



BUZZ POINTS



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Free MMTS Proposal Moves Forward in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has taken a significant step toward introducing free suburban train travel by preparing a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the MMTS Hyderabad. The proposal outlines a plan to reimburse South Central Railway for any revenue loss incurred if free services are implemented. The draft MoU, prepared by senior official Jayesh Ranjan from the Metropolitan Area and Urban Development Department, has been submitted to the Chief Minister's Office along with the law and finance departments for detailed review. According to sources, the scheme is proposed to be launched initially for one year, beginning on June 2, marking Telangana Formation Day. Chief Minister A. Revanth



Reddy is expected to hold a high-level meeting with officials from key departments to finalize the proposal. Once approved, the document will be forwarded to the Railway authorities and the Railway Board for final clearance. Earlier discussions between Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao and Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager of South Central Railway, laid the groundwork for this initiative. During the meeting, the state expressed its willingness to fully compensate the railways for financial losses arising from the scheme. Currently, MMTS services

operate around 88 trains daily in Hyderabad, serving approximately 40,000 to 45,000 passengers. The annual revenue generated from these services is estimated at about Rs 10 crore. The government has indicated its readiness to cover this amount to ensure uninterrupted operations under the free travel scheme. Railway officials had earlier requested a detailed proposal outlining operational and financial commitments. Responding promptly, the state government tasked Jayesh Ranjan with drafting the MoU, which was completed within a short period and submitted for scrutiny. If approved, the initiative is expected to significantly enhance affordable urban mobility, benefiting daily commuters across Hyderabad while strengthening public transport usage in the city.



CM Urges RTC Unions to Unite for Reforms and Growth

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called on RTC trade unions to jointly prepare a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen the organization, improve services, and address long-pending issues. During a meeting with union leaders, along with Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and senior officials, he emphasized the need for consensus on recognition elections and the proposed merger of unions. He suggested that if unanimity is not possible, unions should submit individual proposals, with the government considering common points first. The Chief Minister assured that the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) issue would be resolved and reiterated that pending dues, though inherited, are being cleared systematically. He stressed that political interference or emotional decisions could harm the organization and urged all stakeholders to work collectively for long-term stability.

Highlighting recent initiatives, he said the government has increased recruitment, expanded the bus fleet, and improved revenue streams. Infrastructure plans include constructing modern bus terminals on 100 acres at Gajularamaram and 150 acres near Shamshabad. To reduce the 2,000 crore annual diesel burden, the government plans to introduce 1,000 electric buses and integrate them with Metro and MMTS networks. Revanth Reddy assured job security, stating no driver would lose employment. He also called for better communication between management and employees through regular meetings. Responding positively to union requests, he agreed to release wages for the recent strike period and consider withdrawal of related legal cases, reaffirming the government's support for RTC workers.

RTC Strike Issues Resolved: CM Assures Wages and Case Withdrawal

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has responded positively to the demands raised by RTC labour unions regarding the recent three-day strike. During a meeting held at his Jubilee Hills residence, union representatives requested payment of wages for the strike period and withdrawal of cases filed against workers. The Chief Minister agreed to both demands and directed Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar along with officials to take immediate action. Union leaders expressed ap-



preciation for the government's proactive approach in addressing their concerns. Several prominent leaders and officials, including MPs, senior bureaucrats, and RTC management representatives, were present during the discussions. Addressing the gathering,

the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of unity between the government and workers. He acknowledged the crucial role played by RTC employees in strengthening public transport services and stated that their dedication has helped the corporation emerge as one of the leading transport organizations in the country. Highlighting future plans, he announced the allocation of 100 acres at Gajularamaram and 150 acres near Shamshabad for the development of modern bus terminals. He also revealed plans to introduce 1,000 electric buses to reduce fuel costs and improve connectivity with metro services. The govern-

ment is also considering the addition of mini-buses to enhance last-mile connectivity. Revanth Reddy assured that no driver jobs would be cut and reiterated the government's commitment to clearing pending dues and resolving employee issues. He urged unions to collaboratively present structured proposals on key matters like merger and PRC, stressing that collective efforts are essential for the RTC's long-term sustainability. The Chief Minister concluded by reaffirming that the government stands firmly with RTC workers and is committed to ensuring the organization's growth and stability.

CM Reviews Energy Sector Performance

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a high-level review meeting on the Energy Department at MCRHRD. The meeting focused on assessing ongoing projects, power supply management, and future planning in the sector. Deputy Chief Minister Bhat-

ti Vikramarka, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Naveen Mittal, and other senior officials participated. Heads of key power utilities, including Transco, Genco, and DISCOMs, were also present to review operational performance and discuss strategies for strengthening the state's energy infrastructure.

CM Greets Workers, Highlights Welfare Initiatives on May Day

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of International Workers' Day, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy conveyed his greetings to workers across the state, acknowledging their vital contribution to society. He emphasized that every worker's effort plays a crucial role in shaping the future and called for collective progress rooted in equality, justice, and dignity. The Chief Minister noted that the government remains committed to protecting the rights of both organized and unorganized sector workers. He stated that several welfare-driven initiatives have created employment opportunities for lakhs of people, directly and indirectly. As part of this effort, the state has introduced the Platform-Based Gig Workers Act, ensuring social security benefits such as accident insurance coverage of 5 lakh

for gig workers. He also highlighted that long-pending compassionate appointments in various government departments have now been cleared, bringing relief to many families. Referring to Singareni workers, he said bonuses were distributed ahead of major festivals like Dasara and Diwali, and for the first time, contract workers received Rs 5,000 each as a bonus. In addition, the government facilitated insurance coverage of up to Rs 1 crore for workers in partnership with banks. Special attention is also being given to the welfare of Telangana workers in Gulf countries, with financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh provided to families in case of death. Reiterating that hard work is the backbone of development, the Chief Minister affirmed the government's commitment to worker welfare.

CM Extends Buddha Purnima Greetings

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Buddha Purnima, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy conveyed his warm wishes to people across the state. He highlighted that the teachings of Gautama Buddha—which emphasize compassion, peace, tolerance, and kindness—remain highly rele-

vant even today. The Chief Minister expressed hope that this auspicious day would inspire individuals to follow the path of righteousness and harmony. He called upon citizens to embrace these timeless values in their daily lives and work towards building a peaceful and inclusive society.



Seethakka Sets Ambitious Rural Employment Target for May

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka have directed officials to significantly expand rural employment under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, setting a target of generating 3.5 crore workdays during May. She issued these instructions during a video conference from Mulugu with district and mandal-level officials. The Minister emphasized that May is a crucial period, especially after the completion of agricultural activities, when demand for wage employment rises sharply. She instructed authorities to ensure that every household seeking work is provided opportunities without delay, and to quickly resolve any technical or administrative hurdles affecting implementation. Appreciating the efforts of officials, she noted that around



1.5 crore workdays were successfully completed in April, describing it as a commendable achievement. However, she urged teams to intensify efforts further to meet the higher target set for May. Given the prevailing heat-wave conditions across the state, Seethakka stressed the importance of worker safety. She mandated that all work-sites must provide essential facilities such as safe drinking water, shaded rest areas, and first aid. To minimize health risks, she advised that work

schedules be planned during early morning and evening hours. The Minister also instructed officials to closely monitor mandals and gram panchayats where progress has been slow and to prepare focused action plans. She called for the initiation of work in every habitation and ensuring employment access to all eligible individuals. To strengthen execution, she directed that at least 20 works be taken up in each gram panchayat, with one supervisor assigned for every 40 workers. Special officers are also to be appointed to oversee progress and improve efficiency. Additionally, she urged officials to collaborate with village leaders and conduct awareness meetings with job-seeking laborers. These efforts, she said, would help maximize participation and ensure the successful implementation of the scheme across rural Telangana



