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IT Department Joins ED Probe, Deepens Crackdown in Andhra Liquor Scam

Amaravati,May02|TPN Bureau
The alleged Andhra Pradesh liquor scam has entered a critical phase, evolving from a state-level controversy into a high-profile, multi-agency investigation. With the Income Tax (IT) Department joining the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the financial network behind the scam is now under sharp scrutiny.

Preliminary findings indicate that nearly 2,000 crore in illicit funds may have been generated through irregularities in liquor operations. Investigators have found evidence suggesting that distilleries inflated payments to vendors—sometimes up to five times the actual cost—while also creating fake invoices for goods that were never supplied.

In a significant development, officials suspect that a large portion of these illegal earnings was converted into unac-



counted cash to evade detection. The funds were then allegedly routed abroad through hawala channels, with an estimated 50 to 60 crore being transferred to Dubai every month. While the ED continues its probe into money laundering—focusing on tracking and attaching proceeds of crime—the IT Department has

launched a parallel investigation into tax evasion, undisclosed income, and benami transactions. Notices are expected to be issued soon to key individuals, which could reveal details about hawala operators and overseas financial links.

Sources indicate that influential figures may have played

a role in diverting funds abroad rather than retaining them within the country. The IT Department is also examining how these funds were reinvested, including possible stakes in businesses and hidden ownership structures.

With both agencies sharing intelligence, officials believe that avenues for evasion are rapidly shrinking. The IT Department is empowered not only to impose heavy penalties but also to classify such earnings as undisclosed income and seize related assets.

Experts note that while ED investigations can result in imprisonment upon conviction, simultaneous action by the IT Department can cripple the financial base of those involved. As the probe deepens, further revelations are expected, potentially expanding the scope of the case and bringing more individuals under investigation.



Green Signal for Twin Towers in Amaravati's Quantum Valley

Major Boost to Capital Infrastructure; 1,208 Crore Sanctioned for Shell and Core Works

Amaravati,May02|TPN Bureau

In a significant push to accelerate the development of Andhra Pradesh's capital, the state government has approved the construction of twin office towers in the emerging Quantum Valley region of Amaravati. The project, envisioned as a cornerstone of the capital's administrative and commercial infrastructure, has received formal administrative clearance. The Department of Municipal Administration has sanctioned 1,208.41 crore for the "shell and core" construction of the two towers (T1 and T2). The approval follows a decision taken during the 60th meeting of the APCRDA Authority held on April 23.

Design-Build Model for Fast-Track Execution

The government has opted for the 'Design-Build Lump Sum Percentage' model for executing the project. This approach entrusts a single contractor with end-to-end responsibility, including de-

sign, planning, and construction, ensuring streamlined execution and reduced timelines.

Authorities have directed the Amaravati Growth and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd. (AGICL) to immediately initiate the tendering process. The Managing Director of AGICL will oversee project implementation and supervision.

Catalyst for Growth

Officials said the twin towers are expected to serve as a major catalyst for Amaravati's growth, particularly in the IT, administrative, and commercial sectors. Envisioned as modern, state-of-the-art structures, the towers are likely to become prominent landmarks in the capital region.

The move is also seen as part of the government's broader strategy to position Amaravati as a global city. With construction activities gaining momentum, the project is expected to boost investor confidence and stimulate real estate activity across the region.

The approval of the twin towers marks another step forward in revitalizing Amaravati's long-term development plans.

Govt Brings Cheer to Amaravati Farmers with Lease Hike, Loan Waiver

Amaravati,May02|TPN Bureau

In a significant move aimed at supporting farmers who parted with their lands for the development of the capital city, the Andhra Pradesh government has issued fresh orders enhancing annual lease payments and rolling out a loan waiver scheme. The decision, taken under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has brought cheer to thousands of families across the Amaravati region.

As per the latest Government Order, the annual lease



for dry land has been increased from 30,000 to 50,000, while

wet land lease has been raised from 50,000 to 75,000. The revised lease will also carry a 5 per cent annual increment, offering sustained financial support to farmers who participated in the Land Pooling Scheme.

In another major relief measure, the government has announced a loan waiver of up to 1.5 lakh for eligible farmers. Around 22,000 farmers who contributed land for the capital project are expected to benefit from this initiative, which aims to ease financial stress caused by years of uncertainty and stalled development.

The government has also extended support to landless labourers in the capital region by doubling their monthly pension from 2,500 to 5,000, reinforcing its commitment to social welfare.

Officials say the measures are part of a broader effort to revive confidence in Amaravati's development while ensuring justice to those who made significant sacrifices for the state's capital. Analysts believe the decisions could accelerate infrastructure activity and attract fresh investment into the region.



IMD Projects Advanced Monsoon Onset

Amaravati,May02|TPN Bureau

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated the likelihood of an early onset of the Southwest monsoon this year, bringing prospects of enhanced rainfall activity over parts of the country. According to IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the monsoon is expected to reach the Andaman and Nicobar Islands between May 14 and May 16, slightly ahead of its normal schedule.

Rainfall activity associated with the monsoon is likely to commence over the Andaman and Nicobar region between May 14 and May 20, marking an important phase in its progression towards the Indian mainland. The IMD has also projected that the country may receive above-normal rainfall during May.

The weather office has forecast the possibility of heavy rainfall over parts of South and West India. In contrast, rainfall is expected to remain below normal over the North-eastern region and certain parts of East-Central India.

The IMD has further cautioned that elevated temperatures are likely to persist during both day and night across several regions in May. However, parts of the southern pen-

insula may experience normal to below-normal temperatures. Coastal states, including Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, are expected to witness increased discomfort due to humid conditions driven by moisture-laden winds.

Under normal conditions, the Southwest monsoon reaches the Kerala coast around June 1 and advances across the country in a systematic manner. It typically arrives in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the first week of June, reaches Mumbai by around June 10, and covers Delhi-NCR between June 27 and June 30, before enveloping the entire country by mid-July.

The IMD noted that the advance of the monsoon is influenced by several factors, including sea surface temperatures, wind patterns and the formation of low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

While the IMD is yet to formally declare the onset of the monsoon, global weather models, including those from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (EC-MWF), suggest that the monsoon could reach Kerala by the last week of May. Some projections indicate a rapid advance towards South India if favourable conditions persist.

IED Blast in Chhattisgarh's Kanker Claims Lives of Three DRG Personnel

KANKER,May02|TPN Bureau

Three personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Saturday afternoon, police said. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Chhotebethiya police station, along the border of Kanker and Narayanpur districts, when security personnel were engaged in an operation to detect and defuse landmines allegedly planted by Maoists.

According to officials, the explosion was triggered during the defusal process, resulting in the instantaneous death of three jawans. Another personnel sustained serious injuries and was shifted to a nearby hospital, where his condition is stated to be stable. Police sources said that the area has long been affected by left-wing extremism, with



Maoist groups planting explosives in forested stretches of the Bastar region over several decades. Despite recent claims by the State government declaring the region "Maoist-free," unexploded devices continue to pose a threat to both security forces and civilians.

Police Suspends CI Chinnamallaiah

Guntur,May02|TPN Bureau

A Circle Inspector has been placed under suspension following serious allegations of sexual assault in Andhra Pradesh's Palnadu district, police officials said on Saturday.

Guntur Range Inspector General Sarvashrestha Tripathi ordered the suspension of CI Chinnamallaiah to ensure a fair and transparent investigation into the case. The action comes after a woman from Vinukonda lodged a complaint on April 30, accusing the officer of entering her residence and sexually assaulting her while she was alone.

According to police sources, the complainant had earlier lived as a tenant in a house



owned by the accused officer. Based on her complaint, a case was registered at the local po-

lice station, and preliminary evidence was collected.

Officials confirmed that the victim underwent medical examination, and a report was subsequently submitted to higher authorities. Acting on these findings, disciplinary action was initiated, leading to the officer's suspension.

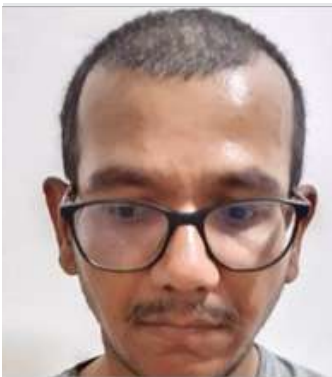
Chinnamallaiah, who earlier served as the CI of Vinukonda, is currently listed under Vacancy Reserve (VR). Meanwhile, reports indicate that he has been absconding since the registration of the case.

Police authorities stated that a detailed inquiry is underway and assured that strict action will be taken in accordance with the law once the investigation is complete.

Government Employee Turns Chain Snatcher, Arrested in Kadiri

Kadiri, May02|TPN Bureau

In a shocking incident, a government employee earning over 1 lakh per month was arrested for involvement in chain snatching cases in Kadiri town of Andhra Pradesh. According to police officials, the accused, identified as Ramesh Naik (42), is a resident of Maruthinagar. Despite holding a well-paying government job, he allegedly turned to crime and engaged in chain snatching activities. Kadiri DSP J. Shivanarayana Swamy stated that the accused was apprehended by the police following an investigation into recent chain snatching incidents in the area. The arrest exposed a surprising contrast between his stable government



employment and his involvement in criminal activities.

Police have taken the accused into custody and further investigation is underway to determine his involvement in other similar cases.

A.P. attracts 15,000-crore stealth fighter project from DRDO

Amaravati,May02|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government's efforts to position the State as a hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing have received a major boost, with the proposed establishment of a 15,000-crore aircraft manufacturing facility by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Sri Sathya Sai district. The project, to be located near Puttaparthi, will focus on the production of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), India's fifth-generation stealth fighter. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is expected to lay the foundation stone for the facility on May 15, according to official sources.

The State government has allotted 600 acres for the project, with an additional 400 acres earmarked for future expansion. The AMCA programme is a key component of India's defence strategy, aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the Indian Air Force and Navy through indigenous technology. Officials indicated that efforts are being made to expedite construction, with a target to roll out the first prototype by 2029. Full-scale production is envisaged by 2035. The AMCA is expected to eventually replace the Sukhoi Su-30 fighter aircraft in service. The development is part of a broader push to attract defence and aerospace investments to the region. Bharat Electronics Lim-



ited (BEL) is already setting up a Defence Systems Integration Complex over 1,000 acres near Palasamudram with an investment of 500 crore. In addition, Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited has proposed a Defence Energetics Manufacturing Complex in Madakasira, spread across 1,000 acres with an investment of 2,500 crore.

The Sri Sathya Sai district's proximity to Bengaluru — about 130 km from the Kempegowda International Airport — is seen as a key advantage. The presence of an airport at Puttaparthi further enhances its logistical appeal.

With limited scope for expansion of defence projects in Bengaluru, industry observers note that companies are increasingly looking at nearby regions such as Sri Sathya Sai district. Officials believe more investments are likely to follow, reinforcing the State's ambition to emerge as a major defence manufacturing hub.

APSCH

makes elaborate arrangements for AP ICET 2026 examination

Vijayawada, May02|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCH) has completed all necessary arrangements for the conduct of the AP ICET 2026 examination, scheduled to be held on May 3 across the State.

According to a press note issued by APSCH Secretary T. Prasada Rao, a total of 49,021 candidates has registered for the entrance test, which will be conducted in two sessions — from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Candidates have been advised to report at their respective examination centres well in advance of the commencement of the test. Entry into the centres will be permitted from 2 p.m. for the first session and from 5.30 p.m. for the second session.

Strict guidelines have been issued to ensure smooth conduct of the examination. Candidates must carry their hall tickets along with a valid photo identity proof. Electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, calculators, and other devices are



strictly prohibited inside the examination halls.

Authorities have also instructed candidates to adhere to all examination protocols and cooperate with officials at the centres.

The APSCH has made arrangements for a large number of test centres across Andhra Pradesh to facilitate candidates appearing for the entrance examination. Officials stated that all necessary measures have been put in place to ensure a fair and transparent conduct of the test.

The results are expected to be announced in due course following the evaluation process.

AP Transco Launches Internship Programme with Focus on Live Assignments

Vijayawada, May02|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (AP Transco) has introduced an innovative summer internship programme aimed at providing hands-on experience to students by engaging them in real-time projects instead of conventional observational training.

The initiative invites students from IITs and other recognised institutions to work on practical assignments linked to power transmission, grid planning, and system operations. Unlike traditional internships, this programme is structured around clearly defined problem statements, requiring participants to deliver tangible outputs such as analytical models, software tools, dashboards, and technical documentation.



AP Transco has identified 44 problem statements across 10 functional wings, covering key areas such as renewable energy forecasting, substation automation, cybersecurity, asset management, and power market operations. Interns will be attached to specific departments and mentored by senior officials, with their progress

evaluated through milestone-based reviews including inception reports, interim submissions, and final presentations.

The duration of the internship ranges from eight to twelve weeks, with the possibility of extension based on performance and project requirements. Eligible candidates include undergraduate students who have completed three years of study, postgraduate students after one year, and recent graduates. A minimum academic score of 70% is required. The programme also offers stipends ranging from 10,000 to 25,000 per month depending on the institution. With its focus on practical problem-solving and industry-relevant exposure, AP Transco aims to build a skilled talent pipeline while contributing to modernising the state's power sector.



Naidu Visits Pawan Kalyan, Wishes Him Speedy Recovery

Hyderabad, May02|TPN Bureau

Nara Chandrababu Naidu visited Pawan Kalyan at his residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, on Saturday to inquire about his health. Pawan Kalyan has been recuperating after undergoing nasal surgery for sinusitis last month. He reportedly fell ill in April during an administrative review meeting and

was immediately hospitalized, where doctors recommended surgery. The procedure was successfully conducted in Hyderabad, after which he was advised to take at least ten days of rest and follow extended health precautions. During the visit, Naidu checked on his recovery progress and conveyed his wishes for a quick return to normal duties



Ayurveda College Harassment Case: Officials Suspended, Probe Intensifies

Vijayawada, May02|TPN Bureau

Authorities have initiated strict action following a reported sexual harassment incident at Dr. Nori Ramasastry Government Ayurveda Medical College in Vijayawada. Ronanki Gopalakrishna, In-charge Commissioner of AYUSH, announced the suspension of Dr. D. Mouli Naik, Medical Officer and Assistant Professor, along with Lab Technician K.V. Subrahmanyam for their alleged involvement. In addition, the college Principal, Dr. K. Nirmala Jyothibai, and Professor K. Vijayakumari of the PSP Department have been relieved of their duties and surren-

dered to the government, citing negligence and failure in responsibly handling the matter.

An internal inquiry has been launched within the institution to investigate the allegations. Simultaneously, the Commissioner has written to NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha, urging the formation of an independent committee to ensure a fair and transparent probe. The issue came to light after complaints were submitted via email to both the State Women's Commission and the government. Authorities have assured that appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the investigations.



CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu Pays Tribute to Industrialist Dr. G.N. Naidu

Hyderabad, May02|TPN Bureau

Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh paid their last respects to the mortal remains of Dr. G.N. Naidu, a noted industrialist and head of the Yanam Regency Group, who passed away after an illness. The leaders visited Naidu's residence in Hyderabad on Saturday, where they offered floral tributes and expressed their condolences to the bereaved family members. Speaking on the occasion,

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu recalled his long-standing association with Dr. G.N. Naidu. He praised the industrialist's significant contributions in creating employment opportunities for youth through the Regency Group of companies, as well as his commitment to social service. Expressing deep sorrow over his demise, the Chief Minister stated that the Telugu community has lost a distinguished industrialist whose contributions will be remembered for years to come

RTGS CCTV360 Strengthens Policing with Real-Time Surveillance Support

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

The Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) is emerging as a critical technological backbone for law enforcement in Andhra Pradesh, significantly enhancing the speed and efficiency of criminal investigations. Its CCTV360 surveillance platform has recently played a decisive role in solving multiple cases, ranging from missing persons to serious crimes.

In a series of incidents, the system enabled police to trace three missing women, including two minors, by leveraging real-time image matching and alert mechanisms. In one case, a missing minor from Kurnool district was located in Vijayawada within days, while another girl from Nandyal was traced to Ongole using coordinated digital tracking. Similarly, a missing woman from Chittoor district was identified and intercepted after the sys-



tem tracked her movement across multiple locations.

RTGS CCTV360 also proved crucial in cracking a murder and robbery case in Tadepalligudem, where surveillance footage provided vital leads, leading to the swift arrest of the accused and recovery of stolen property. In another instance, a stolen motorcycle was tracked across districts and recovered with the help of automated number plate recognition. Officials note that the platform's ability to provide real-time intelligence and facilitate inter-district coordination is transforming policing. By integrating advanced surveillance tools, RTGS is enabling faster response times and more effective crime detection across the state.

Boosting Coconut Farmers' Income: Minister Unveils New Plans

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

Kondapalli Srinivas, State Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), announced that the government is formulating plans to generate additional income for coconut farmers by promoting coconut-based products and tapping into global market opportunities.

Highlighting the vast scope for coconut cultivation in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Ambedkar Konaseema district, the Minister stressed the need to strengthen the sector through value addition. As part of this initiative, he visited the Eco Coir Cluster India Private Limited facility in Polachi, Tamil Nadu, established under the Central Government's SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries).

During his visit, the Minister examined the operations of the Common Facility Center



(CFC), spread across 35,000 square feet. He closely observed the production of high-demand export products such as PVC tufted coir mats, geotextiles, cocopeat blocks, and mulch mats. He noted that the Pollachi cluster serves as a model for transforming the coir industry through modern technology and efficient practices. The Minister appreciated how discarded coconut husk is converted into valuable products, creating employment opportunities for local farmers

and women. He emphasized that adopting similar practices in Andhra Pradesh could significantly benefit rural livelihoods.

Inspired by this model, he stated that the government plans to establish similar coir processing units in the state. He also assured that MSME units would be encouraged to explore international markets for eco-friendly coconut-based products, thereby ensuring sustainable income growth for farmers.

