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South Coast Railway Zone Notified; Vizag to be Headquarters from June 1

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

The Centre has formally notified the establishment of the South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR), fulfilling a long-pending commitment made to Andhra Pradesh at the time of its bifurcation in 2014. According to the gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Railways, the new zone will come into effect from June 1, 2026, with Visakhapatnam serving as its headquarters.

The newly created zone will comprise the Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam divisions. While Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada divisions have been carved out of the South Central Railway, the Waltair division of the East Coast Railway has been reorganised and renamed as the Visakhapatnam division.

The notification also outlines a series of jurisdictional changes. The East Coast Railway, headquartered in Bhubaneswar, will now consist of



the Sambalpur division, a reorganised Khurda Road division, and a newly created Rayagada division. Meanwhile, the South Central Railway will retain the Hyderabad and Nanded divisions, along with a reorganised Secunderabad division.

As part of the restructuring, the Itchpuram-Palasa railway line has been transferred from the Khurda Road division to the Visakhapatnam division. The Raichur-Wadi section has

been moved from Guntakal to Secunderabad division, while the Pagidipalli-Vishnupuram line has also been placed under Secunderabad's jurisdiction. Additionally, the Kondapalli-Motumari line has been shifted to the Vijayawada division, and the Singapore Road-Vizianagaram section will serve as the new boundary between the Rayagada and Visakhapatnam divisions.

The creation of the South

Coast Railway Zone was first announced in 2019, but progress on administrative modalities gathered pace after the National Democratic Alliance government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu assumed office in 2024. In January 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the zonal headquarters in Visakhapatnam.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had earlier indicated that the notification would be issued with effect from June 1. He, along with the Chief Minister, also reviewed the functioning of the zone during a recent visit to the temporary office set up at the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority premises. Mr. Naidu has urged the Centre to consider further administrative rationalisation, including the integration of additional railway sections into the new zone, to enhance operational efficiency and better serve the State's transportation needs.



AP POLYCET 2026 Results

Declared; 91.37% Students Qualify
Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

The results of the Andhra Pradesh Polytechnic Common Entrance Test (AP POLYCET) 2026 were officially announced, recording an impressive overall pass percentage of 91.37%, reflecting strong performance by students across the state.

According to official data, a total of 1,77,581 candidates registered for the examination, of whom 1,63,008 appeared. Out of these, 1,48,950 candidates successfully cleared the test.

Girls outperformed boys in this year's results, continuing the trend of higher success

rates among female candidates in technical entrance examinations. Candidates can access their rank cards online through the official result portal by entering their hall ticket number. The rank card includes details such as marks, rank, and qualifying status, and will be essential for the upcoming counselling process. With the declaration of results, the focus now shifts to counselling and admission into polytechnic colleges across Andhra Pradesh, marking the next step for students aspiring to pursue diploma courses in engineering and non-engineering streams.



AP Emerges as Investment Hub: Carrier Announces Major Manufacturing Unit in Sri City

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh continues to strengthen its position as a preferred investment destination, with a steady inflow of industries under the current coalition government. Backed by the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and the proactive efforts of IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh, the state has been witnessing significant industrial growth. According to government sources, nearly 800 projects have been brought into the state over the past 22

months. In this ongoing wave of investments, US-based multinational Carrier Global Corporation has announced a major manufacturing project in Andhra Pradesh. The company will establish its new facility at Sri City, an industrial hub located in the Satyavedu constituency of Tirupathi district. Today Minister Nara Lokesh is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the project.

Carrier plans to invest around 1,000 crore in phases by 2028 to develop the plant across 39 acres. The project is expected to create employment opportunities for

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CM Naidu welcomes Vizag Railway Zone Gazette

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

The Centre has formally notified the creation of the South Coast Railway (SCoR) Zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam, marking a major administrative reorganisation of the railway network in Andhra Pradesh and fulfilling a long-pending demand of the State. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu welcomed the decision, describing it as a "historic moment" and the realisation of a long-cherished aspiration of the people. In a message posted on X, he expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Railway Minister Ash-



wini Vaishnaw for acceding to the State's request and issuing the Gazette notification.

According to the Chief Minister, the new zone is scheduled to commence operations from

June 1, 2026. It will bring under its fold key divisions including Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur and Guntakal, carved out through a reorganisation of existing jurisdictions under the South Central and East Coast Railway zones.

Mr. Naidu noted that the restructuring of the Waltair Division and the integration of sections such as Palasa-Ichchapuram into the Visakhapatnam Division would streamline administration and improve operational efficiency. He said the move would enhance coordination between divisions such as Visakhapatnam and Rayagada, resulting in better connectivity and faster movement of passengers

and freight.

Emphasising the broader economic implications, the Chief Minister said the new railway zone would act as a catalyst for industrial growth, particularly in North Andhra. Improved rail infrastructure and logistics, he added, would support port-led development, strengthen supply chains, and attract investments to the region.

He further expressed confidence that the SCoR Zone would significantly transform the transportation landscape of the State, ensuring balanced regional development and providing a boost to trade, tourism and employment opportunities.



KK Raju Slams Railway Zone Announcement Without KK Line, Calls It 'Grave Injustice'

Visakhapatnam, May 5|TPN Bureau

Visakhapatnam District YSRC President KK Raju on Tuesday strongly criticized the Centre and the state government over the announcement of the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone without including the crucial Kothavalasa-Kirandul (KK) line, calling it "akin to placing a lifeless child in one's arms."

Addressing the media at the party office in the city, Raju alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu remained silent while injustice was being done to Andhra Pradesh to politically benefit the BJP in Odisha. He said the exclusion of the 446-km KK line—which connects mineral-rich regions across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh and serves as a major revenue source—would severely impact the viability of the new railway zone.

Raju further stated that the zone, announced without key tourist destinations such as

Araku and Koraput, risks becoming a burden rather than a benefit to North Andhra. He termed it "shameful" that ruling alliance MPs celebrated the announcement despite the Centre undermining commitments made under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Recalling promises made during the 2014 elections by the TDP-BJP-Jana Sena alliance at a public meeting in Visakhapatnam, Raju accused them of betraying public trust by failing to deliver the zone during their tenure. He noted that the YSRC had led several protests and even allocated land after coming to power in 2019.

