



No Proof of 'Early Exit': Viral Claims on Mamata Banerjee, Pinarayi Vijayan Misleading

Amaravati, May03|TPN Bureau

Social media is abuzz with viral claims suggesting that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee vacated her official residence and that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan removed his "Chief Minister" designation from his 'X' (formerly Twitter) profile ahead of election result announcements. However, fact-checks and available evidence indicate that these claims are either misleading or misinterpreted. A review of credible reports shows no evidence that Mamata Banerjee has vacated her official residence prior to the declaration of Assembly election results. While some online posts linked her to alleged political or administrative changes, verified news sources confirm no such development. The claims appear to be unsubstantiated and widely circulated without official backing. In the case of Pinarayi Vijayan, there is partial truth behind the viral narrative. Reports indicate that the Kerala Chief Minister did

update his social media bio shortly before counting day, removing the "Chief Minister" tag and retaining only his party designation. However, such profile updates are not uncommon among political leaders and do not necessarily indicate electoral outcomes or internal assessments.

Experts and observers caution that similar rumours frequently emerge during election periods, often amplified by social media speculation and misinterpretation of routine political actions. At present, there is no official confirmation or credible reporting linking either development to exit poll data or anticipated results. Importantly, no major national media organization has reported that Mamata Banerjee vacated her residence, further indicating that the claim is likely false or unverified misinformation. As counting day approaches, political speculation continues online, but verified information remains limited, underscoring the need for caution when interpreting viral claims.

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Metro Expansion Push Gains Pace After State Takeover

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government is set to submit the takeover agreement of the Hyderabad Metro Rail to the Centre next week, seeking expedited approvals for the long-pending Phase-II expansion. According to official sources, the agreement—recently finalized with Larsen & Toubro—is expected to clear a major hurdle that had delayed progress on the project. The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Phase-II, covering both Part-A and Part-B, have been awaiting central approval for nearly a year. The Union government had earlier stipulated that either the state must assume control of Phase-I operations or ensure L&T's involvement in the expansion. However, with L&T opting out of further participation and expressing its intent to exit, the state government moved ahead with a full takeover of



Phase-I operations on April 30.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed metro officials to visit New Delhi to present the takeover documents to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. He is also expected to personally meet Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to push for swift clearances, especially since the

state has addressed all concerns previously raised by the Centre. The state Cabinet had initially approved the metro expansion proposal in October 2024, followed by DPR approvals in May 2025. One of the key issues flagged by the Centre was the integration of Phase-I—previously operated by L&T—with the upcoming

Phase-II network. With L&T declining involvement, the state resolved the matter by acquiring full ownership.

As part of the agreement, the government purchased 100 percent equity in L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited for Rs 1,461.47 crore. It also assumed responsibility for refinancing the company's debt, estimated at 13,538.53 crore. Officials believe this decisive step removes all bottlenecks and strengthens the case for immediate approvals.

Currently, Phase-I of the metro system handles an average daily ridership of around 4.5 lakh passengers. With the state now in complete control, authorities anticipate smoother coordination, improved planning, and efficient execution of Phase-II. The expansion is expected to significantly enhance connectivity and provide a more integrated and commuter-friendly public transport network for the city.

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Renewed Call for Return of Kohinoor Diamond to India

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Amid renewed global discussion over the return of the historic Kohinoor diamond, descendants of the Hyderabad Nizam have voiced support for bringing the famed jewel back to India. The debate gained momentum after Zohran Mamdani reportedly raised the issue and urged King Charles III to consider its return.

Himayat Ali Mirza, a great-grandson of Mir Osman Ali Khan, stated that restoring the diamond—currently valued at hundreds of millions of dollars—would be a historic and meaningful gesture. He argued that returning the gem to its place of origin would not rewrite history but would instead stand as a significant act of justice.

In a statement, Mirza urged the Union government to take a stronger stand on the matter. He questioned why Indian authorities could not pursue the issue more assertively when international figures have raised similar concerns. According to him, the diamond symbolizes colonial-era exploitation and should be repatriated.

Kishan Reddy Praises Modi's Global Push for Yoga

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in promoting yoga as a global symbol of India's cultural and wellness heritage. He credited the Prime Minister with playing a pivotal role in gaining international recognition for yoga, which led to June 21 being declared as the International Day of Yoga by the United Nations in 2014, with the backing of more than 170 countries. Speaking on the significance of yoga, Kishan Reddy described it as a timeless contribution from India that benefits both physical and mental well-being. He noted that under Modi's leadership, yoga has transcended borders and is now widely practiced across the world, promoting a healthier and more balanced lifestyle. The Minister also highlighted key governance initiatives undertaken by the central government, including efforts to ensure transparency and curb corruption. He referred to nationwide programs such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which has focused on improving sanitation and public hygiene across the country.



ated. He called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to engage diplomatically with the British government on the issue.

Mirza also reiterated his long-standing demand to relocate the Nizam's priceless jewellery collection, including the renowned Jacob diamond, to Hyderabad for public display. He suggested that showcasing these historic gems—especially alongside the Kohinoor, which originated from the Golconda mines—would boost tourism and revenue while preserving cultural heritage.

He emphasized that such treasures should inspire future generations by offering a glimpse into India's rich and illustrious past.



Emphasizing the importance of public participation, Kishan Reddy called for sustained awareness about yoga and healthy living among people of all age groups. He encouraged educational institutions, community organizations, and families to actively take part in promoting wellness practices.

According to him, integrating yoga into daily routines can significantly enhance overall health and reduce stress, particularly in today's fast-paced lifestyle. He stressed that continued collective efforts—from schoolchildren to senior citizens—are essential to further strengthen the culture of health and well-being in society. The Minister reiterated that India's traditional knowledge systems, when combined with modern awareness campaigns, can contribute meaningfully to global health and harmony.

HYDRAA Defends Lake Status, Intensifies Action on Encroachments

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

HYDRAA Commissioner A. V. Ranganath has asserted that Bathukammakunta in Amberpet is a legally recognized lake, supported by extensive historical and technical evidence. Addressing the media, he presented government records, survey maps, and satellite imagery to establish that the water body has existed for decades.

According to official revenue and GHMC records, the lake spans about 9 acres and 19 guntas in Survey No. 563/1, with an adjoining bund known as "Masan Katta" located in Survey No. 563/2. Ranganath noted that municipal documents dating back to 1975 clearly identify the area as a lake. He also referred to maps from the Survey of India (1971) and satellite images from NASA's Landsat program (1989), both of which depict the site as a water body, countering claims that it was merely a small pond.

On the legal front, the Commissioner stated that the opposing party has failed to provide valid ownership documents, relying only on an unregistered sale agreement. He pointed out that courts had earlier ruled against such



claims, though the matter is currently under consideration in the High Court. Following court directives, HYDRAA removed unauthorized gates and signboards at the site, while retaining fencing around the bund to prevent structural damage and ensure public safety. An affidavit on this issue is to be submitted to the Supreme Court as instructed.

Ranganath also addressed a separate case concerning alleged encroachments near Sunnam Cheruvu in Chandrayangutta, where the High Court has ordered a joint survey by revenue and irrigation departments to demarcate the Full Tank Level (FTL) and

identify illegal constructions.

Emphasizing that lakes are public assets, he said their fundamental nature must not be altered, even if limited seasonal farming is permitted when water levels recede. He revealed that HYDRAA has so far reclaimed over 2,093 acres of land, including significant portions within lake boundaries and government lands, with an estimated value of Rs 80,000 crore. Over 90 cases have been registered, and reports have been submitted against officials allegedly responsible for permitting illegal constructions, with further action expected based on ongoing inquiries.

BRS Leader Slams HYDRAA Chief Over Bathukammakunta Remarks

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader Aedla Sudhakar Reddy has strongly objected to recent statements made by HYDRAA Commissioner A. V. Ranganath regarding the classification of Bathukammakunta as a water body. The commissioner had cited historical records and documents to support the claim, but Sudhakar Reddy dismissed these assertions as inaccurate and damaging to his reputation.

In a statement, he criticized the official for allegedly sharing details related to an ongoing legal matter with the media. Referring to provisions under the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, Sudhakar Reddy argued that civil servants are restricted from publicizing evidence connected to judicial proceedings. He maintained that discussing such matters publicly could amount to a violation of service rules.

He further questioned the



propriety of addressing a sub-judice issue through the press, alleging that such actions could influence legal proceedings. According to him, the commissioner's remarks amount to conducting a "media trial" and attempting to sway public perception in a matter that is still before the courts. Sudhakar Reddy also re-

Nutrition Nxt to Establish Pet Food Plant in Siddipet

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Pet care startup Nutrition Nxt has announced plans to set up a new manufacturing unit at Wargal in Siddipet district, Telangana. The proposed facility, which is expected to begin operations by the 2026 financial year, will be developed with an estimated investment of Rs 84 crore.

According to the company, the plant will have an annual production capacity of 40,000 tonnes of pet food and will be designed in compliance with international quality benchmarks, including standards set by the US Food and Drug Administration. The initiative marks a significant step in strengthening the company's production capabilities and expanding its footprint in the growing pet nutrition market.

Founder and CEO Praharsha Cherukury shared details of the project while announcing the launch of the company's new "Parent" pet food range. He stated that the upcoming facility will play a crucial role in supporting the production and distribution of this product

line, which focuses on tailored nutrition for pets at different life stages.

The "Parent" series includes specialized formulations such as "Mother and Puppy," designed to support pets during gestation and lactation, as well as young puppies up to four months of age. The "Puppy" variant provides enhanced nutrition for growing dogs up to 18 months, while the "Adult Dogs" formula offers balanced dietary support for maintenance and overall health.

Additionally, the range features a "Senior Dogs" category enriched with prebiotics and probiotics to promote digestive health and overall well-being in aging pets. These products are designed to cater to various breeds and sizes, addressing their specific nutritional needs at each stage of life.

With this expansion, Nutrition Nxt aims to contribute to the development of Telangana's industrial ecosystem while also meeting the rising demand for high-quality, scientifically formulated pet food products in India.

Rain Relief Likely as Temperatures Dip Across Telangana

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a spell of rain and thunderstorms across Telangana from Tuesday through May 8, offering some respite from the ongoing heatwave conditions. According to officials at IMD Hyderabad, maximum temperatures are expected to decline gradually over the next few days.

While temperatures are likely to remain high—ranging between 41°C and 44°C in most districts over the next 48 hours—a drop of up to 3°C is anticipated during this period. By May 6 and 7, daytime temperatures are expected to fall further, settling between 36°C and 40°C across several parts of the state. The weather department has also issued alerts for adverse conditions in specific regions. Heavy rainfall is forecast at isolated locations in districts such as Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Warangal, and Hanamkonda. In addition, a statewide alert has been issued for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and strong winds on May 7.

Light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers are expected



to occur at a few places across Telangana until May 9, as per the IMD bulletin. These developments are likely to ease the intensity of the current heatwave, which has been affecting daily life in several districts.

Meanwhile, several locations recorded extremely high temperatures on Sunday. Balkonda in Nizamabad emerged as the hottest spot at 45.8°C. Other areas that witnessed soaring temperatures include Mallapur in Jagityal (45.7°C), Palakurthy in Peddapalli (45.4°C), Bela in Adilabad (45.3°C), Kerameri in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad (45.2°C), and Bheemaram in Mancherial (45.1°C).

Authorities have advised residents to remain cautious during thunderstorms and take necessary precautions against lightning and strong winds, even as the expected rainfall brings some much-needed relief from the scorching heat.

Statewide 'Rythu Varotsavalu' to Begin from May 4

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau
The State government will organize "Rythu Varotsavalu" (Farmers' Week) from May 4 to May 9 as part of the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" initiative. Announcing the program, Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao said the aim is to directly connect with farmers and ensure that government schemes, modern technologies, and essential services reach them effectively through coordinated efforts of multiple departments. The Minister described the initiative as a door-step outreach effort designed to build confidence among farmers ahead of the upcoming agricultural season. He instructed officials to maintain strong inter-departmental coordination, with District Collectors assigned as nodal officers to ensure smooth implementation and quality execution of the program.

Each day of the week-long program will focus on specific sectors. The Agriculture Department will begin with awareness on soil health, balanced fertilizer use, and natural farming methods. The Horticulture Department will follow with sessions on crop diversification and micro-irrigation. Cooperation and Marketing departments will provide insights into credit access and market linkages. Demonstrations on farm mechanization, drone usage, and solar-powered solutions will also be conducted. Additionally, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries departments will address livestock care and aquaculture, while the Irrigation Department will guide farmers on water management and pre-monsoon preparedness.

The program will be formally launched in Tandur on May 4 by the Minister, who urged farmers, officials, and public representatives to actively participate in large numbers.

Job Push and Industry Role Highlighted in Nalgonda

Nalgonda, May 3 | TPN Bureau
State Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday emphasized that the government is implementing a comprehensive strategy to create employment opportunities for the youth. Speaking at the inauguration of a two-day mega job fair in Nalgonda, he said the initiative combines private sector participation, government recruitment drives, and encouragement for entrepreneurship.

The minister stated that generating employment remains a key focus of the present administration, with efforts aimed at matching job opportunities to candidates' educational backgrounds. He called upon industries operating in districts like Nalgonda—home to cement, rice, and pharmaceutical units—to give preference to local youth while hiring.

Highlighting the scale of the event, Venkat Reddy noted that 124 companies from diverse sectors such as IT, banking, pharmaceuticals, and business services are participating in the job mela. He urged recruit-

ers to provide employment to at least 5,000 candidates and issue appointment letters on the spot. Observing the large turnout of job seekers, he instructed officials to continue the recruitment drive on the second day as well.

The minister also encouraged young participants to make the most of the opportunities available and continue improving their skills to secure better prospects in the future.

Addressing public safety concerns, Venkat Reddy expressed worry over the increasing number of road accidents and directed officials to strictly enforce traffic rules. He also appealed to youth to adhere to road safety norms. Additionally, he cautioned industries—particularly in the pharmaceutical sector—that strict action would be taken against those violating safety regulations.

Nalgonda Mayor Burri Chaitanya, District Collector B. Chandrasekhar, Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar, and other officials attended the event.

New Executive Body Elected at NIMS Health Union

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau
A new executive committee has been elected for the Allied Health Care Professionals Union at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS). In the latest elections, G. Shanta Kumari was chosen as president, while K. Mahesh Babu assumed the role of general secretary.

The newly formed leadership team also includes Subhadra, Ramanamma, and Jagadeesh Kumar as vice-presidents. Dr. Sudha Rani, Mukhtadir, and Gaddar have been appointed as joint secretaries. Additionally, Vasudeva Rao, Vijayalakshmi, and Ravi Kaladhar will serve as organizing secretaries, while Rama Durgamba and Pavitra have

been entrusted with responsibilities as cultural secretaries. Shekhar Bidugu has taken charge as treasurer.

Members of the union expressed optimism about the newly elected committee, stating that the leadership is expected to focus on strengthening the organization and addressing the concerns of healthcare professionals. They voiced confidence that the team will work towards improving working conditions and promoting the welfare of its members.

The formation of the new executive body marks a fresh phase for the union, with expectations of proactive initiatives and better representation for allied healthcare staff at the institute.

Gunfire During Jewellery Heist Attempt in Karimnagar; Police Launch Manhunt

Karimnagar, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar described the firing incident at a jewellery store in Jyothinagar as shocking and unfortunate, expressing confidence that the police will soon apprehend those responsible. The attack occurred when a group of assailants allegedly entered the PMJ Jewellery outlet posing as customers and later opened fire during an attempted robbery.

Soon after receiving information, the Minister visited the scene along with local public representatives and reviewed CCTV footage from the store. He also interacted with staff members to understand the sequence of events and later held discussions with police officials regarding the ongoing investigation. According to preliminary findings, around five individuals entered the shop in stages, initially inquiring about gold ornaments. As more accomplices joined, the group reportedly drew firearms and attempted to rob the store. When employees tried to resist,



the attackers fired at them, injuring a few staff members. The Minister commended the courage shown by the employees in confronting the culprits despite the risk.

Medical officials have indicated that the injuries are not life-threatening, though arrangements are being made to shift the injured to Hyderabad for advanced treatment.

Police teams, under the supervision of senior officials,

have launched a large-scale search operation across Karimnagar. CCTV footage from multiple sources, including surveillance systems, is being analyzed, and forensic teams have inspected the scene. Authorities are also recording statements from those present during the incident.

The exact extent of losses will be determined following the completion of the investigation.

Eligibility First: Minister Ponguleti Promises Faster Welfare Delivery

Kusumanchi, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that eligibility alone will determine access to government schemes, leaving no scope for political influence. He made these remarks while participating in a Praja Darbar held at the Zilla Parishad High School in Kusumanchi on Sunday, alongside District Collector Divakara T.S. and Additional Collector Dr. P. Sreeja. The Minister personally received petitions from citizens and assured prompt action. He emphasized that the government's approach focuses on taking administration directly to the people, ensuring that grievances are addressed at their doorstep. According to him, petitions submitted during these Praja Darbars—organized across mandals in the Paleru constituency—are being carefully reviewed and resolved without bias. Special attention is being given to long-pending issues such as Sada Bainama



transactions, disputes involving prohibited land lists, and corrections in land records. The Minister highlighted that welfare initiatives under the "Praja Palana" program are being implemented swiftly. Referring to housing, he noted that most applications received relate to Indiramma housing and assured that funds for construction are being deposited directly into beneficiaries' accounts every Monday. He an-

nounced that the second phase of housing sanctions will be completed by the end of May. On agriculture, he said paddy and maize are being procured at Minimum Support Price, with payments credited within a week. He added that farm loan waivers and enhanced Rythu Bharosa assistance are supporting farmers. A subsidized farm equipment distribution drive is also scheduled from May 5 to 7.