Severe Heat Persists Across Andhra Pradesh; Isolated Showers Likely

VIJAYAWADA, May02|TPN Bureau

Severe heat conditions continued to grip large parts of Andhra Pradesh, with the State Disaster Management Authority reporting extreme temperatures across multiple districts. A maximum temperature of 45.4°C was recorded in Kopperapadu of Prakasam district on Saturday, marking one of the highest readings of the season.

Officials stated that 239 mandals in 17 districts experienced

temperatures above 41°C, with Kadapa district reporting the most intense impact. Other severely affected districts included Nellore, Tirupati, Palnadu, and Prakasam. Heatwave conditions are expected to persist in 124 mandals across several districts, while particularly intense conditions are likely in parts of Guntur district. Several locations recorded temperatures above 44°C, underscoring the severity of the ongoing heat spell. Authorities have advised residents to avoid pro-

longed exposure to the sun and to take necessary precautions against heat-related illnesses.

Meanwhile, a weather system extending from Rajasthan to southern India may bring some relief. Scattered light rains accompanied by lightning are likely in parts of north coastal and southern districts. Farmers and field workers have been cautioned against taking shelter under trees during thunderstorms and advised to remain vigilant.

No Power Cuts, Says Minister Ravi Kumar

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar has directed power utility officials to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply across Andhra Pradesh during the peak summer season, stressing that no power cuts should be imposed under any circumstances. At a teleconference held with the heads of power utilities, the Minister underscored the government's firm commitment to maintaining round-the-clock power supply, even as demand surges due to rising tempera-



tures. He acknowledged that unseasonal rains and extreme heat may occasionally disrupt supply but instructed officials to initiate immediate restora-

tion measures in such instances.

Making the government's position clear, Mr. Ravi Kumar said there should be neither official nor unofficial power cuts anywhere in the State. He added that if supply has to be suspended due to unavoidable technical reasons, advance information must be provided to the public to minimise inconvenience.

During the review, the Minister sought explanations for complaints from certain areas despite adequate power availability. Officials attributed the disruptions to transformer

failures caused by excessive heat and localised interruptions triggered by unexpected weather conditions. Expressing concern over these issues, the Minister directed officials to remain vigilant and ensure swift resolution of faults. He emphasised that responding promptly to public grievances was essential to prevent hardship to citizens.

Reiterating the government's commitment to reliable power supply, Mr. Ravi Kumar called upon field staff to act with urgency and accountability to maintain consistent service across the State.

AP SSC 2026: Applications Open for Recounting and Re-verification

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has invited applications from students seeking recounting of marks and re-verification of answer scripts for the SSC (10th Class) Public Examinations 2026. The announcement was made by Dr. K.V. Srinivasulu Reddy, Director of Government Examinations, following the recent release of results. According to the official notification, students who are dissatisfied with their marks can apply online through their respective school login portals. The application window is open from May 1 to May 7, 2026. Students are advised to contact their school Headmasters for assistance in submitting applications within the

deadline.

The fee structure has been set at 500 per subject for recounting and 1,000 per subject for re-verification. Payments must be made only through the online payment gateway available on the official website, www.bse.ap.gov.in, using Debit Card, Credit Card, Net Banking, or UPI. Authorities have clarified that payments through CFMS Citizen Challan will not be accepted.

In a student-friendly move, the department has introduced a new facility allowing students to download scanned copies of answer scripts via WhatsApp Governance (Mana Mitra service: 9552300009), in addition to access through school logins. For detailed information, students can visit the official website.



A.P. to set up 15 urban crèches in three cities

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

The Coalition government will roll out a pilot project to establish 15 urban crèches in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati, aimed at supporting working mothers from economically weaker sections and improving early childhood care. The initiative, led by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, seeks to provide safe and accessible daycare services for children aged six months to six years, particularly those from self-help group (SHG) families and urban poor households. Each crèche is expected to accommodate about 25 children, covering nearly 375 beneficiaries under the pilot. Officials said the programme will be implemented over a 12-month period with an estimated outlay of 1.5 crore. Existing public infrastructure such as municipal buildings and community halls will be utilised, with priority given to slums, labour clusters and areas with a high concentration of SHG

households.

The project will be executed by the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) in collaboration with Mobile Crèches as the technical partner, and in coordination with the Women Development and Child Welfare Department. Services at the centres will include childcare, nutrition support and early learning, along with linkages to government systems such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Support from anganwadi workers, auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs) and urban health centres will ensure immunisation tracking, growth monitoring and referral services for children requiring medical attention. The initiative is expected to ease childcare burdens on working women, enhance workforce participation and reduce school dropouts among older siblings, particularly girls. It may also generate livelihood opportunities for SHG women involved in managing the crèches.

Leaders Across Parties Pay Tributes at Dashadina Karma of Nadendla Bhaskara Rao

Hyderabad, May02|TPN Bureau

The Dashadina Karma (10th-day memorial ceremony) of Nadendla Bhaskara Rao was held with solemnity at the Jubilee Hills Convention Center in Hyderabad on Saturday, drawing a large gathering of political leaders, officials, and admirers from both Telugu states.

Remembered as a distinguished legal expert, seasoned politician, and dedicated public servant, Bhaskara Rao's legacy was fondly recalled by attendees who paid floral tributes to his portrait. Leaders across party lines shared personal memories and expressed deep grief over the loss of a respected statesman.

Among those present were Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, ministers from both

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and senior leaders from multiple political parties. Prominent figures from the film industry, including Allu Aravind, also attended to pay their respects.

Special condolences were extended to his son, Nadendla Manohar, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, along with other members of the bereaved family.

The ceremony witnessed participation from a wide spectrum of society, including bureaucrats, retired officials, and party workers. The presence of leaders from diverse political backgrounds highlighted Bhaskara Rao's far-reaching influence and enduring relationships. The gathering stood as a testament to his contributions to public life and his lasting impact on the political landscape of the Telugu states.

Vidadala Rajini Slams Chandrababu Government

Tadepalli, May02|TPN Bureau

Former YSRCP Minister Vidadala Rajini strongly criticized the coalition government led by N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing it of failing to deliver on any of its promises even after completing two years in power. Speaking at the party's central office in Tadepalli, she alleged that the government is relying on publicity stunts rather than genuine governance.

Rajini mocked the administration's monthly pension distribution events, claiming they are staged theatrics designed to create a false impression of welfare delivery. She stated that not a single new pension has been sanctioned under the current regime and alleged that nearly 600,000 pensions have been removed from the 6.635 million beneficiaries who received support during the tenure of Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

She further criticized the government for failing to implement its "Super Six" promises, particularly the assurance of pensions for BC, SC,



and ST communities from the age of 50. According to her, these commitments have been completely abandoned.

Targeting the development of Amaravati, Rajini accused Chandrababu Naidu of turning it into a "hub of corruption." She expressed outrage over the alleged 2,500 crore expenditure on glass facades, arguing that such funds should have been allocated to healthcare and education. She noted that the remaining medical colleges initiated under the previous government could have been completed with far less

funding.

Rajini painted a bleak picture of public healthcare, claiming that hospitals lack basic supplies such as medicines, needles, and even proper lighting. She accused the government of weakening the Aarogyasri scheme by allowing arrears of 4,000 crore to accumulate, thereby restricting access to treatment. She contrasted this with the previous administration, which expanded coverage to nearly 3,300 procedures with a limit of 25 lakh.

She also criticized the neglect of schools under the Naadu-Nedu program and highlighted the distress faced by farmers, especially maize growers struggling to secure fair prices.

Accusing the leadership of prioritizing luxury and self-promotion, she alleged that Chandrababu Naidu, along with Pawan Kalyan and Nara Lokesh, is misusing public funds on extravagant travel.

Rajini concluded that public dissatisfaction is rising across all sections and warned that people will hold the government accountable in the upcoming elections.

YSRCP Alleges Financial Irregularities in Amaravati

Tadepalli, May02|TPN Bureau

Senior leader of the YSR Congress Party, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, launched a sharp critique of the Andhra Pradesh coalition government, accusing it of political vendetta, suppression of dissent, and large-scale financial irregularities in the Amaravati capital project. Addressing the media at the party's central office, Sajjala condemned the arrest of journalist Pudi Srihari, calling it "illegal and unjustified." He argued that Srihari, a senior media professional who previously served as Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) to a Chief Minister, was wrongly implicated in a case without evidence. He further alleged selective enforcement of the law, claiming that objectionable content targeting N. Chandrababu Naidu led to arrests, while similar or more provocative material against Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy circulated freely without action.

Sajjala accused the police of violating Supreme Court guidelines by registering mul-



tiples cases on the same issue, terming it a sign of "institutional decay." He warned that attempts to silence journalists and opposition voices would not succeed and asserted that the YSRCP would continue to resist what he described as "autocratic governance."

On the Amaravati project, Sajjala raised serious concerns over alleged financial mismanagement. He questioned the government's approval of 2,540 crore solely for glass facades in proposed Assembly buildings, stating that such expenditures were excessive and unjustifiable. According to him, when combined with construction costs, the total could reach as high as 18,500 per square foot—far above the typi-

cal 4,000 to 5,000 seen elsewhere in India.

He alleged that the project was being used as a channel for "continuous looting," benefiting close associates of the ruling leadership. He also criticized decisions related to land allocation, claiming that approvals for certain real estate layouts were granted even before official notifications, raising concerns about favoritism and insider advantage.

Sajjala further accused the government of neglecting welfare priorities, pointing out delays in funding for medical colleges, healthcare schemes, and farmer support, while simultaneously committing massive resources to Amaravati. He also highlighted the cancellation of thousands of house site pattas allotted to the poor, calling it evidence of anti-poor governance.

Reiterating his party's stance, Sajjala stated that the YSRCP would mobilize public support against what it views as corruption and democratic backsliding, signaling intensified political confrontation in the coming months.

Free power scheme to ensure year-round livelihood for weavers, says Savitha

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

State Minister for Handlooms and Textiles S. Savitha on Saturday said the government's free electricity initiative for weavers was a major step towards ensuring "365 days of employment and financial security" for the handloom community. Highlighting the early impact of the scheme, Ms. Savitha said thousands of weaver households had begun receiving electricity bills with a "zero payment" balance, bringing visible relief and confidence among beneficiaries. "The objective is not just subsidy, but dignity and stability in livelihoods," she said.

The scheme, rolled out on the first of last month, provides up to 200 units of free electricity per month to handloom weavers and 500 units to powerloom workers. According to official data, over 50,000 handloom families and nearly 7,000 powerloom families have already been covered, with efforts under way to extend benefits to all eligible households.

Ms. Savitha noted that the initiative translates into an annual saving of about 8,640 for handloom workers and 21,600 for powerloom workers. "This reduction in recurring expenses directly strengthens house-



hold incomes and enables weavers to reinvest in their craft," she said.

The Minister credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for fulfilling the government's promise and prioritising the revival of the handloom sector. She also acknowledged the role of IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh in supporting sectoral initiatives.

Apart from free electricity, the government is implementing a range of welfare and development measures, including a 4,000 monthly pension for weavers above 50 years, a 15% yarn subsidy, and annual allocations to thrift funds. Mar-

keting support is being expanded through exhibitions and online sales platforms, while loans under the Mudra scheme and subsidies for modern equipment aim to improve productivity.

"By combining welfare with market access and infrastructure, we are working towards a sustainable ecosystem for weavers," Ms. Savitha said, adding that textile parks and cluster-based development would further strengthen the sector. She reiterated that the government's long-term vision was to provide uninterrupted employment opportunities and restore the traditional industry to its former prominence.

Minister Slams Previous Government, Unveils 'Labor Adda'

Tadepalli, May02|TPN Bureau

On the occasion of International Workers' Day, Andhra Pradesh Labor Minister Vasamsetti Subhash sharply criticized the previous government for neglecting worker welfare, while announcing a series of initiatives aimed at improving employment opportunities and living conditions for laborers across the state. Addressing a media conference in Mangalagiri, he said the current administration, led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has been working to reverse the damage done over the past few years.

The minister alleged that flawed sand policies under the previous regime led to a slowdown in construction activity, leaving thousands of workers without jobs and pushing them into financial distress. He stated that the present coalition government is restoring welfare schemes and prioritizing workers' safety, health, and livelihoods.

Highlighting a key initiative, Subhash announced the launch of the "Labor Adda" scheme as a pilot project in 15 cities. These centers are designed to eliminate the need for daily wage workers to wait on roadsides in search of employment. Equipped with basic amenities such as drinking water, rest areas, and sanitation

facilities, the Labor Addas aim to provide dignity and relief to workers, especially during extreme weather conditions.

He explained that these hubs will act as employment facilitation centers by collecting data on labor demand from employers and connecting workers with suitable opportunities. If successful, the scheme will be expanded to all constituencies. The minister noted that ongoing projects like the Polavaram Project and development works in Amaravati are creating large-scale employment opportunities.

The government has also reintroduced financial support schemes for construction workers, including 40,000 for marriage assistance, 20,000 for maternity aid, 60,000 in case of natural death, and 20,000 for funeral expenses. These benefits can be accessed through the "Mana Mitra" mobile app with a nominal registration fee.

In addition, the minister said efforts are underway to strengthen healthcare services through the expansion of ESI hospitals and dispensaries. Safety measures are also being enhanced with training programs for safety officers and awareness drives like "Safety Walks," aiming to reduce industrial accidents and ensure better working conditions.

Jagan Has No Right to Speak on the People's Capital: M. A. Sharif

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

M. A. Sharif strongly criticized Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, asserting that he has "no moral right" to comment on the development of the state's capital, Amaravati. Speaking in Amaravati, Sharif said that construction of the capital city is progressing rapidly under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Sharif stated that the coalition government is committed to completing Amaravati within a defined timeframe and dedicating it to the people. He accused leaders of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of continuing to spread misinformation and provoke public sentiment, despite a sharp electoral decline from 151 seats to just 11 in the Assembly. Criticizing the previous government led by Jagan Mohan Reddy from 2019 to 2024, Sharif alleged that the state was effectively left without a capital due to the promotion of the "Three Capitals" proposal. He claimed that YSRCP leaders still lack clarity and a consistent position on Amaravati, questioning their credibility and role in public life.

Sharif further accused opposition leaders of deliberately misleading the public by exaggerating the cost of capital con-

struction. Refuting claims that Amaravati's construction costs range between 12,000 and 14,000 per square foot, he maintained that the actual cost is approximately 6,980 per square foot. He also alleged that Jagan Mohan Reddy spent significantly higher public funds—35,714 per square foot, totaling around 700 crore—on his private residence at Rishikonda, arguing that this undermines his criticism of the capital project. Highlighting Amaravati's importance, Sharif described it as a "growth engine" that will generate employment and revenue for the state. He added that the capital city would drive development across all 175 Assembly constituencies, benefiting rural and urban areas alike. Sharif also noted that government-assigned lands in Amaravati hold reserve values worth lakhs of crores, which, along with bank loans, will fund the project. He confirmed that the Central Government is extending financial support and that plans are in place to complete key government buildings by 2028. Additionally, he revealed that several international organizations have shown interest in investing in Amaravati, reinforcing its potential as a major economic hub for Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Satyakumar Reviews Tele-MANAS Services

Amaravati, May02|TPN Bureau

Emphasizing the growing importance of mental health support, Minister Satyakumar conducted a comprehensive review of Tele-MANAS centers in Andhra Pradesh, highlighting their critical role in assisting individuals facing stress, anxiety, and depression. The minister directed officials to treat every call with utmost seriousness, noting that timely intervention can save lives. The Tele-MANAS helpline (14416), which operates round the clock, has emerged as a vital support system, providing counseling services to nearly 3,000 people every month. Since its launch in Vijayawada in October 2022 and Visakhapatnam in 2023, the centers have collectively received over 67,000 calls. Officials reported a steady rise in call volume, especially after the recruitment of 40 additional counselors and support staff in October 2025. Women account for 52% of callers, with a significant number seeking help for depression, exam-related stress, job con-

cerns, insomnia, and anxiety disorders. Counselors, working under the supervision of psychiatrists, offer guidance through phone and video consultations while maintaining strict confidentiality. The minister noted that districts such as Visakhapatnam, Kurnool, Guntur, Nandyal, NTR, and Krishna recorded the highest call volumes, while tribal and rural districts reported fewer calls—indicating the need for greater awareness in those areas. Officials revealed that many individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts have been successfully counseled and dissuaded from taking extreme steps. Calls typically last between 10 to 20 minutes, with some individuals seeking repeated sessions for continued support. At the national level, Tele-MANAS operates through 53 centers under the guidance of NIMHANS, Bengaluru. Reaffirming the government's commitment, the minister stated that these services aim to ensure accessible, stigma-free mental health care for all, urging people to make use of the helpline whenever needed.



VMC Distributes Free Flowering Plants

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation distributed flowering plants free of cost in Satyanarayanapuram on Saturday to promote greenery and healthy living. Deputy Director (Horticulture) Chandrasekhar said the initiative aims to encourage households to grow and maintain plants

for a pleasant environment, especially during summer. “Plants not only enhance surroundings but also provide healthy air. Citizens must take responsibility for their care,” he said. The programme was held as per the directions of Commissioner Dhyanaachandra. Foundation members and residents participated in the event.



Collector Pushes Sanitation Drive

Machilipatnam, May 2 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Collector and Special Officer of Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation D K Balaji has called for intensified efforts to improve sanitation and public participation under the Swachh Survekshan initiative. On Saturday, the Collector conducted an extensive inspection of several wards on an electric bicycle, covering Divisions 37, 38, and 39, including Parasupeta, Godugupeta, and Koneru Centre. He reviewed ‘Green Spots’ and waste-prone areas, expressing dissatisfaction over poor maintenance and incomplete development. Directing officials to ensure

cleanliness, he stressed the need for daily monitoring by Ward Secretariat staff and warned of strict action against those dumping garbage in designated areas. “We must work with commitment to transform the city into a clean and hygienic place,” he said. He instructed officials to document waste clearance with before-and-after photographs and urged residents to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness. The Collector emphasised segregation of wet and dry waste and proper disposal through sanitation workers. Municipal Commissioner Bapiraju and other officials accompanied him during the inspection.



