractor industry remains cautiously optimistic, supported by structural factors such as mechanisation of farming and gradual improvements in rural income levels.

Overall, Escorts Kubota's April update presents a mixed but stable picture—strong domestic growth balancing out weaker export performance—keeping the stock in focus as investors assess future demand trends



Gold Heads for Weekly Loss as Oil-Driven Inflation Fears Weigh on Safe-Haven Demand

Gold prices are on track to post a weekly decline as rising crude oil prices continue to fuel inflation concerns and dampen expectations of interest rate cuts from major central banks. The yellow metal remained largely steady in recent trading but has struggled to sustain momentum, reflecting broader caution in global markets.

Spot gold eased slightly in thin trading and is heading for a weekly loss of around 2%, after slipping to a one-month low earlier in the week. US gold futures also recorded marginal declines. The weakness comes as investors reassess the impact of persistent inflation pressures driven largely by elevated energy costs.

A key factor influencing sentiment is the steady rise in crude oil prices, with Brent crude holding above \$110-\$112 per barrel. High energy costs tend to feed into broader inflation, raising concerns that central banks may keep interest rates higher for longer than previously expected. This, in turn, reduces the appeal of non-yielding assets like gold.

Traditionally viewed as a hedge against inflation, gold has instead come under pressure in this environment because higher interest rates increase the opportunity cost of holding the metal. Investors often shift toward interest-bearing assets such as bonds when rates remain elevated, limiting demand for bullion.

Market analysts note that geopolitical tensions and supply-side uncertainties in the oil market have added another layer of volatility. These developments have kept inflation ex-

pectations elevated, further strengthening the "higher-for-longer" interest rate narrative across major economies.

Central bank decisions this week have also contributed to the cautious tone. The US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, and Bank of England have all signaled a preference for maintaining current interest rate levels, citing ongoing inflation risks. This coordinated stance has reduced hopes of near-term monetary easing, which would typically support gold prices.

In addition, a stronger US dollar has added pressure on gold, making it more expensive for international buyers and limiting fresh inflows into the precious metal. Combined with profit-taking after previous gains, these factors have kept gold on the defensive.

Despite the short-term weakness, some analysts remain optimistic about gold's longer-term outlook. They argue that sustained geopolitical uncertainty, central bank buying, and potential economic slowdowns could eventually restore demand for safe-haven assets.

However, for now, the market remains focused on inflation dynamics driven by energy prices. As long as crude oil stays elevated, gold is likely to remain under pressure, with investors closely watching upcoming economic data and central bank commentary for clearer direction. Overall, gold's weekly performance reflects a broader tug-of-war between inflation fears, interest rate expectations, and global risk sentiment—leaving the precious metal in a cautious and uncertain trading phase.



Emerging Markets Record Best Month Since 2022 as AI Boom Lifts Stocks, Oil Risks Persist

Emerging market equities have delivered their strongest monthly performance since 2022, driven by a powerful rally in Asian technology shares linked to artificial intelligence optimism, even as persistent oil-related geopolitical risks continue to weigh on global sentiment.

The MSCI Emerging Markets index surged around 14.5% in April, marking a sharp rebound after earlier losses triggered by geopolitical tensions and market volatility. The rally reflects renewed investor appetite for risk assets, particularly in technology-heavy economies across Asia.

A key driver of the surge has been the global artificial intelligence boom, which has boosted valuations of semiconductor manufacturers, cloud service providers, and other tech-linked sectors in emerg-

ing economies.

Investors have increasingly rotated capital into Asian markets such as South Korea, Taiwan, and parts of China, where technology firms are deeply integrated into global AI supply chains. This momentum has helped emerging markets outperform many developed market peers during the month.

Analysts note that the rally is not just short-term speculation. There is growing belief that AI-related demand will remain structurally strong, supporting earnings growth for several quarters ahead. Improved profit forecasts for emerging market companies have also added to optimism, with some estimates showing upgrades significantly outpacing those in developed markets.