Ambedkar's Legacy Inspires Workers' Welfare Drive

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka extended warm greetings to workers worldwide on the occasion of May Day, while participating in celebrations held in Miryalaguda. He joined sanitation workers for a community meal, accompanied by local representatives including MLA Bathula Lakshma Reddy, MLC Shankar Naik, and DCC President Punna Kailash Netha. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy CM highlighted the historic struggles of workers, recalling the sacrifices made during the Chicago movement that led to the global recognition of the eight-hour workday. He emphasized that these sacrifices remain a powerful symbol of workers' unity and rights. Bhatti Vikramarka paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, describing him as a visionary who transformed the lives of workers in India. He noted that Ambedkar, during his tenure in the Viceroy's Council,

played a key role in replacing the exhausting 12-14 hour work system with an eight-hour workday. He also credited Ambedkar for introducing progressive labor laws, including maternity leave and legal protections that ensured dignity and security for both male and female workers. Highlighting the state government's initiatives, the Deputy CM stated that the present administration is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people. He revealed that over 30,000 jobs have been provided within a short span of three months. He also pointed to schemes like free bus travel for women, aimed at promoting financial independence and empowerment. Concluding his address, Bhatti Vikramarka affirmed that the government will continue to uphold the principles of justice and equality, drawing inspiration from Ambedkar's vision to protect the rights of workers and marginalized communities.

Advanced Health Facilities Launched at Gandhi Hospital

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

In a major boost to public healthcare, a Rs 40-crore organ transplant centre and a Mother Milk Bank were inaugurated at Gandhi Hospital on Friday. Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha reviewed the newly established transplant facility, which includes six advanced modular operation theatres, three ICUs with a total of 25 beds, and a dedicated isolation ward. During the visit, doctors briefed the minister on the functioning of various departments. Highlighting the

importance of accessible healthcare, he noted that complex procedures—usually costing several lakhs—are now being performed free of cost in government hospitals. He cited a recent successful liver transplant conducted on an 18-month-old child at Osmania Hospital and congratulated the medical team, particularly Dr. Madhusudan. The minister also interacted with patients at the IVF Centre in Gandhi Hospital, including a couple who were blessed with twins after undergoing treatment. He announced plans to establish another transplant centre

at TIMS Sanathnagar, along with organ retrieval centres in seven government hospitals across the state. The newly launched Mother Milk Bank is expected to play a crucial role in supporting newborns, especially in a hospital that handles around 30 to 40 deliveries daily. Addressing MBBS graduates of Gandhi Medical College, the minister emphasized that medicine is not merely a profession but a lifelong commitment to service. He encouraged young doctors to combine knowledge with compassion to ensure holistic healing.

2BHK Houses for Evicted Families Near Water Bodies

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has announced that poor families who lost their homes during the restoration of lakes and water bodies will be provided 2BHK housing units. This assurance was given by A. V. Ranganath during a meeting with affected residents from Sunnam Cheruvu in Madhapur and Ramanthapur Cheruvu in Uppal.

He stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has taken a humanitarian decision to rehabilitate displaced families by allotting permanent housing units. The commissioner added that the CM has directed officials to ensure that this benefit reaches all eligible poor households without delay.

Ranganath explained that the government is currently collecting detailed data on

households and huts located within tank and lake boundaries. This includes identifying the number of families living in these areas and verifying their eligibility for rehabilitation.

He further noted that the information is being compiled using modern technology such as Google Maps and satellite imagery to ensure transparency and prevent irregularities. Only those residents who were living in these locations before July 19, 2024, will be considered for the housing scheme.

Officials assured that the verification process will be completed soon and the rehabilitation exercise will be taken up in a phased manner. The initiative aims to balance environmental restoration efforts with the welfare and resettlement of displaced urban poor families.

Minister Ponnamm Extends May Day Greetings to Workers

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of May Day, Transport Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar conveyed his greetings to workers and labourers across Telangana. He also extended special wishes to employees of the Telangana RTC, acknowledging their dedication and service. The Minister

encouraged workers to stay united in safeguarding their rights and to utilize the government's supportive policies for their progress. He expressed hope that the Transport Department would continue to play a crucial role in serving the needs of the underprivileged and remain a dependable lifeline for the public.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Greets Workers on May Day

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of International Workers' Day, Minister Vakiti Srihari extended his greetings to workers and farmers, acknowledging their vital role in nation-building. He stated that the dedication, hard work, and commitment of the working class form the backbone of economic growth and social development.

The Minister emphasized that the Telangana government is giving top priority to worker welfare by implementing various schemes aimed at improving their quality of life.



Mega Job Fair Draws Huge Youth Participation

Location as per content, date | TPN Bureau

Mahabubnagar, May 1 | TPN Bureau

A large-scale Job Mela was successfully organized in Mahabubnagar under the Department of Youth Services and Sports as part of the government's 'Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranali' and its 99-day action plan. The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout from job-seeking youth across the region. The program was attended by Minister Vakiti Srihari, Legislative Council Chief Whip P. Mahender Reddy, MLAs Yennam Srinivas Reddy and Madhusudan Reddy, Sports Authority MD Sonibala Devi, along with several public representatives and senior officials. Addressing the gathering, Minister Vakiti Srihari stated that a total of 24,608 candidates had registered across the undivided Mahabubnagar district, with a target of facilitating employment for around

3,500 individuals. He highlighted that several candidates were completing interviews at the venue itself and receiving job offer letters on the spot.

The Minister emphasized that the government is working relentlessly to create employment opportunities while also promoting self-reliance among youth. He noted that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is focused on strengthening both education and employment sectors to ensure sustainable development.

He further mentioned initiatives such as increasing student welfare allowances, improving facilities in government institutions, and completing long-pending teacher promotions and transfers. Urging youth to make the most of such platforms, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering the next generation through jobs, education, and skill development.

Journalists' Housing Issue to Be Settled by June 2: Minister

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has reaffirmed the government's commitment to resolving the long-pending issue of housing plots for journalists. He stated that the matter would be addressed comprehensively by June 2, in line with assurances previously given by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The Minister held a meeting at the Secretariat with representatives from several journalist housing societies, including the Jawaharlal Nehru Housing Society, Deccan Journalists' Society, and Telangana Housing Society. During the discussion, he gathered details about their formation, membership strength, and eligibility norms. Preliminary estimates suggest that around 2,400 eligible journalists are associated with these societies, excluding one group.

Emphasizing unity, the Minister advised all journalist bodies to come together and form



a Joint Action Committee (JAC) to streamline the process. He also assured that even eligible journalists who are not part of any society would be considered for allotment, ensuring fairness and transparency. The government aims to provide house sites free from legal disputes, addressing concerns that have persisted for nearly two decades. The Minister recalled earlier efforts to resolve the issue, including attempts to allocate land to mem-

bers of the Jawaharlal Nehru Journalists' Housing Society, which were stalled due to litigation. He reiterated that the present administration is prioritizing journalists' welfare and is working on a war footing to deliver a lasting solution. Plans are also being explored to allot plots within the proposed 'Future City' area.

Officials and representatives welcomed the initiative and urged the government to prioritize long-pending applicants.