He also accused the state government of neglecting Visakhapatnam's development in favor of Amaravati real estate interests and failing to deliver promised IT investments and jobs. Raju announced that the YSRC would launch an agitation demanding a railway zone with the KK line and urged North Andhra leaders to join the movement.

Veteran Producer R.B. Choudary Dies in Tragic Road Accident

Udaipur, May 5|TPN Bureau

In a shocking and heart-breaking development, veteran film producer R. B. Choudary passed away in a tragic road accident in Udaipur, Rajasthan, sending waves of grief across the South Indian film industry.

Choudary, the founder of Super Good Films, was a towering figure in Indian cinema, known for his remarkable contribution to Tamil and Telugu films. Beginning his career in Malayalam cinema, he went on to produce over 90 films across multiple languages, leaving be-



hind a rich legacy of commercially successful and family-oriented entertainers. Entering the Tamil film in-

dustry in 1989, he established Super Good Films, a banner that quickly became synonymous with blockbuster hits. In Telugu cinema, he produced several memorable films featuring leading stars such as Venkatesh, Nagarjuna, and Pawan Kalyan. His notable productions include Raja, Suryavamsam, and Sankranti with Venkatesh; Suswagatham with Pawan Kalyan; and Nuvvu Vastavani and Ninne Premista with Nagarjuna.

Renowned for his expertise in remaking successful Tamil films into Telugu,

60% of Land Pooling in Capital Region Likely by Month-End: Narayana

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana on Tuesday expressed confidence that 60% of the ongoing land pooling process in the capital region would be completed by the end of this month.

The remarks came after a three-member committee meeting held at the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) office to deliberate on land-related issues in Thullur and Amaravati mandals, including matters concerning Gramakanthams (village habitation sites) and infrastructure development.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister of State Pem-



masani Chandrasekhar, Minister Narayana, and MLA Tenali Sravan Kumar. Discussions focused on resolving pending land disputes in villages under the capital region, rehabilitation concerns of families af-

ected by road projects, and the provision of basic infrastructure. Addressing reporters, Mr. Chandrasekhar said he had advised CRDA Commissioner Vijaya Ramaraju to direct officials to undertake field

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Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

In a significant development, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has dismissed a petition challenging the construction of a Rama temple at Akiveedu in West Godavari district, effectively giving the project a green signal.

The petition had raised objections over the permissions granted by local authorities for the temple's construction. However, during the hearing, the court carefully examined the records and historical evidence presented before it. The bench noted that official docu-



ments clearly establish the existence of a Rama temple at the same site for nearly 80 years.

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From Domestic Worker to MLA: Kabita Majhi Scripts Inspiring Victory in Ausgram

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

In a powerful testament to the strength of democracy, West Bengal has witnessed the remarkable rise of Kabita Majhi, a woman who once worked as a domestic helper and has now been elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Contesting as a candidate of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from Ausgram, she defeated her nearest rival from the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) with a convincing margin of 12,535 votes.

Hailing from an economically disadvantaged background, Majhi supported her family by working in several households, earning a meager monthly income of around 2,500. Her journey into politics began when the BJP recognized her grassroots connect and gave her an opportunity to contest in the 2021 Assembly elections. Though she lost that election by a margin of around 11,000 votes, her dedication to public service and close engagement with voters earned her widespread respect.

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AP Emerges as Investment Hub: Carrier Announces Major Manufacturing Unit in Sri City

continued

nearly 3,000 people directly, while also generating substantial indirect employment in allied sectors. The upcoming unit will focus on manufacturing advanced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems using cutting-edge technology. With modern infrastructure and state-of-the-art

plant and machinery, the facility is expected to boost manufacturing efficiency and further strengthen Andhra Pradesh's industrial ecosystem. Officials believe that such large-scale investments will enhance the state's reputation as a competitive and future-ready manufacturing destination, attracting more global players in the coming years.

High Court Clears Decks for Akiveedu Rama Temple Construction

continued

The court further observed that the authorities had granted approval only after a thorough review of all relevant documents and legal considerations. Finding no procedural lapses or grounds for intervention, the High Court dismissed

the petition. With this ruling, all legal hurdles surrounding the temple construction have been removed. The verdict has been widely welcomed by devotees and local residents, who expressed happiness and relief over the long-awaited clearance for the project to proceed without further obstruction.

From Domestic Worker to MLA: Kabita Majhi Scripts Inspiring Victory in Ausgram

continued

Undeterred by her earlier defeat, Majhi continued to stay connected with the people of her constituency, understanding their problems and voicing their concerns. Impressed by her perseverance and growing popularity, the BJP once again fielded her as its candidate, reaffirming its faith in her leadership potential.

Her candidature had initially sparked widespread debate, as she came from a humble background with no political lineage. However, Majhi transformed skepticism into support through her simplicity, accessibility, and commitment to public welfare. During her campaign, she emphasized the importance of giving a voice to ordinary citizens in the legisla-

tive assembly—people who truly understand the struggles of daily life.

Her victory has now become a nationwide talking point, especially across social media platforms, where many are celebrating her success as a symbol of true democratic empowerment. Netizens have hailed her journey as inspirational, stating that her achievement reflects the essence of democracy—where determination, hard work, and public trust can elevate even the most ordinary citizen to positions of power. Kabita Majhi's story stands as a beacon of hope, reinforcing the belief that in a vibrant democracy, leadership is not confined to privilege but is open to anyone willing to serve the people with sincerity and dedication.

NABARD Unveils 5.11 Lakh Crore Credit Plan for A.P.

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday unveiled the State Focus Paper and Annual Credit Plan for 2026-27 prepared by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, projecting a substantial credit outlay of 5.11 lakh crore for Andhra Pradesh's priority sectors.

The proposed credit plan marks a significant 20 percent increase over the previous year's outlay of 4.24 lakh crore, underscoring the state's strong push toward agricultural and rural development. Of the total allocation, agriculture continues to dominate with a share of 2.55 lakh crore.

A detailed sector-wise allocation highlights 1.66 lakh crore earmarked for crop loans, 34,972 crore for animal husbandry, 8,265 crore for farm mechanisation, 21,098 crore for fisheries, and 11,961 crore for horticulture. Notably, 5,313 crore has been specifically allocated for horticulture development in Rayalaseema and Prakasam districts, reflecting a targeted regional growth



strategy.