Despite the strong equity



performance, global markets remain sensitive to energy price volatility. Ongoing geopolitical tensions—particularly involving the Middle East and the Strait of Hormuz—have kept oil prices elevated.

Brent crude has remained

above key psychological levels, creating concerns about inflationary pressures in both developed and emerging economies. Higher oil prices tend to increase transportation and production costs, which can eventually impact corporate

margins and consumer spending.

This "oil fear" factor has prevented an even stronger rally in emerging markets, as investors continue to balance growth optimism with inflation risks.

Currency movements have also reflected this divergence. While Asian currencies have been somewhat under pressure due to higher oil import costs, Latin American currencies have benefited from being in oil-exporting regions.

This uneven performance highlights the complexity of emerging market dynamics, where countries respond differently depending on their exposure to commodities and global trade flows.

Despite the strong gains, some fund managers believe the rally may still have room to run. Valuations in emerging markets remain relatively lower compared to the US, making them attractive on a long-term basis.

However, analysts caution that the sustainability of this rally will depend on several factors:

- Continued strength in global AI demand
- Stability in oil and commodity markets
- Clarity on global interest rate direction
- Reduced geopolitical tensions

Any sharp reversal in these areas could quickly change investor sentiment.

Emerging markets have staged an impressive comeback, powered by AI-driven technology optimism and improving earnings expectations. However, lingering oil-related risks and geopolitical uncertainty continue to cast a shadow over the outlook.

For now, the market narrative remains a balancing act between strong structural growth themes and short-term global risks—making this rally both promising and fragile at the same time.

60 Lakh in India or \$220K in New York, Indian Professional’s Career Dilemma Sparks Debate

A recent online post by an Indian professional has gone viral after highlighting a dilemma many ambitious workers face today: choosing between a high-paying job in India and an even higher salary abroad, but with a very different cost of living.

The individual shared that they currently earn around 60 lakh annually in India—a salary that places them among the top earners in the country, offering a comfortable lifestyle, savings potential, and proximity to family. However, they have received an offer from New York with a compensation package of \$220,000 per year, prompting them to question whether the move would truly be beneficial.

At first glance, the US offer appears significantly more lucrative when converted into Indian currency. But the situation

becomes more complex when factoring in New York’s notoriously high cost of living. Rent alone can consume a large portion of income, especially in Manhattan or nearby areas, where housing prices are among the highest in the world. Expenses such as healthcare, transportation, taxes, and daily living further reduce take-home savings.

The professional expressed concern about whether the financial gain would translate into a better quality of life. In India, a 60 lakh salary can afford domestic help, larger living spaces, and a relatively stress-free lifestyle. In contrast, life in New York may involve smaller apartments, higher expenses, and a faster-paced routine.

The post quickly drew attention on social media, with users

offering varied perspectives. Some argued that the US job could provide valuable international exposure, better career growth, and long-term earning potential. Others cautioned that the apparent salary advantage might diminish after accounting for taxes and expenses, suggesting that the Indian job could offer greater financial stability and comfort.

Several commenters also highlighted non-monetary factors, such as proximity to family, cultural familiarity, and work-life balance. For many professionals, these aspects play a crucial role in long-term satisfaction and well-being.

On the other hand, supporters of the move pointed out that working in a global hub like New York can open doors to new opportunities, networking, and

career advancement that may not be as easily accessible in India.

The discussion underscores a broader trend among Indian professionals who are increasingly weighing global opportunities against the rising quality of life and salaries within India. With the country’s economy growing and compensation levels improving, staying back is no longer seen as a compromise.

Ultimately, the decision comes down to personal priorities—whether one values financial savings, lifestyle, career exposure, or proximity to loved ones. The viral post serves as a reminder that higher salaries do not always guarantee a better life, especially when geography and cost of living come into play.



Happy May Day 2026, Best Wishes, Quotes and WhatsApp Status to Share on Labour Day

International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is being observed on May 1, 2026, as people across the world come together to honour the contribution, dedication, and struggles of workers in every field. On this occasion, social media platforms are filled with heartfelt greetings, inspirational quotes, and status messages celebrating the spirit of hard work and dignity of labour.