Modi Visit Seen as 'Development Festival': BJP Telangana

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana unit of the BJP has described the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "festival of development," stating that it will boost momentum for growth and energize party workers across the state.

In a statement, BJP State Chief Spokesperson N. V. Subash said the visit will feature the inauguration and foundation-laying of projects worth Rs 7,823 crore. These initiatives, he noted, are aimed at strengthening infrastructure and accelerating Telangana's progress.

Among the key projects, he highlighted works worth Rs 1,695 crore in Warangal focused on preserving the legacy of the Kakatiya era. He also mentioned the launch of the PM MITRA Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, expected to boost employment and establish the

region as a major textile hub. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to inaugurate the AIIMS facility at Bibinagar, built at an estimated cost of Rs 2,000 crore, which is expected to provide advanced and affordable healthcare services, particularly benefiting economically weaker sections.

Subash added that several major infrastructure initiatives—including railway connectivity between Kazipet and Vijayawada, progress on national highways, and other development projects—will be reviewed during the visit.

He stated that Telangana has seen significant development under the current Central government and urged all political parties to support growth-oriented initiatives. The BJP has invited people from all sections to attend the Prime Minister's public meeting at Secunderabad Parade Grounds on May 10 in large numbers.

Rs 1 Lakh Reward Announced After Jewellery Heist

Karimnagar, May 3 | TPN Bureau

City Police Commissioner Ghouse Alam has announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for credible information leading to the arrest of the suspects involved in the recent armed robbery at a jewellery showroom in Karimnagar. Addressing the media, the Commissioner said a five-member gang carried out the daylight heist shortly after 11 am at the PMJ Jewellery showroom. According to preliminary findings, one individual entered the store posing as a customer, and was soon joined by four accomplices. The group reportedly threatened the security guard at gunpoint and began looting valuables. When staff members attempted to stop them, the attackers opened fire, injuring four employees. Police confirmed that all the injured are now stable and out of danger. Officers reached the location

within minutes of receiving the alert, around 11:20 am.

Investigators are examining CCTV footage, which reportedly shows several suspects without face coverings. At the scene, police recovered bullets, cartridges from multiple firearms, and a magazine. After collecting jewellery, the assailants escaped on two motorcycles—believed to be a black Pulsar and a white Apache.

The total value of the stolen items is yet to be determined, as the showroom management is currently conducting an inventory assessment. Meanwhile, forensic teams are gathering evidence, including fingerprints, and special police units are checking hotels and lodges as part of the ongoing search operation. Police have appealed to the public to share any relevant information, assuring that informants' identities will remain strictly confidential.



Minister Seethakka Rushes to Aid Accident Victims

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

In a compassionate act, Minister Seethakka extended immediate assistance to a family injured in a road accident near Bhuvanagiri (BB Nagar) while traveling from Hyderabad to Mulugu. The mishap occurred when a two-wheeler carrying a couple and their children was hit by another vehicle, which fled the scene, leaving the victims injured. Witnessing the incident, the Minister promptly halted her convoy and rushed to the spot. She assessed the situation and consoled the injured family, especially the children who were visibly distressed. Displaying empathy, she reassured them and provided emotional sup-

port during the critical moments. Acting without delay, arrangements were made to shift the injured to a nearby hospital using a vehicle from her convoy. The Minister personally assisted the victims, even carrying the injured children into the vehicle. She also deputed her personal assistant to accompany them and coordinated with hospital authorities to ensure they received proper and advanced medical care.

Onlookers appreciated the Minister's swift response and humane gesture. Her timely intervention not only ensured immediate medical attention for the victims but also reflected a strong sense of responsibility and compassion towards the public in distress.

Dubai Water Falls Steals the Show at Vijayawada Trade Fair, Draws Massive Crowds

VIJAYAWADA, May 03 | TPN Bureau

The Jeevan Sagar Trade Fair at Bobburi Grounds near Punnamo Ghat has emerged as a major crowd-puller with its 'Dubai Water Falls' attraction drawing visitors in large numbers. Organisers said the highlight is a 50-foot-high, 200-foot-long artificial waterfall designed to recreate a cascading rock landscape experience, making it the centrepiece of the exhibition. The fair, which began on May 1 and will continue till June 17, features over 100 commercial stalls from several states, offering jewellery,

bangles, footwear and more. A range of amusement rides including water boats, giant wheel, Columbus and Tora Tora have been set up for families and children. Special food courts serve popular snacks like mirchi bajji, gobi manchurian and chaat.

Organisers P Krishna, Mohan Rao and industrialist Bobburi Bhupal Chowdary adequate safety measures, including five fire exits and firefighting equipment have been arranged in coordination with authorities. They urged the public to visit the exhibition in large numbers.

Tipper Owners Seek Smooth Sand Transport Operations

Amaravati, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Representatives of the Twin Godavari Districts Tipper Owners Association met Kollu Ravindra at his camp office in Vijayawada, urging the government to ensure uninterrupted sand transportation without undue interference from enforcement agencies.

During the meeting, the association submitted a memorandum highlighting concerns over alleged harassment by mining and vigilance officials

during transport operations. They requested the Minister to take necessary steps to create a hassle-free environment for vehicle owners engaged in sand movement.

Responding to their appeal, Minister Kollu Ravindra assured the delegation that genuine operators would not face any difficulties. He stated that vehicles carrying proper and valid documentation would be allowed to operate without obstruction.

At the same time, the Minister cautioned transporters to

strictly adhere to rules and regulations. He emphasized the importance of avoiding overloading and maintaining safe driving practices to prevent accidents and ensure smooth operations.

The interaction concluded with the Minister reiterating the government's commitment to balancing regulatory enforcement with the needs of transport operators, while ensuring that sand transportation continues in an organized and lawful manner.

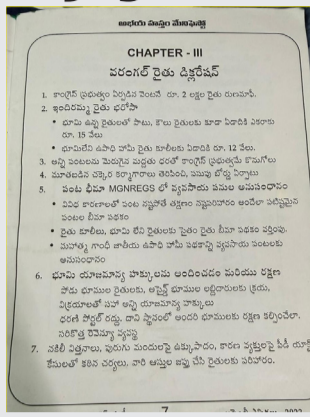


Bandi Sanjay Writes to CM, Seeks Action on Farmers' Promises

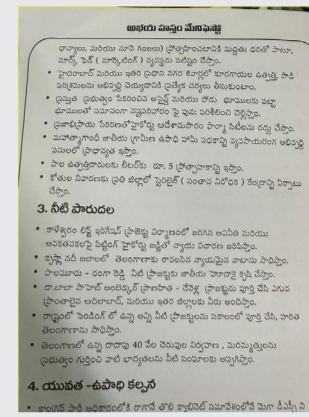
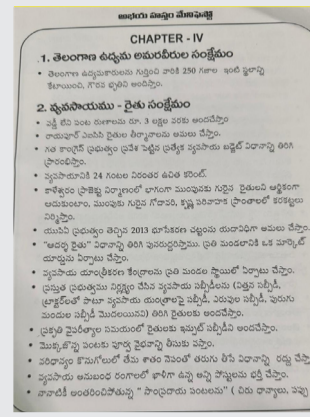
Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has addressed an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, urging the State government to prioritize farmers' concerns and implement assurances made in the Congress election manifesto titled 'Abhaya Hastam.'

In his letter, Bandi Sanjay expressed disappointment over what he described as a political response from Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao instead of concrete steps to resolve issues faced by farmers, particularly during the Rabi season. He alleged that the



క్ర. సం.	వివరాలు	అంచనా	సాధించినది
1.	పంటలు	4,100	2,800
2.	పంటలు	1,800	2,200
3.	పంటలు	3,000	4,700
4.	పంటలు	6,000	4,400
5.	పంటలు	8,000	8,800
6.	పంటలు	15,000	12,000
7.	పంటలు	10,000	10,000
8.	పంటలు	3,000	3,000
9.	పంటలు	4,000	4,000
10.	పంటలు	2,700	2,800



Minister's reply lacked clarity on key agricultural matters and failed to address the concerns raised earlier.

Referring to the manifesto, the Union Minister pointed out that the Congress had

promised steps toward ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) protections. While acknowledging that MSP policy is largely determined by the Centre, he emphasized that its implemen-

tation and farmer support mechanisms fall within the State's responsibility. He also cited the increase in MSP over the years under the leadership of Narendra Modi, noting that effective

execution at the state level is crucial for farmers to benefit. Bandi Sanjay further questioned the status of the promised farm loan waiver, stating that while assurances were made for all eligible

farmers, only a portion had reportedly benefited so far. He urged the government to clarify the situation and extend relief to remaining farmers.

The Minister also raised concerns over the non-implementation of crop insurance schemes, arguing that farmers need reliable protection against losses due to natural calamities. He called on the State government to either effectively implement existing schemes or introduce viable alternatives.

In conclusion, he appealed to the Chief Minister to move beyond political exchanges and focus on addressing the pressing issues faced by farmers across Telangana.



Ponguleti Highlights Welfare Push, Announces Next Phase of Housing Scheme

Nalgonda, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that the rising number of applications for Indiramma housing reflects unmet needs from previous years. Speaking at a Praja Darbar in Kusumanchi, Khammam district, he said a majority of petitions submitted by the public are related to housing assistance and new ration cards.

The Minister noted that the current government has revived the Indiramma housing initiative and already approved 4.5 lakh houses for eligible beneficiaries in its first phase. He added that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is expected to roll out the second phase by the end of May.

Addressing agricultural issues, Ponguleti criticized the previous administration, alleging that farmers faced difficulties in the past. He highlighted that the present government is offering a 500 per quintal bonus for fine paddy varieties



and has implemented large-scale crop loan waivers benefiting lakhs of farmers.

He also assured that land-related disputes would be addressed soon to provide relief to farmers. Referring to the current agricultural season, the Minister said record production of paddy and maize has been achieved, and the government is committed to procuring the entire yield at Mini-

mum Support Price, with payments to be made within a week.

Additionally, he announced that a farm mechanization program, including distribution of agricultural equipment, will be conducted in Warangal from May 5 to 7. He later participated in another Praja Darbar at Thirumalayapalem, interacting with residents and reviewing their grievances.

BJP Alleges 'Attack on Press Freedom' Over Police Action

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao has strongly criticized the Congress-led state government, accusing it of undermining press freedom following reported police action at the Ghaziabad residence of journalist Ashok Shrivastava.

Reacting to the development, Rao described the incident as an assault on democratic values and freedom of expression. He alleged that such actions reflect an "emergency-like mindset," claiming that attempts to intimidate journalists send a troubling signal to the media community. According to him, the move was not limited to an individual case



but carried wider implications for press independence.

Rao further stated that political parties should uphold

constitutional principles and respect dissent, rather than suppress critical voices. He questioned the justification for

the late-night police visit, arguing that it appeared more like an act of intolerance than a routine law-and-order measure. The BJP leader also remarked that the incident raises concerns about the protection of journalists and their ability to report freely without fear. He emphasized that a strong democracy depends on an independent press and urged the government to ensure that such situations are handled with transparency and accountability.

The issue has sparked debate over the balance between law enforcement actions and safeguarding freedom of speech, with political leaders voicing differing opinions on the matter.

BRS Leader Hits Back at Ilayya Over Remarks on Harish Rao

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

BRS senior leader Gosula Srinivas strongly criticized Beerla Ilayya over his recent comments against T. Harish Rao, stating that such remarks were baseless and irresponsible. In a press statement, Srinivas alleged that Ilayya's statements reflected frustration and lacked substance.

He defended Harish Rao, describing him as a leader who remains closely connected with the public and consistently raises issues affecting farmers and common people. Srinivas said questioning such a leader without addressing ground realities was unjustified.

Highlighting farmers' concerns, he pointed out ongoing challenges such as delays in crop procurement, financial distress, and the burden of debts. He questioned whether

the government had effectively addressed these issues and referred to reports of farmers protesting and expressing dissatisfaction. According to him, these developments indicate shortcomings in the handling of agricultural policies.

Srinivas further stated that instead of responding to these concerns with clarity, critics were resorting to personal attacks. He accused Ilayya of avoiding accountability and urged him to focus on addressing public issues rather than making allegations.

The BRS leader also called for transparency regarding alleged irregularities, asserting that merely targeting opposition leaders would not resolve the concerns being raised. He concluded by urging political leaders to maintain responsibility in public discourse and respect the struggles faced by farmers across the state.

Congress Govt Empowering Farmers: Minister Ponguleti

Hyderabad/Khammam, May 3 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy launched a strong critique of the BRS, asserting that the Congress government has brought meaningful change to the farming community. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the administration is implementing commitments made by Rahul Gandhi during the Warangal Farmers' Declaration. The Minister highlighted several initiatives aimed at improving farmers' livelihoods. These include procurement of paddy and maize at Minimum Support Price, a Rs 500 per quintal bonus for fine-quality paddy, and timely payments credited directly into farmers' bank accounts within a week. He added that loan waivers of up to Rs 2 lakh have already benefited

around 25 lakh farmers, while the Rythu Bharosa assistance has been enhanced to Rs 12,000 per acre. Ponguleti also pointed to the formation of a dedicated Farmers' Commission soon after the government assumed office, describing it as a significant step toward addressing agricultural challenges. Criticizing the previous BRS regime, he alleged that farmers faced neglect and hardships during its tenure, and accused the party of lacking credibility on agrarian issues. He maintained that the current government is focused on practical measures rather than rhetoric. As part of the "Praja Palana Pragathi Plan," he announced that subsidized modern agricultural equipment would be distributed during the upcoming "Rythu Varotsavalu" to be held in Warangal from May 5 to 7. He called upon farmers to actively participate and benefit from these initiatives.

KTR Alleges 'GO 7' Threatens Fee Reimbursement, Seeks Rollback

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao has strongly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over Government Order (GO) 7, alleging that it undermines the fee reimbursement scheme and affects lakhs of students from weaker sections. In a detailed letter, he claimed that the order could deprive nearly 14 lakh BC, SC, ST, and minority students of access to higher education.

KTR described the move as a setback to a welfare initiative that has supported economically disadvantaged families for years. He noted that the scheme, originally introduced during the tenure of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy and later continued under K. Chandrashekar Rao, played a key role in



enabling students to pursue professional courses without financial burden.

He alleged that pending dues worth nearly Rs 10,000 crore

have not been cleared, placing pressure on educational institutions and students alike. According to him, delays in reimbursements have led to hardships such as withheld certificates and disruptions in academic progress. He also questioned the government's assurance of direct transfers, citing lack of clarity and previous delays.

The BRS leader urged the government to immediately withdraw GO 7 and release all pending dues to restore confidence among students and institutions. He emphasized that education spending should be treated as an investment in the future rather than a liability.

Warning of growing discontent, KTR said continued inaction could lead to widespread protests from the student community across the state.

BRSV Seeks Age Relaxation, Slams Govt Over Job Notifications

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Thunga Balu has criticized the Congress government, alleging that it is unfairly impacting unemployed youth by treating the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGpsc) as a mere formality. In a press statement, he urged the government to increase the upper age limit for government job applicants from 44 to 46 years and to continue the provisions of GO No. 30. He pointed out that nearly 30 lakh unemployed individuals across Telangana are preparing rigorously for competitive exams, attending coaching centers, and waiting for recruitment notifications with high expectations. However, he alleged that since the change in government, no significant job notifications have been issued, causing distress among aspir-

ants. Dr. Balu further stated that even after two and a half years in power, the absence of recruitment drives has adversely affected candidates who rely on age relaxation policies. He expressed concern over a recent notification issued for 20 Assistant Scientist posts in the Pollution Control Board through TGpsc, which set the eligibility age between 18 and 34 years. Relaxations were limited to five years for SC, ST, and EWS categories and three years for ex-servicemen. He noted that earlier, during the previous administration, candidates up to 44 years of age were eligible for similar posts. Reducing the upper age limit by a decade, he argued, would disadvantage many aspirants who have been waiting for opportunities. He demanded that the government restore the earlier policy to ensure fairness.



BRS Leaders Accuse Minister of Misleading Claims and Irregularities

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

At a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, former MLA Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy and BRS leader Abhilash Rangineni strongly criticized Minister Juppally Krishna Rao over his recent statements and alleged actions. Addressing the media, Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy accused the Minister of making false claims regarding the protection of 1,600 acres of land linked to the former Kollapur Samsthanam. He stated that the land passbooks for the same property were issued during Juppally Krishna Rao's tenure as MLA and Minister. The matter, he added, is currently under consideration before the Supreme Court. He further claimed that it was during the BRS gov-



ernment that these passbooks were cancelled using the Dharami portal, thereby safeguarding the land. The leaders alleged that the Minister was making misleading statements for political advantage and warned of legal action if such remarks continued. They also raised concerns about alleged irregularities in Ellapur near Kollapur, where forest land was reportedly altered in records and sold after tree felling in a tiger reserve area. According to them, local residents have already ap-

proached the Supreme Court over the issue. Additionally, the BRS leaders accused the Minister of intimidating political opponents and filing false cases. They claimed that farmers' issues, including procurement of crops and supply of gunny bags, were being neglected. Allegations were also made regarding encroachment and sale of temple lands. Demanding accountability, the leaders called for a judicial inquiry into the alleged land-related irregularities in Kollapur.