Additionally, 9,957 crore has been proposed for strengthening agricultural infrastructure, while 12,687 crore is set aside for allied agricultural activities. The MSME sector has also received a major boost, with 1.64 lakh crore allocated to support small and medium enterprises across the state.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized the critical role of agriculture—particularly horticulture and aquaculture—in driv-

ing Andhra Pradesh's economic growth. He urged banks and NABARD officials to extend proactive support to the government's ambitious plans, including achieving an annual horticulture production target of 450 lakh metric tonnes.

Senior NABARD officials, including Chief General Manager M.R. Gopal and General Manager K.V.S. Prasad, along with representatives from leading banking institutions, participated in the programme.

AP Plans Major Push to Become Steel Hub Using Iron Ore Reserves

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to fully utilise Andhra Pradesh's iron ore reserves, with the aim of transforming the State into a major steel production hub while significantly enhancing revenue generation and employment opportunities.

During a review meeting of the Mines Department held at his camp office on Tuesday, the Chief Minister noted that Andhra Pradesh possesses around 1,938 million tonnes of iron ore reserves, providing vast potential for industrial expansion and value addition. He emphasised that the State must leverage its natural resources strategically to attract large-scale investments and strengthen its industrial base.

Naidu highlighted ongoing and upcoming investments in the steel sector, including a 17.8 million tonnes per annum plant by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and another major facility being set up by JSW in



the Rayalaseema region. He said that the combined steel production capacity in the State is expected to exceed 20 million tonnes per annum by 2035, marking a significant milestone in industrial growth.

He instructed officials to allocate the remaining iron ore blocks—out of 17 identified—to eligible companies and set ambitious production targets of 30 million tonnes by 2030 and 113 million tonnes by 2035. He stated that rising steel demand offers a major opportunity to position Andhra

Pradesh as a "Steel Hub," with potential investments of 1.90 lakh crore and creation of 1.52 lakh jobs. The Chief Minister also stressed the need to accelerate mineral exploration, streamline mining lease approvals, and develop technologies for processing low-grade magnetite ore. Officials informed the meeting that the department had achieved 108% of its revenue target last year, earning 3,416 crore, and set a target of 4,650 crore for 2026-27, reflecting a 36% increase over the previous year.

Veteran Producer R.B. Choudary Dies in Tragic Road Accident

continued

Choudary had a unique ability to adapt stories to suit local sensibilities. His collaborations with composers and filmmakers produced music and films that continue to resonate with audiences.

His sons, Jeeva and Jithan Ramesh, have followed in his footsteps and established themselves in the film industry. Despite slowing down in recent years, Choudary had recently revived his production activities and had launched his 99th project under the Super

Good Films banner, starring Vishal and Dushara Vijayan.

The tragedy comes at a time when preparations were underway for his milestone 100th film, making the loss even more poignant. Members of the film fraternity, including actors, directors, and fans, have taken to social media to express their condolences and pay tribute to the legendary producer.

R.B. Choudary's passing marks an irreplaceable loss to Indian cinema, leaving behind a legacy that will be cherished for generations.

60% of Land Pooling in Capital Region Likely by Month-End: Narayana

continued

visits across capital region villages to better assess ground realities related to Gramakanthams, Floor Space Index (FSI) norms, and infrastructure gaps. Mr. Narayana said he had suggested conducting Gram Sabhas in all 29 villages within the capital region to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of local concerns. He added that instructions had been issued for immediate action on infrastructure development and the establishment of burial grounds. The Minister clarified that all issues would be resolved in accordance with government policy, without favouring individual interests. He also noted that the R-5 Zone classification had been with-

drawn. Land pooling, currently at around 40% in three villages, is expected to reach 60% by the end of the month, he said, attributing improved farmer participation to increased lease payments.

Mr. Sravan Kumar said discussions were also held on providing enhanced compensation under the NSP policy to those displaced by road projects. He added that the committee had decided to resolve Gramakantham issues without causing inconvenience to residents, and officials had been instructed to expedite already sanctioned infrastructure works.

CRDA Commissioner Vijaya Ramaraju, Additional Commissioner Bhargava Teja, and other officials were present.

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau

Member of Parliament Kesineni Chinni reaffirmed his commitment to the economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs), stating that their upliftment remains his primary goal. He was speaking at a review meeting held at the Collector's Office to discuss the launch of an Integrated Economic Development Program in Nandigama and Tiruvuru constituencies under the Vijayawada Parliamentary segment. The program is being implemented through a joint initiative of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and the Kesineni Foundation, with District Collector Lakshmi Shah presiding over the meeting.

Chinni said that although several initiatives had been undertaken earlier in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), focused efforts on SC economic development had been limited.



He noted that after being elected as MP, he spent the last two years working diligently to bring NSFDC support to the region, aiming to create at least one entrepreneur in every SC family.

He highlighted that the Kesineni Foundation has been providing skill training across various sectors and is now facilitating financial linkages through NSFDC to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

NSFDC CGM Ramesh Rao stated that under the Innova-

tion and Entrepreneurship Development Program (IEDP), around 100 SC women will be supported in the first phase through subsidized loans routed via Andhra Pradesh State Financial Corporation and public sector banks. The total project outlay is estimated at 20 crore, with an average loan of 1 lakh per beneficiary.

Officials from multiple departments attended the meeting, underscoring a coordinated push towards inclusive economic growth.