State Revives Pranahita-Chevella Project, Focus on Thummadihatti Barrage

The State Government has initiated fresh measures to revive the long-pending Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project, with a focus on constructing a barrage at Thummadihatti and optimizing water utilization. Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing the project, originally conceptualized during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

At a review meeting held in Begumpet, the Minister directed experts from IIT Hyderabad and RV Associates to prepare detailed technical proposals for discussions with Maharashtra. The aim is to design the barrage in a way that minimizes submergence in both Maharashtra and environmentally sensitive areas while ensuring mutual benefit between states.

He stressed the need for comprehensive feasibility studies, including cost-benefit analysis, geological surveys, and alternative alignments. Four route options are currently being evaluated to reduce land acquisition,



energy consumption, and construction costs while improving efficiency. The government is also open to compensating affected regions if required.

The Minister noted that the original project aimed to provide irrigation to North Telangana and parts of Ranga Reddy district at a lower cost using flood canals and lift systems. However, he criticized the previous government's redesign under the Kaleshwaram project,

citing high operational costs and structural issues in barrages like Medigadda, Anarnam, and Sundilla.

He announced that urgent repairs to these barrages will be undertaken as per National Dam Safety Authority guidelines before the monsoon. Additionally, efforts are underway to maximize the use of existing infrastructure, including the Yellampalli reservoir, to deliver irrigation water efficiently.

Deputy CM Promises Support to Madhusudan's Family

Miryalaguda, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka visited the residence of late CPRO Maraboyina Madhusudan in Miryalaguda and expressed deep condolences to his grieving family. Remembering Madhusudan as a dedicated and principled professional, he said his contribution and commitment would always be remembered. Interacting with the family, the Deputy CM comforted his wife Jyothi, mother Parvathamma, and other relatives, assuring them that the government would extend full support during this difficult time. He also recalled his per-



sonal association with Madhusudan, describing him as an inspiration in both professional and social spheres. Responding to the family's concerns, Bhatti Vikramarka assured that steps would be taken to facilitate Jyothi's transfer to Hyderabad or nearby Medchal-Malkajgiri district for the welfare of her child. He also

promised assistance in securing suitable employment for their son, who has completed his engineering studies. Reaffirming his commitment, the Deputy CM stated that the government would stand firmly by the family and provide all necessary help, urging them to approach him directly for any support they may need.

RTC Unions Meet CM, Focus on Revival and Reforms

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of various RTC trade unions met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence and thanked him for taking steps to address long-pending issues. The meeting was attended by Transport Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, MPs Vem Narender Reddy and Anil Kumar Yadav, along with senior officials and MLAs. Representatives from multiple RTC unions participated in the discussions.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister appreciated the unions for presenting an action plan aimed at strengthening the organization and improving public services. He emphasized that the government and workers must work together to ensure the survival and growth of RTC, noting that employees have played a key role in making it one of the leading transport institutions in the country. Highlighting reforms, he said the government is expanding the fleet, recruiting staff, and improving revenue. Plans in-

clude setting up a bus terminal in Gajularamaram and an international-standard facility in Shamshabad. He also announced the procurement of 1,000 electric buses to reduce diesel expenses and improve connectivity. Revanth Reddy assured that no workforce reduction would take place and that pending dues are being cleared, with Rs 1,000 crore already released. He urged unions to maintain unity, avoid political interference, and cooperate in building a stronger, sustainable RTC system.

Deputy CM Assures Resolution of Employee Issues

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka held a detailed meeting with leaders of various employee unions at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan, reaffirming the government's commitment to addressing their concerns. During the interaction, he patiently heard representations from union leaders and assured them of a constructive approach toward resolving pending issues. Highlighting the importance of government staff, he stated that employees act as a crucial link between the administration and the public. He noted that the effective implementation of welfare schemes at the grassroots level depends largely on their dedication and efficiency. Union representatives expressed satisfaction with the current government's approach, particularly

its focus on financial discipline alongside employee welfare. They appreciated timely salary disbursements on the first of every month and welcomed the allocation of Rs 1,000 crore monthly for clearing pending dues of retired personnel. Key issues such as Pay Revision Commission (PRC), Dearness Allowance (DA), and health card benefits were raised during the meeting. Responding to these concerns, the Deputy CM assured that they would be examined by a Cabinet sub-committee and appropriate decisions would be communicated soon. He also conveyed that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is supportive of resolving employee-related matters. The meeting was attended by TGEJAC leaders and representatives from multiple departments, with optimism expressed over an early and positive outcome.

Market Committees Revamped; Govt Pushes Farmer-Centric Reforms

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

The state government has issued fresh orders appointing governing bodies to two additional Agricultural Market Committees, further strengthening the market system. As per the orders, Yamajala Keerthana and Mamindla Krishna have been appointed Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Toopran Market Committee in Medak district, while Boranachu Srikanth Reddy and Tanveer Ahmed have been appointed to similar posts in the Adilabad Market Committee. With these additions, governing bodies are now in place for 187 out of 207 market committees across the state. Speaking on the development, Agriculture Minister Thummala Nagaswara Rao stated that the government has prioritized farmer welfare and taken major steps to improve agricultural marketing. He noted that

apart from the existing committees, new ones are being established to reduce travel burdens on farmers, with several already approved and more to be operational soon. The large-scale appointments have generated enthusiasm among party workers, with over 2,600 individuals receiving nominated posts—an unprecedented move since Telangana's formation. The Minister criticized the previous administration for neglecting market infrastructure, stating that reforms have now brought greater transparency and efficiency. To modernize market yards, the government has sanctioned Rs 568 crore for development works and initiated solar power projects to cut energy costs. Digital systems are also being introduced to streamline operations, ensuring better price realization, reduced middlemen interference, and improved services for farmers.



May Day Marked with Enthusiasm at Telangana Rakshana Sena Office

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: International Workers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Telangana Rakshana Sena office in Banjara Hills on Friday. Kalvakuntla Kavitha, President of Telangana Rakshana Sena, led the program by hoisting both the party flag and the labour flag.

Addressing the gathering, Kavitha conveyed her heartfelt greetings to workers and farmers, acknowledging their vital role in the progress of society. She also paid homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for work-

ers' rights, highlighting the significance of May Day as a symbol of unity and resilience.

The event witnessed the participation of leaders from auto unions, members of various labour organizations, and representatives from Telangana Rakshana Sena and Telangana Jagruthi. Speakers at the program emphasized the need to continue advocating for workers' welfare and safeguarding their rights.

The celebrations concluded on a spirited note, with attendees reaffirming their commitment to uphold the dignity and interests of the working class.



May Day Celebrations

Husnabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

International Workers' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Husnabad RTC Bus Depot, where Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar attended as the chief guest and joined workers in marking the occasion. Several public representatives and officials, including municipal leaders and RTC staff, participated in the program. The gathering also paid tribute to RTC driver Shankar Goud, who recently passed away, with heartfelt condolences offered in his memory.

Addressing the workers, the Minister extended May Day greetings and highlighted the importance of unity among labourers. He stated that the government introduced the Mahalakshmi Scheme soon after assuming office, enabling free bus travel for women and contributing to improved revenues for the corporation. He noted that RTC operates around 10,000 buses daily, serving mil-

lions of passengers across the state.

The Minister said the government has taken key steps such as announcing an 11% PRC hike, initiating the process for trade union elections, and working toward the merger of RTC with the government. He added that recruitment drives, fleet expansion, and infrastructure improvements—including development works at the Husnabad depot—are underway.

He assured workers that pending dues and benefits are being addressed and that employees removed earlier have been reinstated. Emphasizing welfare, he said the government is committed to resolving RTC-related issues through continuous dialogue and coordination. He urged employees to communicate their concerns with depot authorities and reaffirmed that the administration remains supportive of workers and their well-being.

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

Amaravati, May 01 | 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.

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 work-

ers, 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.