Labour Day is not just a public holiday but also a reminder of the historic labour movement that fought for fair wages, safe working conditions, and reasonable working hours. Over time, it has become a global day of appreciation for workers—from factory employees and farmers to teachers, healthcare workers, and professionals across industries.

People are sharing simple yet meaningful wishes to express gratitude to workers. Some popular messages include appreciation for those who build and sustain society through their efforts every day. Common greetings emphasize

respect, strength, and recognition for all kinds of work, highlighting that every worker plays a vital role in nation-building. (

Messages like “Happy Labour Day to all hardworking souls” and “Your dedication builds our world” are widely circulated on WhatsApp and other platforms.

Along with wishes, motivational quotes are also trending on Labour Day 2026. These quotes highlight the dignity of labour and the importance of perseverance. Sayings from famous thinkers and leaders are being widely shared to inspire people to value hard work and commitment. Quotes such as “All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity” and “Without labour, nothing prospers” are among the most shared on social media status updates.

Short and impactful status lines are especially popular for May Day. Some widely used ones include:

- “Saluting every worker who builds our world. Happy May Day!”

- “Hard work never goes unnoticed. Happy Labour Day 2026.”
- “Respect to every hand that works with dedication.”

These quick messages allow users to express gratitude in a simple and relatable way.

May Day has deep historical roots, originating from the global labour movement that demanded fair treatment and better working conditions. It continues to serve as both a celebration of achievements and a reminder of ongoing efforts to improve workers’ rights worldwide. In India, the first Labour Day celebration dates back to 1923 in Chennai, marking the beginning of organized recognition of workers’ contributions in the country.

Happy May Day 2026 is being widely observed with messages of gratitude, respect, and inspiration. Whether through quotes, wishes, or WhatsApp statuses, the day encourages people to acknowledge the importance of every worker and appreciate the effort that keeps societies running.

5 PM Beach Walk in UK, Indian Techie Calls Life Cinematic While Highlighting Work-Life Balance

An Indian tech professional working in the United Kingdom has sparked widespread discussion online after sharing a video of his post-work routine that highlights a sharp contrast in work culture between India and the UK.

Kartik Modi, a techie based in the UK, posted a video on Instagram showing himself spending time at a beach shortly after finishing office work at around 5 PM. The video quickly went viral, not just for its scenic visuals but also for the conversation it reignited about work-life balance among Indian professionals living abroad.

In the clip, Modi is seen relaxing at the beach, enjoying a short break before heading out for coffee. He casually describes the moment as part of his daily routine, pointing out that he often takes time to unwind immediately after work rather than being stuck in long office hours or commutes.

The video also features one



of his colleagues, who reflects on his earlier work life in India compared to his current experience in the UK. He describes his past routine as exhausting and continuous, saying he felt like he was always working without sufficient personal time. In contrast, he now highlights the improved balance between professional responsi-

bilities and personal life.

The colleague goes on to describe his current lifestyle as “amazing” and even “cinematic,” emphasizing how much more relaxed and structured life feels after work hours in the UK. This sentiment, shared in a light-hearted tone, resonated with many viewers who relate to the idea of seeking

better balance rather than just higher salaries. Social media reactions to the post have been mixed. While several users agreed with the idea that better work-life balance is a major reason professionals move abroad, others pointed out that experiences vary depending on companies and roles. Some viewers also noted that India’s work culture is gradually evolving, with certain firms offering more flexible schedules and remote work options. The video has once again revived a larger debate among Indian professionals about lifestyle choices, career priorities, and mental well-being. For many, the discussion is not just about geography or pay scales, but about how much time and freedom one has outside of work.

At its core, the post reflects a growing global conversation: whether success should be measured only by earnings, or also by the quality of everyday life.

Google Celebrates Labour Day 2026 with Vibrant Doodle Honouring Workers Worldwide

Google marked International Labour Day 2026 with a colourful and meaningful Doodle, paying tribute to workers across the globe and recognising their vital role in shaping modern society. The artwork, displayed on the search engine’s homepage, served as a visual celebration of labour and the countless contributions made by people across diverse professions.