Philippines-Based IPL Betting Racket Busted in Anantapur; 10 Arrested

Anantapur, May 5|TPN Bureau

In a major crackdown on illegal online betting, Anantapur police have dismantled an IPL betting racket operated from the Philippines through the "Dream Play 1" application. Ten members of the syndicate have been arrested, and assets worth around 60 lakh, including cash, vehicles, and electronic gadgets, have been seized. Addressing the media, Superintendent of Police P. Jagadeesh revealed that the network had links across multiple Indian states and was allegedly masterminded by a kingpin identified as Shiva, operating from the Philippines. Another accused, Sachin from Karnataka, is also absconding along with Shiva. The arrested individuals have been identified as Talari Madhu, Veparala Mohammad alias Moula, Shaik Babjan, Shaik Roshan

Vali, Makodiki Srinivasulu, Thimmaiah, Raghavenkata Pawan Kumar, Sunkaravaina Kiran, Rapaka Prashanth, and Gaddavalasa Manikantha Raja. During the raids, police seized 19.70 lakh in cash, an SUV, four motorcycles, three laptops, a tablet, 15 mobile phones, SIM cards, ATM cards, cheque books, and other betting-related materials. Authorities have also initiated the freezing of 18.20 lakh across 49 bank accounts linked to the operation. Investigations revealed that the gang had been running illegal casino games and cricket betting for nearly three years from Makati, Metro Manila. Talari Madhu reportedly connected with Shiva via Instagram and was promised a 40% share of profits. The gang used mule accounts and digital platforms like PhonePe for transactions, expanding operations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



Exhibitors Seek Government Support to Save Single-Screen Theatres

Velagapudil, May 5|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Cine Exhibitors Association on Tuesday urged the State Government to take immediate measures to ensure the survival of single-screen theatres, which they said are facing an existential crisis due to competition from multiplexes and OTT platforms. A delegation of exhibitors met Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh at the Secretariat and submitted a memorandum outlining key issues affecting the sustainability of theatres across the State. They warned that many single-screen theatres, which have long provided affordable entertainment, are on the verge of closure due to rising operational costs.

The association highlighted steep electricity charges, municipal taxes, and increasing maintenance expenses as major burdens on theatre owners. They proposed an increase in maintenance charges from 3 to 7 per ticket for non-AC theatres and from 5 to 15 for AC theatres. They also sought allocation of 20 per cent of the additional ticket price permitted for big-budget films towards theatre maintenance, along with relief in electricity tariffs and property tax.

Responding to the appeal, Minister Durgesh assured the delegation that the government would take the concerns seriously and discuss possible solutions with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, promising an early and positive resolution.

AP to Witness Mixed Weather During Next Three Days

Vishakhapatnam, May 5|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has forecast varied weather conditions across the state over the next three days, with isolated spells of light rain accompanied by thunderstorms in several districts, while heat wave conditions are likely to persist in select pockets. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhara Jain, in a statement on Tuesday, said the prevailing weather pattern is being influenced by a trough extending from a cyclonic circulation over central parts of south Madhya Pradesh to the Gulf of Mannar, passing through Vidarbha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. According to the forecast, light rain with thunderstorms is likely at isolated places in Sriakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Eluru, Visakhapatnam, Anaparthi,

Kakinada, Konaseema, East and West Godavari, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR Kadapa, Chittoor and Tirupati districts on Wednesday. Similar conditions are expected to continue on Thursday across a wider spread of districts, including Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Nellore, Kurnool and Nandyal.

On Friday, isolated thunderstorms with light rain are likely in North Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions. Meanwhile, heat wave conditions are expected in isolated mandals, including Gokavaram in East Godavari, Jaggampeta in Kakinada district and Chintoor mandal in the Polavaram region.

APSDMA has advised farmers to take necessary precautions during agricultural activities. It also cautioned agricultural labourers and shepherds against taking shelter under trees during thunderstorms due to the risk of lightning.



HC Refuses Stay on Inquiry Against Ahmad Babu, Charge Memo Against Union Leader Quashed

Vijayawada, May 5 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has refused to grant a stay on its earlier order directing an inquiry into the conduct of senior IAS officer Ahmad Babu. The court was hearing an appeal filed by Ahmad Babu challenging the directions issued on a petition moved by the Andhra Pradesh Government Employees Association, which questioned his eligibility for IAS status and sought action against him.

A division bench led by the Chief Justice declined to accept the argument that all administrative processes under Ahmad Babu were functioning properly. The court instead directed authorities to act on the representation submitted by the employees' association, effectively paving the way for a formal inquiry.

In a related relief, the High Court quashed a charge memo issued against K. Rama Suryanarayana, Superintendent in the Commercial Taxes Department and president of the association. The court observed that the memo—allegedly aimed at blocking his promotion—was a case of vindictive action. The controversy traces back to the recent issuance of promotion orders for Superintendent Grade-I posts in the Commercial Taxes Department. As reported earlier, Chief Commissioner Ahmad Babu had promoted three officers—B. Bhaskara Rao, Y. Malakondaiah, and Y. Lakshmi Kanth—on an ad hoc basis for the 2025-26 panel year, citing recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC). However, the exclusion of senior employee

Suryanarayana triggered widespread protests. He had alleged that due process was not followed, particularly the failure to publish the DPC-approved panel and to invite objections from eligible candidates.

"Posting orders were issued directly without publishing the DPC-approved panel or considering the applications submitted by employees. As per rules, the panel must be notified and an opportunity for appeal must be provided," said K. Rama Suryanarayana.

Employee unions across the State intensified their protests, accusing the administration of bypassing established procedures and ignoring court directions. Demonstrations were held in multiple districts, with employees raising slogans against the Chief Commissioner and demanding corrective action.

According to service rules, the DPC-approved panel must be officially published to ensure transparency and allow aggrieved employees to raise objections. The alleged deviation from this process has become a central issue in the dispute. Despite the mounting criticism, Ahmad Babu is understood to be pursuing further legal remedies against the High Court's direction for an inquiry. Meanwhile, tensions continue within the Commercial Taxes Department, with employees alleging administrative bias and lack of accountability. The High Court's latest order is likely to have far-reaching implications, not only for the ongoing promotion dispute but also for administrative practices within the department.



YSRCP Alleges Neglect of Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, Plans Agitation

Nellore, May 5 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party on Tuesday intensified its criticism of the State government over the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, alleging neglect of irrigation infrastructure and anti-farmer policies. The issue was discussed at a round-table meeting held in Nellore under the leadership of district president Kakani Govardhan Reddy and former minister Sake Sailajanath. The meeting was attended by MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy, constituency in-charges, farmers and party leaders. Participants alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had compromised the State's irrigation interests, resulting in the sidelining of key projects in

the Rayalaseema region. Speaking on the occasion, Chandrasekhar Reddy said agriculture remained the backbone of the State and warned that neglect of irrigation schemes would lead to acute water shortages. Former MLA Mekapati Vikram Reddy called for collective efforts to complete pending irrigation works and flagged alleged irregularities in project implementation. The leaders also cited incomplete canal works and alleged neglect of projects such as the Somasila High-Level Canal, impacting constituencies including Atmakur and Udayagiri. The meeting concluded with a call for statewide agitation and public mobilisation demanding revival of the scheme.