World Press Freedom Day Marked with Honors in Uppal

Uppal, May 3 | TPN Bureau
World Press Freedom Day was celebrated in a grand manner under the banner of the Uppal Press Club (Print and Electronic) on Sunday. The event took place at Nova Banquet Hall in Chilukanagar and was presided over by Press Club President Vaddepalli Kishore. Several prominent guests attended the ceremony, including former BRS State Secretary Nertham Bhaskar Goud and senior leader Jalli Mohan.

As part of the celebrations, journalists from the locality were felicitated for their contributions to the field of media. They were honored with shawls, mementos, and diaries, along with warm greetings on the occasion. The ceremony recognized the dedication and commitment of media professionals in serving society.

Speaking at the event, the

chief guests highlighted the crucial role of the press in upholding democratic values. They appreciated journalists for their continuous efforts in bringing facts to light and ensuring that the public remains informed. The speakers also stressed the importance of protecting press freedom, noting that a strong and independent media is essential for a healthy democracy.

Senior journalists present at the gathering shared their experiences and encouraged young reporters to carry out their responsibilities with integrity and accountability.

The program was attended by General Secretary Ananda Narsimha Reddy, Working Presidents Payyavula Santhosh, Keerthi Santhosh, G.S. Nagaraju, and other members of the press club, making it a memorable and meaningful celebration.



Voice of Hyderabad Grand Finale

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau
The grand finale of "Voice of Hyderabad - Chaitanya Spandana" was successfully organized at the Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), drawing enthusiastic participation from students across categories. The competition began with 375 participants who underwent three challenging rounds, testing their communication abilities, creativity, and awareness of social issues. After a rigorous selection process, 42 finalists from both junior and senior groups advanced to the final stage, delivering impressive performances.

The event was judged by a distinguished panel comprising Karthik Kodakandla, Venu Srirangam, Deepthi Charan, and Vasantha Subbalakshmi, who commended the participants for their talent and confidence.

In the senior category, Urjitha Patel secured the top position, followed by B. Likhila as runner-up and Damera Vikram as second runner-up. Special mentions were awarded to Mallela Varsha Sree, Sanjana Chinamutha, and Vishal Aryan Boorela.

In the junior category, Archita Dhulipala emerged as the winner, with P. V. Sai Vedansh and K. V. S. S. Sahasra Prabha finishing as runner-up and second runner-up respectively. Special mentions went to Gari-mella Abhinaya Radha, Vishant Koti, and Srihitha Chaturvedula.

CBIT Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimhulu appreciated the efforts of faculty coordinators and organizers. Officials also acknowledged the support of various departments and the dedication of the student team in ensuring the event's success.

Ayurveda College Sexual Harassment Case: Four Officials Face Action

Vijayawada, May 03 | TPN Bureau
The Andhra Pradesh government has taken stern action following allegations of sexual harassment involving female students at the Dr. Nori Ramasastri Government Ayurvedic Medical College in Vijayawada. The Department of Medical and Health has initiated disciplinary measures against four individuals based on preliminary findings and a report submitted by the AP Women's Commission. Medical Officer and Assistant Professor Dr. D. Mouli Naik, along with Lab Technician K.V. Subrahmanyam, who are facing serious allegations of sexual harassment, have been suspended from service with immediate effect. In addition, College Principal Dr. K. Nir-

mala Jyothibai and Professor K. Vijaya Kumari of the PSP Department have been "surrendered" to the government citing negligence in the discharge of their official duties. In-charge Commissioner of AYUSH Ronanki Gopalakrishna confirmed the action and stated that an internal inquiry is already underway within the institution. He further informed that a letter has been sent to NTR District Collector G. Lakshminsha, requesting the constitution of an independent committee to ensure a transparent and impartial investigation. Officials said the government is treating the matter with utmost seriousness and is committed to ensuring justice for the affected students while maintaining a safe academic environment in the institution.

Young Cricketer Janiksha Receives Support

Quthbullapur, May 3 | TPN Bureau

A promising young cricketer from Quthbullapur in Medchal-Malkajgiri district is gaining recognition for her talent and dedication to the sport. Vemula Janiksha, daughter of BJP District OBC Secretary Vemula Ramesh, has already made a mark as the captain of the State Under-15 cricket team and is also representing at the Under-19 level. Her achievements have brought pride to the district and highlighted her potential as a future star.

In a gesture to encourage her sporting journey, BJP District General Secretary Girivardhan Reddy provided Janiksha with cricket equipment, including two bats, a kit bag, and other essentials. The support aims to boost her confidence and help her continue excelling in the game.



Janiksha, along with her father, expressed sincere thanks for the encouragement. She noted that such backing plays a crucial role in motivating young female athletes to pursue their dreams. She also assured that she would strive to

achieve greater success and bring recognition to the state. Residents believe that identifying and supporting emerging talent like Janiksha will contribute significantly to the growth of sports in the region.



From Struggle to Success: Saranya Thanks KTR for Life-Saving Support

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao once again highlighted his commitment to helping those in need, as a young girl he supported years ago returned to express her gratitude. Saranya, who battled a life-threatening brain tumor in 2019, is now healthy and recently cleared her 10th-grade examinations, marking a remarkable turnaround in her life.

Saranya, daughter of K. Narayana and Rajeswari from Balamra, was diagnosed with a brain tumor at a young age.

With her family unable to afford the expensive treatment—estimated at nearly RS 20 lakh—they faced severe difficulties, including delays in hospital admission. At that critical moment, her aunt reached out to KTR through social media. Responding swiftly, he ensured immediate intervention. Officials coordinated her admission and arranged complete medical care, including surgery, radiation therapy, and necessary tests, all at no cost to the family.

Her mother later shared that they did not have to bear any expenses during the treatment process. Thanks to timely sup-

port and medical care, Saranya recovered fully and continued her education without interruption. Fulfilling a long-standing wish, Saranya and her family recently met KTR at his residence to thank him personally. She shared her academic achievement, having scored 384 marks in her 10th exams.

KTR expressed happiness at her recovery and success, calling such moments deeply fulfilling. He encouraged Saranya to aim higher in life, while her family conveyed heartfelt gratitude for the support that saved her life and future.

Police Urge Caution on ORR to Prevent Accidents

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

City Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar has urged motorists to follow strict safety measures while travelling on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), expressing concern over the increasing number of accidents. He advised commuters not to stop their vehicles on the ORR unless absolutely necessary, such as in cases of breakdowns or emergencies. In such situa-

tions, drivers should immediately move their vehicles to the extreme left lane and seek assistance by contacting the ORR helpline at 14449. The Commissioner emphasized that these safety precautions are not limited to the ORR alone but must be followed on all national highways to reduce the risk of fatal accidents. He also called upon companies and organizations to educate their drivers and staff about road safety prac-

tices and responsible driving. Highlighting the seriousness of the issue, Sajjanar warned that negligence and violations of traffic rules could not only lead to severe penalties but also pose a threat to human lives. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the police in promoting road safety and preventing mishaps. Stressing the importance of collective responsibility, he urged everyone to prioritize safety at all times while on the road.

Golconda Fort Gets Advanced Lightning Protection and Visitor Upgrades

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

The Golconda Fort has been equipped with advanced lightning protection systems, enhancing safety at the historic monument. The Archaeological Survey of India has installed two high-tech lightning conductors capable of withstanding strikes within a 120-metre range. Standing 23 metres tall, these systems are designed to protect key areas of the hilltop fort, including the durbar hall.

The project was completed at a cost of Rs 10 lakh. Under the guidance of superintending archaeologist Dr. Nihildas, similar safety installations have also been carried out at other heritage sites such as Ramappa Temple, Warangal Fort, and the Thousand Pillar Temple. In addition to lightning protection, security and visitor facilities at Golconda Fort have been significantly upgraded. The entire premises is now under continuous CCTV surveillance, ensuring better monitoring of public

movement. Solar-powered automatic lighting systems have been installed to improve visibility and enhance night-time security. To make the site more accessible, a ramp has been constructed at the entrance for differently-abled visitors. Furthermore, QR codes have been placed at 20 locations across the fort, enabling tourists to access information about its history, architecture, and galleries in Hindi, English, and Telugu through both text and video formats.



Smooth NEET Conduct; Police Extend Timely Help

Quthbullapur, May 3 | TPN Bureau

The NEET medical entrance examination was conducted smoothly on Sunday at the Government Degree College in Bahadurpally, under the Quthbullapur DCP Zone. A total of 336 candidates appeared at this center, with the exam scheduled from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Authorities ensured strict adherence to entry guidelines, allowing candidates inside the premises only between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM. No entry was permitted after the deadline to maintain security and discipline. Comprehensive arrangements, including drinking water, traffic management, and safety measures, were put in place to ensure a hassle-free ex-

perience for all examinees. Police personnel maintained tight security across the center to prevent any disruptions. In a noteworthy incident, the Dundigal police displayed commendable compassion. A student who had misplaced her photographs faced difficulty in meeting exam requirements. Acting swiftly, the police escorted her to a nearby photo studio, helped her obtain new photographs, and ensured her timely return to the examination center. Thanks to their prompt response, the student was able to take the exam without any issues. Locals appreciated both the smooth conduct of the examination and the supportive role played by the police.



Intensive Cleanliness Drive Under Civic Campaign

Quthbullapur, May 3 | TPN Bureau

A special sanitation campaign was carried out in Malampet under the Dundigal Circle as part of the ongoing "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" 99-day initiative. The drive was led by Deputy Commissioner Dr. S. Venkata Mani Karan, who supervised a large-scale cleanliness program aimed at improving public hygiene and environmental standards in the area. During the campaign, municipal staff and officials jointly undertook extensive cleaning activities. Roadsides were cleared of overgrown weeds, garbage was removed, and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste scattered across the locality was promptly collected and transported. The initiative focused on ensuring cleaner streets and a healthier environment for residents.

As part of the Swachh Survekshan efforts, teams also conducted door-to-door awareness campaigns, educating households on the importance of separating wet and dry waste. Residents were encouraged to responsibly dispose of their waste by handing it over to designated collection vehicles visiting their neighborhoods regularly. Officials issued a strict warning to commercial establishments, including shops and hotels, to install proper dustbins on their premises. Non-compliance would attract penalties, with authorities prepared to enforce the "No Bin - No License" rule if necessary. The program saw participation from Solid Waste Management Assistant Engineer R. Ashok Kumar, Environment Engineer P. Sathvik, sanitation staff, and other field personnel, all contributing to the successful execution of the drive.

Police Issue Guidelines to 'Go Rakshak' Groups Ahead of Id-ul-Zuha

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Ahead of Id-ul-Zuha, Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar outlined strict guidelines for 'go rakshak' (cow protection) groups to ensure law and order during the festive period. He assured that comprehensive measures, including special check-posts at commissionerate borders, are being put in place to curb illegal cattle transportation. The Commissioner emphasized that volunteers must strictly adhere to legal procedures and immediately inform the police about any suspected illegal activity. He made it clear that no individual or group should take the law into their own hands or resort to violence under any circumstances. Strict action will be taken against those sharing provocative or sensitive content on social media that could disturb communal harmony. Volunteers have been direct-

ed not to accompany police personnel at check-posts or capture images of cattle for circulation online. Organizations must nominate a representative and submit details of their members to the police. Carrying valid identification is mandatory, while possession of weapons or sharp objects is strictly prohibited. Interfering with vehicles already under police control will invite serious legal consequences. Authorities will continue year-round monitoring of illegal cattle transport without proper veterinary certification. Citizens can report information through the Police Control Room at 8712661000. The Commissioner urged all groups to act responsibly and cooperate with law enforcement to ensure a peaceful and harmonious celebration. Senior police officials and representatives from various organizations attended the meeting.

Maize Stock Worth Rs 20 Lakh Destroyed in Suspected Arson

Nalgonda, May 3 | TPN Bureau
A major fire incident at Patharlapadu village in Chinthakani mandal of Khammam district led to the destruction of around 800 quintals of maize on Sunday. Police suspect that unidentified individuals may have deliberately set fire to the stock stored at a corner of a Markfed procurement center.

The blaze reportedly broke out in the evening and quickly intensified due to strong winds, engulfing the stored maize and spreading to a nearby private agricultural field. The rapid spread of flames caused extensive damage before emergency services could intervene.

Fire tenders from Khammam

rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire after significant effort. However, by the time the flames were brought under control, the maize stock had been completely reduced to ashes. Officials have estimated the loss at approximately Rs 20 lakh.

Following a complaint filed by Markfed authorities, the Chinthakani police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. Efforts are currently underway to identify those responsible and determine the exact cause of the fire. Authorities are also assessing whether additional safety measures are required at procurement centers to prevent such incidents in the future.

Consumer Help Desks Planned Across Telangana

Warangal, May 3 | TPN Bureau

The South Indian Consumer Coordination Committee has announced plans to establish consumer help desks across southern states to offer free legal support and guidance for resolving grievances related to products and services. Speaking at a consumer awareness seminar in Hanamkonda, committee president Pallepada Damodar said the initiative is aimed at helping citizens address disputes without incurring legal expenses. He noted that consumer complaints have increased significantly with the rapid growth of multinational companies and the expanding service sector. The rise of digital transactions—estimated at around Rs 20,000 crore annually—has also contributed to a surge in cyber-related issues, including disputes over product quality, pricing,

warranties, and service deficiencies. Damodar stated that the project will be implemented in coordination with the Competition Commission of India and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission to ensure effective grievance redressal mechanisms. In the initial phase, help desks will be set up in five key locations across Telangana—Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Khammam, and Hyderabad. Detailed operational guidelines for these centers are expected to be released soon. Participants at the seminar, including members of the District Consumer Advisory Association, emphasized the growing importance of consumer awareness in today's competitive and technology-driven marketplace, urging citizens to stay informed about their rights and available support systems.

Armed Robbery at Jewellery Showroom Leaves Four Injured

Karimnagar, May 3 | TPN Bureau

An armed gang of five unidentified men carried out a daring robbery at the PMJ Jewellery showroom in Karimnagar on Sunday, leaving four employees injured. According to police, the incident occurred around 11 am when staff members were arranging ornaments inside the store.

The suspects reportedly arrived on two motorcycles and entered the showroom pretending to be customers interested in purchasing a gold chain. Moments later, they produced firearms and threatened the staff. When employees attempted to resist, the attackers opened fire, injuring four workers. The victims were immediately shifted to a nearby private hospital, where one of them is said to be in critical condition.

Within a span of a few min-

utes, the gang collected a significant quantity of gold ornaments into a bag and fled the scene, suggesting the crime was carefully planned. Police teams rushed to the spot soon after receiving information and recovered bullet shells along with a gun magazine from the premises.

Authorities are currently examining CCTV footage to trace the accused and have launched a district-wide search operation. The robbery took place in a high-security area located near the residence of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar and behind the District Judge's quarters.

Police noted that the minister had attended a public program nearby shortly before the incident, and investigators believe the suspects may have timed the robbery to avoid crowds and security presence.

Demand to Safeguard Heritage Sites from Mining Threats

Warangal, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Members of the Devalaya Parirakshana Samithi (DPS) submitted a memorandum to Kadiyam Kavya in Hanamkonda on Sunday, urging immediate steps to protect historic temples and heritage structures in Telangana from alleged illegal mining activities.

State president Chikati Raju emphasized the need to bring more heritage sites under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India to ensure their conservation and national recognition. He highlighted that after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana has only a limited number of centrally protected monuments, including Thousand Pillar Temple, Warangal Fort, Ramappa Temple, Ghanpur Temples, Charminar, Golcon-

da Fort, and Nagarjunakonda. Raju expressed concern that mining activities near hill temples are damaging historically significant sites that date back to Chola, Jain, and Kakatiya periods. Many of these temples, dedicated to Shaivite and Vaishnavite traditions, are located on hilltops and are vulnerable to environmental degradation. The organization specifically called for cancellation of mining permissions in areas such as Komuravelli, Inavolu, Pandavula Gutta, Govindarajula Gutta, and Metlugutta. It also urged the MP to push for a government order banning mining near ancient monuments across the state. DPS members stressed that extending ASI protection would not only preserve these cultural treasures but also prevent their exploitation for commercial purposes while promoting heritage tourism.

Adequate Seeds, Fertilizers Ready for Monsoon: Collector Assures Farmers

Adilabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Rajarshi Shah has reassured farmers that sufficient stocks of seeds and fertilizers are available for the upcoming 2026 monsoon cultivation season. In a statement, he said there is no need for concern regarding supply, as arrangements have been made well in advance to meet agricultural demand across the district.

As of May 2, around 1.24 lakh packets of cotton seeds and 900 quintals of soybean seeds are already stocked with authorized dealers. He added that seed companies are prepared to supply quantities beyond the district's requirement, and complete stocks will reach all outlets within a week.