Fresh Complaint Over Irregularities at Durga Temple

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

Allegations of irregularities at the Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri have intensified, with fresh complaints submitted to authorities seeking immediate action. High Court advocate Adise-shu has filed a memorandum with K Ramachandra Mohan, Commissioner of the Endowments Department, urging a probe into alleged illegal collections and corrupt practices affecting devotees. He called for transparency in counters

handling coconuts, luggage, and laddoos, and demanded that all unofficial collections be deposited into temple accounts. The issue gained traction after reports by True Point and representations by Dharma Human Rights Organisation to EO Sheena Naik. Concerns deepened after a brief power outage at the temple on Saturday morning. Devotees and activists are now demanding swift intervention to restore transparency and accountability in temple administration.

Best Teachers Leave for Singapore Study Tour

Gannavaram, May 2 | TPN Bureau

In a bid to strengthen the state’s education system, a delegation of “Best Teacher” awardees departed for Singapore from Vijayawada International Airport on Saturday as part of an international exposure programme.

A total of 37 teachers from across the state are participating in the week-long tour scheduled from May 2 to May 9. The initiative aims to equip educators with global insights into modern teaching practices and innovative learning systems.

During the visit, the teachers will tour leading schools and educational institutions in Singapore to study advanced methodologies, including digital learning, smart classrooms, and project-based teaching. They will also observe student-centric approaches, teacher training systems, and the integration of technology in classrooms.



Officials said the delegation would examine Singapore’s education framework, focusing on discipline, assessment methods, and transparent school administration. The objective is to identify best practices that can be adapted to improve the quality of education in the state.

The Department of Education expressed confidence that the exposure gained through this tour would help teachers bring back valuable insights and contribute to elevating academic standards to match international benchmarks.

The leaders also raised concerns over delays in resolving issues related to the Employee Health Scheme (EHS). They noted that despite assurances and the constitution of a committee, progress has been slow. “The government had promised to resolve EHS issues within 60 days, but even after the deadline, no meaningful progress has been made. An immediate meeting of the official committee is essential,” Damodara Rao said.

The Chief Secretary reportedly assured that the Finance Department would examine the HRA demand and that a meeting on EHS issues would be convened soon.

Demand for 16% HRA in New District HQs Gains Momentum

Amaravati, May 2 | TPN Bureau

The AP JAC Amaravati has urged the State government to extend 16% House Rent Allowance (HRA) to employees working in the newly established district headquarters of Madanapalle, Markapuram, and Rampachodavaram, effective January 1, 2026.

In a representation submitted to Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad at the Secretariat, AP JAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and Secretary General Paliseti Damodara Rao highlighted that employees in the 13 districts formed in 2023 are already receiving 16% HRA.

They stressed that similar benefits must be extended to employees in the three newly created district headquarters.

“Whenever a town is declared a district headquarters, house rents increase sharply. Employees are under severe financial strain, and it is only just that the government extends 16% HRA to all such locations uniformly,” said Bopparaju Venkateswarlu.

Paliseti Damodara Rao added, “We have requested that the existing HRA rates—10% in Rampachodavaram and 12% in Markapuram and Madanapalle—be enhanced to 16% with effect from January 1, 2026, in line with earlier government orders.”

The training focused on hydra-tion practices, work-rest cycles, safe scheduling, use of protective equipment, and safeguarding vulnerable workers. Sessions were supported by Paul Sudhakar, V. Pradeep, B. Sridhar and Mohan Rao Manukonda.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Gangadri Gondipalli and concluded with an interactive session. Officials said the initiative marks a significant step towards ensuring worker safety and resilience amid rising temperatures.

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APCRDA Holds Training on Heat Wave Mitigation

Amaravati, May 2 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority conducted a comprehensive sensitisation and capacity-building programme on heat wave mitigation measures in its region on Saturday, aiming to strengthen preparedness against extreme heat conditions.

The programme, held with prior approval of the APCRDA Commissioner, saw participation from 115 officials, including Social Labour Managers, OHS Managers, Environmen-

tal Engineers from Project Management Consultants and contracting agencies, along with staff from PgMC, APCRDA and ADCL.

Addressing the inaugural session, Anitha Bhupathi and Dr. Suryanarayana stressed the need for proactive planning and strict implementation of heat mitigation measures across all project sites.

The technical session was led by Dr. Prabhu from the Government General Hospital in Vijayawada, who explained the impact of heat stress, early symptoms of heat-related illnesses, and essential first aid

and emergency response measures.

The training focused on hydration practices, work-rest cycles, safe scheduling, use of protective equipment, and safeguarding vulnerable workers. Sessions were supported by Paul Sudhakar, V. Pradeep, B. Sridhar and Mohan Rao Manukonda.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Gangadri Gondipalli and concluded with an interactive session. Officials said the initiative marks a significant step towards ensuring worker safety and resilience amid rising temperatures.

Custodial Torture Allegations Surface in Jaggayyapeta, Victim Hospitalised

Jaggayyapeta, May 2 | TPN Bureau

Serious allegations of police excess have emerged in Jaggayyapeta, with a carpenter accusing officials of illegal detention, custodial torture, and extortion, triggering widespread concern among civil society groups.

The victim, Syed Ismail, a resident of Dabbakupalli village in Vatsavai mandal of NTR district, was reportedly taken into custody by police in connection with a chain-snatching case. Family members alleged that due procedure was not followed during his detention, terming it illegal.

According to the family, Ismail was subjected to severe physical and mental torture while in custody. They alleged that he was brutally beaten by Circle-level police officials, leading to serious injuries and a deterioration in his health condition. Earlier, Ismail had also claimed that he was pressured to confess to a crime he



did not commit and was assaulted inside police premises.

His mother, Halima, approached the High Court, filing a petition alleging unlawful detention of her son. Sources said that soon after the petition was filed, police released Ismail.

It is alleged that he was later dropped near a relative’s residence at Thorraguntapalem, close to Jaggayyapeta. Subsequently, his family shifted him to a government hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment for injuries.

The incident, which reportedly occurred around International Workers’ Day, has



sparked outrage, with activists demanding an independent probe and strict action against those responsible.

Speaking to True Point, Jaggayyapeta CI Venkateswara Rao said, “We have conclusive evidence of Syed Ismail’s involvement in the chain theft case, and due legal procedures have been followed, including issuing a notice under Section 41-A and recording statements. Allegations of police torture are completely false and baseless, aimed at maligning the department. We have acted lawfully and transparently, and all evidence will be submitted before the High Court.”

Driver Killed in Fiery Highway Crash

Gannavaram, May 2 | TPN Bureau

A horrific road accident claimed the life of a lorry driver near Veeravalli on the National Highway in Bapulapadu mandal of Krishna district late Friday night. A speeding container lorry rammed into a stationary tipper truck that had

halted due to a puncture, triggering a massive fire. The driver of the container lorry was trapped inside the cabin and burned to death. Veeravalli SI Satyam Suresh and his team rushed to the spot and began rescue operations. Fire personnel from Gannavaram doused the flames and restored traffic. A case has been registered.

Cooperate for Census 2027, Says VMC Chief

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

Dhyanaachandra, Commissioner of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation and Chief Census Officer, has urged citizens to actively cooperate with enumerators for the Census 2027 exercise.

He said the first phase, the House Listing Operation, will be conducted from May 1 to May 30. Enumerators will initially survey their assigned areas before visiting households to collect details. “Citizens

must extend full cooperation and provide accurate information to ensure the success of this national exercise,” he said. Highlighting the introduction of digital data collection for the first time, he said residents must furnish details on 34 parameters, including housing, family size, and amenities. He clarified that the census has no link to welfare schemes.

A control room has been set up at the Collectorate, with helpline 9154970454 for assistance.



Vijayawada Police Shift Homeless to Shelters

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

In a commendable humanitarian initiative, the Vijayawada police extended support to homeless individuals living under a flyover near the Kanaka Durga Temple, ensuring their safety and rehabilitation.

Acting on the plight of several destitute persons exposed to extreme heat and lack of food, One Town CI Guna Ram and SI Satyanarayana, along with their team, took proactive steps to assist them. Instead of evicting the individuals, the brought them to the po-

lice station, provided meals, and ensured access to necessities. Subsequently, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation arranged a special bus to shift them to government-recognised shelters. The initiative has drawn widespread appreciation from locals and devotees, who praised the compassionate approach of the police. Officials, including Commissioner S V Rajasekhara Babu and West ACP Durgarao, were lauded for encouraging such humanitarian efforts. Citizens said the gesture reflects the humane side of policing and sets an example for public service.

119 Booked in Drink-and-Drive Crackdown

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

The city police launched a special drive against drunk driving across Vijayawada, acting on the directions of NTR District Police Commissioner S V Rajasekhara Babu. The enforcement was carried out under the supervision of Traffic DCP Shirin Begum, with personnel from all six traffic police units conducting intensive checks at multiple locations. During the drive, 119 motorists were caught driving under the influence of alcohol. The accused were produced before

the 5th Special Metropolitan Magistrate A Anita, who awarded jail terms and fines. Four individuals were sentenced to three days’ imprisonment, 12 to two days, and five to one day in jail. Additionally, fines totalling 10.25 lakh were imposed on 98 offenders.

Police officials stated that such special drives would be conducted daily to ensure stricter enforcement of traffic rules. They urged motorists to strictly adhere to the Motor Vehicles Act and avoid driving under the influence of alcohol to ensure road safety.

YSRCP Holds Rally Over Pending Pensions

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YCP) staged a peaceful rally in Vijayawada on Saturday, demanding immediate sanction of pending pensions in the Vijayawada East Assembly constituency. The protest was led by NTR District President and East Constituency In-charge Devineni Avinash, with participation from former Minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao. The rally began near NSM School and proceeded to the

VMC Circle-III office, with party cadres and beneficiaries raising slogans against delays in pension approvals across 21 divisions. Following the rally, a delegation submitted a memorandum to the Zonal Commissioner, highlighting the hardships faced by beneficiaries. Several party leaders, former corporators, women representatives, and activists took part in the protest, urging the government to address the issue without further delay.



Fire Safety Awareness Drive in Bapatla

Bapatla, May 02|TPN Bureau
Amid rising summer temperatures, Fire Officer Rama Siddhartha urged residents to stay alert to fire hazards during an awareness program in Anand Nagar. He demonstrated safety measures for cooking gas leaks and stressed quick action to prevent loss of life and property. Highlighting in-

creased AC usage, he cautioned against running them continuously overnight, advising periodic switching off to avoid short circuits. He also reminded the public to dial 101 in case of emergencies. The event saw participation from community elders Chegudi Poleru, Varadala Mohan Rao, Kandru Suresh, local women, and fire department staff.



Jet Skis, Resorts Planned as Suryalanka Gets ‘Goa-like’ Upgrade

Bapatla, May 02|TPN Bureau
Suryalanka Beach in Bapatla district is set for a major transformation into an international tourism hub with a 97.52 crore investment under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. MP Tenneti Krishna Prasad, along with District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar and MLA Vegesina Narendra Varma, inspected ongoing development works on Saturday. The project aims to introduce Goa-style attractions,

including adventure sports, jet skis, luxury zones, and resorts to boost tourism. Officials emphasized speedy completion of works by the Tourism Development Corporation. Leaders expressed confidence that the initiative will enhance visitor experience, create local employment opportunities, and significantly increase state revenue through tourism growth and infrastructure development at the popular coastal destination.

Sricharani Storms Into India’s T20 World Cup Squad

Kadapa, May 02|TPN Bureau
Rising cricket sensation Sricharani, proudly representing Kadapa district, has earned her place in India’s squad for the upcoming ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2026, marking another milestone in her rapidly ascending career. The young spinner, who was instrumental in India’s triumphant 2025 ODI World Cup campaign, continues to make waves on the international stage. With an impressive tally of 14 wickets in 9 matches during the tournament, Sricharani emerged as a key match-winner, consistently troubling batters with her sharp spin and composure under pressure. Her latest selection has sparked celebrations across her hometown and beyond, as fans and cricket enthusiasts



rally behind the talented bowler. Known for her ability to shift momentum in crucial moments, Sricharani is expected to play a vital role in India’s T20 ambitions. As anticipation builds for the global tournament, all eyes will be on this Kadapa prodigy, who now carries the hopes of a nation eager for another World Cup glory.



No Laxity in Sanitation: Commissioner Orders

Kurnool, May 02|TPN Bureau
Municipal Corporation Commissioner Challa Obulesu has reiterated that negligence in sanitation duties will not be tolerated and punctuality must be strictly maintained. During a muster inspection in Stantonpuram under the 16th Sanitation Division, he reviewed works in Class IV Employees Colony, Ganesh Nagar, and Lakshmiapuram, expressing displeasure over late attend-

ance by Sanitation Secretaries. In a subsequent meeting, he directed that sanitation operations begin daily at 5:30 AM, with staff completing full eight-hour shifts despite adjusted summer timings. He mandated installation of dustbins at all commercial establishments and announced one vehicle per ward, along with 10 additional trolleys for high-waste zones like markets, to restore sanitation standards citywide.



Small Shells, Big Impact: Students Step Up for Thirsty Birds

Chittoor, May 02|TPN Bureau

As the summer sun blazes relentlessly across Chittoor, a quiet yet powerful act of kindness has taken flight at Apollo University. In a scene that blends ingenuity with compassion, students have stepped forward to ease the suffering of one of nature’s most vulnerable groups during the heatwave—birds. Under the banner of the Apollo University Eco Club, students launched a thoughtful initiative aimed at quenching the thirst and hunger of birds struggling to survive the harsh summer. What makes this effort particularly remarkable is its simplicity: discarded coconut shells, cleaned and repurposed into tiny lifelines, now hang from tree branches across the campus. The initiative unfolded in front of the administrative building at the Apollo Knowledge City campus, where the atmosphere was charged with

purpose. Registrar Prof. M. Potharaju, Additional Registrar Anil Kumar S., and Unit Head S. Balaraj inaugurated the event, commending the students for transforming concern into meaningful action. They emphasized that environmental conservation is not a distant ideal but a shared responsibility—one that begins with small, mindful acts. With careful hands and creative minds, students cleaned coconut shells, fastened them securely with twine, and suspended them from trees. These humble vessels were then filled with grains and water, strategically placed to ensure easy access for birds. Soon, what were once discarded shells became symbols of survival. Club representatives highlighted the urgency of the initiative. During peak summer, natural water sources dry up, and food becomes scarce, pushing birds to the brink. In such times, even the smallest

intervention can make a life-saving difference. This initiative, they noted, is not just about feeding birds—it is about nurturing empathy and rebuilding the delicate bond between humans and nature. The event saw enthusiastic participation from faculty and students alike, including Eco Club Faculty Coordinator Dr. S. Firoz Begum, ICC Chairperson Dr. Himabindu, and Associate Dean Dr. B. Nageswara Rao. Their collective involvement underscored a shared vision: fostering environmental awareness through action. As the coconut shells sway gently in the summer breeze, they tell a story—of awareness, responsibility, and hope. In a world often overwhelmed by large-scale challenges, these students remind us that meaningful change can begin with something as simple as a shell, a handful of grains, and a little water.



Gangamma Jatara Preparations Intensified at Tatayyagunta

Tirupati, May 02|TPN Bureau

In-charge Commissioner Sharada Devi, accompanied by Temple Chairman Mahesh Yadav and other officials, inspected arrangements for the upcoming Gangamma Jatara at Tatayyagunta on Saturday. She reviewed preparations inside the temple premises, surrounding areas, and designated Pongali offering points in the market. She directed the Health Officer to ensure cleanliness and regular waste clearance. Stressing the importance of smooth traffic flow, she instructed officials to arrange proper parking facilities. She also ordered the provision of bio-toilets and safe drinking water for devotees. Emphasis was laid on maintaining hygiene in areas designated for animal sacrifices. She directed



planning officials to prevent unauthorized stalls causing inconvenience and called for CCTV installation and health

campus. Several municipal, police, engineering, and sanitation officials participated in the inspection.

Public Issues to Be Resolved Without Delay, Says MLA Vijayashree

Sullurpeta, May 02|TPN Bureau

Emphasizing that resolving public grievances is the government’s top priority, Sullurpeta MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayashree conducted a Praja Darbar at the CVAP office in the MPDO premises on Saturday. She directly interacted with citizens and received petitions, reinforcing her commitment to accessible governance. A total of 52 petitions were submitted by residents from different mandals across the constituency. The complaints largely focused on electricity supply disruptions, drainage system improvements, road repairs, and land-related disputes. Addressing officials present, the MLA issued firm instructions to ensure that people are not forced



to repeatedly visit government offices for solutions. She directed authorities to carry out field inspections promptly and resolve issues without delay. Warning against negligence, she stated that strict action would be taken against officials who fail to address grievances efficiently. Additionally, she stressed the

importance of accountability by mandating that all petitions be registered online and their progress continuously monitored. Officials from multiple departments, public representatives, and staff attended the session, facilitating direct communication between citizens and the administration.

Sujana Foundation Medical Camp Draws Huge Response

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

A free mobile medical camp organised by the Sujana Foundation in Bheemanavaripeta witnessed an overwhelming response from residents of Divisions 46 and 47 in Vijayawada West constituency. The camp, held from morning till evening

on Saturday, provided free medical consultations, diagnostic services, and medicines. Senior doctors offered consultations across multiple specialties, while tests such as ECG, X-ray, and 2D Echo were conducted. Eye check-ups were carried out by experts from Shankar Eye Hospital, while a team from PVR Multi-Speciali-

ty Hospital supported general health services. Dental examinations were conducted by doctors from Siddhartha Dental College. Local leaders and organisers, including foundation representatives and public representatives, participated in the programme, which aimed to improve access to healthcare for underserved communities.