Kambham Cheruvu Set for Major Makeover; MLA Urges 4 Crore Allocation

Amaravati, May 5 | TPN Bureau
Giddalur MLA Muthumula Ashok Reddy met Andhra Pradesh Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh at the Velagapudi Secretariat on Monday and submitted a memorandum seeking the development of the historic Kambham Cheruvu in Kambham Mandal of Markapuram district into a major tourism destination.

During the meeting, the MLA highlighted the historical and cultural significance of Kambham Cheruvu, describing it as one of the largest and oldest man-made water

tanks in Asia. He expressed concern that despite its rich heritage, the site has remained underdeveloped due to the lack of adequate tourism infrastructure.

The MLA requested the government to sanction 4 crore for the comprehensive development of the lake and surrounding areas. He stressed that improving basic infrastructure and amenities would not only enhance tourist experience but also boost local economic growth and generate employment opportunities.

Responding positively, Minister

Man Murders Wife Over Dispute on Weight, Eating Habits

Kadapa, May 5 | TPN Bureau

Proddatur police on Tuesday said they have solved the murder case of a housewife and arrested her husband for allegedly killing her over prolonged marital disputes, including disagreements related to her weight and eating habits.

Addressing the media, Assistant Superintendent of Police Vibhu Krishna said the accused, Bhadrupalle Kiran Kumar, a resident of Eshwar Nagar in Proddatur, was arrested for the murder of his wife, Padmaja. The couple had been married for eight years and has a seven-year-old daughter. According to police, the couple had been facing ongoing marital discord for several years, which frequently led to arguments. The accused reportedly told investigators that he was unhappy with his wife's weight and eating habits, which became a recurring source of conflict. Police also noted that Padmaja had recently been staying at her parents' house due to the strained relationship.

Investigations revealed that Kiran Kumar allegedly developed deep resentment towards



his wife and planned to kill her. He is said to have searched online and procured poison from Hyderabad in advance. On April 29, he brought Padmaja back to their home and allegedly laced a sweet with poison, which she consumed. When she became unconscious, he reportedly smothered her with a pillow, suspecting she was still alive. After her death at their residence, Kiran informed her parents, raising suspicions that led them to lodge a police complaint.

A post-mortem report indicated poisoning, prompting further investigation and subsequent arrest of the husband. During interrogation, Kiran Kumar reportedly confessed to the crime. Police also said he had an extramarital relationship in Hyderabad a year earlier, though no direct link was found between that relationship and the murder. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody, and further investigation is underway.

Collegium Recommends Three Judges to AP High Court

Amaravati, May 5 | TPN Bureau

The Collegium has recommended three judges to the Andhra Pradesh High Court, ensuring the timely filling of vacancies in the High Courts across the country. The Collegium, headed by the Chief Justice of India and senior Supreme Court judges, plays a key role in recommending appointments to the judiciary.

According to official sources, the recommendations will now be forwarded to the Central Government for further processing. Following this, the proposals are expected to be placed before the President of India for final approval, after which formal appointment or



en the judicial strength of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which has been working to address case pendency and improve the pace of adjudication.

The Collegium system, headed by the Chief Justice of India and senior Supreme Court judges, plays a key role in recommending appointments to

the latest part of ensure

With these appointments, the Andhra Pradesh High Court is expected to see an improvement in judicial capacity, contributing to faster disposal of cases and improved access to justice for litigants across the state.

RTE Second Phase Lottery Allots 10,453 EWS Seats in Private Schools

Amaravati, May 5 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh School Education Department on Tuesday released the second-phase lottery results for admissions under Section 12(1)(C) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act for the academic year 2026-27.

State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha, B. Srinivasa Rao, announced that 10,453 seats have been allotted to students from economically weaker sections (EWS) in private schools through the second phase of the lottery process.

According to official data, the department received 54,647 applications across the State,

of which 54,016 students were found eligible. In the first phase, 30,075 students residing within a one-kilometre radius of schools were allotted seats. The second phase covered eligible candidates living between one and five kilometres from the respective schools.

The School Education Department stated that the details of selected students have been communicated to parents via SMS and are also available on the department's official website. Parents of selected candidates have been directed to confirm admissions between May 6 and May 17 by visiting the respective schools with necessary documents, including Aadhaar cards of students

and parents, income and caste certificates, birth certificate, ration card, and study certificates.

Officials cautioned that strict action would be taken against private schools refusing admissions without valid reasons. The process will be monitored through district-level logins operated by Additional Project Coordinators under Samagra Shiksha.

A toll-free helpline (1800 425 8599) has been set up for assistance to parents. School managements have been advised to coordinate with Mandal Educational Officers (MEOs), District Educational Officers (DEOs), and Regional Joint Directors for clarifications.

A Pillar of Support for "God's Children": Pawan Congratulates Student Who Proved His Mettle

Mangalagiri, May 5 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed his delight upon seeing a student demonstrate exceptional academic prowess, aided by the financial support he has been providing. In the recently released 10th-grade examination results, Akula Pawan Kumar—a student hailing from the Pithapuram constituency—distinguished himself by securing an impressive 555 marks.

Pawan Kumar, a native of Kotha Isukapalli village in the U. Kothapalli Mandal, is a recipient of the financial assistance personally extended by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan from his own salary. It is well known that Pawan Kalyan provides financial support to a select group of individuals—whom he affectionately refers to as "God's Children" (children without parents)—by providing each of them with a monthly stipend of 5,000. The Deputy Chief Minister's office



conveyed its congratulations to Pawan Kumar for achieving such excellent marks in his 10th-grade examinations as a member of this group. In an official statement issued on behalf of Pawan Kalyan, his office expressed the hope that Pawan Kumar would scale even greater heights in his future endeavors, assuring him that he would always have their continued support. It is reported that Pawan Kalyan expressed particular joy over the success of a student from his own constituency.