The Doodle featured animated illustrations representing a wide range of occupations, including healthcare workers, construction labourers, educators, and professionals in the technology sector. Through this creative design, Google highlighted the diversity of work and acknowledged how different roles collectively sustain economies and communities worldwide.

In a brief message accompanying the Doodle, Google emphasised the dedication, resilience, and innovation of workers. It noted that their



efforts continue to shape workplaces and influence how societies function, especially in an era defined by rapid technological advancement and change. Labour Day, also known as International Workers’ Day or May Day, is observed annually on May 1 in many countries, including India. The day has its roots in the late 19th-century labour movement, particularly the struggle for fair working conditions and the demand for an eight-hour workday. Over time, it has evolved into a

global occasion to recognise workers’ rights, achievements, and contributions to economic and social development. In India, Labour Day is marked by a variety of activities such as rallies, awareness campaigns, and discussions organised by trade unions and labour groups. These events aim to highlight ongoing issues like fair wages, job security, and safe working conditions, while also celebrating the progress made in improving workers’ rights.

Globally, the day serves as

both a celebration and a reminder. While it honours the achievements of the labour movement, it also draws attention to persistent challenges faced by workers, including wage inequality, job insecurity, and the growing impact of automation and digital transformation on employment.

Google’s Doodle adds a creative and accessible dimension to the observance, making the significance of Labour Day visible to millions of users worldwide. By using art and animation, the company not only commemorates the occasion but also reinforces the importance of recognising the people whose efforts keep societies functioning.

Ultimately, the Labour Day Doodle stands as a symbolic gesture of appreciation—reminding the world that behind every industry and innovation are workers whose contributions continue to drive progress and shape the future.

Aggressive Squirrel Bites 20 People at Rajasthan University

A bizarre and unsettling situation has gripped a university campus in Rajasthan, where a single aggressive squirrel has reportedly attacked and bitten nearly 20 people over several weeks.

The incidents have taken place at Mohanlal Sukhadia University (MLSU) in Udaipur, particularly around the Arts College campus near the Psychology Department. What would normally be a quiet academic space has turned into an area of anxiety, with students and staff increasingly wary of moving freely.

According to reports, the squirrel has bitten between 18 and 20 individuals, including students, staff members, and even the college dean. The repeated attacks

have created a sense of panic, with many avoiding the pathway where the animal is frequently seen.

The unusual nature of the threat has made the situation both alarming and perplexing. While squirrels are generally harmless and shy, this particular animal has displayed unusually aggressive behaviour, targeting people without apparent provocation. The attacks have been occurring over a period of nearly six weeks, indicating a persistent problem rather than an isolated incident.

University authorities have attempted to handle the situation, but controlling the squirrel has proven difficult. The Animal Aid rescue team has reportedly been

called in at least twice in an effort to capture it. However, despite these interventions, the animal has continued to evade capture and carry out attacks.

The ongoing threat has affected daily campus life. Students are reportedly hesitant to attend classes in certain areas, and staff members are taking extra precautions while moving around the campus. The fear of sudden attacks has disrupted the normal academic environment, turning a routine university setting into one marked by caution and unease.

Experts suggest that such behaviour in small animals like squirrels could be due to illness, injury, or stress, though no official confirmation has been provided

regarding the cause in this case. Regardless of the reason, the priority remains ensuring the safety of those on campus and successfully capturing the animal.

The incident has also drawn widespread attention online, with many expressing disbelief that a single squirrel could cause such widespread disruption. At the same time, it highlights how even small and seemingly harmless creatures can pose unexpected challenges under certain circumstances.

For now, the university community continues to remain on alert, hoping for a swift resolution to what has become one of the most unusual campus disturbances in recent times.



Rahul Leads DC Revival with Dominant Chase

In a high-scoring thriller in Jaipur, Delhi Capitals snapped their three-match losing streak with a commanding seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League 2026 season. Chasing a daunting target of 226, Delhi rode on a sensational opening partnership and a clinical finish to seal the victory with five balls to spare.