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.

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.

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 Anaparthi 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.

Bandi Sanjay Targets Govt Over Farmer Issues

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has strongly criticized the state government, accusing it of failing farmers during the ongoing paddy procurement season. In a letter addressed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he alleged that farmers are being forced to wait under extreme heat at procurement centres while not receiving fair prices for their produce.

He claimed that despite assurances to procure dry paddy without penalties, deductions are being imposed citing moisture content, causing losses to farmers. He also questioned the non-implementation of the promised bonus for paddy during the previous Rabi season and expressed concern that the same situation could repeat this year.

Sanjay further alleged that Minimum Support Price (MSP) benefits are not being properly extended to paddy farmers, while maize growers are also being neglected despite pro-



urement support from the Centre. He warned that such lapses are pushing farmers into the hands of middlemen.

Raising concerns over crop loss compensation, he stated that farmers suffered damages across more than five lakh acres due to unseasonal rains, but only Rs 260 crore was disbursed against an estimated requirement of Rs 5,000 crore.

The Union Minister also pointed out the rising debt bur-

Farmers' Distress and Unfulfilled Promises Raised Before CM

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

A detailed representation has been submitted to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy highlighting the severe challenges faced by farmers across Telangana and expressing concern over the government's alleged failure to fulfill key promises made to the agricultural community.

The letter draws attention to the ongoing hardships of farmers who are struggling to sell crops such as paddy, maize, Bengal gram, and sunflower amid extreme weather conditions, including heatwaves and unseasonal rains. It points out that many farmers are forced to wait for days at procurement centers under harsh conditions, leading to serious health issues and distress.

Concerns were raised regarding delays and inefficiencies in crop procurement, with allegations that middlemen are exploiting farmers through unfair deductions related to weight, moisture, and quality. The representation urges the government to ensure that all produce is procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) without any exploitation.

The memorandum also questions the implementation of various promises made in elec-

tion manifestos and policy declarations related to farmer welfare. It states that financial assistance schemes, including support for tenant farmers and landless laborers, have not been fully realized. Similarly, compensation for crop losses is said to have fallen short of expectations, leaving many farmers without adequate relief.

The issue of pending loan waivers and bonus payments was also highlighted. The letter calls for the immediate release of a Rs 500 per quintal bonus for the Rabi season and stresses that such benefits should be extended to all categories of farmers without discrimination.

Additionally, it points out that despite central support for procurement operations, the current system has gaps that need urgent attention. The representation appeals to the Chief Minister to take swift corrective measures, streamline procurement processes, curb middlemen interference, and uphold commitments made to the farming community.

The appeal concludes with a call for decisive action to restore confidence among farmers and ensure their livelihoods are protected with fairness and dignity.

Harish Rao Alleges Irregularities in HAM Road Project Tenders

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

During a media briefing at Telangana Bhavan, T. Harish Rao, former minister and BRS Legislative Party Deputy Floor Leader, raised serious allegations regarding the execution of HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model) road projects in the state.

He stated that during the recent Assembly Budget Sessions, his party had presented evidence pointing to large-scale irregularities in the tendering process. According to him, contracts under the Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Panchayat Raj departments were being awarded with significantly inflated bid values. He claimed that tenders have now been finalized at nearly 25 percent above the estimated costs, validating earlier concerns.

Harish Rao pointed out that projects initially estimated at around Rs 11,000 crore in the R&B department are now expected to cost close to Rs 15,000



crore. Similarly, works valued at Rs 6,000 crore in the Panchayat Raj wing may escalate to nearly Rs 7,000-Rs 8,000 crore. He alleged that this escalation could burden the state exchequer with an additional Rs 5,000 crore.

He further criticized the funding model, stating that the government plans to borrow

nearly 60 percent of the project cost and repay it over 15 years, which could increase long-term financial pressure. He also objected to the provision of mobilization advances, claiming that such practices had earlier been opposed but are now being reintroduced.

The BRS leader demanded that all tenders awarded with excessive margins be immediately cancelled and reissued. He also alleged favoritism, claiming that a limited number of firms are benefiting disproportionately.

Additionally, he questioned the extension of service to retired engineering officials, stating that it contradicts earlier assurances made by the current leadership.

Concluding his remarks, Harish Rao asserted that his party would soon present further evidence and reiterated the demand for transparency and accountability in public infrastructure projects.



KTR Slams Fuel and LPG Price Hike on May Day

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao strongly criticized the central government during the May Day celebrations held at Telangana Bhavan, calling for an immediate rollback of rising fuel and cooking gas prices that, according to him, are severely affecting common citizens and workers.

He pointed out that the price of a commercial LPG cylinder in Hyderabad has surged to around Rs 3,315, warning that such steep costs could force restaurants, hotels, and small eateries to shut down, thereby threatening the livelihoods of lakhs of workers dependent on the hospitality sector. He also highlighted that even small LPG cylinders used by low-income households and bachelors have become unaffordable.

KTR further said that the continuous decline in the rupee's value, combined with rising fuel and gas prices, has in-

tensified financial pressure on ordinary families. He criticized the Centre for imposing heavy taxes and cesses on petroleum products, which he claimed has pushed petrol prices from around Rs 65 to nearly Rs 110-Rs 120 per litre in recent years.

He remarked that inflation has spread across all sectors due to the sharp increase in fuel costs, impacting transportation, food prices, and daily essentials. Referring to earlier statements by the Prime Minister encouraging youth to explore small-scale livelihoods, he said that even basic entrepreneurial activities like running small food stalls have become difficult due to high LPG costs.

KTR accused the central government of burdening the public through repeated price hikes and demanded immediate relief measures to protect working-class families from worsening economic hardship.

Uttam Reddy Criticizes Commercial Gas Price Hike

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has strongly opposed the recent increase in commercial LPG prices, stating that it places a heavy financial burden on the common public. Reacting to the revised price of a 19-kg cylinder, now nearing Rs 1,000, he said the sharp rise would severely impact small businesses.

The Minister expressed concern that hotels, eateries, and street vendors would be among the worst affected, as they rely heavily on commercial gas for daily operations. He argued



that the sudden price hike, estimated at around 30-35 percent, could disrupt livelihoods and increase the cost of essen-

tial services.

He also criticized the timing of the decision, alleging that it came immediately after the conclusion of elections in West Bengal, and questioned the intent behind such a move. According to him, repeated price increases are pushing operational costs beyond manageable levels for small entrepreneurs.

Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the Central Government to reconsider and roll back the hike, emphasizing that continued increases would negatively affect the economy and the living standards of ordinary citizens.

Rising Mercury Levels Trigger Warnings

Amaravati, May 01 | TPN Bureau

The State Meteorological Department has issued a warning that severe heat-wave 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 Prakhara 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.





INTUC Marks May Day

Nacharam | May 1 | TPN Bureau

A May Day celebration was organized at Nacharam Errakunta under the leadership of INTUC. Senior Congress leader and TPCC Labour Cell Vice President V.S. Prakash Reddy, who also serves as Medchal district INTUC president, attended the event and hoisted the flag.

Addressing the gathering, Prakash Reddy said workers contribute tirelessly like soldiers, helping organizations generate massive wealth, yet their own living conditions of-

ten remain unchanged. He described May Day as a significant occasion that honors the dignity and contributions of workers across the country.

He called upon management to review wage structures and ensure fair pay for employees. Stressing the importance of recognition, he urged employers to value the dedication and efforts of their workforce, which plays a crucial role in organizational growth.

Leaders including Medala Mallikarjuna Goud, Krishna Reddy, Sunil Yadav, and others were present at the event.