On fertilizers, the Collector stated that 6,565 metric tonnes of urea, 381 metric tonnes of DAP, and 13,759 metric tonnes of complex fertilizers are readily available in shops and market yards. Steps have been tak-



en to prevent any shortage during the peak cultivation period.

Farmers were advised to purchase seeds only from licensed dealers and ensure they collect proper receipts for future reference. The Collector cautioned against buying loose or unverified seeds from unauthorized sellers, especially

those operating at night, and urged immediate reporting of such activities to officials.

He also warned that the use or sale of banned BT-3 seeds and certain herbicides is illegal and punishable. Farmers can contact the Agriculture Department helpline (8977742854) for assistance or clarification.

LPG Price Hike Pushes Up Food Costs

Nalgonda, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Restaurants and roadside eateries in Nalgonda have increased food prices following a steep rise in commercial LPG cylinder rates from May 1. The cost of a 19-kg commercial cylinder has surged to around Rs 3,300, putting significant pressure on small food businesses across the district.

The sudden hike has forced many establishments to revise their menu prices. Restaurants have raised rates by Rs 10 to Rs

30 per item, while roadside stalls have increased prices by about Rs 5. Even basic items have been affected, with the price of a cup of tea doubling from Rs 5 to Rs 10 in several areas. The situation was further aggravated as officials from the Civil Supplies department began seizing domestic LPG cylinders that were being used for commercial purposes. Due to both the price hike and enforcement drive, nearly 30 percent of small eateries and tea stalls temporarily shut down,

citing an inability to sustain operations.

Several vendors reported that they had no option but to close their businesses during this period. However, with revised pricing, many have now reopened, attempting to manage rising costs while retaining customers.

Traders say the increase in LPG prices has significantly impacted their daily earnings, and they are hoping for some support measures to stabilize their businesses.

Unseasonal Rains Damage Crops, Disrupt Life

Warangal, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Heavy unseasonal rains accompanied by strong winds caused widespread damage to crops and property across Mahabubabad district and parts of Warangal on Sunday, leaving farmers in distress. Paddy and maize stocks stored at procurement centers and markets were soaked in the sudden downpour, leading to significant losses. The impact was severe in Nellikuduru and Nek-

konda mandal, where farmers reported that produce kept out for drying over several weeks was either washed away or rendered unusable. Many expressed frustration, stating that months of hard work had gone in vain just before selling their harvest. They have urged the government to step in immediately and procure the damaged grain to prevent financial hardship. The storm also disrupted normal life in Mahabubabad town. High-speed winds uprooted tin sheets and wooden structures from

shops near Kesamudram Road and the bus depot, scattering debris across roads and halting traffic. Police teams acted quickly to restore normalcy. Under the supervision of local officers, debris was cleared and traffic movement resumed. District SP P. Sabharish appreciated the swift response of the personnel. Authorities have advised residents to remain cautious during adverse weather, avoid unsafe structures, and drive carefully, especially near fallen power lines.

KTR Wishes NEET Aspirants Success

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of the NEET UG 2026 examination being held across the country, K. T. Rama Rao extended his heartfelt wishes to students appearing for the test. Sharing a message on social media, he encouraged aspirants to stay confident and focused during the crucial exam. KTR acknowledged the dedication and consistent effort students have put in over the years to reach this important milestone. He reminded them that their prepa-

ration and perseverance would guide them toward success. Advising candidates to remain composed, he urged them not to let anxiety affect their performance. He emphasized the importance of self-belief, encouraging students to trust their hard work and approach the examination with a calm mindset. In his message, he wished all aspirants the very best and expressed hope that their efforts would yield positive results, motivating them to give their best in the examination.

Sand Workers Block Highway, Demand Livelihood Support

Warangal, May 3 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed near Upparapalli Crossroads in Wardhanapet mandal on Sunday as sand workers staged a sudden protest, alleging that recent government measures have left them without a steady source of income. The workers claimed that strict policies related to sand operations have severely affected their livelihoods, pushing many families into financial distress.

Raising slogans, the protesters urged the authorities to provide alternative employment opportunities and take immediate steps to address their concerns. They emphasized that without timely intervention, their situation would worsen further.

As part of the agitation, the workers blocked the Waran-

gal-Khammam National Highway, causing major traffic congestion and disrupting vehicular movement for several hours. Commuters faced significant inconvenience as long queues of vehicles formed along the route.

Police teams from Wardhanapet, Parvathagiri, and Ayyanavolu mandals reached the spot and initiated efforts to calm the situation. Despite attempts to disperse the crowd, the protesters remained firm, insisting that they would continue their agitation until local MLA Nagaraju personally visits the site and provides a clear assurance regarding their future employment.

Authorities are continuing negotiations with the workers while also taking steps to ease traffic and restore normalcy in the area.

Green Signal for Ramagundam Coal Project Boosts SCCL

Hyderabad, May 3 | TPN Bureau

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited has received a significant push after the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change granted preliminary clearance for the Ramagundam coal mine project. Final approval is expected shortly. Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Budhaprakash Jyoti termed the development a major milestone for the company.

With a planned annual production capacity of 21 million tonnes, the project will be SCCL's largest to date. It aims to compensate for declining output from older mines by utilizing around 314.98 million tonnes of recoverable coal reserves through a mix of opencast and underground opera-

tions. The coal will primarily be supplied to industries, including NTPC Ramagundam, under existing agreements.

The plan involves converting certain inactive and soon-to-close underground mines into opencast operations while integrating reserves from nearby expansion projects. By using existing clearances, the initiative reduces the need for fresh approvals and helps limit environmental impact.

Officials estimate that the project will extend mining operations in the Ramagundam region by nearly 25 years. It is also expected to safeguard employment by redeploying workers from closing mines, benefiting around 5,500 employees and supporting the local economy.

Lives of Clay, Cracking Under Pressure...

The "Poor Man's Refrigerator" Fades into Silence

Vijayawada, May 03 | TPN Bureau

Under a blazing summer sky, when the heat presses down and even the air feels parched, relief takes different forms in different homes. For some, it comes from the quiet hum of a refrigerator. For many others, it still rests in a simple earthen pot—the "poor man's refrigerator." But today, this humble source of comfort, and the lives behind it, are slowly fading. In scattered settlements, the Shalivahana community continues its age-old craft of pottery. Their hands, shaped by years of experience, still mold clay into vessels that naturally cool water. Yet, the certainty that once accompanied this work has disappeared. An elderly potter, seated beside rows of unsold pots, recalls a time when summers meant steady income and constant demand. Now, even in peak season, sales are uncertain, and hope is fragile. The irony is hard to ignore. As temperatures continue to rise, the need for cooling solutions has only grown. However, modern appliances and materials have replaced traditional earthen pots in everyday life. Refrigerators,



plastic containers, and steel vessels have taken over, pushing this once-essential craft to the margins. What was once a necessity has become a fading choice, leaving behind stories of struggle in every unsold pot. For Shalivahana families, summer was once a season of survival and dignity. Entire households worked together, shaping clay under the scorching sun and firing pots in traditional kilns. The income from these months sustained them through the rest of the year. Today, that lifeline is

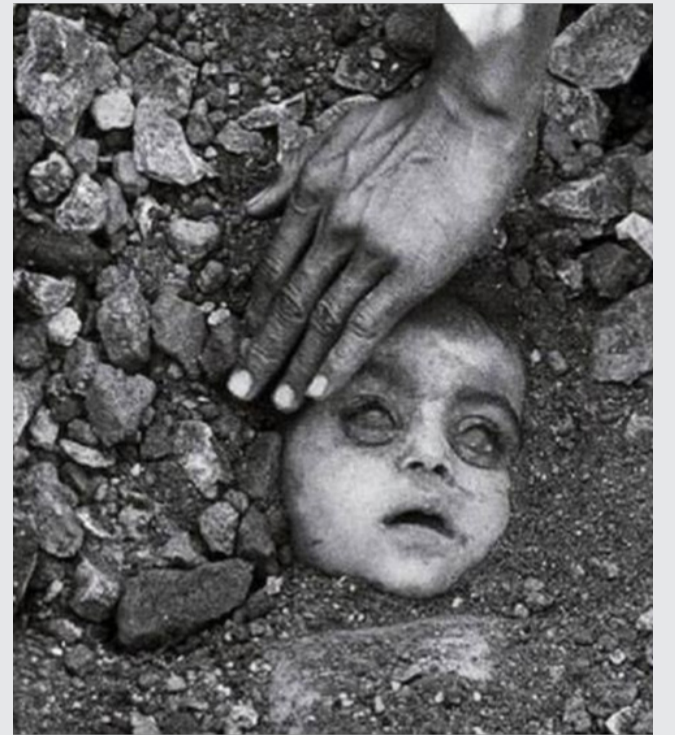
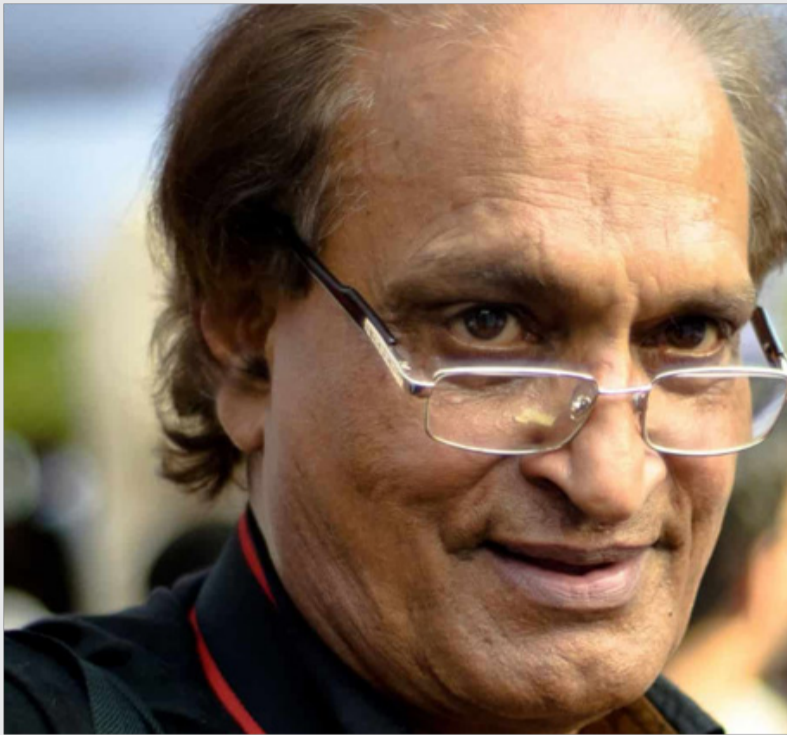
weakening. During off-seasons, many turn to daily wage labor, while the younger generation seeks opportunities elsewhere, unwilling to inherit a profession that no longer guarantees stability. Beyond its economic value, the earthen pot holds deep cultural significance. From birth to the final journey of life, clay vessels remain an integral part of human rituals and traditions. They symbolize a timeless bond between humans and the earth. The decline of this craft is not just the loss of

a livelihood, but the fading of a cultural legacy. Now, the Shalivahana community looks to the government for



support—seeking basic assistance to sustain their craft and lives. As another day ends, a potter quietly arranges his unsold wares, his silent wheel reflecting an uncertain future. As society embraces modern comforts, the slow disappearance of the "poor man's refrigerator" goes largely unnoticed, leaving behind a legacy that is beginning to crack beyond repair.





Torchbearer of Indian Photography – Raghu Rai

Photography is not merely a technical act of capturing images. It is a composite art where light, shadow, emotion, and time converge. What appears on the surface of a photograph may be just a visual, but what lies within it is a story, a feeling, a thought. The artistry of photography resides in the act of seeing. Many may witness the same scene, but only a few possess the vision to reveal it with meaning. When the balance of light and shade, the precision of timing, and the expressive framing come together, a photograph transforms from a mere image into a resonant poem one that speaks more profoundly than a thousand words.

India has been photographed by many, but only a rare few have been able to capture, within a single frame, the inner life of its people and the spirit of its times. Among those few stands Raghu Rai. Through his camera, he did not merely take pictures; he understood India, experienced it, and brought it alive before our eyes. A photograph, without uttering a single word, can express pain, share joy, and question society. That is why

Raghu Rai's images endure like history itself. They are not to be seen merely with the eyes, but felt with the heart. As he himself puts it, "A photograph is not just taken with a camera, it is created with the mind, the eye, and the heart." His images do not simply show scenes they narrate stories and echo human suffering.

Born in 1942 in what is now Pakistan, Raghu Rai's childhood was marked by the trauma of Partition. Those early experiences instilled in him a rare sensitivity. The haunting images carried by the winds of Partition settled deep within the mind of a young boy, teaching him that a human being is not just a smile, but also a wound. When that boy later picked up a camera, it did not remain a mere machine it became a heart.

Photography was not his first chosen profession. It was a path shown by his brother, S. Paul. In the 1960s, his work with The Statesman laid a strong foundation for his career. His photographs drew the attention of the legendary Henri Cartier-Bresson, who, impressed by his vision, invited him in 1977 to join Magnum Photos a rare honour



that marked his global recognition. Cartier-Bresson once remarked, "Raghu Rai does not take photographs; he experiences them."

A photograph is not merely about capturing a moment it is about preserving that moment in the viewer's soul, leaving it emotionally stirred.

This is precisely what Raghu Rai achieved. Beginning his career with The Statesman in the 1960s, he soon earned recognition for his distinctive vision. Later, as Picture Editor at India Today, he steered Indian visual journalism in a new direction. His work has appeared in leading interna-

tional publications such as Time, Life, and National Geographic.

Raghu Rai's camera has borne witness to some of India's most defining historical moments. Among them, the Bhopal Gas Tragedy stands out. On that fateful night in December 1984, a toxic gas

leak turned the air into poison, silently claiming thousands of lives in their sleep. The world saw the tragedy but Raghu Rai understood it. His photographs did not merely depict suffering; they gave suffering a face. One haunting image of a child half-buried in the earth was not just a photograph it was a question posed to the world: How did this happen? Those images were not just news, they shook the conscience of humanity.

To call Raghu Rai merely a photojournalist would be inadequate. His images often resemble poetry deep, evocative, and profoundly moving. His works and photo essays explore themes such as India's spiritual life, the transformation of its cities, environmental concerns, and the dignity of ordinary people. During his tenure at India Today, it is said that he even fought with editors to secure space for visual storytelling such was his commitment to the medium.

Raghu Rai has published several acclaimed photo books. These are not mere collections of images, but visual texts that interpret India itself. Notable among them

are Raghu Rai's India, Indira Gandhi: The Living Legend, Mother Teresa, Bihar: The JP Movement, Delhi, and Khajuraho.

In 1977, he was honored with the Padma Shri by the Government of India, along with numerous national and international accolades.

Raghu Rai is not just a photographer, he is a living vision that has shown India to the world. In today's digital age, when everyone takes photographs, he reminds us of an essential truth: "Seeing is not just looking, it is understanding." And more importantly, "Any work done without emotion remains empty." He said.



VARALA ANAND, Kendra Sahitya Academy Awardee

"The backgrounds of the stories are very personal"

SwathiKumari

The stories from Swathikumari's book 'Arasunna' open the doors of many questions, answers, and a world of hidden emotions, all at once, to finally stand them naked right in front of the readers. Here is a brief conversation with the author about her stories on the occasion of publication of this book in the recent past.

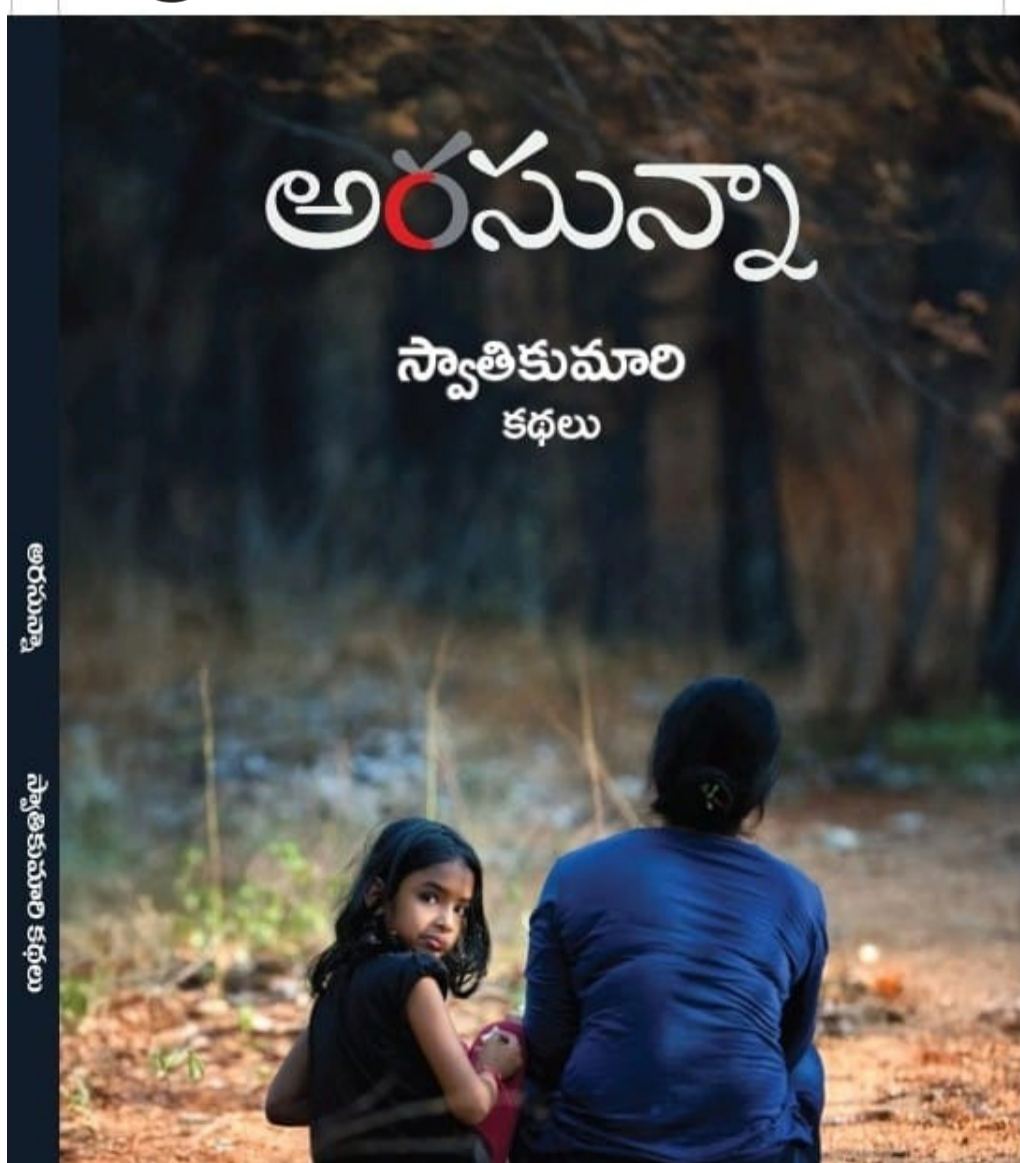
Existentialism (Asthitwavedana) is more evident in your writings. Could you detail about it in your words?