52 Petitions Received at Janavani

Tirupati, May 02|TPN Bureau

A total of 52 petitions were received during the ‘Janavani’ program conducted by Arani Srinivasulu in Tirupati on Saturday. Residents raised issues including delays in the Tirumala Secretariat building, lack of an open-air gym at Vinayaka Sagar, and drainage needs in PV Prasad Nagar. The MLA

assured action and directed officials to review concerns. Petitions were submitted to various departments, including the Collector, Engineering, Police, and Health. Several officials and representatives attended, ensuring coordination for resolving public grievances efficiently and addressing civic infrastructure issues promptly across the constituency.



Tirupati Collector Unveils ‘Kishori Vikas’ Posters

Tirupati, May 02|TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar on Saturday unveiled posters for the ‘Kishori Vikas’ programme at the Collectorate and urged officials to ensure effective implementation of the summer camps scheduled from May 1 to June 11. He said the initiative aims at the holistic development of

adolescents and stressed inter-departmental coordination for its success. Camps will be conducted in Swarna Grama and Swarna Ward jurisdictions. Officials were directed to create awareness on women’s rights, healthcare, child marriage, POCSO Act, education, cyber safety, and financial literacy. District Women and Child Welfare Officer S. Vasantha Bai attended the programme.



Collector Steps In to Aid Slain Reporter’s Kin

V. Kota, May 02|TPN Bureau

Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar assured comprehensive support to the family of murdered Andhra Jyothy reporter Jaganmohan Reddy. Visiting V. Kota Mandal headquarters on Saturday, he paid tribute and spent time with the bereaved family, understanding their needs. He promised to personally fund the B.Tech education of the victim’s two

children, arrange a local outsourcing job for his wife Geetanjali, and extend financial aid through the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund and discretionary funds. The Collector also assured strict action, including invoking the PD Act against the accused. He encouraged the family to approach him directly for any help. Journalists submitted a memorandum seeking justice and continuous support.

CPI Protests Gas Price Hike

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a protest at the Lenin Center in Vijayawada, condemning the steep rise in cooking gas prices and accusing the Centre of burdening common people.

Addressing the gathering, CPI City Secretary G. Koteswara Rao alleged that the price hike has severely impacted middle- and lower-income households. He said domestic cylinders have become costlier

by 60 compared to February, while commercial cylinder prices surged by nearly 1,000 to 3,251.50. “The BJP government has betrayed people by raising prices immediately after elections, pushing households and small businesses into distress,” he said, warning of intensified protests if prices are not rolled back. Leaders demanded restoration of gas subsidies and a reduction in fuel prices. Several CPI leaders and activists participated in the demonstration.

*World in Transition, Rethinking
Global Order in an Age of Uncertainty*

The international system that emerged after the Cold War is undergoing a profound transformation. For decades, the world operated under a broadly liberal order shaped largely by Western powers, particularly the United States. This system fostered economic growth, expanded global trade, and helped lift millions out of poverty. Yet, despite its achievements, it was never without contradictions. It struggled to reconcile universal ideals with diverse political realities and failed to adapt quickly to shifting global power dynamics. Today, that order is visibly fraying, and the pressing question is no longer whether it will survive, but what will replace it.

One of the central forces driving this change is the redistribution of global power. The rise of China, alongside the growing influence of other emerging economies, has altered the balance that once favoured the West. Meanwhile, traditional powers face internal challenges, from political polarization to economic inequality, which weaken their ability to lead globally. The result is a more multipolar world—one where no single nation can dictate the rules, and where competing visions of governance and international cooperation coexist uneasily.

Recent geopolitical conflicts have accelerated this transition. Wars and regional tensions, particularly in strategically sensitive areas, have exposed the limitations of existing global institutions. These institutions, designed in a different era, are increasingly seen as inadequate for managing modern crises. They often struggle to enforce norms, mediate conflicts, or maintain stability in a world where power is more dispersed and alliances are more fluid.

At the heart of the current



upheaval lies a deeper tension between principles and power. The post-Cold War order was built on ideals such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. However, these principles were not always applied consistently. Selective enforcement and geopolitical interests often undermined the credibility of the system. As a result, many countries, especially in the Global South, have grown sceptical of a rules-based order that appears uneven in practice.

This skepticism has contributed to the emergence of alternative models of governance and cooperation. Countries are increasingly asserting their own paths, emphasizing sovereignty and

cultural specificity over universal norms. Regional groupings and new alliances are gaining prominence, reflecting a shift away from a single, unified global framework toward a more fragmented but pluralistic system.

Economic factors also play a critical role in shaping the new world order. Globalization, once seen as an unstoppable force, is now being reassessed. Supply chain disruptions, trade conflicts, and the strategic use of economic tools have highlighted vulnerabilities in the interconnected global economy. Nations are seeking greater self-reliance while still recognizing the benefits of international trade. This balancing

act is reshaping economic relationships and redefining globalization itself.

Technology is another powerful driver of change. Advances in digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and communication have transformed how countries interact and compete. Control over technology and data has become a key aspect of geopolitical power. At the same time, these innovations offer opportunities for collaboration and development, particularly for emerging economies seeking to leapfrog traditional stages of growth.

Amid these shifts, the role of multilateral institutions is being questioned. Organizations that once served as pillars of global governance

now face challenges to their relevance and effectiveness. Reform is widely acknowledged as necessary, but achieving consensus on how to adapt these institutions is difficult in a divided world. Without meaningful reform, there is a risk that these bodies will become increasingly side-lined, further weakening global cooperation.

In this evolving landscape, the Global South is emerging as a significant force. With its growing population, economic potential, and political influence, it is reshaping the contours of international relations. Countries in this group are no longer content to be passive participants; they seek a greater voice in decision-making and a more

equitable distribution of power. This shift is not just about representation but about redefining the priorities and values that underpin the global system.

India, in particular, is uniquely positioned in this context. As a large democracy with a rapidly growing economy and a tradition of strategic autonomy, it has the potential to act as a bridge between different worlds. It can engage with both established powers and emerging ones, advocating for a more inclusive and balanced global order. However, this role requires careful navigation of complex geopolitical realities and a clear vision of national and global interests.

The transition to a new

world order is unlikely to be smooth or predictable. Periods of change often bring instability; as old structures weaken before new ones are fully formed. Conflicts, economic disruptions, and political tensions are likely to persist in the short term. Yet, such periods also offer opportunities to rethink and rebuild.

A key challenge will be to create a system that is both effective and legitimate. This means not only addressing global problems, such as climate change, pandemics, and economic inequality, but doing so in a way that reflects the diversity of the international community. Inclusivity, fairness, and adaptability will be essential principles for any new order to succeed. Ultimately, the future of the global system will depend on the choices made by nations and leaders today. Cooperation, despite its difficulties, remains crucial. No country can tackle the world's most pressing challenges alone. At the same time, respect for diversity and sovereignty must be balanced with the need for shared rules and norms.

The world stands at a crossroads. The old order, with all its achievements and flaws, is fading. What comes next is still uncertain, but it will be shaped by the interplay of power, ideas, and collective action. The task ahead is not merely to replace one system with another, but to build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable framework for global coexistence.

In this moment of transition, imagination and leadership are essential. The new world order will not emerge automatically; it must be consciously constructed. Whether it becomes a source of renewed cooperation or deeper division will depend on how nations respond to the challenges and opportunities before them.

Empire of Arms, How Militarisation Shapes America's Economy and Society

The United States is often celebrated as the world's leading economic powerhouse—driven by innovation, entrepreneurship, and financial dominance. Yet beneath this narrative lies a less-discussed reality: the deep entanglement of its economy with militarisation. The opinion piece “Empire of Arms” argues that the U.S. economic system is not merely influenced by defence spending but structurally intertwined with it. This connection, the article suggests, sustains both its global military engagements and patterns of violence within its own society.

At the core of this argument is the idea of a “military-industrial complex”—a system where government, private industry, and political interests converge around defence production. The United States maintains one of the largest military budgets in the world and operates hundreds of military bases globally. This expansive network is not just about security; it is also an economic engine. Defence contracts fuel industries, create jobs, and drive technological innovation, embedding war-related production into the broader economy.

This system creates a feedback loop. Military spending stimulates economic activity which in turn strengthens industries that benefit from continued or expanded defence budgets. Over time, this dynamic can normalise a state of "permanent preparedness" or even perpetual conflict. Wars and military engagements are not isolated events but part of an ongoing structure that sustains economic interests.

The article highlights how this external projection of power is mirrored internally.

The same cultural and institutional factors that support militarisation abroad can influence domestic life. The United States has a long-standing relationship with firearms, both as tools of self-defence and as symbols of individual freedom. However, the widespread availability of weapons and the normalisation of violence contribute to a complex social environment where incidents of gun violence are far more frequent than in most other developed countries.

Cultural factors also play a role in reinforcing this dynamic. American society is often characterised by strong individualism, which promotes personal freedom and innovation. However, this emphasis on individual autonomy can also lead to social fragmentation. When collective bonds weaken, issues such as isolation and mental health challenges can become more pronounced. While these factors do not directly cause violence, they interact with structural conditions—such as easy access to firearms—to produce extreme outcomes.

The influence of media and popular culture further complicates the picture. Hollywood and other entertainment industries have global reach, often depicting violence in ways that can shape perceptions over time. Although there is no clear causal link between media and violent behaviour, repeated exposure to violent imagery may contribute to desensitisation, making violence appear more normal or acceptable.

On the global stage, the United States' military presence reinforces its geopolitical dominance. By maintaining alliances, bases, and defence partnerships around the world,

An aerial photograph of the White House and the surrounding urban landscape in Washington, D.C. The White House is a large, white, neoclassical building with a prominent central portico, situated in the lower center of the image. It is surrounded by a large, green lawn and numerous trees. To the left of the White House is the U.S. Capitol building, a large, light-colored building with a prominent dome. The surrounding area is densely packed with various buildings, including government offices, residential structures, and commercial buildings. The image shows a mix of urban development and green space, with the White House and its grounds providing a focal point of open space in the city.

it exerts significant influence over international affairs. Arms exports also play a crucial role, positioning the U.S. as a central actor in global conflict dynamics. This external militarisation is not separate from its domestic economy—it is a direct extension of it.

Historically, the relationship between war and economic growth is not unique to the United States. Economists have long debated the concept of a "war economy," where military spending stimulates production, employment, and technological advancement. In some cases, wars have even helped nations recover from

economic downturns. However, this model comes with significant ethical and social costs, including the diversion of resources from essential public services and the perpetuation of conflict. The article suggests that the U.S. has, in many ways, institutionalised this model. Military expenditure is not just a response to threats but a stabilising force within the economy. This phenomenon is sometimes referred to as "military Keynesianism," where government spending on defence is used to sustain economic growth and manage business cycles. While effective in the short term, this

approach can create long-term dependencies that are difficult to break.

Domestically, the consequences of this system are visible in patterns of violence and social tension. The proliferation of firearms, combined with cultural and structural factors, contributes to a level of internal violence that contrasts sharply with the country's image as a developed, stable democracy. The article argues that this is not merely a coincidence but part of a broader ecosystem where violence—both external and internal—is normalised. Another important dimension is the

role of institutions. Policies, lobbying, and political incentives often reinforce the importance of defence spending. Lawmakers may support military budgets not only for national security reasons but also for economic benefits in their constituencies. Defence contracts can bring jobs and investment, making them politically attractive even when broader strategic justifications are debated. This interconnected system raises important questions about sustainability. Can an economy so deeply tied to militarisation transition toward a more peaceful model? What would happen to indus-

tries, jobs, and technological development if defence spending were significantly reduced? These are complex questions with no easy answers.

The article does not suggest that the United States is uniquely prone to violence or militarisation, but rather that its scale and global influence make these dynamics more visible and impactful. It also acknowledges that many of the same structures that support militarisation—such as technological innovation and industrial capacity—have contributed to the country's economic success. Ultimately, "Empire of Arms" presents a critical perspective on the relationship between economics, power, and violence. It argues that to understand the United States' role in the world, one must look beyond surface narratives of prosperity and examine the deeper systems that sustain it. The challenge, then, is not just to critique these systems but to imagine alternatives. Reducing dependence on militarisation would require significant structural changes, including investment in other sectors, reform of political incentives, and a shift in cultural attitudes. It would also involve rethinking the balance between security and economic priorities. In conclusion, the article portrays the United States as an "empire of arms"—a nation whose economic and social structures are closely linked to the production and use of military power. This system sustains its global influence but also shapes its internal realities, creating a complex interplay between prosperity and violence. Understanding this relationship is essential for anyone seeking to grasp the broader dynamics of the modern world.

Amit Shah Calls Ladakh “Living Land of Dharma” as Buddha Relics Return After 75 Years

Union Home Minister Amit Shah described Ladakh as a “living land of dharma” while marking the historic return of sacred relics of Lord Buddha to the Union Territory after a gap of 75 years.

Speaking during the inauguration of the Sacred Relics Exposition in Leh on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, Shah termed the moment a “historic reunion,” highlighting the deep spiritual and cultural significance of the relics for the region.

The relics, brought from the National Museum in Delhi, are being displayed in Ladakh for the first time, allowing devotees and visitors from across India and abroad to offer their respects. The exposition, which began on May 1, will continue for nearly two weeks, with thousands of people expected to attend.

Addressing the gathering,



Shah emphasized that Ladakh has preserved and nurtured Buddhist teachings for centuries. He noted that the region has historically played a key role in safeguarding and spreading the message of Buddha, especially during times when Buddhism faced

challenges.

Highlighting the relevance of Buddha’s teachings in today’s world, Shah said the principles of peace, compassion, and the middle path are more important now than ever. He stressed that in times of global conflict and unrest, these val-

ues offer a path toward harmony and coexistence.

The Home Minister also pointed out that Ladakh has been instrumental in the spread of Buddhism beyond India, particularly to regions such as China and other parts of Asia. He described the land

as not just a geographical entity but a living embodiment of Buddhist culture and compassion.

The return of the relics has significantly enhanced the importance of Buddha Purnima celebrations in the region. Shah remarked that their presence brings a sense of spiritual energy and connection, with many devotees viewing it as a rare and sacred opportunity.

The exposition includes public viewing of the relics, along with cultural events, meditation sessions, and traditional ceremonies, reinforcing Ladakh’s position as a global center of Buddhist heritage.

The event is being seen as both a cultural milestone and a message of peace from India to the world, underlining the country’s long-standing civilizational values rooted in harmony and spiritual wisdom.



Punjab Assembly Erupts Over ‘Alcohol’ Row, AAP Hits Back at Congress with Land Case Charge

A political storm unfolded in the Punjab Assembly after allegations by the opposition that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann attended proceedings in an intoxicated state, triggering sharp exchanges between the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress.

The controversy began when Congress leaders demanded that the Chief Minister undergo an “alcohol test,” claiming his conduct during the session raised serious concerns. Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa questioned the purpose of continuing proceedings if the state’s top leader was allegedly under the influence.

The allegations led to heated scenes inside the Assembly, with both sides engaging in a war of words and the situation briefly descending into chaos.

Responding to the charges, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann dismissed the claims outright, saying the opposition was raising such issues because it lacked real public concerns. He ridiculed the demand for an alcohol test and accused rivals of creating unnecessary drama.

Backing the Chief Minister, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema strongly countered the opposition, alleging that the controversy was being used to divert attention from a land encroachment case linked to Congress MLA

Sukhpal Singh Khaira. The AAP leadership framed the row as a politically motivated attempt to shift focus away from issues concerning the opposition.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also joined the attack, calling the allegations “disgraceful” and raising questions over governance. Opposition leaders argued that such conduct, if true, would undermine the dignity of the Assembly and the office of the Chief Minister.

The incident comes amid already heightened political tensions in Punjab, with recent developments such as defections and confidence votes adding to the charged atmosphere. The Assembly session witnessed disruptions and intense confrontations, reflecting the deepening rift between the ruling party and the opposition.

Despite the uproar, the AAP government has maintained that it enjoys a stable majority and has accused opposition parties of attempting to destabilise the administration through allegations and political theatrics.

The row has since sparked wider debate, with calls for accountability on one side and counter-allegations on the other, turning the Assembly proceedings into a battleground of political narratives rather than policy discussions.

MCF Raebareli Rolls Out First Vande Bharat Trainset

In a significant milestone for Indian Railways, the Modern Coach Factory (MCF) in Raebareli has rolled out its first-ever Vande Bharat trainset, marking a new chapter in the country’s ambitious rail modernisation journey.

The rollout, which took place on May 2, 2026, introduces a 16-car Vande Bharat Chair Car rake equipped with a state-of-the-art Siemens propulsion system. This development places MCF among the select manufacturing units producing India’s flagship semi-high-speed trains, alongside existing facilities.

The Vande Bharat initiative, which began in 2018 with just two trainsets, is now approaching a landmark achievement of 100 trainsets, reflecting rapid progress in indigenous train manufacturing and technological advancement.

Before entering passenger service, the newly rolled-out train will undergo a series of rigorous oscillation trials. These tests are designed to evaluate ride quality, safety standards, and dynamic performance under various conditions, ensuring that the train meets all operational benchmarks. Maintaining the core principles of speed, efficiency, and passenger comfort, the MCF-built Vande Bharat train incorporates several advanced engineering upgrades. These enhancements are aimed at improving reliability, operational safety, and overall travel experience.

The train features modern passenger amenities such as ergonomically designed seating, smooth and jerk-free travel, fully sealed gangways, and automatic plug doors that help reduce noise levels inside coaches. Safety has been given high priority, with



the integration of the indigenous ‘Kavach’ Automatic Train Protection system, advanced fire detection mechanisms with aerosol-based suppression, and flood protection systems for critical equipment.

In terms of construction quality, the train uses vacuum infusion technology, ensuring a superior finish and enhanced durability of interiors. Accessibility has also been a key focus, with the train being fully Divyangjan-friendly. It includes dedicated ramps, designated spaces, and specialized facilities to ensure a comfortable journey for passengers with disabilities. Officials highlighted that the introduction of Vande Bharat manufacturing at MCF Raebareli not only boosts production capacity but also strengthens India’s push toward self-reliance in railway technology.