CITU Calls for Unity to Defend 8-Hour Workday

Quthbullapur, May 1 | TPN Bureau

May Day was celebrated with enthusiasm across Quthbullapur Mandal under the banner of CITU, with workers from various sectors actively participating. Construction labourers, centering workers, and members of the loading and unloading union organized flag-hoisting events at multiple locations in the Jeedimetla industrial area, including Shapurannagar Market, ESI Crossroads, Gajularamaram, Devender Nagar, and near the Deepak Nitrate gate.

At a meeting held in Shapurannagar, senior leaders Ravula Varaprasad and Mandal Con-

vener Keelukani Lakshman addressed workers, recalling the historic 1886 Chicago movement that secured the eight-hour workday after immense sacrifice by labour leaders. They stressed that this achievement must be protected.

The leaders raised concerns over increasing workloads, longer working hours, and low wages faced by workers today. They criticized recent labour policy changes, stating that they weaken workers' rights and benefit corporate interests. Calling for unity, they urged workers to organize and continue the struggle to safeguard their rights and uphold the true spirit of May Day.

May Day Celebrated, Call for Fair Wages

Quthbullapur, May 1 | TPN Bureau

International Workers' Day was observed with enthusiasm at Alkali Metals in D. Pochampally under the Dundigal Circle, with celebrations organized by the BRS Labour Wing. The event featured the ceremonial hoisting of the union flag.

BRS LP Whip and MLA K.P. Vivekananda attended as the chief guest and extended greetings to workers. In his address, he highlighted the crucial role of workers in shaping the nation through their dedication and hard work. He stressed that industries must safeguard workers' rights and ensure they receive fair and just wag-



es. The program saw participation from Alkali Metals Union President Shambipur Krishna, Working Presidents B. Mahender, Md. Siddiq, and K. Veeraswamy, along with other office bearers and members. Several local leaders and representatives also attended, making the event a notable May Day gathering.

Seven Bank Staff Held for Aiding Cyber Fraud

Hyderabad | May 1 | TPN Bureau

Cyber Crime Police in Hyderabad have arrested seven bank officials for allegedly helping fraudsters operate illegal "mule accounts" by bypassing mandatory KYC norms. The accused reportedly opened or facilitated such accounts in return for commissions, enabling cybercriminals to route illicit funds.

Those arrested include Anusha, an Assistant Manager with Indian Bank; Mudavath Dinesh Chauhan, Branch Manager of Indian Bank, Kukatpally; Nadeesh Sambhar, former

Manager at Bank of Maharashtra, Pragathi Nagar; Reddy Harish, Field Officer at IndusInd Bank, JNTU branch; N. Ravi, Sales Manager at the same branch; Gonela Sai Venkat, Assistant Manager at IndusInd Bank; and Renikunta Mahesh, former Field Officer at Bandhan Bank.

Police stated that the accused played a key role in enabling financial fraud by neglecting due diligence procedures. Further investigation is underway to trace the wider network and identify beneficiaries involved in these cybercrime operations

B. Sumathi Takes Charge as CP, Focus on Tech Policing

Malkajgiri | May 1 | TPN Bureau

Senior IPS officer B. Sumathi formally assumed charge as the Commissioner of the Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate on Friday, receiving a warm welcome from senior officials and staff. Becoming the first woman to hold this post, she described the role as both an honour and a responsibility. She emphasized that maintaining law and order with transparency and efficiency would remain her top priority.

Sumathi stated that the commissionerate, known for its peaceful environment, would continue to uphold this reputation through proactive policing. She highlighted the use of advanced technology to tackle crime, including the AI-based system "TG QUEST," aimed at strengthening detection and investigation processes, especially in rising cybercrime cases. She assured swift and in-



formed justice for victims while promoting public awareness on safety. Addressing concerns over narcotics, she stressed strict action against drug trafficking and consumption, with a focus on protecting youth through enhanced sur-

veillance. Traffic management was also identified as a key area, with plans to ease congestion and improve road safety. She thanked the government and senior leadership, affirming her commitment to effective, citizen-centric policing.

May Day Flag Hoisting Held at Rajiv Gruhakalpa

Quthbullapur, May 1 | TPN Bureau

A May Day celebration was at Rajiv Gruhakalpa in Suraram under the leadership of the RGK Auto Stand, marked by a flag-hoisting ceremony. BRS senior leader Warala Vinod attended as the chief guest and unfurled the flag.

Addressing the gathering, Vinod highlighted the crucial role of workers in driving the nation's progress. He stated that the growth and development of the country depend on the dedication and hard work of laborers. He particularly acknowledged the contribution of auto drivers, noting that they provide vital services to the public on a daily basis.



He emphasized the need for stronger welfare measures for workers and called on the government to take steps to improve their livelihoods. Stressing unity, he urged everyone to stand together to protect workers' rights and ensure their

well-being. The event saw participation from Auto Stand President Shiva, Working President Raju Yadav, General Secretary Rajesh, and several members, along with local leaders and residents.

Dumping Yard Pollution Sparks Anger in Dundigal Tandas

Quthbullapur, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Dundigal Tanda 1, 2, and Gagillapur Tanda have raised serious concerns over worsening pollution from a nearby dumping yard, alleging continued neglect by authorities. They say that despite claims of development and beautification, the core issues of foul smell, air contamination, and rising health problems remain unresolved.

Locals pointed out that crores have been spent on constructing boundary walls, yet no effective measures have been taken to control pollution. Many residents complain of breathing difficulties and increasing illness, describing daily life as unbearable.

Former Councilor Shankar Naik expressed frustration over the lack of response from officials despite repeated com-



plaints over the past year. He questioned the administration's priorities, emphasizing that public health should come first. Warning of intensified agitation, he stated that residents are prepared to launch protests if immediate action is

not taken. He added that if the issue remains unresolved within a week, the entire community will stage a large-scale demonstration and lay siege to the DC office demanding a permanent solution.

TPC Unveils 'Pro X' Digital Express Service

Medchal, May 1 | TPN Bureau

The Professional Courier (TPC) has introduced its new ultra-premium digital express service, 'Pro X', marking a major step in enhancing its logistics offerings. With nearly four decades of experience, the company has built a strong nationwide network serving both businesses and individuals.

The newly launched service aims to deliver faster, safer, and more efficient shipments using advanced technology. 'Pro X' will offer features such as real-time tracking, instant notifications, complete digital access, improved monitoring systems, and quicker delivery timelines.

TPC stated that the initiative is designed to meet evolving customer demands while ensuring reliability, transparency, and timely service. As part



of the rollout, a dedicated training program for staff will be conducted in Hyderabad on May 1, 2026. The service is set for a nationwide launch on May 4, 2026. Company repre-

sentatives expressed confidence that 'Pro X' will strengthen TPC's position in the logistics sector by elevating service quality, speed, and customer satisfaction.

May Day Protest Highlights Workers' Concerns

Nacharam | May 1 | TPN Bureau

Marking International May Day, State President Vemula Marayya participated in a trade union gathering organized by the Bharat State Committee in Nacharam, where he hoisted the flag and addressed workers. In his speech, Marayya criticized the Central Government's introduction of four new labor codes, alleging that they weaken existing labor protections and impose longer working hours, placing an unfair burden on workers.

He also targeted the Con-

gress-led State Government, claiming that the public transport system has deteriorated, adversely affecting employees dependent on it. Referring to a recent incident in Narayana-guda where two auto-rickshaws were gutted in a fire during refueling, Marayya expressed concern over the safety lapse. He urged the State Government to take responsibility for the mishap and provide ex-gratia compensation to the affected vehicle owners, emphasizing the need for immediate relief and stronger safety measures.