The chase was built on a blistering 110-run stand between KL Rahul and Pathum Nissanka. Rahul was in sublime touch, smashing 75 off just 40 deliveries, combining elegance with controlled aggression. Nissanka complemented him perfectly with a fluent 62 off 33 balls, keeping the required rate in check from the outset. Their aggressive intent ensured Delhi Capitals stayed ahead in what seemed like a daunting

pursuit.

After the departure of both openers, the middle order maintained composure. Tristan Stubbs (18 not out) and Ashutosh Sharma (25 not out) calmly guided the team home, finishing the chase in style and ensuring there were no late hiccups.

Earlier, Rajasthan Royals posted an imposing 225/6 after being put in to bat. Skipper Riyan Parag led from the front with a magnificent 90 off 50 balls, marking his return to form with his first major contribution of the season. Parag, who had faced criticism following a recent off-field controversy, responded emphatically with the bat. He stitched a crucial partnership with Dhruv Jurel, who added a steady 42 runs. Late fireworks came from Donovan Ferreira, who ham-

mered an unbeaten 47 off just 14 balls, propelling Rajasthan to a formidable total. However, their effort was slightly dented by a disciplined bowling performance from Mitchell Starc. The left-arm pacer picked up 3/40, including the crucial wicket of Parag at a key moment. Despite setting a massive target, Rajasthan Royals' bowling unit struggled to contain Delhi's aggressive batting lineup. The loss highlights their inconsistency this season, while Delhi Capitals will take confidence from this much-needed victory as they look to rebuild momentum in the tournament. With this win, Delhi Capitals not only ended their losing run but also sent a strong message to the rest of the league about their batting firepower and resilience under pressure.



Ashwin Ends IPL Catch Controversy, Says Dismissal That Angered Kohli Was “Completely Fair”

A major controversy during an IPL 2026 match between Gujarat Titans and Royal Challengers Bengaluru has finally been put to rest, with veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin offering a clear verdict on the debated catch that left Virat Kohli visibly furious.

The incident occurred when Gujarat Titans' Jason Holder took a low catch near the boundary to dismiss RCB batter Rajat Patidar. The catch immediately sparked debate, as questions were raised about whether the ball had touched the ground during the attempt.

Virat Kohli, clearly unhappy with the decision, was seen engaging in an animated discussion with the officials, expressing doubts over the legality of the catch.

R Ashwin weighed in on the controversy and delivered a balanced but firm opinion. He acknowledged that fans of RCB might feel unlucky about the dismissal, but emphasized that the catch itself was legitimate.

He stated that while emotions can run high in such situations, the dismissal was “completely fair” according to the rules.

Ashwin's comments helped



bring clarity to the debate, which had divided fans and analysts across social media.

Ashwin also pointed out that perspective plays a big role in such controversies. According to him, those supporting RCB would naturally feel hard done by, but a neutral view of the incident supports the umpire's decision. This observation highlighted how fan bias often influences reactions in high-pressure matches.

Kohli's frustration during the match quickly went viral, with visuals showing him questioning the decision and expressing dissatisfaction with

the ruling. The moment added intensity to an already competitive clash and became one of the biggest talking points of the game. With Ashwin's expert opinion backing the on-field decision, the controversy appears to have settled. While the incident showcased the emotional side of cricket, it also underlined the importance of clear rules and objective analysis in resolving such disputes.

In the end, what looked like a contentious moment has now been judged as a fair dismissal—closing the chapter on one of IPL 2026's most talked-about incidents.

Collaboration Key to Growth of Women's Football in India, Says Arsenal Star Kim Little

Arsenal captain and Scotland international Kim Little has emphasized that collaboration among stakeholders is crucial for the development and long-term success of women's football in India.

Speaking about the growth of the women's game, Little highlighted that progress cannot happen in isolation. She stressed that federations, clubs, players, and governing bodies must work together to create a strong ecosystem that supports talent at all levels.