In Sanskrit and Pali, the word 'Vedana' means feeling and sensation. According to Buddhism, all three feelings, i.e. Happiness, Sorrow, and Neutrality are called 'Vedana'. I think you asked about the 'Pain of being alive' in your question. However, in my stories, I have tried to capture the depth of the three states mentioned above. Also I have mentioned sorrow a lot. However, this is not only caused by changes in circumstances and incidents. As we take birth as humans, we imbibe ourselves with certain 'Samskaras' (Impressions) and because we simply have no knowledge about its roots, we end up obtaining solutions that are quite peripheral in nature and get frustrated and finally giving it up but yet try hard repeatedly with unwavering yearning to learn about it. That is what probably seen in my stories.

Your writings are quite engaging for the reader.

But do you ever feel that you couldn't do justice to the subject of the story and the standard form that a story should have?

"There is no rule that a story

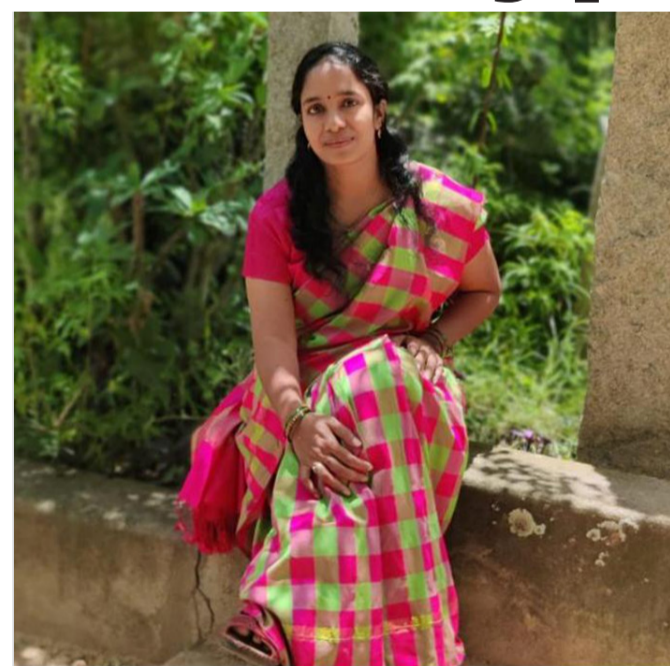


should have a standard form. Literary genres have undergone countless changes throughout history. In any given period, the social conditions of that time, the conflicts that

an individual experiences, and the changes in human relationships all combine together to create writers and those writers develop their own style. One can express the feeling

they want to evoke and the ideas they want to convey only in their own way.

In short, the essence itself chooses the form. What is your favorite



among all your stories? Could you brief its background.

218D is the one that leaves me with great satisfaction wherein the author, without a single word of his own, attempts to depict the scenario in the bus to explain the reader, by detailing the utmost intricacies, the difference among people from different backgrounds. In this story, I tried to convey the place where the story takes place, the introduction of the characters, their different mentalities, the author's moral comments on their behavior, and the depiction of the environment simply through dialogues without directly saying anything. But I don't think the readers like it that much. On the other hand, the story 'Vaangmulam' (Testimony) which I wrote in an instant emotion carried me on

some indefinite day is well received. The story 'Jeevana Sandhya', which is a favorite of many, took four years to complete. It took me that much time to travel with the old man's character which gradually got to be clearer. I think the backgrounds of the stories are very personal. Some come in dreams. Some are told symbolically, and there are times when we write our experiences as they are. Sometimes all of these things get mixed up. You can't point your finger at any one thing and say for sure that this is it.

Does the subject of the stories consist only real incidents happening in the surroundings or are there imaginations too?

Both are inseparable. Without imagination, there is no experience, and without expe-

rience, there is no imagination. The things we desire and that are not or that happens by quirk of fate, whichever case, ultimately all the things come together to constitute whether it is life or literature. In creation, there lies playful amusement. In the real scenario, it may not always be so.

What would you advise the budding writers?

Don't compromise your writing for the approval or appreciation of others. Anukampa (Empathy) is very important for a writer. We should honestly portray the lives and minds of our characters. If we don't know them, we should take time to get to know them closely. For a writer, there is no need to force his/her own beliefs and the values appreciated by society on the characters. If there is enough love for writing, then style, form etc. will be automatically formed on their own. It doesn't demand any special effort either.



Interview by

Yamini Krishna Bandlamudi

Assembly Election Results 2026, Counting Underway Across Five States

Counting of votes for the 2026 Assembly elections is underway across five states — Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, and the Union Territory of Puducherry — with early trends beginning to emerge.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has put in place extensive arrangements to ensure smooth counting, including multiple counting centres, tight security, and real-time result updates through official platforms.

These elections are being closely watched as they involve key political players and alliances across different regions. In Tamil Nadu, the ruling DMK is seeking to retain power, while the AIADMK and other parties aim to

make gains.

West Bengal continues to witness a fierce contest, with major parties battling for dominance in one of India's most politically significant states.

In Kerala, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) is looking to hold on to power, while the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the BJP are attempting to improve their performance.

Assam and Puducherry have also seen competitive contests, with regional and national parties vying for control.

The counting process began early in the morning under strict security protocols. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are being opened in

phases, with postal ballots counted first, followed by EVM votes.

Officials have ensured that counting centres are monitored closely to prevent any irregularities. Observers have been deployed to oversee the process and maintain transparency.

Initial trends are expected to provide an early indication of the likely outcome, though final results will become clear only after all rounds of counting are completed.

Political parties and candidates are closely tracking developments, with party workers gathering at counting centres and headquarters across the states.

The results are likely to have significant political im-

plications, shaping the balance of power in key states and influencing national political dynamics.

Analysts believe the outcome could impact future electoral strategies, alliances, and policy directions at both state and national levels.

The Election Commission is providing live updates through its official websites and apps, allowing citizens to follow constituency-wise results in real time.

As counting continues, all eyes remain on the evolving trends from across the five states. The results will not only determine state governments but also offer a broader insight into the current political mood of the country.



AAP vs Rebel MPs, Both Camps to Meet President Murmu Amid Escalating Political Row

The political battle between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its rebel Members of Parliament has intensified, with both sides set to meet President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday to press their respective cases.

According to reports, Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, along with six other MPs who recently broke away from AAP and aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been given an appointment with the President at 10:40 am. The meeting marks a significant escalation in the ongoing political confrontation.

The rebel MPs are expected to raise concerns about what they describe as "misuse of state machinery" by the Punjab government. They allege that administrative actions taken against them after their exit from AAP are politically motivated and part of a broader vendetta.

On the other side, the AAP leadership is preparing to present its own case before the President. The party has questioned the legitimacy of the rebels' move to merge with the BJP and is likely to seek action against them.

AAP has maintained that the defection violates constitutional norms and has been exploring legal and procedural routes, including approaching the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for



disqualification of the MPs.

The standoff comes after a major political shift in which seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs defected and joined the BJP, significantly weakening AAP's presence in the Upper House. The move has triggered a full-blown political crisis, especially in Punjab where AAP is in power.

In response, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has also sought to intervene, planning to approach the President to raise concerns over the defections and their implications.

Tuesday's meetings are expected to turn into a high-stakes showdown, with both camps attempting to gain constitutional and political back-

ing for their positions.

While the rebel MPs aim to defend their actions and counter allegations, AAP will push for strict action, arguing that the defections undermine the mandate given by voters.

The outcome of these meetings may not lead to immediate decisions, but they are likely to shape the next phase of the political and legal battle. With both sides digging in, the confrontation could move into courts and parliamentary procedures in the coming weeks.

Overall, the episode underscores deepening political tensions within AAP and highlights how defections continue to trigger major constitutional and political debates in India.

37 'Bellwether' Seats Key to Decoding Bengal Poll Results Since 1977

As West Bengal awaits the 2026 Assembly election results, attention has turned to a unique set of constituencies known as "bellwether seats" — segments that have historically mirrored the final outcome of elections in the state.

West Bengal has a 294-member Assembly, and a party needs at least 148 seats to form the government. However, political analysts often focus on a smaller group of constituencies that act as reliable indicators of the overall verdict.

Bellwether seats are constituencies whose winning party has consistently matched the party that forms the government. In West Bengal, 37 such seats have accurately reflected election outcomes since 1977, making them crucial for early trend analysis.



These seats are spread across different regions, including urban, semi-urban, and rural areas, offering a broad representation of the state's voting patterns. Experts say tracking these constituencies provides an early clue to the final result. If a party leads in a majority of these seats during counting, it often signals a wider victory across the state.

Over the years, these seats have remained reliable despite major political shifts — from Left Front dominance to Trinamool Congress rule and the rise of new challengers.

Some of the most closely watched seats include Bhabanipur, Nandigram, Kolkata Port, and Diamond Harbour. These constituencies are often seen as politically significant and

tend to reflect broader voter sentiment.

Since 1977, these 37 constituencies have consistently aligned with the party that went on to form the government. This long-standing pattern has made them an important reference point for political observers.

As counting progresses, early trends in these bellwether seats will be closely tracked. While they do not guarantee the final outcome, they have historically served as a strong indicator of the likely winner.

In a closely contested election, these 37 bellwether seats offer valuable insight into the direction of the results. As always, they will play a key role in shaping early predictions and understanding voter sentiment across West Bengal.

Congress Slams Centre Over Great Nicobar Project, Flags Environmental and Tribal Concerns

The Congress has intensified its attack on the Centre over the proposed Great Nicobar Island Development Project, accusing the government of being in "damage control mode" without addressing key concerns related to the mega initiative.

The criticism comes after the government issued a clarification defending the project following recent political attention. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Centre's response fails to adequately answer serious questions raised by environmentalists, local communities, and experts.

The opposition has highlighted multiple issues, including the potential ecological impact of the project and its implications for indigenous communities. According to the Congress, the plan could harm the island's fragile ecosystem, which is home to rich biodiversity.

Particular concern has been raised about the proposed



transshipment port at Galathea Bay, an ecologically sensitive area known for coral habitats and as a nesting site for endangered species. The party also questioned the effectiveness of compensatory afforestation measures, arguing that replacing forests elsewhere cannot make up for the loss of unique island ecosystems.

The Congress has also raised doubts over the transparency of the project's approval process. It has called for greater clarity on environmental clearances, data related to tree felling, and the overall planning framework. The party has demanded a wider discussion on the project, suggesting that issues of environmental impact, tribal rights, and national security should be debated in

Parliament.

The Centre, however, has maintained that the Great Nicobar project is a strategic and economic priority. Officials have said the development plan aims to strengthen India's maritime presence and boost infrastructure in the region. The project includes proposals for a transshipment port, airport, township, and power infrastructure. The government has also stated that safeguards are in place to protect the environment and ensure that indigenous communities are not adversely affected. The issue has emerged as a major point of contention between the government and the opposition. While the Centre emphasises the long-term strategic benefits of the project, critics continue to question its environmental and social impact. With both sides standing firm, the Great Nicobar project is likely to remain a key topic of political and public debate in the coming weeks.

MK Stalin, From Marina Beach Beginnings to Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister

Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin, the current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), remains a central figure in the state's political landscape as the 2026 Assembly elections draw attention.

Born on March 1, 1953, in Chennai (then Madras), Stalin's entry into the world was marked by a unique story. His father, former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, named him "Stalin" at a condolence meeting on Chennai's Marina Beach, inspired by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, who had passed away just days earlier. Stalin comes from one of Tamil Nadu's most influential political families. His father, Karunanidhi, was a towering figure in Dravidian politics, a movement rooted in social justice and regional identity. Growing up in this environment, Stalin was exposed early to political thought shaped by leaders like Periyar E.V. Ramasamy and C.N. Annadurai, who laid the foundation of the Dravidian movement.

Over the years, Stalin rose steadily through the ranks of the DMK, building his political career through grassroots engagement and organisational roles before eventually taking over the party leadership.

Stalin became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in May 2021, leading the DMK to a decisive electoral victory. Since then, his government has fo-



cused on welfare schemes, economic growth, and infrastructure development, while also positioning himself strongly on issues of federalism and state rights. Under his leadership, Tamil Nadu has pursued policies aimed at social welfare and economic expansion, while maintaining the Dravidian model of governance that emphasises inclusivity and regional pride. In the ongoing 2026 Assembly elections, Stalin is once again contesting from Kolathur, a constituency he has represented for multiple terms. The election is seen as a crucial test of his leadership, with the DMK-led alliance facing strong competition from

rival parties and emerging political forces. The polls have taken on added significance with new entrants and shifting political dynamics, making Stalin's role even more pivotal in shaping the state's future direction. From a symbolic naming on Marina Beach to leading one of India's most politically active states, MK Stalin's journey reflects a blend of legacy and personal political evolution. As Tamil Nadu heads toward a decisive electoral outcome, Stalin remains at the centre of the state's political narrative—balancing tradition, governance, and the challenges of a changing political landscape.

Joram Aniya Becomes First Full-Time NITI Aayog Member from Arunachal Pradesh

In a significant development, Joram Aniya has been appointed as a full-time member of NITI Aayog, becoming the first person from Arunachal Pradesh to hold the position.

The appointment marks an important moment for representation from the Northeast in India's top policy think tank. NITI Aayog plays a key role in shaping the country's economic and developmental policies, making Aniya's inclusion a notable step toward broader regional participation.

Joram Aniya is a senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AG-MUT) cadre. Over the years, he has held several important administrative positions and is known for his experience in governance and public policy.

His appointment is expected to bring valuable insights, par-



ticularly on issues related to the Northeast, including infrastructure development, connectivity, and regional growth. The move is being seen as a boost for the Northeast, a region that has often sought greater representation in national decision-making bodies. Having a full-time member from Arunachal Pradesh is likely to strengthen the re-

gion's voice in policy discussions.

Experts believe that this could help address region-specific challenges more effectively and ensure that development strategies are more inclusive.

As a full-time member, Aniya will be involved in key policy formulation and strategic planning processes. NITI Aay-

og works closely with both the central and state governments to drive reforms, promote sustainable development, and implement national priorities.

His experience in administration is expected to contribute to policymaking across sectors, including governance, infrastructure, and economic planning.

The appointment reflects the Centre's focus on inclusive governance by bringing diverse regional perspectives into national policymaking institutions.

With Joram Aniya's entry, expectations are high that issues concerning the Northeast will receive greater attention at the highest levels of policy planning.

Overall, the development is being viewed as both a symbolic and practical step toward ensuring balanced regional representation in India's decision-making framework.

Trump-Iran Peace Proposal Faces Roadblocks as Hormuz Deadlock Deepens

Efforts to end the ongoing US-Iran conflict remain uncertain, with former US President Donald Trump expressing dissatisfaction over Tehran's latest peace proposal, even as tensions around the Strait of Hormuz continue to disrupt global trade and energy markets.

Iran recently submitted a fresh proposal—reportedly through Pakistan, which is acting as a mediator—aimed at ending hostilities and reopening the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz. The plan focuses on de-escalation and suggests postponing contentious issues such as Iran's nuclear pro-

gramme for future negotiations.

However, Trump has shown little enthusiasm for the proposal, maintaining that it does not adequately address key US concerns, particularly Iran's nuclear ambitions. Washington has consistently demanded that Tehran halt uranium enrichment and give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium—conditions Iran has repeatedly rejected.