The new trainset is expected to contribute significantly to expanding the Vande Bharat network across the country, offering faster, safer, and more comfortable travel options for passengers. With this rollout, Indian Railways continues to reinforce its commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and world-class standards, positioning Vande Bharat as a symbol of India’s next-generation rail infrastructure.

Three DRG Personnel Killed in IED Blast During Anti-Naxal Operation

At least three personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast during an anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh’s Kanker district on Saturday.

The incident occurred while security forces were engaged in a demining and search operation near the Kanker-Narayanpur border. According to officials, the explosion was triggered by an IED planted earlier by Maoists, which went off as personnel attempted to locate and defuse explosives in the area.

Police sources said that four personnel were initially injured in the blast, of whom three succumbed to their injuries. One injured jawan is currently undergoing treatment.

The DRG team had been deployed following intelligence inputs about the presence of explosives hidden by Maoists in the forested region. The blast reportedly occurred during efforts to neutralise these devices, highlighting the persistent threat posed by leftover explosive traps in insurgency-affected zones.

The incident marks a serious setback for security forces, especially as it comes shortly after the state had been declared largely free of active Maoist insurgency. Officials noted that Maoists often plant IEDs in advance to target security personnel during patrols and demining operations.

Following the blast, addi-

tional security forces were rushed to the site, and a large-scale search operation has been launched in the surrounding area to track down any remaining threats. Authorities have also heightened alert levels across the region.

Senior officials have expressed condolences over the loss of personnel and reiterated their commitment to continuing operations against Maoist remnants in the region.

The attack underscores the ongoing risks faced by security forces in central India, where hidden explosives continue to pose a major challenge despite significant progress in anti-Naxal operations.



Prasoon Joshi Appointed Chairman of PrasarBharati

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has appointed renowned lyricist, writer, and communications expert Shri Prasoon Joshi as the Chairman of PrasarBharati, India’s public service broadcaster.

Widely regarded as one of India’s most influential creative voices, Prasoon Joshi brings with him decades of experience across literature, advertising, cinema, and public communication. Known for his evocative writing and culturally rooted storytelling, Joshi has played a key role in shaping contemporary narratives in both media and advertising, connecting with audiences across diverse segments.

Welcoming the appointment, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw expressed confidence in Joshi’s leadership. Congratulating him, the minister described Joshi as a “rare creative spirit” whose work reflects India’s cultural depth and ethos. He added that under Joshi’s stewardship, PrasarBharati is expected to



gain “renewed energy, deeper purpose, and a fresh creative voice.”

Prior to this role, Prasoon

Joshi served as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) since August 2017. During his

tenure, he was credited with maintaining a balanced approach between creative freedom and regulatory responsibilities, while actively engaging with stakeholders in the film industry.

Joshi has also held prominent positions in the corporate world, including CEO of McCann World Group India and Chairman of McCann World Group Asia Pacific. In addition, he has been serving as a trustee of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts since 2016, further highlighting his involvement in cultural and artistic initiatives.

His appointment comes at a crucial time for PrasarBharati, as the organisation navigates rapid technological changes and evolving audience preferences. With the increasing shift toward digital media and on-demand content, the role of public broadcasting is expanding beyond traditional platforms.

PrasarBharati, established under the PrasarBharati Act of 1990 and operational since 1997, functions as India’s au-

tonomous public service broadcaster. It operates through two major arms—All India Radio (AIR), one of the largest radio networks globally, and Doordarshan (DD), the country’s national television broadcaster offering a wide range of programming.

In recent years, the organisation has also ventured into digital expansion with initiatives like the Waves OTT platform, aimed at strengthening free-to-air digital content delivery.

As Chairman, Prasoon Joshi is expected to bring a blend of creative insight and strategic vision to the organisation, helping it adapt to the changing media landscape while continuing its mandate of delivering credible information, promoting cultural heritage, and fostering national integration.

His appointment signals a renewed focus on innovation and storytelling within public broadcasting, as PrasarBharati looks to remain relevant in an increasingly competitive and digital-first media environment.



Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya Among 21 Declared Fugitive Economic Offenders; ED Seizes 2,178 Crore Assets

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has declared 21 individuals, including high-profile businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya, as fugitive economic offenders (FEOs), with authorities seizing assets worth 2,178 crore over the past seven years.

According to the ED’s annual report, the list of declared offenders also includes UK-based arms consultant Sanjay Bhandari and Hajra Iqbal Memon, among others. These individuals are accused of major financial crimes involving 100 crore or more and are believed to have fled India to evade legal proceedings.

Under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, an individual can be declared an FEO if a court has issued an arrest warrant in connection with serious financial offences and the accused refuses to return to India to face prosecution. Once declared, their properties can be confiscated by the government.

The ED report also noted that proceedings against several other high-profile individuals—such as diamond trader Mehul Choksi, Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, and Mahadev app promoters Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal—are currently pending in courts.

Officials revealed that since the implementation of the FEO law, action has been initiated

against 54 individuals, out of which 21 have so far been officially declared fugitives. Notably, nine of these declarations were made during the financial year 2025–26, indicating an acceleration in enforcement efforts.

The crackdown is part of the government’s broader push to tackle large-scale financial fraud and recover public money siphoned off through economic offences. High-profile cases like those involving Nirav Modi—linked to the Punjab National Bank scam—and Vijay Mallya—associated with bank loan defaults—have become emblematic of India’s fight against financial fugitives. While asset seizures have crossed 2,178 crore, experts note that the total amount involved in such fraud cases runs into tens of thousands of crores, highlighting the ongoing challenge of recovering funds and securing the return of absconding accused. The ED continues to pursue legal and international avenues, including extradition proceedings, to bring fugitives back to India and strengthen accountability in financial crimes. The development underscores the government’s intensified efforts to curb economic offences and ensure that individuals accused of major financial frauds are held accountable, even if they have fled the country.

Trump Declares End to Iran Conflict, but Strait of Hormuz Crisis Keeps Tensions Alive

The United States’ standoff with Iran has entered a complicated phase, with President Donald Trump declaring that hostilities have been “terminated,” even as key flashpoints—particularly the Strait of Hormuz—continue to keep tensions simmering. In a formal communication to the US Congress, Trump stated that the conflict with Iran had effectively ended following a ceasefire reached in early April. The announcement came just ahead of a crucial War Powers Act deadline, which requires presidential approval from lawmakers for extended military engagements. However, despite the declaration, the situation on the ground remains

far from settled. At the center of the crisis is the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most strategically important waterways, through which a significant portion of global oil supplies passes. The conflict escalated earlier this year after US and Israeli strikes on Iranian targets, prompting Tehran to disrupt maritime traffic in the region. In response, the US imposed a naval blockade on Iran, aiming to secure shipping lanes and curb Iranian oil exports. While large-scale military operations have subsided, the blockade remains in place, making it a key unresolved issue. Analysts say this ongoing restriction highlights the gap between Wash-

ington’s claim of ending hostilities and the continuing pressure tactics being used against Iran. Efforts to de-escalate tensions have so far yielded limited results. Iran recently proposed reopening the Strait of Hormuz as a confidence-building measure ahead of potential nuclear talks. However, the Trump administration rejected the offer, insisting on stronger assurances regarding Iran’s nuclear program before any negotiations could proceed. This has stalled diplomatic progress, with both sides maintaining firm positions. The situation has also triggered political debate within the United States. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has

argued that the ceasefire effectively pauses the timeline under the War Powers Act, delaying the need for congressional authorization. However, several lawmakers have challenged this interpretation, contending that continued military presence and enforcement actions mean the conflict cannot be considered fully concluded. Beyond the US, the crisis has also affected relations with key allies. Some NATO nations have shown reluctance to participate in operations related to securing the Strait of Hormuz, drawing criticism from Washington. The broader geopolitical uncertainty has had ripple effects across global markets, particularly in en-

ergy, where fears of supply disruptions have kept oil prices volatile. Despite the absence of active large-scale combat, experts caution that the risk of escalation remains significant. The continued blockade, unresolved nuclear tensions, and strategic importance of the region mean that even a minor incident could trigger renewed confrontation. In effect, while the US administration has declared an end to the war, the underlying issues driving the conflict remain unresolved. The current situation reflects a fragile pause rather than a definitive conclusion, with diplomacy, military strategy, and global energy security all closely intertwined.



Iran Tightens Grip on Strait of Hormuz as US Continues Naval Blockade

Tensions between Iran and the United States have escalated once again, with Tehran announcing new maritime rules in the Strait of Hormuz while Washington continues to enforce a strict naval blockade in the region. Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has declared that it will impose tighter control over shipping along its coastline, including the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz. The move is aimed at asserting greater authority over one of the world’s most important energy corridors, through which a significant portion of global oil trade passes. As part of these new measures, commercial vessels transiting the Strait are reportedly being redirected through Iranian-controlled waters and asked to comply with new regulations. In some cases, ships are said to be required to pay substantial fees for safe passage, a move that has raised serious concerns among global shipping operators and governments. The United States, however, has strongly opposed Iran’s actions and maintains that such restrictions are illegal under international maritime law. In response, Washington has continued its naval blockade targeting Iranian ports and vessels linked to its oil exports. US authorities have made it clear that the blockade will remain in place until free and unrestricted navigation through the Strait is



restored. President Donald Trump has taken a firm stance on the issue, directing US naval forces to closely monitor maritime activity in the region. The US has also warned of strict action against any attempts to disrupt shipping lanes, signaling its intent to ensure stability in the waterway. The standoff comes despite a recent ceasefire between the two countries, highlighting the fragile nature of the current situation. Diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis have so far failed, with both sides holding firm on their demands. Iran has sought relief from the blockade and greater recognition of its control over nearby waters, while the US insists on guarantees regarding Iran’s nuclear program before easing pressure. The Strait of Hormuz re-

mains at the center of the conflict due to its global significance. Any disruption in this narrow passage can have far-reaching consequences for energy markets, and recent developments have already contributed to volatility in oil prices worldwide. Experts warn that the overlapping measures by both nations, Iran tightening its control and the US enforcing a blockade, have created a highly sensitive environment. Even a minor incident could escalate into a larger confrontation, given the heavy military presence in the area. For now, the situation reflects a tense deadlock, with neither side willing to back down. As global attention remains fixed on the Strait of Hormuz, the crisis continues to pose risks not only to regional stability but also to the broader global economy.

Trump Defends Oil Tanker Seizure, Calls US Naval Actions “Like Piracy” Amid Iran Blockade Claims

US President Donald Trump has defended the seizure of an oil tanker by American forces, describing the operation as “very profitable” and controversially likening US naval actions to piracy, amid escalating tensions with Iran. Speaking about recent maritime operations, Trump claimed that US forces intercepted and took control of vessels carrying oil as part of what he described as a blockade targeting Iran. He detailed an incident in which a large tanker transporting over two million barrels of oil was forced to turn back after US naval ships warned the crew that weapons were trained on them. In another encounter, Trump said a vessel that allegedly ignored US warnings was fired upon, with American forces targeting its engine room from a distance before boarding and seizing the ship along with its cargo. “We took over the ship. We took over the cargo, took over the oil. It’s a very profitable business... we are like pirates,” Trump said, in remarks that have drawn sharp attention internationally. The comments come against the backdrop of rising tensions between Washington and Tehran, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping route for oil. The US has increased its military presence in the region,



with naval operations aimed at restricting Iranian oil exports and asserting control over maritime traffic. Trump’s characterisation of these actions as a “blockade” and his comparison to piracy have raised serious legal and geopolitical concerns. Under international law, blockades and the seizure of vessels are sensitive issues that can be interpreted as acts of war if not backed by clear legal justification. There has been no immedi-

ate response from Iran regarding Trump’s claims, and independent verification of the specific incidents described remains unclear. Analysts say the remarks signal a potential escalation in the already fragile situation between the two countries. The US strategy appears focused on economic pressure by disrupting Iran’s oil trade, while Iran has previously taken steps to assert its own control over shipping routes in the region. The developments have also

heightened concerns in global energy markets, as any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz—through which a significant share of the world’s oil passes—can trigger volatility in crude prices and supply chains. As tensions persist, Trump’s blunt defence of tanker seizures underscores the increasingly aggressive posture of the US in the ongoing standoff, raising questions about the risk of further escalation and its broader global impact.

French Nun Arrested After Jerusalem Attack Video Sparks Outrage Amid Rising Sectarian Tensions

A French nun has been arrested in Jerusalem after a video showing her allegedly involved in an attack on local residents went viral, intensifying concerns over rising sectarian tensions in the region. The incident reportedly took place near Mount Zion, a religiously sensitive area in Jerusalem that has often been a flashpoint for conflict. In the widely circulated video, the nun is seen confronting and allegedly assaulting individuals, triggering strong reactions both locally and internationally. Authorities acted swiftly following the video’s spread on social media, taking the nun into custody for questioning. Officials have not yet released full details of the charges, but the case is being treated seriously given the sensitive nature of the location and the potential for escalation. The episode comes amid a broader increase in sectarian friction in Jerusalem, particularly in areas where religious communities intersect. Mount Zion holds significance for multiple faiths, and even minor incidents can quickly inflame tensions. Local reports indicate that confrontations between different groups have been rising in recent weeks, with activists and residents expressing con-

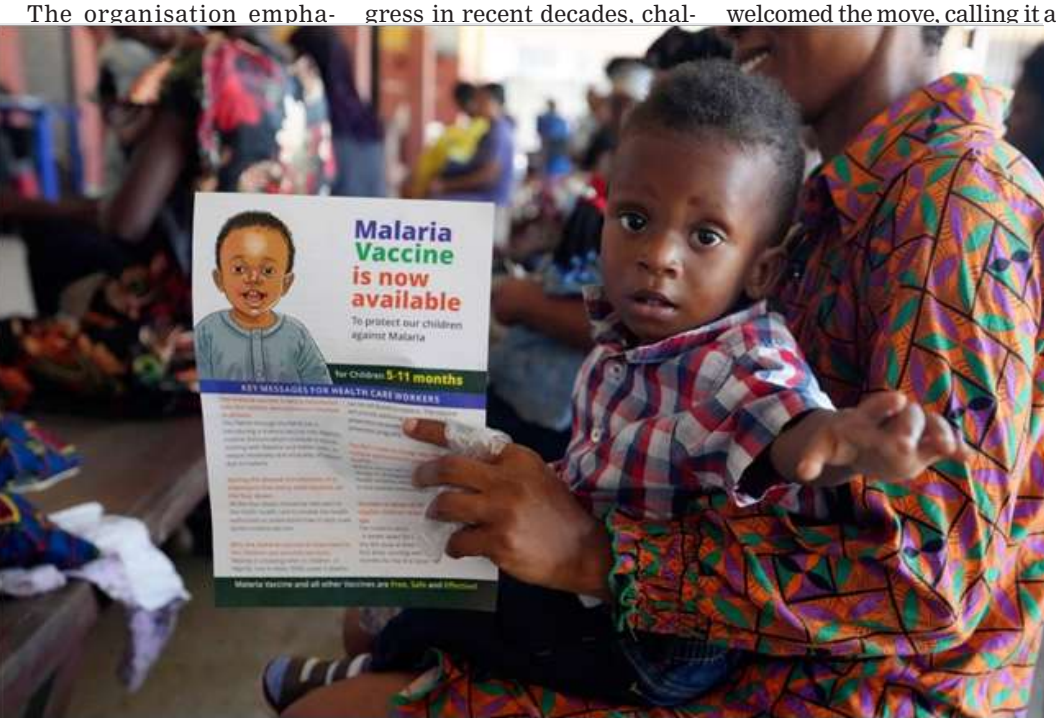


cern over growing hostility. Data cited in reports suggests an uptick in incidents involving harassment and violence in and around religious sites. The viral video has further heightened tensions, with many calling for accountability and restraint to prevent the situation from worsening. Religious leaders and community representatives have urged calm, emphasizing the need to respect shared spaces and avoid actions that could provoke further conflict. French authorities are also understood to be monitoring the situation closely, given the involvement of one of their na-

tionals. Diplomatic channels may be engaged depending on the outcome of the investigation. Analysts warn that such incidents, when amplified on social media, can quickly deepen divisions and contribute to a cycle of retaliation. In a region already marked by historical and political sensitivities, maintaining order and preventing escalation remains a significant challenge. As investigations continue, the focus remains on ensuring accountability while also preventing the incident from triggering wider unrest in the already volatile city.

WHO Approves First Malaria Treatment for Infants, Expands Access with New Diagnostic Tools

In a major breakthrough in the fight against malaria, the World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified the first-ever malaria treatment specifically designed for infants, alongside new diagnostic tests aimed at improving early detection of the disease. The newly approved treatment is tailored for babies weighing less than 5 kilograms—a group that has long been underserved due to the lack of suitable medicines. Until now, treating malaria in very young infants has been challenging, as most available drugs were developed for older children and adults, often requiring dose adjustments that carried risks. Health experts say this development fills a critical gap in malaria care. Infants are among the most vulnerable to severe complications from the disease, particularly in regions with high transmission rates such as sub-Saharan Africa. The availability of a treatment specifically formulated for this age group is expected to significantly improve survival rates. In addition to the new medication, WHO has also approved innovative diagnostic tools designed to detect malaria more accurately and at earlier stages. These tests are expected to enhance screening efforts, especially in remote and resource-limited settings where timely diagnosis can be life-saving.



sized that early detection, combined with effective treatment, is key to reducing malaria-related deaths. With improved diagnostics, healthcare workers will be better equipped to identify infections quickly and begin treatment before the disease progresses. Malaria remains one of the world’s deadliest infectious diseases, claiming hundreds of thousands of lives each year, most of them children under the age of five. Despite significant pro-

gress in recent decades, challenges such as drug resistance, climate factors, and gaps in healthcare access continue to hinder eradication efforts. WHO officials noted that the dual development, new infant treatment and enhanced diagnostics—marks an important step forward in global malaria control strategies. These tools are expected to support national health programs and international initiatives aimed at reducing the disease burden. Public health experts have

welcomed the move, calling it a “game-changer” for pediatric malaria care. They stress that wider distribution and affordability will be crucial to ensuring that the benefits reach the communities most in need. As countries continue to battle malaria, the WHO’s latest approvals signal renewed momentum in addressing one of the world’s most persistent health challenges, offering hope for better protection of the most vulnerable populations.