Telangana Women's University Tops National Rankings

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Vikasa Vedika members have expressed pride over Veeranaari Chakali Ilamma Women's University securing the top rank among women's universities in the Education World India Higher Education Rankings 2026-27. As Telangana's first women's university, this achievement is being seen as a major boost to higher education in the state.

The university excelled across multiple parameters, including academics, research, innovation, infrastructure, faculty quality, and student growth. Forum representatives stated that this success reflects

both effective governance and strong institutional leadership.

Dr. Bhukya Rajaram Naik and Dr. Yadavalli Saidulu meet Vice-Chancellor Prof. Surya Dhananjay to congratulate her on this accomplishment. They also appreciated the government's continued support in strengthening educational institutions.

Highlighting the role of faculty, staff, and students, they credited their collective efforts for the recognition. Calling it an inspiring milestone, they expressed confidence that the university will continue to achieve greater heights in the future.

20-Year Sentence in Minor Assault Case; Rs 3 Lakh Compensation Awarded

Quthbullapur, May 1 | TPN Bureau

A special court has sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in a case involving the assault of a minor girl reported under Jeedimetla Police Station limits last year. The case progressed swiftly, with police completing the investigation and filing a strong charge sheet, leading to a verdict within a year.

The accused, Asgar Ali (36), a daily wage worker from Subhash Nagar, was convicted under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the POCSO Act. The Special POCSO Court in Medchal, presided over by Judge K. Venkatesh, delivered the judgment. The court imposed several sentences under different sections, all to run concurrently, resulting in a total im-



prisonment of 20 years. A cumulative fine of 35,000 was also levied. Additionally, the court directed that 3 lakh be awarded to the victim as compensation.

The prosecution team, including Special Public Prosecutor G. Prabhakar Reddy and Investigating Officer G. Mallesh, was instrumental in ensuring timely justice in the case.



Serial Bike Thief Arrested; Six Vehicles Recovered

Quthbullapur, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Police arrested a habitual vehicle thief within Dundigal Police Station limits and recovered six stolen vehicles. The accused, Sayed Mahboob Pasha (50), was reportedly involved in multiple bike thefts across different areas.

According to officials, he primarily targeted unattended bikes and scooters left unlocked. After stealing them, he would hide the vehicles near his residence, often in bushes, before selling them. Using CCTV footage and technical evidence, the Crime Team tracked his movements and apprehended him near Bahadurpally Junction at around 5 pm

on April 30.

During the operation, police seized two motorcycles and four scooters, with a total estimated value of 3 lakh. Authorities revealed that six cases linked to these thefts have been registered—three at Dundigal Police Station and one each at Kachiguda, Medchal, and Boinpally police stations.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of the Medchal ACP, with active coordination from Dundigal SHO Satish, DI Bal Reddy, DN Eshwar, and the Crime Team. Police also advised citizens to install CCTV cameras and ensure proper vehicle security to prevent thefts.

Deputy CM Reaffirms Commitment to Workers' Welfare

Nalgonda, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated the state government's commitment to protecting workers' rights and welfare while participating in May Day celebrations held at the camp office of Miryalaguda MLA Bathula Lakshma Reddy. Marking the occasion, he joined workers for a community meal and extended his greetings to the labour force.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the global significance of May Day, recalling the historic struggle of workers in Chicago over a century ago for an eight-hour workday. He emphasized that such movements laid the foundation for labour rights worldwide. In the Indian context, he credited B. R.

Ambedkar for championing workers' welfare, ensuring legal safeguards, and securing the eight-hour work system. He also noted Ambedkar's role in advancing women's rights, including provisions for maternity benefits and equal opportunities.

The Deputy CM stressed that the Constitution enshrined protections for workers and marginalized sections, ensuring dignity and justice. He affirmed that the present government remains dedicated to continuing this legacy by prioritizing labour welfare.

Earlier, he visited Miryalaguda to pay condolences to the family of a former staff member who recently passed away. The event was attended by public representatives, officials, and local leaders.

SHE Team Strengthens Women's Safety Efforts in Adilabad

Adilabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan announced that the SHE Team in Adilabad has been actively working round the clock to ensure the safety and support of women across the district. Releasing the monthly report at the district police headquarters, he highlighted the team's proactive initiatives and achievements.

Over the past month, the SHE Team received 59 complaints and successfully addressed 50 cases through counseling. As part of their preventive strategy, the team conducted surprise inspections at around 130 identified hotspots to curb harassment and eve-teasing. During these operations, 55 individuals were caught engaging in inappropriate behavior and were counseled, while 40 cases were resolved through e-petty proceedings. Additionally,

three FIRs were registered.

A key achievement of the team was the prevention of five child marriages, made possible through timely information received from the public. Under the "Police Akka" initiative, the team organized 64 awareness programs in schools and colleges, educating young women about cybercrime, harassment, and social safety.

Officials also raised concerns about increasing cases of online exploitation, where individuals misuse personal photos or videos to blackmail women. They urged students to remain cautious in personal relationships and while using social media.

The SHE Team has also been spreading awareness in rural areas, covering over 50 villages. Women in distress can seek immediate help by dialing 100 or contacting 8712659953. A Bharosa Center has also been established to provide additional support services.

Reactor Blast Injures Nine at Pharma Unit

Nalgonda, May 1 | TPN Bureau

A reactor explosion at Nosh Pharma Labs in Pittampalli, Chityala mandal, left nine workers seriously injured, with several in critical condition. The injured were rushed

to nearby hospitals for treatment. This marks another accident at the unit, following a similar blast in Block-2 last month. Workers have voiced growing concern over repeated accidents and demanded stronger safety measures.

Record Rs 69.27 Crore Property Tax Collected in Advance

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

City residents have shown a strong response to advance property tax payments, helping authorities achieve a record collection of Rs 69.27 crore this financial year, according to Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok. This marks a significant increase compared to last year's advance collection of Rs 56.27 crore.

The Commissioner attributed this achievement to consistent awareness efforts targeting tax defaulters. Regular reminders through messages and notices encouraged timely payments. In addition, the administration improved accessibility by setting up special

help desks, increasing the number of payment counters, and extending working hours to facilitate taxpayers.

He appreciated the cooperation of citizens in meeting the target and acknowledged the efforts of officials who contributed to the success. Deputy Commissioners, Revenue Officers, Inspectors, and Administrative Secretaries were recognized for their role in driving collections and ensuring smooth operations.

The milestone reflects growing public participation and improved administrative efficiency in tax collection, setting a positive trend for future revenue mobilization.

20,000 from the conductor and passenger to avoid filing a case.

Angered by the demand, the conductor reportedly attacked the officer with a slipper, and some passengers joined the assault. The incident has triggered serious concerns over both misconduct and rising tensions during enforcement checks.

RTC Check Sparks Clash; Officer Assaulted

Sangareddy, May 1 | TPN Bureau

A routine inspection of an RTC bus traveling from Hyderabad to Narayankhed near Raikode turned violent after a dispute between checking staff and passengers. During the inspection, officials found a passenger without a valid ticket and allegedly demanded Rs

24-Hour Water Supply Disruption

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has announced a 24-hour drinking water shutdown in several parts of the city from 6 am on Saturday due to maintenance works at the Asifnagar filter beds, including cleaning of an old balancing reservoir.

According to officials, supply will be affected in multiple zones including Golconda, Goshamahahal, Karwan, Jubilee Hills, and Kavadiiguda. The maintenance work is part of routine infrastructure upkeep under different Operation & Maintenance divisions.