Call for Hospital-Specific Fire Safety Norms in A.P.

Amaravati, May 5 | TPN Bureau

Private hospitals in Andhra Pradesh have urged the state government to adopt hospital-specific fire safety norms based on risk assessment, citing the need to balance patient safety with practical compliance in healthcare facilities.

The appeal comes in the wake of recently issued Union Ministry of Health guidelines on fire and life safety in healthcare establishments. While the guidelines are advisory in nature, they are expected to be adopted by states and Union Territories depending on hospital size, occupancy, risk profile and local regulatory frameworks.

The guidelines cover a wide range of measures including formation of fire safety committees, appointment of fire safety officers, hazard assessments, categorisation of risk zones, installation of fire detection and suppression systems, sprinkler and hydrant systems, smoke exhaust mechanisms, and integration of HVAC systems with fire safety protocols. They also emphasise training, mock drills, evacuation planning, and fire safety audits.

Hospital managements argue that fire safety norms

should be tailored based on factors such as building height, bed strength, electrical load from medical equipment like CT and MRI machines, ventilation systems, and overall infrastructure design. They caution that overly rigid or impractical regulations may lead to non-compliance and potential corruption risks, ultimately compromising patient safety.

Concerns have also been raised over regulatory differences between states. While Telangana reportedly exempts buildings below 15 metres (G+4) from mandatory Fire NOC, Andhra Pradesh requires clearance for all healthcare facilities, with validity periods reduced to one or two years depending on hospital size.

Fire authorities, however, maintain that hospitals must comply with updated fire and life safety norms, including provisions such as one-hour fire-resistant doors, non-combustible false ceiling supports, halon-free wiring, and circuit breakers at main electrical boards. The state has nearly 20,000 healthcare establishments, including about 1,000 larger hospitals with more than 50 beds, according to official estimates.



Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Reviews Veligonda Project, Orders Speedy Completion of Tunnel Works

Nellore, May 5 | TPN Bureau

Minister for water resources Nimmala Ramanaidu on Tuesday conducted a three-hour field inspection of the Veligonda Project and stressed the need for urgent completion of key works before the 2026 agriculture season under the supervision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. During the inspection, the minister expressed concern over the slow progress of tunnel lining works and warned of strict action in cases of negligence. He directed officials to address shortages of fuel, manpower and machinery to accelerate execution. He inspected the tunnels, including at night, to review the progress and called for better coordination to ensure round-the-clock work. Officials

said a major hurdle in Tunnel-2 was cleared after court approval for the removal of a stuck Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) at the 12-km mark, which is crucial for enabling the transfer of 54 TMC of water. The minister directed that the TBM be removed immediately. He also said rehabilitation and resettlement compensation for displaced families would be taken up shortly. Ramanaidu criticised former chief minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that misinformation regarding project completion had impacted farmers in Prakasam district. He noted that work on the 19-km tunnels was progressing under challenging conditions and said continuous monitoring was being carried out to meet deadlines.



Buttermilk Drive Brings Relief Amid Scorching Heat

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau

With temperatures soaring and heatwave conditions intensifying, a timely relief initiative is offering respite to residents in the city. The Kaarunya Helping Hands Foundation, under the leadership of its founder Dr. Vijayraj G., has launched a large-scale buttermilk distribution drive to help people cope with the extreme weather. Supported by Central constituency MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao and former corporator and ex-TDP floor leader Nelibandla Balaswami, the initiative is reaching out to over 1,000 beneficiaries daily. Daily wage labourers, stu-

dents, commuters, and home-makers are among those benefiting from the effort. In addition to distributing chilled buttermilk, volunteers are also handing out cotton bags to promote eco-friendly practices and discourage the use of plastic, aligning the programme with environmental awareness. Dr. Vijayraj G. said the organisation considers it its duty to support the public during harsh climatic conditions and thanked the public representatives for their cooperation. The foundation said it will continue to undertake such community-focused initiatives in the future.



VMC Commissioner Reviews Sanitation, Assures Direct Access for Workers

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau

Dhyanachandra, Commissioner of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, conducted an extensive field inspection across the city on Tuesday, urging sanitation workers to directly approach him with any requirements to improve sanitation management. During visits to Ajit Singh Nagar, Satyanarayanapuram, Sundarayya Nagar Katta, VUDA Colony, Fire Station Road, Nuzvid Road, Ayodhya Nagar, and Mamidikaya Pakalu, he assessed ground-level op-

erations. At Shiva Temple Road, he interacted with sanitation staff and even tested a trolley himself, suggesting the deployment of larger four-bin trolleys in high-waste areas. At the Mango Market, he stressed zero tolerance for sanitation lapses and called for regular inspections. He also reviewed the Anna Canteen at Ayodhya Nagar, directing officials to maintain food quality, water supply, and strict schedules. Zonal Commissioner Prabhudas and AMHO Dr. Annapurna accompanied the inspection.

APCRDA Conducts Career Guidance Seminar for Amaravati Students

Amaravati, May 5|TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) organized a career guidance seminar to create awareness among students who have completed their 10th grade in the capital region villages of Amaravati. The programme, conducted under the aegis of the Social Development Wing of APCRDA, was held at HSR Kalyana Vedika in Thullur on Tuesday. Around 100 students, parents, and farmers from nearby villages participated in the seminar. The event featured prominent speakers including Col. V. Ramulu, Group Director (Social Development), APCRDA; A. Krishnamohan, Secretary of APREIS; and the AP State Director of Public Libraries. The speakers provided detailed insights into higher education options, various academic streams, government schemes, and employment opportunities available after the 10th grade. They also addressed queries raised by students, offering practical guidance for career planning. Speaking on the occasion, Col. V. Ramulu emphasized



that students from the Amaravati region can access wider opportunities with proper planning and informed decision-making. A. Krishnamohan highlighted the importance of understanding competitive examinations and exploring diverse career paths. Officials noted that along with infrastructure development in Amaravati, APCRDA is focusing on the social and educational upliftment of local communities. Acting on the directions of Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana and Commissioner V. Vijayarama Raju, the authority is conducting monthly job fairs and skill development programmes to enhance employment prospects for youth in the region. APCRDA officials reaffirmed their commitment to organizing such initiatives regularly to support the future of students in the capital region.