UAE's OPEC Exit Seen as Challenge to Saudi-Led Oil Order

The United Arab Emirates' reported exit from OPEC is being widely interpreted as a major shake-up in global oil diplomacy, with analysts viewing it as a direct challenge to Saudi Arabia's long-standing leadership over the oil-producing alliance.

According to industry observers, the move reflects growing differences within OPEC over production quotas and long-term energy strategy. While Saudi Arabia has traditionally pushed for coordinated output cuts to support higher oil prices, the UAE has increasingly advocated for greater production flexibility to capitalise on its expanding capacity and maximise market share.

The UAE has invested heavily in its upstream oil sector in recent years, significantly boosting its production potential. However, OPEC's quota system has limited how much it can produce, leading to frustration within Abu Dhabi. By stepping away from the group, the country is expected to gain greater autonomy in deciding output levels based on market conditions rather than collective agreements.

Analysts describe the development as more than just an organisational shift—it is being seen as a “rebellion” against Saudi Arabia's dominant role within OPEC. For decades, Riyadh has acted as the de facto leader of the cartel,

guiding production policies and stabilising global oil prices through coordinated cuts and increases. The UAE's departure signals a potential weakening of that centralised control.

The move also highlights a broader divergence in economic priorities among Gulf nations. While oil remains a critical revenue source, countries like the UAE are aggressively pursuing diversification strategies, investing in industries such as tourism, logistics, finance, and renewable energy. This shift has influenced their approach to oil policy, with greater emphasis on volume and flexibility rather than price stability alone.

Market experts suggest that the UAE's decision could reshape global oil dynamics. With one of OPEC's key producers operating independently, the group's ability to regulate supply and influence prices may weaken. This could lead to increased volatility in crude oil markets, especially during periods of geopolitical uncertainty or demand fluctuations.

At the same time, some analysts believe the immediate impact may be limited, as the UAE and Saudi Arabia maintain strong economic and political ties despite differences in energy strategy. Cooperation in other regional and global matters is expected to continue, even if oil policy

alignment becomes less predictable.

The development also comes at a time when global energy markets are undergoing significant transition. Demand uncertainty, the rise of renewable energy, and shifting trade patterns are already challenging traditional oil alliances. In this context, the UAE's move is seen as part of a broader realignment in global energy governance.

For Saudi Arabia, the exit represents a strategic challenge, as it could reduce its influence within OPEC and complicate efforts to maintain unified production discipline among remaining members.

In conclusion, the UAE's



departure from OPEC marks a significant turning point in global oil politics. It underscores rising competition within the Gulf region and signals a shift from collective price management toward

more individualised national strategies. As the global energy landscape evolves, the balance of power within oil-producing nations may be entering a new and more fragmented era.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q4 Profit Rises 13% to 4,027 Crore

Kotak Mahindra Bank reported a strong performance for the fourth quarter, with its net profit rising 13.4% year-on-year to 4,026.55 crore (rounded to 4,027 crore), exceeding market expectations. The growth was driven by steady loan expansion, improved asset quality, and controlled costs, according to the bank's latest earnings update.

The results comfortably beat analyst estimates, which had pegged profits lower for the quarter. The bank also announced a dividend of 0.65 per equity share, adding value for shareholders.



One of the key positives in the results was improved asset quality. Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) declined to around 1.2%, indicating better loan repayment behaviour and tighter credit control.

At the same time, provisions for bad loans fell significantly compared to the previous quarter, which further boosted net profit. Lower provisions typically indicate reduced stress in the loan portfolio.

While core income remained strong, other income saw a slight decline year-on-year. However, the overall impact was offset by better cost management and lower provisioning requirements.

Net interest margin (NIM), a key profitability indicator for banks, showed mild pressure compared to the previous year but remained within stable levels.

Overall, Kotak Mahindra

Bank's Q4 performance reflects steady growth rather than aggressive expansion. The results highlight three key trends: stable lending growth, improving asset quality, and controlled credit costs.

Analysts view the performance as resilient, especially in a period where banks are navigating interest rate shifts and evolving credit demand.

With consistent loan growth and improving balance sheet quality, Kotak Mahindra Bank is expected to remain stable in the coming quarters. However, future performance will depend on credit demand trends, interest rate movements, and broader economic conditions.

In summary, the Q4 results reinforce Kotak Mahindra Bank's position as a steady performer in India's private banking sector, delivering consistent growth and maintaining strong financial health.

Markets End Week Higher Amid Volatility, Rupee Recovers from Record Lows

Indian stock markets ended the week on a positive note despite witnessing significant volatility across sessions. Benchmark indices managed to close higher, supported by selective buying in key sectors and recovery from intraday lows, even as global uncertainties and currency fluctuations kept investors cautious. The Sensex and Nifty swung sharply during the week, reflecting mixed investor sentiment driven by global cues such as crude oil price movements, geopolitical tensions, and expectations around interest rate decisions by the US Federal Reserve. Despite these pressures, both indices showed resilience and ended the week in the green, suggesting underlying strength in domestic equities. A key highlight of the week was the movement in the Indian rupee, which recovered from recent record lows after coming under heavy pressure earlier due to rising crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows. The currency had been impacted by global risk factors and dollar strength, but later showed signs of stabilisation as market conditions improved. However, the rupee's earlier weakness had already influenced market sentiment, as a depreciating currency raises concerns over inflation and import costs, particularly for a country heavily dependent on oil imports. This led to heightened volatility in



equity markets, especially in sectors sensitive to global commodity prices. Throughout the week, market movements were largely driven by external factors rather than domestic triggers. Rising crude oil prices remained a major concern, affecting both currency and equity markets. At the same time, signals from global central banks, particularly the US Federal Reserve's monetary stance, added to investor uncertainty. Despite these challenges, domestic institutional buying provided support at lower levels, helping markets recover

from sharp declines during the week. This buying interest cushioned the downside and contributed to the overall weekly gains. Sector-wise, performance remained mixed. Defensive and select large-cap stocks saw accumulation during dips, while rate-sensitive and globally linked sectors experienced higher volatility. Broader markets also reflected a cautious but stable trend, with selective participation rather than a broad-based rally. The overall market trend indicates that while short-term volatility remains elevated due to global

macroeconomic pressures, Indian equities continue to demonstrate resilience. Investors appear to be balancing concerns around global risks with optimism about domestic economic stability and corporate earnings potential. In conclusion, the week reflected a classic tug-of-war between global headwinds and domestic support. While volatility dominated intraday trading sessions, markets ultimately ended on a stronger footing, and the rupee's partial recovery added a sense of stability after recent weakness.

Indian ETFs See Record 1.8 Lakh Crore Inflows in FY26

Indian Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) have recorded their highest-ever net inflows of more than 1.8 lakh crore in FY26, marking a historic milestone for the country's passive investment segment, according to data highlighted by Zerodha Fund House. This figure is more than double the previous record of 83,390 crore seen in FY22, underlining the rapid acceleration of ETF adoption among Indian investors. Over the past five years, annual ETF inflows had largely remained in the 46,000–83,000 crore range, making FY26 a significant breakout year.

A major highlight of FY26 has been the overwhelming interest in commodity-based ETFs. Gold and silver ETFs together accounted for about 55% of total inflows, attracting nearly 99,000 crore combined.

Gold ETFs alone saw record participation, supported by global uncertainty and strong price movements, while silver ETFs also witnessed sharp inflows driven by rising investor interest in precious metals as a diversification tool.

Equity ETFs also attracted healthy inflows, but commodities clearly emerged as the dominant theme for the year, reflecting a shift in how investors are allocating across asset classes.

Alongside inflows, ETF trading activity in India has also surged sharply. Average daily turnover in the ETF segment jumped from around 237 crore in FY21 to over 4,200 crore between April 2025 and February 2026, indicating significantly



higher market participation. Experts believe this rise reflects growing awareness of ETFs as a low-cost, transparent, and flexible investment option compared to actively managed funds.

Market analysts say the FY26 trend signals a structural shift in investor behaviour. Earlier, Indian ETFs were largely equity-focused, but the latest data shows increasing use of ETFs for broader portfolio diversification, including commodities like gold and silver.

According to Zerodha Fund House, the strong inflows into commodity ETFs suggest that investors are increasingly using ETFs not just for equity exposure but also for building balanced, multi-asset portfolios.

Several factors are driving this surge in ETF inflows:

- Lower expense ratios compared to active funds

- Easy liquidity and real-time trading on exchanges
 - Growing retail investor participation
 - Preference for passive, index-linked investing
 - Increased awareness of gold and silver ETFs as hedging tools
- With ETF assets under management already expanding rapidly in recent years, FY26's record inflows reinforce the long-term shift toward passive investing in India. The trend also suggests that investors are becoming more strategic in portfolio construction, especially during periods of global market uncertainty.
- In conclusion, the record ETF inflows of FY26 highlight not just a strong year for the segment, but a broader transformation in India's investment landscape—toward simplicity, diversification, and passive wealth creation.

India's financial markets have remained broadly stable despite global volatility, but Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has cautioned that sustaining this resilience will require deeper reforms and stronger market infrastructure going forward.

In a recent address, the RBI Governor noted that Indian markets have demonstrated impressive strength in the face of global uncertainties such as geopolitical tensions, fluctuating crude oil prices, and shifting interest rate expectations in advanced economies. However, he stressed that the next phase of growth will depend on improving liquidity, expanding participation, and strengthening financial market systems.

According to the RBI, India's economy continues to be one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, stable inflation trends, and ongoing structural reforms. The banking sector has also shown improved balance sheets, while corporate bond markets are gradually becoming deeper and more diversified.

Despite this stability, the central bank believes that financial markets still face structural gaps. Governor Malhotra highlighted the need for broader participation across instruments such as government securities, foreign exchange markets, and derivatives. He also pointed out that liquidity in certain segments remains limited, which could restrict long-term growth and



efficiency. A key concern raised is the uneven development of market infrastructure. While equity markets have matured significantly, other segments like credit derivatives and long-term bond markets still require development. The RBI has been working on reforms such as improved clearing mechanisms, enhanced transparency in foreign exchange transactions, and easier access for foreign portfolio investors to strengthen market depth.

The Governor also emphasised the importance of ensuring fair and inclusive access to financial markets. Institutions like banks and primary dealers, he noted, play a critical role in market-making and li-

quidity support, but they also carry the responsibility of ensuring transparency and equal access for all participants.

Analysts interpret the RBI's remarks as a signal that while India's financial system is currently stable, it is still evolving. The resilience seen in recent years—driven by strong domestic demand, steady capital inflows, and regulatory stability—must now be supported by deeper structural reforms to sustain long-term growth.

At the same time, global factors continue to pose risks. Volatile commodity prices, shifting global interest rates, and uncertain capital flows could test the strength of Indian markets in the coming quarters.

The RBI's warning suggests that internal reforms are necessary to reduce vulnerability to external shocks. Market experts believe that India's financial system is entering a new phase—one focused less on crisis management and more on efficiency, depth, and global integration. Strengthening liquidity channels, improving derivatives markets, and encouraging broader participation are seen as key steps in this direction. In conclusion, while India's financial markets have so far held firm under pressure, the RBI's message is clear: maintaining this stability will require continuous reforms and a stronger, more inclusive financial ecosystem.

Turtle’s Unexpected SlapLeaves Diver Stunned in Viral Underwater Moment

A lighthearted yet surprising underwater encounter has taken the internet by storm after a video showed a man being slappedby a turtle. The clip, which has quickly gone viral, captures a moment that is both amusing and a reminder that wildlife interactions don’t always go as expected.

In the video, a diver appears to be closely following or approaching a sea turtle underwater. The man seems fascinated, almost fixated, on the animal, maintaining a close distance while filming or observing it. At first, the turtle swims calmly, seemingly unbothered by the human presence. However, within seconds, the situation takes an unexpected turn.

As the diver continues to hover near it, the turtle suddenly swings one of its flippers backward, striking the man on the face. The quick motion looks very much like a deliberate “slap,” leaving viewers both amused and surprised. The diver recoils slightly, clearly caught off guard by the reaction.

The video’s caption and on-line reactions suggest that the man’s persistent closeness may have triggered the turtle’s response. While turtles are generally not aggressive creatures, they are still wild animals and can react defensively when they feel threatened, stressed, or harassed. In this case, the turtle’s action appears to be a warning, a signal to maintain distance rather than an act of aggression.

Social media users have had a field day with the clip, flooding comment sections with humorous takes. Many joked that the turtle “had enough” of the diver’s attention, while others praised the animal for setting boundaries. The moment has been widely shared, with viewers appreciating both its comedic timing and its underlying message.

Beyond the humour, the incident highlights an important point about interacting with wildlife. Marine experts often stress the need to observe animals from a respectful distance and avoid interfering with their natural behaviour. Getting too close can cause stress to the animal and lead to unpredictable reactions, as seen in the video.

Encounters like this serve as a reminder that even seemingly gentle creatures can respond defensively when their space is invaded. Respecting boundaries is crucial—not only for human safety but also for the well-being of wildlife.

In the end, while the turtle’s slap has entertained millions, it also delivers a subtle lesson: admiration for nature should always come with respect.



AI Ex-Partners Trend in China Sparks Debate Over Love, Loss, and Privacy

A new and unusual trend emerging among young people in China is raising both curiosity and concern: using artificial intelligence to recreate former romantic partners after breakups. What may sound like science fiction is quickly becoming a reality, as individuals turn to technology to cope with heartbreak in a deeply personal way.

Instead of moving on through traditional emotional healing, some young users are choosing to digitally “revive” their ex-partners. By using AI tools, they create virtual versions of people they once loved—complete with personality traits, communication styles, and even emotional responses. These digital replicas are designed to simulate real conversations, making interactions feel surprisingly authentic. The process of building these AI-generated ex-partners is both technical and deeply intimate. Users upload chat histories, photos, and social media content into AI systems. This data allows the software to mimic the former partner’s tone, catchphrases, and linguistic patterns. Over time, users can refine the virtual personality further by adding memories such as shared experiences, habits, and even past disagreements. The result is a highly personalised digital companion that behaves in ways closely resembling the real person. These AI “exes” can engage in conversations that feel familiar, often replicating the emotional dynamics of the original relationship. For some, this offers comfort—a way to hold on to what was lost and process feelings of loneliness. However, the trend has sparked significant debate, particularly around ethical and psychological concerns. One major issue is privacy. Since the creation of these digital replicas relies on personal data, often shared without the other person’s consent—it raises serious questions about boundaries and digital rights. Critics argue that recreating someone’s personality without permission could be intrusive and potentially harmful. Another concern is emotional dependency. While the technology may initially help users cope with breakups, there is a risk that it could prevent them from moving on. By maintaining a simulated relationship, individuals might become attached to a version of the past, making it harder to accept reality and build new connections. The phenomenon also highlights the growing role of AI in human relationships. Originally, the underlying technology was not intended for this purpose. It evolved from an open-source project designed to preserve workplace knowledge and create reusable AI “skills” based on communication data. Over time, users adapted it for more personal and emotional uses, demonstrating how quickly technology can be repurposed in unexpected ways. This trend is part of a broader shift in how people interact with artificial intelligence. From AI companions to virtual influencers, technology is increasingly blurring the line between real and simulated relationships. While these innovations offer new possibilities, they also challenge traditional ideas about connection, identity, and consent. Ultimately, the rise of AI-generated ex-partners reflects both the power and complexity of modern technology. It shows how far AI has come in mimicking human behaviour—but also raises difficult questions about its limits. Can a digital replica truly replace a real relationship? And at what cost?As the trend continues to grow, it serves as a reminder that while technology can help ease emotional pain, it cannot fully replicate the depth and unpredictability of human connections. Balancing innovation with ethical responsibility will be key as society navigates this new frontier of digital intimacy.

At the heart of the discussion is a growing sense of disillusionment with traditional career paths. The individual behind the viral post candidly spoke about feeling drained, unfulfilled, and overwhelmed despite following what is often considered a “successful” trajectory. This raw honesty struck a chord, especially among young professionals navigating demanding jobs and uncertain futures.

The post highlighted how burnout is not always about long hours alone—it can stem from a lack of purpose, constant pressure to perform, and the feeling of being stuck in a repetitive cycle. Many users echoed this sentiment, noting that even well-paying or prestigious roles can feel emotionally exhausting when they fail to provide satisfaction or balance.

Social media reactions poured in from people across industries. Some admitted they were experiencing similar struggles but had never openly discussed them before. Others shared how they had quit jobs, switched careers, or taken breaks in search of better mental health. The conversation quickly evolved into a broader critique of hustle culture—the idea that constant productivity and overwork are necessary for success.

Interestingly, the debate also revealed differing perspectives. While many supported the idea of prioritising well-being, others argued that hard work and sacrifice are essential, especially in the early stages of a career. This divide reflects a larger generational shift, where younger workers are increasingly questioning traditional norms around work and success.

The issue of burnout is not new, but it has become more visible in recent years. Studies suggest that a significant percentage of professional’s experience symptoms such as exhaustion, anxiety, and declining motivation due to workplace stress. Factors like long working hours, digital fatigue, and limited organisational support have only intensified the problem.

What makes this particular viral post significant is its authenticity? Unlike polished career advice often seen online, it offered an unfiltered glimpse into the emotional toll of modern work life. This honesty encouraged others to speak up, breaking the stigma around discussing burnout and mental health.

The discussion also touched on the role of employers and workplace culture. Many users argued that companies need to rethink expectations, promote healthier work environments, and recognise the importance of employee well-being. Without such changes, burnout may continue to rise, affecting both individuals and productivity.