In the Goshamahahal and Karwan circles, areas such as Red Hills, Nampally, Malleshpally, Sitarambagh, Ghode-ki-Khabar, Assembly, Secretariat, MLA Quarters, Adarsh Nagar, South Central Railway (Nampally), and Gunfoundry will face disruption.



Under the Golconda zone, localities including Chintal Basti, Vijayanagar Colony, Old Malleshpally, Asifnagar, and Ahmednagar will also be affected. In the Kavadiiguda circle, Kavadiiguda, Gandhinagar, and Domalguda areas are expected to experience water shortage. Similarly, in the Jubilee Hills circle, Banjara Hills residents will face supply interruptions.

Officials have advised residents to store sufficient water in advance and cooperate during the maintenance period. Normal water supply is expected to resume after completion of the works.

Gig Workers' Act Approved; Relief for Delivery and Cab Drivers

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

In a major development for thousands of gig workers, the Governor has approved the Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers Act, 2026, offering legal protection to delivery personnel and cab drivers in the unorganized sector. The government is set to issue the official Gazette notification on the occasion of May Day, formally recognizing the rights of

these workers.

The new law aims to address long-standing issues such as low earnings, high work pressure, and the absence of social security. It proposes benefits including job security, accident and health insurance, and access to welfare schemes for those working with app-based platforms.

Officials have begun preparations to ensure effective implementation, with the Labour Department planning consultations with aggregators and worker representatives. Key aspects like working hours, grievance mechanisms, and the creation of a welfare fund will be finalized during these discussions.

Detailed guidelines are expected within 10 to 15 days. Once enforced, the Act is likely to bring greater accountability to platform companies while improving working conditions and financial security for gig workers across the state.

RTC Conductor Booked for Assaulting Checking Staff

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has condemned an incident in which a conductor allegedly assaulted a checking inspector during duty in Sangareddy district. The management has ordered strict departmental and legal action against the accused, Devsoth Vasanth, for obstructing officials and provoking passengers to join the attack.

According to officials, the incident occurred around 8:30

am when an enforcement team was conducting inspections on the Zaheerabad-Narayankhed route. During a check near Kappad village, they found that the conductor had collected fare from a passenger without issuing a ticket. When authorities attempted to issue a charge memo, the conductor reportedly argued with them, seized official documents, and incited passengers. The situation escalated into a physical assault, leaving one officer with a hand injury and another with a head injury.

A complaint was lodged at Raikode Police Station, and a case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the conductor and others involved.

Reacting to the incident, TG-SRTC Managing Director Y. Nagireddy stated that such misconduct will not be tolerated. He emphasized that strict action would be taken against anyone attacking staff on duty and urged employees to maintain discipline and professionalism.

Klaasen's Simple Auto Ride Wins Hearts

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

During a break in the Indian Premier League, Heinrich Klaasen, a key player for Sunrisers Hyderabad, was seen enjoying a casual auto-rickshaw ride in Hyderabad with his daughter. His down-to-earth gesture surprised fans and quickly drew admiration for his simplicity.

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

Amaravati, May 01 | 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 com-

mission's findings further reinforced 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.



Husnabad Renuka Yellamma Festival Begins with Grand Rituals

Husnabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

The annual festival of Sri Renuka Yellamma commenced in Husnabad, drawing large numbers of devotees from across Telangana. The month-long celebrations are expected to attract lakhs of pilgrims.

The opening day featured the sacred celestial wedding (Kalyanam) of the Goddess with Sage Jamadagni, which was conducted with traditional rituals and devotion. On this occasion, Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi offered silk robes to the deity and participated in the ceremony, performing special prayers.

Several public representatives and officials attended the event, including Municipal Chairperson Dandi Lakshmi, Vice-Chairperson Chittari Padma, local councilors, and senior administrative officers. Temple authorities and committee members also took part in organizing the festivities.

The festival is set to continue for a month with various religious and cultural programs, attracting devotees seeking blessings and spiritual fulfillment.



PCC Chief Voices Support for Workers' Rights

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

At Gandhi Bhavan, PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized the importance of workers, stating that society cannot function without their contribution. He asserted that workers deserve dignity and respect, and should never be treated as bonded labour or exploited. Highlighting the legacy of the Congress party, he noted that several pro-labour laws were introduced to safeguard

workers' rights. He also credited Jawaharlal Nehru for playing a key role in implementing the eight-hour workday system in India. Criticizing the policies of the current central leadership under Narendra Modi, he alleged that workers' rights are being weakened. He warned that any attempt to undermine labour protections would be strongly opposed, affirming that the Congress party will continue to stand firmly in support of workers.

Heatwave Grips Telangana, Temperatures Cross 45°C

Hyderabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

Large parts of Telangana are reeling under intense heatwave conditions, with temperatures soaring sharply during the day. While the morning itself was unusually hot, mercury levels climbed further by afternoon, ranging between 40°C and 45°C across several regions. The city of Hyderabad recorded around 42°C, making outdoor conditions extremely uncomfortable.

The scorching heat has forced people to stay indoors, leaving roads largely deserted. In northern districts like Adil-

abad and Nizamabad, temperatures touched nearly 44°C, adding to the hardship faced by residents. Farmers and daily wage workers have adjusted their schedules, choosing to work only during early mornings or late evenings to avoid peak heat hours.

The Meteorological Department has cautioned that the prevailing heatwave is likely to continue for the next few days. Authorities have urged citizens to limit outdoor movement, stay hydrated, and take necessary precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke.

Six Killed in Tragic ORR Crash Near Shamshabad

Shamshabad, May 1 | TPN Bureau

A devastating road accident claimed six lives on the Outer Ring Road near Shamshabad in Ranga Reddy district. The incident occurred when a high-speed car rammed into the rear of a stationary lorry along the roadside. According to initial reports, the car was traveling from Pedda Golconda towards Shamshabad when the driver lost control near ORR Exit-16. The vehicle crashed with great force into the parked lorry and got lodged underneath it. The impact was so severe that the car was completely crushed, leaving little chance for survival for those inside. Tragically, all six occupants of the car died on the spot. Among the victims

were reportedly children, making the incident even more distressing. Several others were also said to have sustained serious injuries in the crash. Local residents quickly informed the authorities, following which police teams rushed to the spot and began rescue operations. It took considerable effort to pull the mangled car out from beneath the lorry and recover the victims. The bodies were later shifted to a nearby hospital for post-mortem examinations. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the accident. Officials are examining whether overspeeding or driver fatigue led to the mishap. Further details are expected as the inquiry progresses.

The redevelopment of Dhara vi 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.

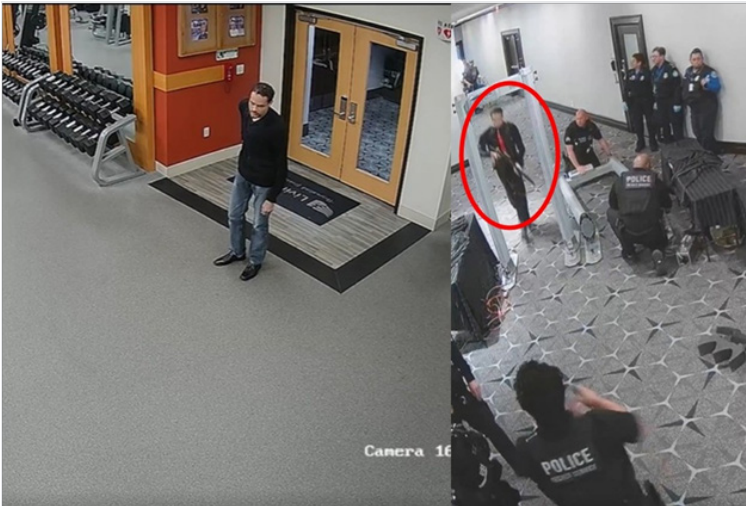
Allen has been charged with multiple serious federal offences, including attempted assassination, illegal transport of firearms for criminal

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.