At the heart of the conflict lies the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global oil shipping route. Since the outbreak of hostilities, Iran has effectively controlled access to the

strait, restricting ship movements and even imposing tolls on vessels. In response, the US imposed its own naval blockade targeting Iranian ports and shipping.

This dual blockade has created a deadlock: Iran refuses to lift restrictions unless the US ends its blockade, while Washington insists on free passage through the strait. The standoff has significantly disrupted oil flows and contributed to rising global crude prices.

Pakistan has emerged as a key intermediary, facilitating communication and negotiations between the two sides. Iranian

officials have routed proposals through Islamabad, while the US has also engaged in indirect talks via the same channel.

Despite these diplomatic efforts, progress has been limited. Differences over nuclear policy, sanctions, and control of the Strait of Hormuz remain major sticking points.

The prolonged standoff has had far-reaching consequences beyond the region. Oil prices have surged sharply since the conflict began, impacting economies worldwide and raising concerns about inflation and energy security.

Additionally, clearing naval mines in the

strait—laid during the conflict—poses a major logistical challenge, even if a ceasefire is eventually reached.

While both sides have exchanged multiple proposals, a lasting agreement appears elusive. Trump has maintained a hardline stance, while Iran continues to resist concessions on its nuclear programme and strategic control over Hormuz.

With geopolitical tensions persisting and key issues unresolved, the fragile ceasefire remains under strain—leaving the world's most critical oil chokepoint at the centre of a high-stakes diplomatic standoff.



China Blocks US Sanctions on Iranian Oil, Casts Shadow Over Trump-Xi Talks

China has moved to block fresh US sanctions targeting Iranian oil refineries, escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing and complicating efforts to stabilise global energy markets ahead of a potential summit between former US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.



The United States had proposed sanctions aimed at curbing Iran's oil trade by targeting refineries allegedly involved in processing Iranian crude. The move was part of Washington's broader strategy to pressure Tehran amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and disputes over its nuclear programme.

However, China opposed the sanctions, effectively preventing their implementation. Beijing has consistently resisted unilateral US measures, arguing that such actions undermine global trade norms and worsen geopolitical instability.

China's decision is widely seen as driven by its energy security concerns. As one of the world's largest importers of crude oil, China relies heavily on stable and affordable supplies, including shipments from Iran. Blocking sanctions helps ensure continued access to these resources while also reinforcing Beijing's independent foreign policy stance.

The move also highlights the growing divergence between the US and China on key global issues, particularly those involving energy and strategic alliances.

The development is a setback for Washington's efforts

to isolate Iran economically. Sanctions on oil exports and refining networks have been a central pillar of US policy aimed at limiting Tehran's revenue streams.

By opposing the sanctions, China has effectively weakened the impact of US pressure, allowing Iran to maintain a degree of resilience in its oil trade despite ongoing restrictions.

The issue is expected to feature prominently in upcoming discussions between Trump and Xi Jinping, with analysts warning that disagreements over Iran could further strain already delicate relations between the two powers.

Trade tensions, technology disputes, and geopolitical rivalries have already complicated US-China ties, and the latest development adds another layer of friction ahead of any high-level engagement.

The situation also has broad implications for global en-

ergy markets. Continued Chinese purchases of Iranian oil could help stabilise supply levels, even as geopolitical tensions threaten key transit routes such as the Strait of Hormuz.

At the same time, the lack of coordinated international action on sanctions may contribute to market uncertainty, with investors closely watching developments in US-China relations and Middle East geopolitics.

China's move underscores a broader shift in global power dynamics, where major economies are increasingly pursuing independent strategies rather than aligning with US-led initiatives.

As tensions over Iran, trade, and energy continue to evolve, the standoff highlights the challenges of achieving consensus in an increasingly multipolar world—one where economic interests and geopolitical priorities often collide.

US Approves \$8.6 Billion Arms Sales to Middle East Amid Iran War Stalemate

The United States has approved more than \$8.6 billion worth of emergency arms sales to key Middle Eastern allies, as tensions with Iran continue and peace negotiations remain deadlocked.

The decision was cleared by the US State Department under emergency provisions, allowing the administration to bypass the usual congressional approval process. The move is aimed at strengthening regional partners amid ongoing security threats linked to the Iran conflict.

Countries set to receive the military support include Israel, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Kuwait. The arms package features advanced defence systems designed to counter missile and drone attacks, which have become a growing concern in the region.

Among the major components of the deal are Patriot missile interceptors for Qatar; precision-guided weapon systems for multiple allies, and air defence equipment for Kuwait. These systems are intended to enhance the ability of US partners to respond to aerial threats, particularly from Iranian-backed forces.

The development comes at a time when diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict with Iran



have stalled. Despite attempts to negotiate a ceasefire, key disagreements—especially over Iran's nuclear programme—have prevented a breakthrough.

US officials have indicated that the arms sales are necessary to maintain stability and ensure the security of allied nations facing repeated attacks. However, the decision has drawn criticism from some lawmakers, who argue that bypassing Congress undermines oversight on major defence deals.

The situation in the Middle East remains highly volatile,

with tensions centred around strategic areas such as the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil shipments. Continued instability has already impacted energy markets and raised concerns about supply disruptions.

Analysts say the arms deal reflects Washington's strategy of balancing diplomacy with military preparedness. While negotiations with Iran continue, the US appears determined to reinforce its allies' defence capabilities in case of further escalation.

The move also signals a broader trend of increasing

militarisation in the region, as countries seek to strengthen their security infrastructure amid uncertain geopolitical conditions.

As the conflict remains unresolved, developments in the coming weeks—both on the diplomatic and military fronts—will be crucial in determining whether tensions ease or escalate further.

Overall, the approval of the arms package underscores the fragile state of the situation in the Middle East, where efforts for peace continue alongside preparations for potential conflict.

India-Linked LPG Tanker Makes Rare Strait of Hormuz Crossing Amid US Blockade

In a significant development amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, an India-linked liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker has successfully crossed the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world's most critical oil transit routes—despite an ongoing US naval blockade.

The vessel, identified as "Jag Viraat," is reportedly associated with India's state-run shipping sector. Its passage through the strait is being seen as a rare and notable event at a time when maritime traffic in the region has been severely restricted due to geopolitical conflict.

The Strait of Hormuz has become a flashpoint amid the ongoing standoff between the United States and Iran. With both sides imposing restrictions—Washington through a naval blockade and Tehran controlling access—commercial shipping has been significantly disrupted.

Against this backdrop, the successful transit of the LPG tanker highlights the challenges and risks faced by energy shipments navigating the region. It also underscores the continued importance of the strait, through which a substantial



portion of the world's oil and gas supplies pass.

For India, which relies heavily on imports to meet its energy needs, ensuring the safe passage of fuel shipments is critical. The movement of the tanker signals India's efforts to maintain supply lines despite geopolitical uncertainties.

The development also reflects the delicate balancing act India must perform—managing its energy security while navigating complex international tensions involving major global powers.

The restricted movement of vessels in the Strait of Hormuz has raised concerns about potential supply shortages and rising fuel prices worldwide. Even isolated successful crossings like that of the India-

linked tanker are being closely monitored by markets and policymakers.

Experts warn that prolonged disruption in the region could have far-reaching consequences for global energy stability, particularly for import-dependent nations. While the tanker's safe passage offers a positive signal, the broader situation remains volatile. Continued geopolitical tensions, coupled with military presence in the region, mean that shipping routes through Hormuz are likely to remain unpredictable in the near term.

As the standoff continues, developments in the region will be crucial not just for India but for the global economy, given the strait's pivotal role in international energy trade.

In a significant development amid the ongoing US-Iran conflict, an Iranian supertanker carrying crude oil worth approximately \$220 million has successfully evaded the US naval blockade and reached its destination, raising fresh questions over the effectiveness of the restrictions.

According to ship-tracking data, the vessel—operated by the National Iranian Tanker Company—was transporting over 1.9 million barrels of crude oil when it managed to bypass US enforcement efforts and sail towards the Asia-Pacific region.

The incident comes at a time when the United States has imposed a strict naval blockade targeting Iranian oil exports, aiming to curb Tehran's revenue amid escalating geopolitical tensions. The blockade has significantly reduced shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route, with many vessels either intercepted or forced to turn back.

The successful journey of the supertanker is being viewed as a rare breach of the blockade, which US officials have previously described as highly effective. The development suggests that despite tight surveillance and enforcement, some shipments are still managing to slip through.

Reports indicate that several Iranian vessels have attempted to avoid detection by altering



routes or limiting tracking visibility, making it harder for enforcement agencies to monitor their movements. The US blockade, in place since April 2026, has drastically impacted Iran's oil exports, leaving millions of barrels stranded and creating storage challenges within the country. Analysts say the restrictions have cut export volumes sharply, putting pressure on Iran's economy.

At the same time, tensions in the region remain high, with both sides locked in a broader

conflict involving military actions, diplomatic deadlock, and disruptions to global shipping lanes. The ability of even a single tanker to bypass the blockade carries wider implications for global energy markets. It highlights the difficulty of fully controlling maritime trade routes and suggests that supply from Iran may not be entirely halted despite US efforts.

For global markets, such developments introduce uncertainty. While the blockade has tightened supply and support-

ed higher oil prices, occasional successful shipments could ease some pressure and stabilise flows. As the US-Iran standoff continues, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains volatile. The latest incident underscores both the risks and the resilience of oil trade in conflict zones.

With enforcement measures tightening and geopolitical tensions unresolved, further attempts by Iran to bypass restrictions are likely—keeping the region and global energy markets on edge.

Kotak MF Restricts Overseas Fund Inflows, Imposes Cap from April 30

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund has introduced restrictions on fresh investments in four of its overseas schemes, placing a cap on inflows as part of measures to manage international exposure limits. The new rule, which came into effect on April 30, 2026, limits investments to 1 lakh per PAN per month.

The decision impacts new transactions across multiple investment modes, including lump sum investments, switch-ins, and fresh registrations for systematic investment plans (SIPs) and systematic transfer plans (STPs). Investors attempting to invest beyond the prescribed monthly limit will not be able to do so under the revised guidelines.

The four schemes affected

by the restriction are Kotak Global Emerging Market Overseas Equity Omni FoF, Kotak Global Innovation Overseas Equity Omni FoF, Kotak International REIT Overseas Equity Omni FoF, and Kotak Quality Overseas Equity Omni FoF. These funds primarily invest in international markets, offering Indian investors diversification through exposure to global equities and real estate investment trusts.

In some reports, the move has also been described as a temporary suspension or tightening of subscriptions in these international funds, reflecting the fund house's effort to regulate inflows.

Despite the restrictions on fresh investments, existing investors have some relief.

Systematic investment plans and transfer plans registered before the cut-off date will continue without interruption. This ensures that long-term investors are not adversely affected by the change.

The move is widely seen as a response to regulatory ceilings on overseas investments imposed on Indian mutual funds. Asset management companies are required to operate within these limits, and when thresholds are approached, they often introduce caps or temporarily halt subscriptions to remain compliant.

Overseas mutual funds have gained popularity among Indian investors in recent years, driven by the need for portfolio diversifica-

tion and access to global growth opportunities. However, regulatory constraints have led several fund houses to adopt similar measures to control inflows.

Kotak Mutual Fund's latest step reflects a broader trend within the industry, where fund managers are balancing investor demand with regulatory requirements. While the cap may limit large-scale investments, it still allows investors to participate in international markets in a controlled manner.

Overall, the development highlights both the growing interest in global investing and the structural limitations that fund houses must navigate while offering such opportunities.



Hormuz Tensions, Trade Risks and Fed Divide Set Stage for Volatile May

Global financial markets are heading into May on uncertain footing, as a combination of geopolitical tensions, trade concerns and monetary policy divisions create a challenging environment for investors, according to a recent market outlook report.

At the centre of the volatility is the ongoing deadlock in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route. The standoff between the US and Iran remains unresolved, keeping energy markets on edge and pushing crude oil prices higher. Analysts warn that continued disruptions in the region could sustain inflationary pressures and weigh on global growth.

Compounding these concerns are renewed trade tensions, which are adding another layer of uncertainty to the global economic outlook. With protectionist measures resurfacing in key economies, fears of slowing global trade and supply chain disruptions have resurfaced, further dampening investor sentiment.

Another major factor contributing to market instability is the lack of clarity within the US Federal Reserve. Policy-makers appear divided on the future path of interest rates, particularly as inflation remains persistent while growth signals show signs of weakening. This divergence has reduced expectations of near-

term rate cuts, adding to market nervousness.

The combination of these factors has led to a risk-off sentiment across asset classes, with markets showing signs of increased volatility. Experts suggest that the overall risk balance is tilted to the downside, as geopolitical and macro-economic uncertainties continue to dominate the outlook.

In commodities, gold is expected to remain range-bound despite heightened uncertainty, while oil prices are likely to stay elevated due to supply concerns linked to the Hormuz situation. Meanwhile, equity markets may experience choppy movements as investors react to evolving global cues.

Looking ahead, key triggers for the markets include upcoming US economic data, particularly the jobs report, and speeches by Federal Reserve officials, which could provide further clarity on the policy trajectory. Investors will also closely monitor developments in the Middle East and global trade dynamics for directional cues. Overall, the report suggests that May could be a turbulent month for global markets, with multiple risk factors converging at once. Until there is greater clarity on geopolitical tensions and monetary policy direction, investors may need to brace for continued volatility and cautious trading conditions.

India Tightens FDI Rules, Pakistan Investments Face Govt Approval, Sensitive Sectors Barred

India has strengthened its foreign direct investment (FDI) framework by introducing stricter rules for countries sharing land borders, with specific curbs targeting investments from Pakistan. The revised norms, notified by the Ministry of Finance, mandate government approval for such investments and restrict entry into sensitive sectors.

Under the new policy, any investment from Pakistan can only be made through the government approval route, effectively ending the automatic entry option. The rules also extend to all countries sharing land borders with India, requiring prior clearance for investments, including cases involving indirect ownership or beneficial stakes.

The government has also tightened oversight by bringing future ownership changes under scrutiny. This

means that even if an Indian company later sees a change in ownership that links it to entities from these countries, it will still require official approval.

For Pakistan specifically, the restrictions are more stringent. Investments are allowed only in non-sensitive sectors, with areas such as defence, space, and atomic energy completely off-limits. These sectors are considered critical to national security and remain closed to such foreign participation.

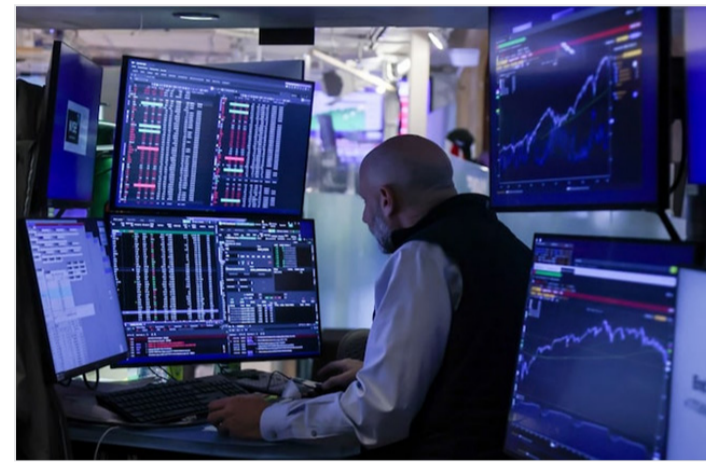
The move is being seen as a significant policy shift aimed at strengthening economic security while maintaining oversight on foreign capital flows. Officials have clarified that the framework ensures that investments from neighbouring countries are carefully vetted, particularly where strategic or security concerns may arise.

At the same time, the gov-

ernment has taken a liberal approach in other areas. Notably, it has allowed 100% foreign investment in the insurance sector under the automatic route, although the cap on foreign investment in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) remains at 20%.

The updated FDI rules highlight India's dual strategy—tightening controls where national security is a concern while continuing to attract global capital in less sensitive sectors. Analysts suggest that such measures are intended to strike a balance between economic openness and strategic caution.

Overall, the new "FDI firewall" underscores India's intent to maintain stricter scrutiny over investments from neighbouring countries, especially Pakistan, while keeping its broader investment environment open and competitive.



Global Earnings Strength May Support Markets Despite Stagflation Fears

Global equity markets could remain resilient despite growing concerns over stagflation, supported by strong corporate earnings and improving profit outlooks, according to a recent report by JPMorgan.

The report challenges the prevailing bearish sentiment in financial markets, where investors have been increasingly worried about a potential stagflationary environment—characterised by slowing economic growth and rising inflation. It argues that these concerns may be overstated and not fully aligned with underlying economic fundamentals.

A key factor supporting this optimistic outlook is the continued strength in corporate earnings across major economies. The report highlights that aggregate earnings projections for 2026 are still being revised upward, not only in the United States but across multiple global markets. This broad-based improvement suggests that businesses are maintaining profitability despite macro-economic uncertainties.

While the energy sector has been a major contributor to earnings growth—benefiting from elevated crude oil prices—the report notes that gains are not limited to this segment alone. Several other sectors are also witnessing positive earnings revisions, indicating a more widespread recovery in corporate performance.

Oil prices remain a crucial variable in the outlook. JPMorgan stated that even if Brent crude averages around \$100 per barrel, it would still be compatible with further earnings growth. However, a significant escalation in geopolitical tensions could alter this trajectory and lead to downward revisions in earnings expectations.