At the same time, some voices in the debate emphasised personal responsibility, encouraging individuals to set boundaries, manage time effectively, and prioritise self-care. The conversation, therefore, was not one-sided but reflected the complexity of the issue.

Ultimately, the viral Instagram post served as more than just a moment of online attention, it became a catalyst for a meaningful dialogue about the realities of modern careers. It highlighted that behind the polished image of success, many individuals are quietly struggling to cope.

In a world where ambition and achievement are often glorified, this conversation is a reminder that success should not come at the cost of mental well-being. Finding a balance between professional goals and personal health is not just desirable, it is essential for long-term fulfilment.

Viral Instagram Post on Burnout Sparks Honest Conversation on Work-Life Balance

A recent Instagram post discussing career burnout has ignited a widespread and deeply relatable conversation online about work-life balance, mental health, and modern work culture. The post, shared by a user reflecting on their personal struggles with professional life, resonated with thousands, quickly going viral and prompting people to share their own experiences.

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Studying abroad is often seen as a dream filled with opportunity, independence, and a better future. However, a recent viral video shared by an Indian student in the United States sheds light on a side of this journey that is rarely discussed, the emotional and practical challenges of living alone in a foreign country at a young age.

The student, identified as Kanav, is just 19 years old and currently pursuing his education in the U.S. Through a candid Instagram video, he shared his personal experiences, revealing that life abroad is far from the glamorous picture often portrayed on social media. While many people focus on the excitement of moving to a new country, Kanav highlighted the everyday struggles that come with it.

One of the biggest challenges he mentioned is managing daily life independently. Tasks that may seem simple, like cooking food, handling finances, using credit cards, and understanding taxes—become complicated when navigating them in a completely new environment. Without family support, students must quickly learn to take responsibility for everything, often through trial and error.

Beyond these practical issues, Kanav also spoke about the academic adjustment. The education system in the U.S. differs significantly from what many Indian students are used to. From teaching styles to classroom expectations, everything feels unfamiliar at first. This transition can be overwhelming, especially when combined with the pressure to perform well in a competitive environment.

However, the most striking part of his experience is the emotional toll of living far from home. Kanav described how festivals and special occasions, which are usually celebrated with family and friends in India, feel completely different when experienced alone. Instead of being surrounded by loved ones, he finds himself watching celebrations through video calls, separated by thousands of miles.

This sense of isolation is something many international students face but often hesitate to talk about. The excitement of studying abroad can quickly give way to homesickness, loneliness, and cultural shock. Everyday interactions, from making friends to understanding social norms—require time and effort, making the initial months particularly challenging.

Despite these difficulties, Kanav emphasized that such experiences also contribute to personal growth. Living alone teaches resilience, independence, and problem-solving skills. He acknowledged that while some days are harder than expected, they ultimately help build mental strength and self-confidence.

His message is not one of discouragement but of realism. Studying abroad is not just about earning a degree; it is also about learning how to adapt, survive, and grow in unfamiliar circumstances. The journey may be tough, but it shapes individuals in ways that go beyond academics.

In the end, Kanav’s story resonates with thousands of students who dream of studying overseas. It serves as a reminder that while the path may not be easy, it is often these very challenges that make the experience meaningful and transformative.



Indian Student Reveals the Untold Reality of Living Alone Abroad

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Bengaluru Man’s Meme-Only Farewell Email Leaves Office in Splits

A hilarious workplace moment from Bengaluru has gone viral after a man chose an unconventional way to say goodbye, by sending a farewell email made entirely of memes. The incident, shared on social media by one of his colleagues, has struck a chord online, with many calling it one of the funniest and most creative office exits ever.

According to the viral post, the employee decided to skip the usual emotional or formal farewell message and instead stitched together a series of memes to express his departure. From the very beginning, the email set a humorous tone. One of the memes hinted at an incoming farewell message, while another joked about not being the kind of person to give long speeches. The entire email continued in this style, replacing words with relatable and witty images.

One meme humorously captured the effort behind the email, suggesting the sender spent hours searching for the perfect goodbye memes. Another signalled his final sign-off in a playful manner, asking colleagues to remember him after he leaves. Despite the lack of traditional text, the message clearly conveyed his feelings, just in a much lighter and entertaining way.

The colleague who shared the story admitted she was initially confused and unsure if the email was real. However, once the team realised what had happened, the reaction quickly turned into laughter. The unconventional farewell broke the routine of typical corporate communication and created a memorable moment for everyone involved.

What made the situation even more entertaining was how the team responded. Instead of sticking to formal replies, many colleagues joined in on the fun by replying with memes of their own. Some responses were playful and dramatic, while others joked about the boldness it took to send such an email in a professional setting. A few employees even added their own humorous twists, making the email thread a chain of jokes rather than a standard goodbye exchange.

The incident highlights how workplace culture is evolving, especially among younger professionals. Formal emails and structured communication are gradually making space for more relaxed, creative expressions, particularly in informal contexts like farewells. Humour, especially through memes, has become a universal language that can break barriers and bring people together.

Social media users were quick to react to the viral story. Many praised the employee for making his exit memorable and refreshing. Some commented that farewell emails are often too long or overly emotional, and this approach was a welcome change. Others described it as “peak corporate humour,” appreciating the balance between professionalism and personality.

At the same time, the story also sparked a broader conversation about individuality in the workplace. While not every office environment may welcome such creativity, moments like these show how small acts of humour can leave a lasting impression. They also reflect a shift toward more human and less rigid professional interactions.

In the end, this meme-filled farewell wasn’t just funny, it turned a routine goodbye into a shared experience that colleagues are unlikely to forget. It proves that sometimes, breaking the rules in a light-hearted way can create the most memorable moments.

their own. Some responses were playful and dramatic, while others joked about the boldness it took to send such an email in a professional setting. A few employees even added their own humorous twists, making the email thread a chain of jokes rather than a standard goodbye exchange.

The incident highlights how workplace culture is evolving, especially among younger professionals. Formal emails and structured communication are gradually making space for more relaxed, creative expressions, particularly in informal contexts like farewells. Humour, especially through memes, has become a universal language that can break barriers and bring people together.

Social media users were quick to react to the viral story. Many praised the employee for making his exit memorable and refreshing. Some commented that farewell emails are often too long or overly emotional, and this approach was a welcome change. Others described it as “peak corporate humour,” appreciating the balance between professionalism and personality.

At the same time, the story also sparked a broader conversation about individuality in the workplace. While not every office environment may welcome such creativity, moments like these show how small acts of humour can leave a lasting impression. They also reflect a shift toward more human and less rigid professional interactions.

In the end, this meme-filled farewell wasn’t just funny, it turned a routine goodbye into a shared experience that colleagues are unlikely to forget. It proves that sometimes, breaking the rules in a light-hearted way can create the most memorable moments.

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Chennai Cruise Past Mumbai with Ease

Chennai Super Kings delivered a commanding performance to defeat Mumbai Indians by eight wickets in an Indian Premier League 2026 clash at Chepauk, continuing their impressive run this season. Chasing a modest target of 160, Chennai made the task look effortless despite an early wobble. The side lost two quick wickets, with Sanju Samson departing for 11 and Urvil Patel managing just 24. At 62 for 2, the game appeared evenly poised, but what followed was complete domination by the hosts.

Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad led from the front with a composed unbeaten 67 off 48 balls, striking five boundaries and two sixes. He found a reliable partner in Karthik Sharma, who remained not out on 54 from 40 deliveries, including four fours and three sixes. The duo stitched together an unbroken 98-run partnership for the third wicket, guiding Chennai home with 11 balls to spare and ensuring there were no further hiccups.

Earlier, Mumbai struggled

to put up a challenging total after opting to bat first. They managed 159 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs, a score that proved insufficient on a good batting surface. Naman Dhir was the lone bright spot, scoring a fighting 57, while skipper Hardik Pandya endured a disappointing outing with a sluggish 18 off 23 balls, failing to provide the late acceleration his team needed. Chennai's bowlers played a crucial role in restricting Mumbai. Anshul Kamboj was the standout performer, picking up three wickets and breaking the backbone of the opposition's batting lineup. He was well supported by Noor Ahmad, who chipped in with two key wickets to maintain pressure throughout the innings. With this comprehensive win, Chennai Super Kings continue to build momentum and climb higher in the points table. Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, are left searching for answers as inconsistency once again costs them dearly in a high-stakes encounter.



Kyle Jamieson Opens Up on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Duel, “Never Been So Afraid”

New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson has made a surprising admission about his on-field battle with 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, saying he has “never been so afraid” while bowling to a batter.

The statement comes after an intense IPL 2026 encounter between Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals, where Sooryavanshi once again grabbed attention with his fearless batting approach. The young opener, already known for his explosive stroke play, continued his rapid rise as one of the most talked-about talents in the tournament.

Jamieson, reflecting on the duel, acknowledged the pressure Sooryavanshi brings to bowlers despite his age. The experienced fast bowler admitted that the teenager's aggressive intent from the first ball makes it extremely challenging to execute plans on the field.

The match itself saw high intensity moments, with Sooryavanshi continuing his reputation for attacking bowling attacks without hesitation. His ability to take on international-quality pace bowlers has been one of the standout features of IPL 2026, earning him widespread attention from fans and experts alike.

Jamieson's comments have

quickly gone viral, sparking discussion among cricket followers about the extraordinary rise of the teenage batter. Many have pointed out that it is rare for a bowler of Jamieson's experience to openly admit feeling intimidated, especially by such a young opponent.

This is not the first time Sooryavanshi has made headlines this season. The 15-year-old has already delivered multiple impactful performances, showing remarkable maturity and confidence at the highest level of T20 cricket. His fearless approach has made him one of the breakout stars of the league.

However, the encounter also saw controversy, as Jamieson faced disciplinary action for an aggressive send-off during the same match, highlighting the intensity of the contest between the bowler and the young batter.

Cricket analysts believe this growing rivalry reflects a broader shift in the IPL, where young talents are increasingly challenging established international stars with bold and unconventional batting styles.

As IPL 2026 progresses, all eyes remain on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, whose rapid rise continues to redefine expectations around age, pressure, and performance in elite cricket.



“We Went to India’s Dressing Room”, Pakistan Captain Salman Agha Revisits Handshake Controversy

Pakistan T20 captain Salman Ali Agha has reignited the debate around the India-Pakistan “handshake row,” revealing fresh details about what transpired during the 2025 Asia Cup clash between the two arch-rivals.

Speaking about the controversial episode, Agha said that the Pakistan team had made an effort to maintain cricketing tradition by attempting to meet the Indian players after the match. However, their attempt did not lead to the customary handshake.

“We went to India’s dressing room... but the door was closed,” Agha revealed, describing how his team tried to greet their counterparts after the game but were unable to do so.

The incident dates back to the 2025 Asia Cup, where India adopted a no-handshake policy against Pakistan amid heightened political tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack.

According to Agha, he was not initially aware that the usual pre-match handshake would not take place. He said that the information was conveyed to him only shortly before the toss by match officials, leaving him surprised by the development.

Despite this, Agha maintained that his team still wanted

to follow the traditional post-match courtesy and even went to the Indian dressing room, but were unable to complete the gesture.

The handshake controversy has continued to linger well beyond the Asia Cup, reflecting the strained relations between the two cricketing nations. The no-handshake stance has since carried into other tournaments, including the 2026 T20 World Cup, further highlighting how off-field tensions have influenced on-field conduct.

Agha also indicated that he is not in favour of such practices, suggesting that they send the wrong message, especially to younger players who look up to international cricketers as role models.

The episode underscores how the India-Pakistan rivalry often extends beyond cricket, shaped by broader political and diplomatic realities. While matches between the two teams remain among the most anticipated in world cricket, incidents like the handshake row reveal the complex backdrop against which these contests are played.

As discussions around the controversy resurface, Agha's comments have once again brought attention to the delicate balance between sportsmanship and national sentiment in one of cricket's most intense rivalries.

Parthiv Patel Hits Back at Trolls, says “Sorry to Disappoint” Over Viral Post

Former India cricketer Parthiv Patel has responded sharply to social media criticism after a post of his drew backlash from fans, saying he has no regrets and sarcastically apologising for disappointing them. The controversy began after a post shared by Patel triggered negative reactions online, with several users taking aim at the former wicketkeeper-batter. While the exact context of the criticism varied, the tone of the responses quickly turned harsh, prompting Patel to address the issue publicly. Breaking his silence, Patel took to social media with a pointed response, stating, “Sorry to disappoint,” in what many interpreted as a sarcastic remark directed at his critics. His reply signaled

that he was unfazed by the trolling and unwilling to bow to online pressure.

The former cricketer, known for his straightforward opinions, has often been active on social media, where he shares insights on cricket and current events. However, like many public figures, he has also faced criticism and trolling, reflecting the increasingly polarised nature of online discussions. Patel's response has since sparked mixed reactions. While some users supported him for standing his ground and not giving in to negativity, others continued to criticise his original post. The incident once again highlights the challenges faced by public personalities in navigating social media, where opinions can quickly escalate

into widespread debate. In recent years, several cricketers and sports personalities have spoken out about online abuse and the pressure of constant scrutiny. Patel's reaction adds to this growing conversation, underlining the need for healthier discourse on digital platforms. Despite the backlash, Patel's message was clear—he remains unapologetic and unaffected by the criticism. His response reflects a broader sentiment among public figures who are increasingly choosing to confront trolling rather than ignore it. As the debate continues online, the episode serves as a reminder of how quickly social media interactions can turn contentious, especially when it involves well-known personalities.



Suresh Raina’s Big Statement on MS Dhoni’s Return Triggers Viral Reaction

Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has set social media ablaze after making a striking comment about MS Dhoni's potential return, leaving fans and even studio anchors stunned during a recent discussion.

During a live interaction, Raina dropped a major hint regarding Dhoni, suggesting that there could still be more to come from the legendary former India captain. His remark, coupled with the phrase “ab aayeganamaza” (now the real fun will begin), instantly grabbed attention and sparked excitement among cricket fans.

The reaction in the studio was immediate, with anchors visibly surprised by Raina's



statement. The unexpected nature of his comment led to a moment of disbelief, quickly turning into excitement as the conversation shifted toward what Dhoni's possible return

could mean.

While Raina did not provide specific details or confirm any official comeback, his words were enough to ignite speculation. Fans began discussing

whether Dhoni might return in some capacity—either as a player, mentor, or in another influential role within cricket.

MS Dhoni, who continues to enjoy a massive fan following, has often been at the center of comeback discussions despite stepping away from international cricket. His presence in the IPL and continued association with Chennai Super Kings has kept him closely connected to the game. Raina, known to share a close bond with Dhoni both on and off the field, is often seen as someone with insight into the former captain's mindset. This is why his statement carried extra weight and quickly went viral across platforms. The clip has since been

widely shared, with fans expressing excitement, curiosity, and even skepticism about what lies ahead. Some believe Raina was hinting at a special role for Dhoni in upcoming cricketing events, while others see it as a lighthearted comment that has been blown out of proportion. Regardless of interpretation, the moment highlights the enduring popularity of MS Dhoni and the kind of buzz even a small hint about him can generate. As speculation continues, one thing remains clear: any possibility involving Dhoni is enough to capture the imagination of millions, proving that his legacy in Indian cricket remains as strong as ever.



SingeetamSrinivasa Rao Returns at 94 with Musical Fantasy Sing Geetham, Releasing June 11

Legendary filmmaker SingeetamSrinivasa Rao is all set to mesmerize audiences once again with one of the most ambitious projects of his illustrious career. Having redefined Indian cinema over several decades with nearly sixty films across multiple languages, the iconic director proves that creativity knows no age. At 94, he returns to the director's chair, bringing with him the same innovation and vision that made classics like the silent film PushpakaVimana and the pathbreaking sci-fi Aditya 369. His collaborations with Kamal Haasan, including ApoorvaSagodharargal and Michael Madana Kama Rajan, remain benchmarks in Indian cinema. Now, he is back with Sing Geetham, touted as India's first musical fantasy film. Blending music with magical realism, the film promises a unique and immersive cinematic experience. Backed by prestigious banners Vyjayanthi Movies



and Swapna Cinema, and produced by filmmaker Nag Ashwin, the project brings together a legendary director and a renowned production house. Set in a mysterious village,

Sing Geetham revolves around the journey of a young man named Pratap. In search of opportunities, Pratap's life takes an unexpected turn when he finds himself entering a world

where not everything is as it seems. As he gets caught in a conflict between development and preservation, he is forced to question his choices, beliefs, and aspirations. With its

unique concept and fantasy-driven narrative, the film aims to offer a refreshing cinematic experience. It stands as another milestone in SingeetamSrinivasa Rao's remarkable creative journey. The film features a young and promising lead cast including Ayaan, AhalyaBam-roo, and ShaliniKondepudi, who deliver impressive performances. Singeetam's signature style of blending fantasy with humor adds charm and depth to the storytelling. Technically, the film is equally strong. Cinematographer Ankur captures visually striking frames, while Devi Sri Prasad's music enhances the film's emotional and magical tone. Art director Aravind Mule creates a rich and immersive world that adds depth to the narrative. The production values reflect a grand scale. Having already generated buzz with its title teaser, Sing Geetham is set for a worldwide theatrical release on June 11.

LavanyaTripathi Thanks Ram Charan for Launching Sati LeelavathiTrailer at Grand Event

The trailer of Sati Leelavathi, starring LavanyaTripathiKonidela and Dev Mohan in lead roles, was officially launched by Mega Power Star Ram Charan at a special event held on Saturday. The film is presented by the renowned banner Anandi Arts and produced by Nagamohan under Durga Devi Pictures. It is directed by Tatineni Satya, known for films like Bheemili Kabaddi Jattu and SMS (Siva ManasuloS-ruthi). The movie is all set for a grand worldwide release on May 8.