Prabhas' Fauzi Universe Expands, Makers Hint at Prequel Exploring Hero's Origins

Prabhas' upcoming period action drama Fauzi is already one of the most anticipated films in Indian cinema, and now the makers have added another exciting layer to the project. According to the latest update, a prequel to Fauzi is being considered, opening the door for a larger cinematic universe around the story.

The producers have revealed that while Fauzi is not being developed as a typical sequel-driven franchise, there is strong potential for a prequel that explores the origins of the protagonist.

They pointed out that a significant portion of the character's backstory remains unexplored in the main film. This narrative gap has inspired the team to think about expanding the story backwards in time, focusing on how the lead character evolved into the powerful figure seen in Fauzi.

Interestingly, early pre-production work for the prequel is already underway, indicating that the idea is more than just speculation.

Unlike many big-budget films that are designed with sequels in mind, Fauzi is being approached differently. The makers have clarified that the story itself naturally lends scope for expansion, rather than being forcefully extended into multiple parts.

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



Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, Fauzi is set in the pre-Independence era and features Prabhas in the role of a soldier in a period backdrop. The film is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers and is mounted on a grand scale, with strong expectations from fans and trade circles.

Recent updates indicate that the film's shoot is nearing completion, with only a few action sequences left to be filmed.

The idea of a prequel aligns with a growing trend in Indian cinema, where filmmakers are increasingly building extended universes around strong characters and stories. Instead of continuing the narrative forward, prequels allow creators

to dive deeper into a character's past, adding emotional and thematic depth.

In the case of Fauzi, such a move could provide audiences with a more complete understanding of the hero's journey, motivations, and transformation.

The possibility of a Fauzi prequel has added fresh excitement around the film. While the main movie itself is yet to release, the makers' confidence in the story's depth signals big plans ahead.

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.

Jr NTR's "Dragon" Transformation, From Lean Look to 'Beast Mode' Bulk-Up Sparks Buzz

Jr NTR is once again grabbing attention for his dramatic physical transformation for director Prashanth Neel's upcoming film Dragon. The actor, known for his commitment to intense roles, is reportedly preparing for a second major body change after his earlier lean look went viral and sparked widespread discussion among fans.

Initially, NTR surprised audiences with a significantly lean and chiselled physique, which was part of his preparation for the action-heavy role. The transformation was so striking that it dominated social media, with fans reacting strongly—some praising his dedication, while others expressed concern over his drastic weight loss.

Reports later revealed that the actor had undergone a strict fitness regime and lost nearly 9.5 kg within a few weeks to achieve that lean appearance. His training reportedly focused on functional workouts, cardio sessions, and a carefully controlled diet designed to reduce muscle mass and achieve agility for the role.



However, the latest buzz suggests that the story doesn't end there.

According to industry updates, Jr NTR is now gearing up for a second transformation—this time moving in the opposite direction. Instead of staying lean, he is expected to bulk up significantly to achieve a powerful, "beast mode" physique for key portions of Dragon.

Sources indicate that this transformation is being carefully planned under the guidance

of a specialized fitness trainer. The goal is to build a stronger, more muscular frame that suits the intense action sequences envisioned by director Prashanth Neel.

Interestingly, reports suggest that the film may showcase multiple physical versions of the actor, with different body types representing different phases or timelines of the story. This dual transformation approach is expected to add depth to the character and elevate the film's

visual impact.

Fans have been closely following every update about NTR's look, with gym pictures and behind-the-scenes visuals frequently going viral. His dedication to transforming his body for the role has been widely appreciated, even as discussions continue about the extreme nature of the changes.

The "lean vs bulked-up" contrast has only increased curiosity around Dragon, which is already one of the most anticipated pan-India films in production.

Directed by Prashanth Neel, Dragon is being mounted on a massive scale and is expected to be a high-octane action entertainer. NTR's physical transformation is seen as a key element in bringing authenticity and intensity to the character. As the actor continues to push his limits with back-to-back transformations, expectations for the film are only rising. For now, fans are eagerly waiting to see how this "beast mode" evolution unfolds on screen—and how drastically different Jr NTR will look in the final film.

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

Rising South Indian actress Rukmini Vasanth, who has been steadily gaining attention through a series of big-ticket projects, is reportedly facing a delay in her much-anticipated career breakout due to repeated postponements of several high-profile films she is associated with.

Rukmini, who gained recognition with performances in Kannada cinema and later expanded into Telugu and pan-India projects, has been linked with some of the most talked-about upcoming films in the industry. However, schedule changes and production delays in these films have pushed back what many expected to be her "big break" phase.

One of the key reasons for the slowdown is the shifting timeline of her major projects. She is part of Toxic, starring Yash, and the much-anticipated Dragon, directed by Prashanth Neel and featuring Jr NTR. Both films are considered massive pan-India ventures, but their production schedules have undergone changes.

Reports indicate that Toxic has seen adjustments in its release planning, while Dragon—initially expected to release earlier—has now reportedly been pushed to a later window, potentially stretching into 2026-2027 depending on production progress.



Industry observers note that such delays are increasingly common in big-budget cinema, where large-scale production, VFX-heavy sequences, and star availability often push schedules forward. While this slows down immediate visibility for actors, it often results in bigger, more impactful releases later.

The postponement of major films is not limited to Rukmini's projects alone. The Indian film industry is currently witnessing a wave of delays, especially in large-scale productions involving top stars.

Factors such as extended shooting schedules, post-production demands, OTT negotiations, and distribution planning are contributing to shifting release calendars.

Even with delays, Rukmini's upcoming lineup remains strong. She continues to be associated with multiple big projects that are expected to release over the next few years, keeping her firmly in the spotlight.

There are also industry rumours about additional casting opportunities and possible new pan-India collaborations, reflecting her rising demand across industries.

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

Popular South Indian actress Trisha Krishnan has once again grabbed attention on social media, this time with a quirky yet thought-provoking Instagram story about her sleep schedule. The post, which quickly went viral, left fans both amused and concerned.

In her Instagram story, Trisha shared an interesting quote about sleep deprivation. It stated that losing just one hour of sleep can take four days to recover. Adding a humorous twist, she wrote that based on this calculation, she might only return to a "normal, well-rested state" by the year 2062.

This witty remark instantly caught the attention of fans, who began discussing what she meant and whether it hinted at something deeper.

The timing of Trisha's post played a role in its virality. She has recently been in the spotlight due to:

- Increased public appearances
- Buzz around Tamil Nadu politics involving actor Vijay
- Ongoing speculation and media attention surrounding her

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

While many fans appreciated

the humor in her statement, others expressed concern about her health and well-being. Some interpreted the post as a sign of stress or lack of proper rest, while others took it as a relatable joke about modern lifestyles and irregular sleep patterns.

There were also playful reactions, with fans calculating the "lost sleep hours" and joking about how busy her life must be to push "recovery" all the way to 2062.

Interestingly, Trisha has previously mentioned her unusual sleep habits in interviews and posts. Reports suggest she often struggles with consistent sleep schedules, especially due to hectic shooting routines and night schedules in the film industry. On the professional front, Trisha continues to stay busy with multiple projects across languages. She is part of upcoming films like Karuppu (Tamil) and Vishwambhara (Telugu), keeping her firmly in the spotlight.

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.