According to her, building a sustainable structure requires coordinated efforts in areas such as grassroots development, coaching, infrastructure, and competitive opportunities.

Little pointed out that one of the most important aspects of developing women's football is investing in grassroots programs. Creating clear pathways for young girls to take up the sport and progress professionally is essential for long-term success.

She noted that countries which have seen rapid growth in women's football have focused heavily on youth development and structured leagues.



Another key factor highlighted was the need to strengthen domestic competitions. A competitive league structure not only improves the quality of players but also increases visibility and commercial interest in the sport.

India's women's football ecosystem is still evolving, and experts believe that consistent investment in leagues can significantly boost standards.

Little also referred to the global rise of women's football, especially in Europe, where increased investment, better broadcasting, and fan engagement have transformed the sport. She suggested that India can learn from these models while adapting strategies to suit local conditions.

Women's football in India

has been gaining momentum in recent years, with increased participation, better performances on international stages, and more attention from fans and sponsors.

However, challenges remain, including limited infrastructure, funding gaps, and fewer opportunities compared to the men's game.

Kim Little's message is clear—collaboration is the foundation for growth. By bringing together all stakeholders and focusing on grassroots development, league structure, and long-term planning, India can unlock the full potential of women's football.

Her insights serve as both encouragement and a roadmap for taking the sport to the next level in the country.

Shubman Gill Trolls RCB with ‘Play Bold’ Post After GT Win, Shares Virat Kohli's Photo

Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill added spice to the IPL 2026 rivalry after his team's win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), taking a cheeky dig at the opposition with a viral social media post that quickly grabbed fans' attention.

Following Gujarat Titans' victory, Gill took to social media and shared a post captioned “Play Bold”—a clear twist on RCB's famous slogan “Play Bold”. What made the post even more intriguing was his use of a photo featuring Virat Kohli, RCB's star batter.

The post instantly went viral, with fans interpreting it as a light-hearted but pointed dig at RCB after their defeat.

Social media platforms were flooded with reactions soon after Gill's post. While Gujarat Titans fans enjoyed the moment and praised their captain's confidence, RCB sup-



porters were less amused and responded with mixed reactions.

Some fans saw it as harmless banter, a common feature in competitive leagues like the IPL, while others felt it added extra intensity to an already heated rivalry.

The post came after Gujarat Titans secured an important

win over RCB, a result that had significant implications for the points table. The match itself was closely contested, adding to the emotional reactions from both players and fans.

Virat Kohli, who has been central to RCB's campaign, was once again in the spotlight during the game, making his inclusion in Gill's post even

more noticeable.

Incidents like these highlight the growing trend of players engaging with fans through social media, often extending on-field rivalries into the digital space. While such posts can sometimes spark controversy, they also contribute to the entertainment value of the league.

Gill's “Play Bold” post fits into this category—blurring the line between friendly banter and competitive edge.

Shubman Gill's cheeky social media post has added another chapter to the ongoing IPL 2026 narrative. Whether seen as playful humour or subtle trolling, it has certainly captured the attention of cricket fans and intensified the buzz around the Gujarat Titans vs RCB rivalry.

As the tournament progresses, moments like these continue to keep fans engaged both on and off the field.

Preity Zinta Reacts After Punjab Kings' First Loss in IPL 2026 Despite Table-Top Position

Punjab Kings co-owner Preity Zinta shared a heartfelt and composed reaction after her team suffered their first defeat of the IPL 2026 season, even as they continued to remain at the top of the points table.

Punjab Kings had been enjoying a strong run in the tournament, establishing themselves as one of the most consistent sides this season. However, their winning streak came to an end with a loss that marked their first defeat in IPL 2026.

Despite the setback, the team still retained its position at the top of the standings, reflecting their dominant performances in earlier matches.

Taking to social media, Preity Zinta responded with a positive and encouraging message. Instead of expressing disappointment, she chose to highlight the team's overall performance and resilience.

She acknowledged that loss-



es are part of the game and emphasized the importance of staying focused and bouncing back stronger. Her message reflected confidence in the squad's ability to recover quickly and continue their strong campaign.