In Europe, earnings growth projections for 2026 appear relatively strong at around 18 percent. However, the report cautions that this figure is influenced by base effects, particularly in the consumer discretionary sector. A more realistic estimate of around 8 percent still leaves room for potential upside if economic conditions remain stable.

The ongoing first-quarter earnings season is also expected to boost investor confidence. Strong business activity trends during the period are likely to translate into better-than-expected results across several markets. That said, companies may continue to issue cautious guidance due to persistent geopolitical risks and economic uncertainties.

Overall, the report suggests that while stagflation concerns continue to weigh on sentiment, robust earnings momentum could act as a key support for global equities, helping markets navigate near-term volatility.

UAE's OPEC Exit Reshapes Oil Dynamics, Could Tilt Advantage Towards India

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) decision to exit the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) marks a significant shift in the global oil landscape, potentially transforming how crude markets function and offering strategic benefits for major importers like India.

For decades, OPEC has acted as a powerful cartel, coordinating production among member countries to influence global oil prices. However, the UAE's departure weakens this collective control, raising the possibility of a transition from a tightly managed supply system to a more competitive market environment.

The UAE, one of OPEC's largest producers, has long been constrained by production quotas set by the group. By

exiting, it gains the freedom to increase output and pursue its own market strategy. Analysts believe this move could lead to higher global oil supply over time, particularly once current geopolitical disruptions—such as tensions in the Strait of Hormuz—ease.

The shift signals a broader change in the oil market structure. With OPEC's influence potentially reduced, pricing power may become more dispersed among producers. This could result in increased competition, less coordinated supply cuts, and greater price volatility in the long run.

At the same time, the UAE's ambitions to ramp up production—targeting around 5 million barrels per day in the coming years—highlight its intent to capture a larger share of the

global market.

For India, which imports nearly 80% of its crude oil needs, the development could prove beneficial. Increased supply and competition among producers may help ease oil prices over time, reducing the country's import bill and supporting macroeconomic stability.

The UAE is already among India's top crude suppliers, with its share in India's import basket rising in recent years. A more flexible UAE—free from OPEC quotas—could strengthen bilateral energy ties and offer India more favourable pricing or supply agreements.

Additionally, closer India-UAE cooperation, including mechanisms like rupee-based oil trade, could gain momentum as both countries deepen

economic engagement in the energy sector.

While the immediate impact of the UAE's exit may be limited due to ongoing geopolitical tensions affecting oil flows, the long-term implications are significant. The move challenges OPEC's traditional dominance and introduces a more fragmented and competitive global oil order. For India, this evolving landscape presents both opportunities and risks—lower prices and diversified supply on one hand, but increased volatility on the other. Overall, the UAE's exit from OPEC marks a turning point in global energy politics, signalling a gradual shift from cartel-driven pricing to a more market-driven oil economy—one in which large consumers like India could stand to gain.



Woman Delivers Baby Mid-Air on Flight to Rome

In a rare and dramatic mid-air incident, a woman gave birth to a baby aboard a commercial flight travelling from Dakar, Senegal, to Rome, turning an ordinary journey into an unforgettable event. The incident occurred on an ITA Airways flight, marking a first for the airline.

According to reports, the woman was around seven months pregnant when she boarded the flight. About an hour after takeoff, she unexpectedly went into labour while the aircraft was cruising at high altitude. With no immediate access to hospital facilities, the situation quickly turned urgent, requiring swift action from

those onboard.

The cabin crew responded promptly and professionally, stepping in to assist the woman during childbirth. Fortunately, two passengers—a doctor and a nurse—were also on board and played a crucial role in ensuring a safe delivery. Working together, they managed the situation calmly and successfully delivered the baby mid-air.

Despite the challenging circumstances, both the mother and the newborn baby boy were reported to be in good health following the delivery. The airline later described the event as a “happy and unexpected” moment, highlighting the teamwork

and quick response of everyone involved.

The flight continued its journey to Rome, where medical personnel were ready to provide further care upon landing. The safe outcome brought relief not only to the mother but also to fellow passengers and crew members who witnessed the extraordinary event unfold.

This incident is particularly notable as it marks the first time a baby has been born on board an ITA Airways aircraft. While in-flight births are extremely rare, they are not unheard of. Similar cases have occurred on other airlines, often requiring emergency responses and sparking discussions

about aviation safety and preparedness.

Such occurrences also raise interesting questions about citizenship laws, as a baby’s nationality in these cases can depend on various factors, including the parents’ nationality and the location of the aircraft at the time of birth.

Though unexpected, the successful mid-air birth highlights the importance of preparedness, teamwork, and the presence of trained professionals in critical situations. For everyone on board, the flight became a once-in-a-lifetime experience—welcoming a new life thousands of feet above the ground.



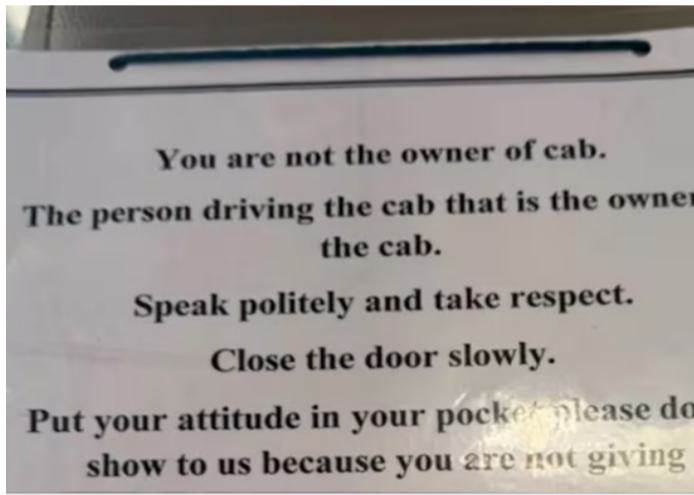
Hyderabad Cab Driver’s ‘Rule Book’ for Passengers Goes Viral, Sparks Online Debate

A Hyderabad cab driver has become the centre of attention on social media after a printed note inside his vehicle, listing a set of rules for passengers, went viral and triggered a wider debate about behaviour and respect in ride services.

The now-popular image, shared on X (formerly Twitter), shows a detailed list of instructions written by the driver, outlining how passengers should conduct themselves during the ride. While some users found the message reasonable and even necessary, others criticised it as overly strict.

At the heart of the note is a strong emphasis on mutual respect and basic etiquette. The driver clearly states that passengers should speak politely and treat both him and the cab with respect. He reminds riders that just because they are paying for the service, it does not give them the right to behave disrespectfully. The message bluntly adds that passengers should “keep their attitude in their pocket,” highlighting the driver’s frustration with rude behaviour.

The note also addresses common issues faced by cab drivers. It instructs passengers not to negotiate fares unnecessarily or act as if they are paying extra. Another striking point is the request not to address the driver as “bhaiya,” indicat-



ing a preference for more respectful or appropriate forms of address.

Safety and comfort are also key themes. The driver advises passengers not to ask him to drive fast, instead encouraging them to manage their time better. He also asks riders to close the car door gently and maintain proper behaviour throughout the journey. One of the more unusual rules that caught the internet’s attention was a warning against romantic behaviour inside the cab. The note clearly states that the vehicle is not a private space, asking passengers to maintain distance and “stay calm,” especially couples.

The viral post has led to

mixed reactions online. While some users supported the driver, arguing that such rules promote basic decency and reflect real challenges faced by drivers, others felt that the tone of the message was too harsh. Some pointed out that as paying customers, passengers also expect a certain level of service and courtesy.

Overall, the incident has sparked a broader conversation about the relationship between drivers and passengers in app-based cab services. It highlights the growing need for mutual understanding, respect, and clearly defined boundaries in everyday interactions, especially in the gig economy.

“Expected Danger, Got Dinner”, Austrian Tourist Praises Indian Railways Experience

An Austrian traveller’s heartfelt experience on Indian Railways has gone viral online, challenging common stereotypes and winning praise from social media users. The tourist, identified as Chiara, shared her journey through India, describing how her expectations of discomfort and danger were replaced by warmth, hospitality, and unexpected kindness.

In a video that has garnered widespread attention, Chiara documented her time travelling in India’s sleeper class trains. Like many first-time foreign visitors, she admitted to initially feeling apprehensive about train travel in the country. However, her concerns quickly faded as she encountered a completely different reality.

One of the most touching moments from her journey occurred when she was invited to sit with a group of Indian women during the train ride. The women welcomed her warmly, shared food with her, and even included her in their activities. In the video, Chiara is seen joining them as they chant the Hanuman Chalisa, reflecting a sense of cultural exchange and connection.

Describing her experience, she summed it up in a striking phrase: she had “expected danger” but instead “got dinner.” The comment resonated widely online, with many viewers appreciating her honest and positive portrayal of Indian



train travel. The video quickly crossed hundreds of thousands of views, sparking discussions about the hospitality often experienced by travellers in India. Chiara also revealed that she had taken around 17 train journeys across different classes during her stay in India and had not faced any negative incidents. Her account stands in contrast to the concerns often raised about safety and overcrowding in Indian trains, offering a more balanced perspective shaped by

personal experience.

Social media users reacted enthusiastically to her post. Many Indians expressed pride in the country’s culture of generosity, while others pointed out that such spontaneous acts of kindness are a common part of everyday life in India. Some commenters also noted how interactions like these help bridge cultural gaps and reshape global perceptions.

The viral story highlights how travel experiences can often defy expectations. While

challenges may exist, moments of human connection—like sharing food or participating in local traditions—can leave a lasting impression.

Ultimately, Chiara’s journey serves as a reminder that beyond infrastructure and logistics, it is the people and their warmth that often define a travel experience. Her story not only celebrates Indian Railways but also underscores the universal power of kindness in bringing strangers together.

“Don’t Overshare at Work”, Amazon Employee’s Viral Advice Sparks Debate

A Hyderabad-based Amazon employee has gone viral on social media after sharing a candid list of “10 things” people should avoid discussing in the workplace. Her advice, drawn from personal experience across different teams and corporate environments, has struck a chord with professionals navigating modern office culture.

In her post, the employee explained that oversharing at work can quietly damage one’s career, often in ways that are not immediately visible. She emphasised that maintaining boundaries is essential in competitive professional settings, where even casual conversations can shape how colleagues perceive you.

At the top of her list was salary information, which she advised keeping private. According to her, discussing pay can lead to unhealthy comparisons and workplace tension. Similarly, she warned against engaging in office gossip, noting

that even seemingly harmless chatter can harm one’s reputation over time.

She also highlighted the risks of sharing negative opinions about colleagues, as such remarks can spread quickly and backfire. Personal matters, including relationship issues, should also be kept out of the workplace, she said, as they can become a source of distraction or unwanted attention.

The employee further advised discretion when it comes to health details, suggesting that such information should only be shared when necessary, particularly if it affects work or requires support. She also recommended avoiding discussions around politics and religion, calling them “hot topics” that rarely lead to productive conversations.

Other key points included avoiding complaints about one’s boss, as venting may feel relieving but can have negative consequences. She also cautioned against sharing job

search updates prematurely, recommending that such information be kept confidential until official. Additionally, she stressed limiting excessive personal information, as it can blur professional boundaries.

Finally, she underscored the importance of protecting confidential company information, reminding professionals that safeguarding such details is crucial for maintaining trust and career stability.

The post has generated widespread discussion online, with many users agreeing that workplace boundaries are essential. While some supported the advice wholeheartedly, others pointed out that sharing certain personal details—when done thoughtfully—can help build trust.

Overall, the viral message highlights a simple but powerful idea: in the workplace, what you choose not to say can be just as important as what you do say.

“India Changed How I See Travel”, Foreigner’s Viral Video Redefines Meaning of Exploration

A foreign traveller’s recent visit to India has sparked widespread discussion online after he shared how the experience completely changed his understanding of travel. The man, identified as Geoff Josey, posted a viral Instagram video reflecting on his journey across the country, offering a perspective that resonated with many viewers.

Josey, who has travelled to 46 countries, revealed that India stood out unlike any other destination he had visited. For him, travel had long been associated with comfort, smooth logistics, and carefully planned experiences. However, his time in India challenged that idea and forced him to rethink what travel truly means.

In the video, he openly acknowledged that travelling in India is not always easy. He described the country as sometimes chaotic and uncomfortable, especially for first-time visitors. Yet, rather than seeing these aspects as drawbacks, he emphasised that they are precisely what make India so memorable. According to him, the unpredictability and intensity of the experience leave a lasting impression that typical tourist destinations often fail to provide.

During his journey, Josey explored several iconic locations across the country, including the Taj Mahal in Agra, the Golden Temple in Amritsar,



Image credit: Instagram/@the_globedigger

Hawa Mahal in Jaipur, the Gateway of India in Mumbai, and India Gate in New Delhi. These visits, combined with his everyday interactions, helped shape his evolving perspective on travel.

Summing up his experience, he said that India “forces you to slow down, adapt, and see the world differently.” This shift, he explained, made him realise that travel is not just about comfort or convenience, but about stepping out of one’s

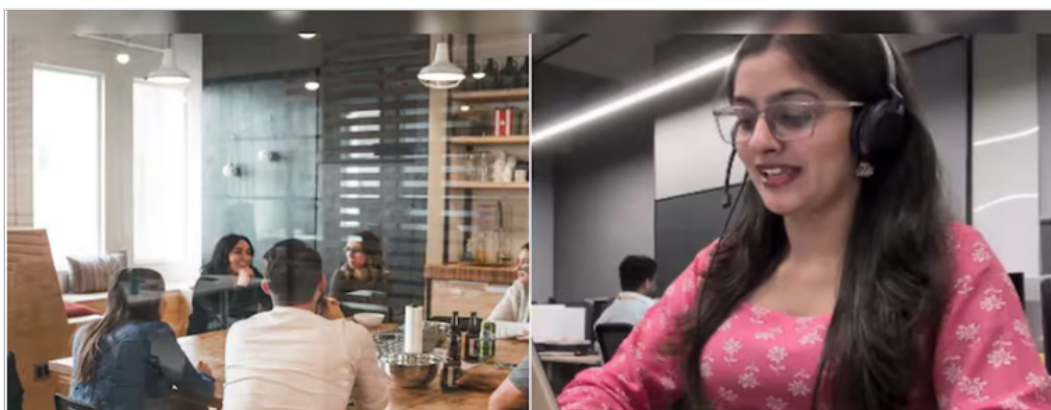
comfort zone and embracing new realities.

The video quickly gained traction on social media, amassing thousands of views and likes. Many users related to his sentiments, sharing their own stories of travelling in India. Some described their journeys as challenging but deeply rewarding, while others highlighted the country’s unique blend of culture, history, and human connection.

The viral post has sparked a

broader conversation about the true purpose of travel. While modern tourism often focuses on luxury and ease, Josey’s experience suggests that the most meaningful journeys are those that challenge perceptions and create lasting memories.

Ultimately, his story highlights a powerful idea: travel is not always about comfort—it is about transformation. And for this traveller, India proved to be a place that redefined that journey entirely.



Riyan Parag in Trouble, BCCI Set to Fine Star Cricketer Over Vaping Controversy

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has landed in controversy after being found guilty of breaching the IPL Code of Conduct following a vaping incident. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is now set to impose a heavy fine on the young cricketer, bringing unwanted attention during an already intense IPL 2026 season. The issue stems from visuals that surfaced online, showing Parag allegedly vaping in public. The incident quickly went viral, drawing criticism from fans and cricket observers. Given the high

standards expected from professional athletes, especially those in leadership roles, the act was viewed as inappropriate and against the spirit of the game. After reviewing the matter, the BCCI reportedly concluded that Parag's actions amounted to "bringing the game into disrepute," a serious charge under the IPL's disciplinary framework. While vaping itself is not illegal, the concern lies in the image it projects, particularly for a prominent player representing a major franchise. As a result, Parag is expected to face a significant financial

penalty, though there has been no confirmation of further disciplinary action such as suspension. The board appears to be treating the matter as a breach of conduct rather than a criminal violation, focusing on maintaining the league's reputation. This controversy comes at a time when Parag has been enjoying a strong run in the IPL, both as a player and a leader. His performances this season have been notable, and he has played a key role for Rajasthan Royals. However, the incident threatens to overshadow his on-field

contributions. The situation also highlights the growing scrutiny athletes face in the age of social media. Even off-field behavior can quickly become public and impact a player's image. For young stars like Parag, who are seen as role models, such incidents can carry wider implications. Fans have reacted with mixed opinions. While some have criticized the player for poor judgment, others believe the punishment should not be too harsh, arguing that it was a personal choice rather than a serious offense. Nevertheless,

most agree that professional cricketers must be mindful of their public conduct. The BCCI's firm stance sends a clear message about discipline and accountability in the IPL. Maintaining the league's image is a top priority, and any behavior perceived as damaging to that image is likely to be dealt with strictly. For Riyan Parag, the focus will now shift to how he responds to the controversy. With the tournament still ongoing, he has an opportunity to move past the incident and let his performances on the field do the talking.



“Unprofessional” Remark on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Sparks Debate, RCB Star Clarifies

A controversy erupted during IPL 2026 after Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma described Rajasthan Royals' young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as "unprofessional," triggering widespread debate among fans and cricket followers.