Elderly couple stages protest over unresolved land dispute

G.Konduru, May 5|TPN Bureau

An elderly couple from Kuntamukkala village in G. Konduru mandal of NTR district staged a sit-in protest outside the Mandal Tahsildar's office on Tuesday, alleging prolonged inaction by revenue authorities in resolving their land dispute. Holding a photograph of Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, the couple expressed anguish over what they described as months of futile efforts to secure justice. They said they had approached multiple officials and attended the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) sessions conducted every Monday at the district Collectorate for the past five months, but their issue remained unresolved. "We have been running from pillar to post until our legs gave out, but no one has ad-



ressed our problem," the couple lamented, adding that their advancing age has left them physically incapable of continuing the struggle. The couple alleged that despite directions from higher authorities to resolve their grievance, staff at the G. Konduru revenue office had failed to act, reportedly citing lack of time. Refusing to

leave the premises, they vowed to continue their protest until their issue is addressed. They also appealed directly to Mr. Lokesh to intervene and ensure justice, stating that they were in a helpless condition with no means of livelihood. Officials from the revenue department were not immediately available for comment.

MLA Soumya flies govt school toppers to Hyderabad under 'Wings to Dreams' initiative

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau

In a thoughtful initiative to motivate government school students, Nandigama MLA and government whip Tangirala Soumya sponsored a first-time flight experience for six Class X toppers from underprivileged backgrounds, aiming to boost their confidence and broaden their aspirations. The programme, titled "Wings to Dreams (Kalalaku Rekkalu)", saw the MLA accompany the students on a flight from Gannavaram International Airport to Hyderabad on Tuesday morning. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Soumya said the initiative was designed to break psychological barriers among students who often view air travel as a privilege reserved for the affluent. "Exposure to new experiences can inspire them to aim higher and pursue bigger goals," she said. The students were visibly excited as they boarded an aircraft for the first time. During



the journey, the MLA interacted with them about their academic goals and future ambitions, encouraging them to remain focused and confident. The group is scheduled to visit prominent tourist attractions in Hyderabad before returning to Nandigama by road later in the day. Parents of the students expressed heartfelt gratitude to the MLA for creating a memorable experience for their

children. Educationists and local residents have also praised the initiative, observing that such encouragement can play a crucial role in motivating government school students to excel and aspire for greater achievements. The initiative has garnered appreciation on social media as well, with many hailing it as a meaningful step towards empowering young learners.

Physiotherapy Vital in Managing Rising Back Pain Cases

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau

Amid a growing incidence of back pain linked to changing lifestyles, physiotherapy has emerged as a key solution for effective management and relief, noted physiotherapist Dr. Olas Gora has said on Tuesday. He was addressing a seminar on "Back Pain - Physiotherapy" held at Vasavya Nursing Home here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Dr. Samaram. Dr. Gora observed that while back pain may arise from multiple causes, poor daily habits remain a leading factor. He stressed the importance of maintaining correct posture, engaging in regular light exercise, avoiding prolonged sitting, and taking periodic breaks. Proper techniques for lifting heavy objects and maintaining a healthy



body weight were also highlighted as preventive measures. He explained that physiotherapy offers significant relief without excessive dependence on medication. Supervised exercises help strengthen back muscles, while modern techniques such

as manual therapy, electrotherapy, ultrasound therapy, laser therapy, and dry needling enhance treatment outcomes. Timely intervention and adherence to a healthy lifestyle, he added, not only provide relief but also help prevent recurrence.

BJP Cadres Celebrate Electoral Triumph with Grand Rally

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau

Celebrations erupted at the NDA office in Bhavaninagar as BJP leaders and cadres marked the party's emphatic victory in three states. The event, held on Tuesday at MLA Y. Sujana Chowdary's office, witnessed enthusiastic participation under the leadership of AP BJP President PVN Madhav. Party workers celebrated with traditional Teen Maar drum beats, creating a festive

atmosphere. A victory rally was also organized, proceeding from Bhavaninagar to the National Highway, drawing attention from the public. Addressing the gathering, PVN Madhav stated that people across the country have expressed their confidence in the BJP by bringing the party to power in three states. He remarked that the electorate has rejected the governance of the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC and delivered a decisive mandate. He termed the victory historic

and reflective of a broader national trend favoring the BJP. Madhav further highlighted that nearly 20 states are now governed by NDA allies under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, indicating continued public support for development-oriented governance. He also credited leaders like Amit Shah and Sunil Bansal for their strategic efforts. Several local leaders, including NTR District BJP President Adduri Sriram and others, participated in the celebrations.



Illegal Ration Rice Stock Busted in Kondapalli; 600 Bags Seized

Kondapalli, May 5|TPN Bureau

In a joint operation, the Ibrahimpatnam Police and Revenue Department officials raided an illegal stockpile of ration rice at Abhinandana Flats in the Shantinagar area of Kondapalli in NTR district. Acting on specific information, officials conducted the raid and seized around 600 bags of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice that were allegedly stored for illegal transportation and diversion. Ibrahimpatnam PDSS DT

Ramakrishna stated that Derangula Gopi, who is suspected to be involved in the illegal trade, has been taken into custody and is being interrogated. Officials believe the ration rice was being diverted for black-market activities. Further investigation is underway to identify others involved and to trace the supply chain. Authorities warned that strict action will be taken against those indulging in the illegal storage and transportation of essential commodities.



Women Seek Removal of Illegal Belt Shops at Praja Darbar

Ibrahimpatnam, May 5|TPN Bureau

Women raised concerns over the operation of illegal "belt shops" in residential areas during a Praja Darbar (public grievance meeting) held at the Mandal Parishad Development Office in Ibrahimpatnam on Tuesday. Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad, who presided over the programme, received several petitions related to local issues and directed officials to address them promptly. Among the complaints, the issue of unauthorised liquor outlets functioning within residential localities drew particular attention. A woman petitioner alleged that these belt shops were creating a sense of insecurity in

the neighbourhood. She stated that customers frequenting such outlets often used abusive language and behaved inappropriately towards passersby, especially women, causing distress to residents. Taking serious note of the complaint, the MLA instructed Circle Inspector Subrahmanyam to initiate immediate action to curb the illegal activity and ensure the removal of such outlets from residential zones. Officials including the Tahsildar and MPDO, along with municipal representatives and local leaders, attended the meeting. Public representatives reiterated their commitment to addressing civic grievances and maintaining law and order in the area.