Preity also praised the players for their efforts throughout the tournament so far, pointing out that one defeat does not de-

fine the team's journey. Her reaction struck a balance between realism and optimism, resonating with fans who have been following Punjab Kings' impressive run.

Punjab Kings supporters echoed similar sentiments online, backing the team despite the loss. Many fans appreciated Preity Zinta's calm leadership and positive attitude, see-

ing it as a motivating factor for the players going forward.

The loss may have ended their unbeaten streak, but Punjab Kings remain strong contenders for the playoffs. With a solid points tally and consistent performances, the team is still well-positioned in the tournament.

Experts believe that how the team responds to this defeat will be crucial in shaping their campaign in the coming matches.

Preity Zinta's composed reaction underscores the importance of perspective in a long tournament like the IPL. While the defeat was a minor setback, Punjab Kings continue to lead the table and remain firmly in control of their playoff destiny.

As the season progresses, all eyes will be on how the team regroup and maintains its momentum in the race for the title.

SRH Sign U19 World Cup Star RS Ambrish as Injury Replacement for Shivam Mavi

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have strengthened their squad for IPL 2026 by signing promising youngster RS Ambrish as an injury replacement for pacer Shivam Mavi, who has been ruled out of the tournament.

Shivam Mavi, a right-arm medium pacer, has been sidelined for the remainder of the season due to a groin injury, forcing SRH to look for a replacement mid-season.

To fill the gap, the franchise has roped in 18-year-old RS Ambrish for a contract worth 30 lakh.

Ambrish is a seam-bowling

all-rounder who bowls right-arm medium pace and bats left-handed. He was part of India's victorious squad in the ICC Under-19 World Cup 2026, where he emerged as one of the standout performers.

He finished as India's joint-highest wicket-taker, picking up 11 wickets in the tournament—an achievement that has brought him into the spotlight as a rising talent in Indian cricket. This signing marks a major step in Ambrish's career, as he transitions from youth cricket to the high-pressure environment of the IPL.

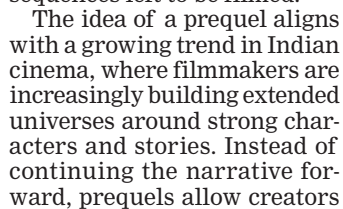


His all-round abilities make him a valuable addition to SRH's squad, especially as teams look for versatile players who can contribute in multiple departments. SRH have been actively making changes this season due to injuries.

The team has already brought in multiple replacements to strengthen their bowling attack, highlighting the challenges franchises face during a long tournament like the IPL. For SRH, Ambrish adds fresh energy and depth to their pace department. For the youngster, it's a golden opportunity to showcase his skills on one of the biggest stages in world cricket. If he performs well, this could be the beginning of a long IPL journey—and possibly a pathway to higher honours in Indian cricket.



This approach suggests a more content-driven expansion, where additional films—like the proposed prequel—are created only if the narrative demands it.



If executed well, Fauzi could evolve from a single film into a layered cinematic saga—giving Prabhas fans not just one story, but an entire universe to explore.

Rukmini Vasanth's "Big Break" Slows Down as Major Pan-India Films Face Repeated Postponements

The postponement of major films is not limited to Rukmini's projects alone. The Indian



While Rukmini Vasanth's "big break" moment appears to have been temporarily pushed back due to multiple film postponements, her trajectory remains upward. With several high-profile projects still in the pipeline, the delay may only shift—not diminish—her eventual breakout moment in Indian cinema.

“Will Sleep Peacefully Only in 2062”, Trisha’s Viral Post Sparks Concern and Curiosity

Given this heightened visibility, even a light-hearted social media post quickly turned into a topic of discussion. While many fans appreciat-

Trisha's "2062" comment may have been made in jest, but it has sparked a larger conversation about sleep, stress, and the demanding lives of celebrities. Whether humorous or reflective, the post resonated widely—proving once again how even a simple social media update can capture public imagination.