Speaking at the trailer launch event, LavanyaTripathi expressed her gratitude and excitement. She said that all the hard work, love, and dedication the team invested in Sati Leelavathi will be visible on screen. She revealed that director Satya and writer Uday brought a compelling story to her, and the film has turned out wonderfully. Lavanya also mentioned that the entire team supported her immensely after she discovered she was pregnant during the shoot. Thanking Ram Charan, she said his support in launching the trailer has significantly increased the film's reach and visibility. She urged audiences to watch and support the film in theatres on May 8.

Dev Mohan shared his happiness about returning to Telugu cinema and said he thoroughly enjoyed the trailer along with



everyone else. He thanked Ram Charan for unveiling the trailer and stated that his role in the film is unique and different from his previous work. Expressing gratitude to the director and producer for the opportunity, he also appreciated working alongside LavanyaTripathi and hoped audiences would support the film upon release.

Director Tatineni Satya thanked Ram Charan for launching the trailer and expressed gratitude to everyone who supported the film during its making. He also acknowledged writer Uday and his direction team members for their contributions. He described Sati Leelavathi as a good film and requested audiences to watch it in theatres.

Producer Nagamohan stated that the film will release on May 8 and expressed confidence that audiences will enjoy it. He thanked the entire team, especially Lavanya and Dev Mohan, for their support in bringing the project to completion. He also extended thanks to Ram Charan for the trailer launch.

Actor JeevanBotimala shared that working with LavanyaTripathi brought him new opportunities like Vishwambhara and UstaadBhagat Singh, calling her his lucky charm. Binendra Menon mentioned that this is his second film with director Satya and that the shoot was a fun experience at unique locations.

Lyricist Abhinaya Srinivas said he wrote a song for the film and thanked the team for the opportunity. Comedian Tagubothu Ramesh recalled his association with director Satya since Bheemili Kabaddi Jattu and praised Lavanya for continuing to shoot even during her pregnancy. Saptagiri expressed confidence that the film will entertain audiences and emphasized the importance of word-of-mouth in bringing people to theatres.

Writer Uday concluded by saying that while writing Sati Leelavathi was enjoyable, watching the teaser and trailer was even more entertaining. He thanked everyone involved and hoped the film would become a big success.

Kiara Advani Reportedly Requests Cuts to Bold Scenes in ‘Toxic’, Sparking Online Debate

A fresh buzz from the sets of Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has sparked widespread discussion in film circles, with reports suggesting that actress Kiara Advani has asked the makers to trim certain bold scenes from the final cut of the film.

According to industry chatter, Kiara had originally filmed a romantic sequence with lead actor Yash after being assured by director Geetu Mohandas that the scenes would remain within her comfort zone and be presented tastefully. However, after viewing the edited version, the actress is reportedly uncomfortable with how the sequence appears on screen and has requested changes.

Sources claim that she has asked the team either to shorten the sequence or remove portions of it entirely, leading to a creative discussion within the production team about how to balance artistic intent with the actor's comfort.

The development has triggered mixed reactions online and within industry circles. Some argue that actors have every right to reassess their comfort level after seeing the final edit, while others feel that such changes after filming could affect the narrative flow of the movie.

Reports also suggest that the sequence in question is part of a major emotional track in the film, making the decision more complex for the makers, who are now evaluating possible edits.

Toxic, directed by Geetu Mohandas and starring Yash alongside a star-studded ensemble including Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, and others, has already been generating strong buzz for its bold themes and stylish presentation.

The film, described as a dark “fairy tale for grown-ups,” is among the most anticipated pan-India releases and is currently in its post-production phase ahead of release.

While there has been no official confirmation from Kiara Advani or the makers, the discussion has once again highlighted the ongoing debate in cinema about creative freedom, consent, and on-screen representation.

As Toxic moves closer to release, all eyes remain on whether the reported changes will be incorporated into the final version—or whether the original vision will remain intact.



After Peddi, BuchiBabu Reportedly Plans Film with Mahesh Babu

Director BuchiBabu Sana, who is currently busy with the highly anticipated Ram Charan starrer Peddi, is already making headlines for his next big move in Telugu cinema. According to industry reports, the filmmaker is planning to collaborate with Superstar Mahesh Babu for his upcoming project once he completes his current commitments. Peddi, a sports-action drama starring Ram Charan and directed by BuchiBabu, is one of the most awaited films in Telugu cinema and is scheduled for release in 2026. The film has generated strong buzz due to its scale, cast, and music by A.R. Rahman. Now, even before the release of Peddi, reports suggest that BuchiBabu is preparing scripts for his next venture and is keen on working with top-tier actors. Among the names being discussed, Mahesh Babu appears to be a strong possibility for a future collaboration. Interestingly, this is not the first time BuchiBabu's name has been linked with Mahesh Babu. Earlier reports also indicated that after completing SS Rajamouli'sSSMB29, Mahesh Babu could consider working with BuchiBabu Sana, depending on script development and availability.



BuchiBabu, who made a strong debut with Uppena, has quickly risen as one of the most promising young directors in Telugu cinema. His storytelling style, rooted emotions, and commercial sensibilities have made him a sought-after filmmaker among leading stars. With Peddi, he is expected to further cement his position in the industry. However, it is also reported that the director is currently focusing entirely on completing Peddi before finalising his next project. Industry sources suggest that discussions with major production houses, including Vyjayanthi Movies and others, may shape his future collaborations. If a project with Mahesh Babu materialises, it would mark a major milestone for BuchiBabu, bringing together one of Telugu cinema's biggest stars and one of its fastest-rising directors. Fans are already speculating about the kind of subject the duo could explore, ranging from intense drama to large-scale commercial storytelling. For now, everything remains in the discussion stage, and no official announcement has been made. BuchiBabu's immediate priority continues to be Peddi, while anticipation builds around what could be his next big cinematic partnership.

As Telugu cinema continues to witness exciting collaborations, a potential BuchiBabu-Mahesh Babu film is already creating buzz—even before becoming reality.

“I Needed a Pause”,TusharaVijayan Opens Up on Taking a Career Break

Tamil and Telugu actress TusharaVijayan has spoken candidly about stepping away from films for a period, revealing that her decision was driven by personal reflection and the need for balance rather than any external pressure.

In a recent interview, the actress addressed the speculation around her brief absence from the screen and clarified that the break was intentional. She explained that like many artists, she reached a point where she needed to pause, reassess her choices, and focus on herself before continuing her journey in cinema.

Tushara said that the entertainment industry often demands continuous engagement, with back-to-back projects leaving little room for rest or introspection. Over time, she felt the need to slow down and reconnect with her personal priorities. According to her, this period helped her regain clarity about the kind of work she wants to do moving forward.

The actress also highlighted that taking a break does not mean stepping away from passion. Instead, she



described it as a necessary phase that helped her return with a fresher perspective. She emphasized that creativity thrives when an artist is mentally and emotionally balanced, and sometimes distance from constant work becomes essential for growth. Tushara's journey in cinema has included diverse roles across languages, and she has been appreciated for her performances in both mainstream and content-driven films. Her decision to pause, she noted, was not influenced by lack of opportunities but by a conscious desire to avoid burnout and maintain long-term sustainability in her career.

She also acknowledged the support of the industry and audiences during her time away, expressing grati-

tude for the patience and encouragement she received. According to her, this support made it easier to take the break without feeling disconnected from her professional world.

Now, with renewed energy, TusharaVijayan is preparing to return with new projects that align more closely with her artistic vision. She hinted that she is being more selective about her roles, focusing on scripts that offer depth and meaningful storytelling rather than quantity of work.

Her openness about career pauses has resonated with many fans and aspiring actors, especially in an industry where constant visibility is often seen as essential. By speaking about her experience, she has contributed to a growing conversation about mental well-being, creative fatigue, and the importance of balance in demanding professions.

Tushara's reflections serve as a reminder that taking a step back is not a setback—it can often be a strategic and healthy choice that leads to stronger comebacks and more fulfilling work in the long run.



Fire Safety Awareness Drive in Bapatla

Bapatla, May 02|TPN Bureau
Amid rising summer temperatures, Fire Officer Rama Siddhartha urged residents to stay alert to fire hazards during an awareness program in Anand Nagar. He demonstrated safety measures for cooking gas leaks and stressed quick action to prevent loss of life and property. Highlighting in-

creased AC usage, he cautioned against running them continuously overnight, advising periodic switching off to avoid short circuits. He also reminded the public to dial 101 in case of emergencies. The event saw participation from community elders Chegudi Poleru, Varadala Mohan Rao, Kandru Suresh, local women, and fire department staff.



Jet Skis, Resorts Planned as Suryalanka Gets ‘Goa-like’ Upgrade

Bapatla, May 02|TPN Bureau
Suryalanka Beach in Bapatla district is set for a major transformation into an international tourism hub with a 97.52 crore investment under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. MP Tenneti Krishna Prasad, along with District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar and MLA Vegesina Narendra Varma, inspected ongoing development works on Saturday. The project aims to introduce Goa-style attractions,

including adventure sports, jet skis, luxury zones, and resorts to boost tourism. Officials emphasized speedy completion of works by the Tourism Development Corporation. Leaders expressed confidence that the initiative will enhance visitor experience, create local employment opportunities, and significantly increase state revenue through tourism growth and infrastructure development at the popular coastal destination.

Sricharani Storms Into India’s T20 World Cup Squad

Kadapa, May 02|TPN Bureau
Rising cricket sensation Sricharani, proudly representing Kadapa district, has earned her place in India’s squad for the upcoming ICC Women’s T20 World Cup 2026, marking another milestone in her rapidly ascending career. The young spinner, who was instrumental in India’s triumphant 2025 ODI World Cup campaign, continues to make waves on the international stage. With an impressive tally of 14 wickets in 9 matches during the tournament, Sricharani emerged as a key match-winner, consistently troubling batters with her sharp spin and composure under pressure. Her latest selection has sparked celebrations across her hometown and beyond, as fans and cricket enthusiasts



rally behind the talented bowler. Known for her ability to shift momentum in crucial moments, Sricharani is expected to play a vital role in India’s T20 ambitions. As anticipation builds for the global tournament, all eyes will be on this Kadapa prodigy, who now carries the hopes of a nation eager for another World Cup glory.



No Laxity in Sanitation: Commissioner Orders

Kurnool, May02|TPN Bureau
Municipal Corporation Commissioner Challa Obulesu has reiterated that negligence in sanitation duties will not be tolerated and punctuality must be strictly maintained. During a muster inspection in Stantonpuram under the 16th Sanitation Division, he reviewed works in Class IV Employees Colony, Ganesh Nagar, and Lakshmiapuram, expressing displeasure over late attend-

ance by Sanitation Secretaries. In a subsequent meeting, he directed that sanitation operations begin daily at 5:30 AM, with staff completing full eight-hour shifts despite adjusted summer timings. He mandated installation of dustbins at all commercial establishments and announced one vehicle per ward, along with 10 additional trolleys for high-waste zones like markets, to restore sanitation standards citywide.



Small Shells, Big Impact: Students Step Up for Thirsty Birds

Chittoor, May02|TPN Bureau

As the summer sun blazes relentlessly across Chittoor, a quiet yet powerful act of kindness has taken flight at Apollo University. In a scene that blends ingenuity with compassion, students have stepped forward to ease the suffering of one of nature’s most vulnerable groups during the heatwave—birds. Under the banner of the Apollo University Eco Club, students launched a thoughtful initiative aimed at quenching the thirst and hunger of birds struggling to survive the harsh summer. What makes this effort particularly remarkable is its simplicity: discarded coconut shells, cleaned and repurposed into tiny lifelines, now hang from tree branches across the campus. The initiative unfolded in front of the administrative building at the Apollo Knowledge City campus, where the atmosphere was charged with

purpose. Registrar Prof. M. Potharaju, Additional Registrar Anil Kumar S., and Unit Head S. Balaraj inaugurated the event, commending the students for transforming concern into meaningful action. They emphasized that environmental conservation is not a distant ideal but a shared responsibility—one that begins with small, mindful acts. With careful hands and creative minds, students cleaned coconut shells, fastened them securely with twine, and suspended them from trees. These humble vessels were then filled with grains and water, strategically placed to ensure easy access for birds. Soon, what were once discarded shells became symbols of survival. Club representatives highlighted the urgency of the initiative. During peak summer, natural water sources dry up, and food becomes scarce, pushing birds to the brink. In such times, even the smallest

intervention can make a life-saving difference. This initiative, they noted, is not just about feeding birds—it is about nurturing empathy and rebuilding the delicate bond between humans and nature. The event saw enthusiastic participation from faculty and students alike, including Eco Club Faculty Coordinator Dr. S. Firoz Begum, ICC Chairperson Dr. Himabindu, and Associate Dean Dr. B. Nageswara Rao. Their collective involvement underscored a shared vision: fostering environmental awareness through action. As the coconut shells sway gently in the summer breeze, they tell a story—of awareness, responsibility, and hope. In a world often overwhelmed by large-scale challenges, these students remind us that meaningful change can begin with something as simple as a shell, a handful of grains, and a little water.



Gangamma Jatara Preparations Intensified at Tatayyagunta

Tirupati, May02|TPN Bureau

In-charge Commissioner Sharada Devi, accompanied by Temple Chairman Mahesh Yadav and other officials, inspected arrangements for the upcoming Gangamma Jatara at Tatayyagunta on Saturday. She reviewed preparations inside the temple premises, surrounding areas, and designated Pongali offering points in the market. She directed the Health Officer to ensure cleanliness and regular waste clearance. Stressing the importance of smooth traffic flow, she instructed officials to arrange proper parking facilities. She also ordered the provision of bio-toilets and safe drinking water for devotees. Emphasis was laid on maintaining hygiene in areas designated for animal sacrifices. She directed



planning officials to prevent unauthorized stalls causing inconvenience and called for CCTV installation and health

campus. Several municipal, police, engineering, and sanitation officials participated in the inspection.

Public Issues to Be Resolved Without Delay, Says MLA Vijayashree

Sullurpeta, May02|TPN Bureau

Emphasizing that resolving public grievances is the government’s top priority, Sullurpeta MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayashree conducted a Praja Darbar at the CVAP office in the MPDO premises on Saturday. She directly interacted with citizens and received petitions, reinforcing her commitment to accessible governance. A total of 52 petitions were submitted by residents from different mandals across the constituency. The complaints largely focused on electricity supply disruptions, drainage system improvements, road repairs, and land-related disputes. Addressing officials present, the MLA issued firm instructions to ensure that people are not forced



to repeatedly visit government offices for solutions. She directed authorities to carry out field inspections promptly and resolve issues without delay. Warning against negligence, she stated that strict action would be taken against officials who fail to address grievances efficiently. Additionally, she stressed the

importance of accountability by mandating that all petitions be registered online and their progress continuously monitored. Officials from multiple departments, public representatives, and staff attended the session, facilitating direct communication between citizens and the administration.

Sujana Foundation Medical Camp Draws Huge Response

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

A free mobile medical camp organised by the Sujana Foundation in Bheemanavaripeta witnessed an overwhelming response from residents of Divisions 46 and 47 in Vijayawada West constituency. The camp, held from morning till evening

on Saturday, provided free medical consultations, diagnostic services, and medicines. Senior doctors offered consultations across multiple specialties, while tests such as ECG, X-ray, and 2D Echo were conducted. Eye check-ups were carried out by experts from Shankar Eye Hospital, while a team from PVR Multi-Speciali-

ty Hospital supported general health services. Dental examinations were conducted by doctors from Siddhartha Dental College. Local leaders and organisers, including foundation representatives and public representatives, participated in the programme, which aimed to improve access to healthcare for underserved communities.



52 Petitions Received at Janavani

Tirupati, May 02|TPN Bureau

A total of 52 petitions were received during the ‘Janavani’ program conducted by Arani Srinivasulu in Tirupati on Saturday. Residents raised issues including delays in the Tirumala Secretariat building, lack of an open-air gym at Vinayaka Sagar, and drainage needs in PV Prasad Nagar. The MLA

assured action and directed officials to review concerns. Petitions were submitted to various departments, including the Collector, Engineering, Police, and Health. Several officials and representatives attended, ensuring coordination for resolving public grievances efficiently and addressing civic infrastructure issues promptly across the constituency.



Tirupati Collector Unveils ‘Kishori Vikas’ Posters

Tirupati, May 02|TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar on Saturday unveiled posters for the ‘Kishori Vikas’ programme at the Collectorate and urged officials to ensure effective implementation of the summer camps scheduled from May 1 to June 11. He said the initiative aims at the holistic development of

adolescents and stressed inter-departmental coordination for its success. Camps will be conducted in Swarna Grama and Swarna Ward jurisdictions. Officials were directed to create awareness on women’s rights, healthcare, child marriage, POCSO Act, education, cyber safety, and financial literacy. District Women and Child Welfare Officer S. Vasantha Bai attended the programme.



Collector Steps In to Aid Slain Reporter’s Kin

V. Kota, May 02|TPN Bureau

Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar assured comprehensive support to the family of murdered Andhra Jyothy reporter Jaganmohan Reddy. Visiting V. Kota Mandal headquarters on Saturday, he paid tribute and spent time with the bereaved family, understanding their needs. He promised to personally fund the B.Tech education of the victim’s two

children, arrange a local outsourcing job for his wife Geetanjali, and extend financial aid through the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund and discretionary funds. The Collector also assured strict action, including invoking the PD Act against the accused. He encouraged the family to approach him directly for any help. Journalists submitted a memorandum seeking justice and continuous support.

CPI Protests Gas Price Hike

Vijayawada, May 2 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a protest at the Lenin Center in Vijayawada, condemning the steep rise in cooking gas prices and accusing the Centre of burdening common people.

Addressing the gathering, CPI City Secretary G. Koteswara Rao alleged that the price hike has severely impacted middle- and lower-income households. He said domestic cylinders have become costlier

by 60 compared to February, while commercial cylinder prices surged by nearly 1,000 to 3,251.50. “The BJP government has betrayed people by raising prices immediately after elections, pushing households and small businesses into distress,” he said, warning of intensified protests if prices are not rolled back. Leaders demanded restoration of gas subsidies and a reduction in fuel prices. Several CPI leaders and activists participated in the demonstration.