The remark quickly went viral, drawing mixed reactions across social media, especially given Sooryavanshi's rising stature as one of the most exciting young talents in the tournament.

Jitesh Sharma, however, later addressed the controversy and clarified his statement, insisting that his comment was taken out of context. While he did not retract his words, he explained that the term "unprofessional" was not meant as harsh criticism but rather referred to certain habits or behaviour that reflected the youngster's age and inexperience.

The clarification suggested that Sharma's remark was more light-hearted and observational than accusatory. He indicated that Sooryavanshi, being one of the youngest players in the league, still carries a sense of innocence and spontaneity that may come across differently in a high-pressure professional environment.

Despite the explanation, the incident has reignited conversations about how senior players publicly comment on



younger cricketers. Many fans defended Sooryavanshi, pointing out his exceptional performances in IPL 2026, where he has already made a significant impact with his aggressive batting and match-winning contributions.

At the same time, some observers backed Sharma, arguing that constructive criticism—even when phrased bluntly—is part of professional sport and can help young players grow and mature.

The episode also highlights the intense scrutiny surrounding emerging talents like Sooryavanshi. At just a teenage age, he has not only impressed with his skills but also found himself at the centre of

multiple discussions—ranging from on-field performances to off-field perceptions.

As the IPL season progresses, both players are expected to move past the controversy and focus on their performances. However, the incident serves as a reminder of how quickly remarks can escalate in the age of social media, and how context often plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion.

Overall, while the "unprofessional" comment sparked controversy, the subsequent clarification has helped tone down the issue—turning it into a broader conversation about expectations, maturity, and communication in modern-day cricket.

Mumbai Indians Criticised as Hardik Pandya Faces ‘Lack of Support’ in IPL 2026

Mumbai Indians' disappointing IPL 2026 campaign has come under sharp scrutiny, with former cricketers and experts raising concerns about the apparent lack of support for captain Hardik Pandya within the team.

The criticism follows yet another defeat for the five-time champions, marking their seventh loss of the season, which has pushed them towards the bottom of the points table and closer to elimination.

Former India cricketer Manoj Tiwary openly questioned the team environment, stating that Pandya is not receiving the backing he needs from teammates. "It feels like no one is standing with Hardik," Tiwary remarked, highlighting what he sees as a major issue in the squad's current struggles.

Pandya, who took over the captaincy from Rohit Sharma, has been under constant pressure throughout the season due to poor results and inconsistent performances. Mumbai Indians have struggled to find rhythm, with both their batting and bowling units failing to deliver consistently.

Despite the criticism, Pandya has often chosen to shield his teammates publicly, taking responsibility for defeats and avoiding direct blame on individual players. This leadership approach has drawn mixed re-



actions, with some praising his accountability while others believe stronger internal support is needed.

Experts have also pointed to dressing room dynamics as a possible concern. With several senior players and high-profile names in the squad, maintaining unity during a losing streak has proven difficult. Some observers believe the lack of visible backing for Pandya reflects deeper issues with-

in the team setup. Mumbai Indians' struggles are evident in their standings, with only a handful of wins in multiple matches, leaving their playoff hopes hanging by a thread.

As the tournament progresses, the team faces increasing pressure to turn things around quickly. However, with momentum against them and internal concerns surfacing, the challenge appears steep.

The ongoing criticism underscores a broader point: in high-pressure tournaments like the IPL, leadership alone is not enough—collective support and team cohesion are equally crucial.

For now, Hardik Pandya remains at the centre of attention, not just for his captaincy, but for the questions being raised about whether his team is truly standing behind him.

MI's Real Problem Is Team Failure, Not Individuals, Jayawardene on Bumrah, Surya, Tilak Struggles

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene has addressed the poor form of key players like Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma, stating that the team's struggles in IPL 2026 are due to collective issues rather than individual failures.

Mumbai Indians, despite boasting a star-studded lineup, have endured a disappointing campaign and currently find themselves near the bottom of the points table. The team's latest defeat further intensified scrutiny on its underperforming core players. Jayawardene pointed out that bowling has been one of the biggest concerns, but he rejected the idea of blaming Bumrah alone. Instead, he emphasised that the team has failed to take wickets consistently as a unit, which has hurt their ability to control matches. Bumrah, widely regarded as one of the world's top pacers, has managed only a handful of wickets this season, while Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma have also struggled with the bat. Suryakumar has scored at a modest average, and Tilak's contributions have been inconsistent, reflecting the broader issues within the side. The coach highlighted that lack of consistency across departments has been the primary reason behind the team's slump. According to him, Mumbai Indians have per-



formed well only in patches but failed to maintain momentum throughout matches.

Backing his players, Jayawardene stressed that even top performers go through lean phases. He described Bumrah and Suryakumar as "match winners" who are simply going through a difficult period, adding that such phases are part of the game and players need time to regain rhythm.

He also noted that external pressure should not be a major concern, insisting that the focus should instead be on improving team performance and

execution in key moments.

Despite the setbacks, Jayawardene maintained a positive outlook, urging patience and confidence in the squad's ability to bounce back. However, with the season nearing its final stages and playoff hopes fading, Mumbai Indians face an uphill task to turn things around. The situation underlines a key takeaway from the coach's remarks: Mumbai's struggles are not about one or two players failing, but about the team's inability to deliver collectively when it matters most.

Mittal Family, Adar Poonawalla Acquire Rajasthan Royals in \$1.65 Billion Deal

In a landmark development in the world of franchise cricket, the Rajasthan Royals have been acquired by a consortium led by the Mittal family and Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla in a deal valued at approximately \$1.65 billion. The acquisition marks one of the biggest ownership changes in Indian Premier League (IPL) history.

The deal signals growing investor interest in the IPL, which continues to attract high-profile business leaders and global capital due to its massive popularity and commercial potential. With this transaction, Rajasthan Royals joins the list of franchises backed by some of the most influential names in business.

The Mittal family, known for its global presence in the steel industry, has partnered with Adar Poonawalla, one of India's most prominent entrepreneurs, to take control of the franchise. The consortium is expected to bring both financial strength and strategic vision to the team.

Rajasthan Royals, one of the founding franchises of the IPL and the winner of the inaugural 2008 season, has seen fluctuating fortunes over the years. Despite having a reputation for nurturing young talent and



playing an exciting brand of cricket, the team has struggled with consistency in recent seasons.

The new ownership is likely to usher in changes aimed at strengthening the franchise both on and off the field. Industry experts believe that such a high-value deal reflects the IPL's evolution into a global sporting powerhouse, with franchise valuations rising significantly over the past decade.

While details regarding management changes and

long-term plans are yet to be fully disclosed, the acquisition is expected to enhance the team's competitiveness and brand value. Increased investment could translate into better infrastructure, player development programmes, and stronger support systems.

The deal also highlights the IPL's position as one of the most lucrative cricket leagues in the world, with franchises now valued at billions of dollars. The involvement of top-tier industrialists underscores the league's ability to blend

sport, entertainment, and business at a global scale.

For Rajasthan Royals fans, the ownership change brings renewed hope for a more successful future. With fresh backing and leadership, the franchise may look to rebuild and re-establish itself as a strong contender in upcoming seasons. Overall, the acquisition represents a significant moment for both the IPL and Indian sports business, reinforcing the league's growing stature and long-term investment appeal.

Latest Buzz on Ram Charan's Project with Naga Vamsi Remains Uncertain

Speculation continues around Ram Charan's upcoming collaboration with producer Naga Vamsi, but the project is still in its early stages with key details yet to be finalised.

According to recent reports, Naga Vamsi had earlier confirmed that Ram Charan would take up a quick project under Sithara Entertainments after completing his much-anticipated film Peddi. However, despite this confirmation, the story and director for the project have not been locked yet, keeping fans waiting for clarity.

Interestingly, even though the creative aspects are undecided, reports suggest that Ram Charan has already allotted dates for this film, indicating that the project is still very much on track and part of his



busy lineup.

At the same time, the actor's schedule is packed with other major commitments. His film Peddi is set to release in June 2026, generating significant buzz among fans. Following that, his next big venture with director Sukumar, tentatively

titled RC17, is expected to go on floors around the same time, with pre-production nearing completion.

Given these developments, the untitled project with Naga Vamsi is likely to be a short-term or quick film positioned between major commitments,

rather than a large-scale production. However, the absence of confirmed details about the script or director suggests that the project is still in a planning phase.

Overall, while the collaboration between Ram Charan and Naga Vamsi remains exciting, it is currently surrounded by uncertainty. With multiple projects lined up for the actor in 2026, fans can expect an official announcement only once the creative aspects of this film are finalised.

Kiara Advani's Bold Avatar in Toxic Likely to Be Major Highlight



Kiara Advani is set to showcase a striking new side of her on-screen persona in the upcoming film Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, with reports suggesting that her bold and glamorous scenes could become one of the film's biggest highlights.

According to industry buzz, Kiara will be seen in a more intense and glamorous avatar, featuring romantic and visually striking sequences that are expected to stand out in the narrative. These scenes are being talked about as key elements that may elevate the film's appeal and create strong buzz among audiences.

Toxic, directed by Geetu Mohandas and headlined by Yash, is a high-profile pan-India project that blends action, drama, and mature themes. The film also features a strong ensemble cast including Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and Rukmini Vasanth. (

Kiara's role is expected to be quite different from her previous performances, marking a bold shift in her career choices. The film itself has already generated significant anticipation due to its scale, unique storytelling approach, and Yash's presence in a powerful lead role.

However, the buzz around her "bold scenes" remains largely speculative at this stage, with no official confirmation from the makers regarding the extent or treatment of these sequences. Still, the talk has added to the growing curiosity surrounding the film.

Overall, Toxic is shaping up to be a visually rich and intense cinematic experience, and Kiara Advani's transformation into a bold, glamorous character is likely to be one of the most talked-about aspects once the film hits screens.

SS Rajamouli's 'Varanasi' Shoot Hit by Water Crisis in Hyderabad

SS Rajamouli's highly anticipated film Varanasi has reportedly run into a fresh hurdle, as its ongoing shoot in Hyderabad faces delays due to a water shortage.

According to reports, the film's team had requested around 150 water tankers for the current schedule. However, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board declined the request, citing peak summer demand and prioritising public water needs.

This unexpected setback has impacted the film's production schedule, which is currently underway in Hyderabad after earlier disruptions. It remains unclear how the makers will address the issue or whether adjustments to the shoot plan will be made.



Varanasi, directed by SS Rajamouli, is one of the most ambitious Indian films in produc-

tion. Starring Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra, and Prithviraj Sukumaran, the film is be-

ing mounted on a grand scale and is slated for a global release on April 7, 2027. The project has already encountered disruptions earlier this year, including changes in shooting locations due to geopolitical issues abroad, forcing the team to shift schedules to Hyderabad. With the latest water crisis adding to production challenges, the team may need to explore alternative arrangements to keep the shoot on track. Despite these hurdles, anticipation for the film remains high, given Rajamouli's track record of delivering large-scale cinematic spectacles. For now, all eyes are on how the makers navigate this logistical issue while maintaining the film's ambitious timeline.

Gopichand's 34th Film Launched, Stunt Master V Venkat Turns Director

Tollywood actor Gopichand has officially launched his 34th film, marking an important milestone in his career. The project was inaugurated with a formal pooja ceremony in Hyderabad, generating excitement among fans and industry circles.

The film is particularly notable as it marks the directorial debut of popular stunt master V Venkat, who is widely known for choreographing high-octane action sequences in Telugu cinema. With this project, Venkat transitions from action direction to filmmaking, bringing expectations of a strong, action-driven narrative.

The launch event saw the presence of several industry personalities. Veteran producer Mallema Shyam Prasad Reddy gave the inaugural clap, while the script was handed over by producers Damodara Prasad and Ravi Shankar. Director Shiva Nirvana and action choreographers Ram-Lakshman also attended the ceremony, highlighting the film's strong backing.

The movie is being produced under the banner of 70MM Entertainments, known for backing commercial entertainers.



Actress Anarkali Nazar has been roped in as the female lead opposite Gopichand.

The technical team includes notable names such as Sam C. S. as music director, Sreekar Prasad as editor, and Shamdat as cinematographer, indicating a solid production setup.

Reports suggest that the film will be a high-budget action drama, with early visuals and promotional material hinting at an intense and possibly mythological tone. Pre-production is already underway, and the regular shoot is expected to begin soon.

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"Typecast Roles Hurt My Career", Payal Rajput Opens Up

Actress Payal Rajput has opened up about the challenges she has faced in her film career, revealing the emotional and professional struggles behind her glamorous on-screen image. In a recent interview, Payal shared that while audiences often see her bold performances and confident persona, her journey has been filled with uncertainty, loneliness, and constant struggle for opportunities. She admitted that there were times when she had to wait endlessly for the right roles, often dealing with rejection and self-doubt.

One of the biggest setbacks in her career, she said, was being typecast after the success of RX 100. The actress revealed that she was repeatedly offered similar roles, limiting her growth as a performer. "Actors don't have control over every-

thing," she noted, adding that getting stuck in a fixed image is a common issue in the industry. Payal also highlighted the uncertainty actors face daily. She explained that every day comes with questions like whether to accept current offers or wait for better ones—without any guarantee that better opportunities will arrive. This constant dilemma, she said, makes an actor's life mentally exhausting. On a personal front, the actress spoke emotionally about losing her father to cancer around eight months ago. She described it as one of the most painful phases of her life but said his final words—encouraging her to chase her dreams—gave her strength to move forward.

Despite setbacks, Payal has gradually made a comeback, with films like Manga-

lavaaram bringing her back into the spotlight. She also ventured into Tamil cinema with Leader, where she played a brief yet impactful role.

Now, the actress is looking to reinvent herself. She said she is ready to move beyond glamour roles and explore experimental and women-centric films, aiming to showcase her acting depth. Addressing fans who wonder why she isn't seen more often in Telugu films, Payal candidly stated that opportunities have been limited. However, she remains hopeful and is willing to wait for the right projects rather than settle for repetitive roles.

Overall, her story reflects the less-visible side of the film industry—where persistence, emotional resilience, and patience are just as important as talent.



NTR-Prashanth Neel's 'Dragon' to Be Released in Two Parts

The much-anticipated film Dragon, starring Jr NTR and directed by Prashanth Neel, is set to follow the two-part release trend, according to the latest industry buzz.

Reports suggest that the makers have decided to split the film into two installments, considering the scale and depth of the story. Prashanth Neel, known for delivering high-intensity action dramas like KGF, is said to have crafted a narrative that requires a larger canvas, making a single film insufficient to capture its full scope.

The decision comes at a time when multi-part storytelling has proven highly successful in Indian cinema. Franchises like Baahubali and KGF have set strong precedents, encouraging filmmakers to expand their sto-



Dragon is expected to be a high-octane action entertainer with a strong emotional core, featuring Jr NTR in a powerful and intense role. The collaboration between NTR and Prashanth Neel has already generated

massive excitement, given the director's reputation for stylised action and the actor's commanding screen presence. Industry insiders believe that releasing the film in two parts will allow the makers to delve deeper into the storyline, characters, and world-building, while also building anticipation be-

tween installments. The project is being mounted on a grand scale with significant investment, aiming for a pan-India and global audience. With Prashanth Neel's track record and Jr NTR's growing international appeal after RRR, expectations for Dragon are exceptionally high. While official confirmation regarding the two-part format is still awaited, the buzz has already heightened curiosity among fans. More details about the film's cast, shooting schedule, and release timeline are expected to be announced in the coming months. Overall, if the reports hold true, Dragon could join the league of major Indian film franchises, further strengthening the trend of large-scale, multi-part cinematic storytelling.

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'Devara 2' Aims Big with 1000 Crore Target, Sequel Plans Gain Momentum

The buzz around Devara 2, the sequel to Jr NTR and director Koratala Siva's upcoming film Devara, is already gaining traction, with reports suggesting that the makers are eyeing a massive 1000 crore box office target. Even before the release of the first installment, industry insiders indicate that plans for the sequel are progressing steadily. The makers are reportedly confident about the film's scale and content, believing it has the potential to perform strongly not just in India but also in international markets.

Devara, starring Jr NTR in the lead role, is being made as a two-part action drama, with Koratala Siva crafting a story that spans across large-scale themes and intense character arcs. The decision to split the narrative into two parts is said to be driven by the film's expansive storyline. The first part of Devara has already generated significant hype due to its high production values, powerful visuals, and Jr NTR's star power. With expectations running



high, the team appears optimistic that the success of the first film will pave the way for an even bigger second installment. Reports suggest that the groundwork for Devara 2 is already underway, including early discussions on story progression and production planning. The makers are aiming to scale up the sequel further in terms of action, storytelling, and global reach. The 1000 crore target reflects the growing ambition of Telugu cinema, which has increasingly delivered pan-India and global blockbusters in recent years. Films like RRR and Baahubali have set new benchmarks, encouraging film-

makers to aim for larger box office milestones. For Jr NTR, Devara marks a crucial project following his global recognition after RRR. The success of the franchise could further cement his position as a pan-India superstar. While official announcements regarding the sequel's production timeline are yet to be made, the ongoing buzz suggests that Devara 2 is being positioned as a major cinematic event. Overall, with strong expectations, ambitious targets, and a proven director-actor combination, Devara 2 is already shaping up to be one of the most anticipated projects in Indian cinema.