NSFDC Car Loan Beneficiaries Seek Full Waiver

Guntur, May 5|TPN Bureau

Beneficiaries of the NSFDC car loan scheme have appealed to authorities for a complete waiver of their outstanding loans, citing severe financial distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In a representation submitted to the Managing Director of APSCFC Ltd., Tadepalli, they stated that vehicles purchased between 2017 and 2019 remain their primary source of livelihood. Despite

partial relief through interest waiver under G.O. Ms. No. 319, beneficiaries said the principal amount is beyond their repayment capacity. Many belong to economically weaker sections and continue to struggle financially. They urged the government to consider their situation sympathetically and grant a full waiver, emphasizing that the loans were taken for self-employment and survival, not for profit.



Yoga Instructor Earns "Yoga Therapist" Certification

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau

Pagadala Chandra Sekhar, a Yoga Instructor at RGUKT Ongole, has earned international recognition by securing a "Yoga Therapist" certification. He also trains students at Nuzvid and Srikakulam campuses. The certification was awarded after successfully completing an assessment under the World Skill Council. Issued by Central Bharat Sevak Samaj, the

course was completed through WSC Nature Cure Academy, Hanamkonda, from September 7 to December 5, 2025. With a WSQF Level-3 qualification, he is now qualified to provide yoga therapy for ailments like diabetes, hypertension, and back pain. Chairman Rashmi Ranjan Mahapatra honored him. RGUKT Nuzvid officials, including Director Prof. Gopal Raju, congratulated him on his achievement.



Janasena Organises Sevapatham at PolerammaTirunallu

Chirala, May 5| TPN Bureau

Janasena Party organised large-scale 'Sevapatham' service activities at the Goddess Sri PolerammaTirunallu in Thotavaripalem of Chirala-mandal, providing relief to devotees attending the annual celebrations. As part of the initiative, volunteers distributed buttermilk to quench thirst and pulihora (tamarind rice) to serve the large gatherings visiting the temple.

JanasenaBapatla constituency coordinator NamanaSivvanarayana attended as the chief guest. He offered special prayers to Goddess Poleramma and performed rituals before commencing the service programme, fulfilling his vow. Speaking on the occasion, he

said the party has consistently prioritised public welfare activities since its inception and expressed happiness over continuing the service tradition at the festival every year.

He also prayed for the good health of party president PawanKalyan and wished that the blessings of the goddess would remain with party workers and the public.

Board member ofSrikalahasti Temple, Kommuna boyina Rajini, Janasena joint Prakasam district secretary GuduruSivaram Prasad and TDP Chiralamandal president GanjiPurushottam participated. The event witnessed large turnout of devotees and smooth conduct of all service arrangements by party volunteers at the festival premises



Modern PCRKC Library Inaugurated at Apollo University

Chittoor, May5| TPN Bureau

The Dr.Prathap C. Reddy Knowledge Centre (PCRKC) Library was inaugurated at The Apollo University on Tuesday, aimed at strengthening academic resources with modern, technology-driven facilities for students and faculty.The Vice-Chancellor Dr. H. Vinod Bhat and Vice-Chancellor Designate Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar formally inaugurated the library and inspected its advanced infrastructure. They stated that the facility would significantly enhance academic excellence and research outcomes.

The library is equipped with RFID-based book tracking, QR code-enabled information access, anti-theft systems, and a self-issue kiosk. Students can also reserve books in advance and return them through a 24/7 book drop facility. A request-based procurement system has been introduced for unavailable titles.Registrar Prof. M. Potharaju, faculty members and students attended the event. Assistant Librarian Dr. T. Raghunatha Reddy said such technologically advanced libraries are rare in the state and will greatly benefit learners.

Alliance Panel Sweeps Doddigunta Fishermen Society Polls

Doddigunta, May 5 | TPN Bureau

The Doddigunta Fishermen Society elections concluded with a decisive victory for the Alliance-backed panel, led by Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy, marking what leaders described as a reaffirmation of democratic values and collective leadership in the region.Addressing the outcome, MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy stated that the results reflect the people's endorsement of "development-oriented governance" and a rejection of alleged attempts at political dominance. He remarked that despite earlier legal disputes and a court-ordered re-poll, the electorate had once again placed its trust in the Alliance-supported candidates, ensuring a clear

mandate.

The MLA further alleged that the opposition YSRCP resorted to disruptive tactics during the election process, including obstructing the initial polling, claims which the rival party has not formally responded to in detail. He also criticized attempts to project caste-based narratives, asserting that voters across BC and SC communities remained united in their support.Society President GuthulaRambabu and other elected representatives expressed gratitude to the leadership for guiding the panel to victory. The result is being viewed locally as a significant political indicator for the Anaparthi constituency ahead of future electoral contests.Officials confirmed that the re-poll was conducted peacefully under supervision

Wear Helmets, Save Lives: Anitha Calls for Strict Road Safety Compliance

Anakapalli District, May 5 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister VangalapudiAnitha has urged citizens to prioritize road safety, stressing that negligence on roads is leaving several families devastated due to fatal accidents.

During her visit to the Payakaraopeta constituency on Tuesday, the Home Minister participated in a large bike rally organized from Addarodu to Nakkapalli as part of a road accident prevention awareness campaign. The rally witnessed active participation from officials and the public, all of whom wore helmets and raised slogans such as "Safe Roads... Safe Life" and "Wear a helmet... save a life."

Leading the rally, Anitha herself raised awareness slogans, encouraging citizens to adopt safe riding practices. She also distributed helmets to motorists during the program.

Speaking on the occasion, she expressed concern that while many individuals invest in high-value motorcycles, they often ignore basic safety



measures like wearing helmets. She strongly appealed to all two-wheeler riders to make helmet usage mandatory in their daily travel.

Highlighting recent incidents, Anitha stated that several road accidents had occurred in the Payakaraopeta constituency within a single month, resulting in multiple fatalities. She expressed deep grief over the loss of lives and

called for strict adherence to traffic rules.

Reiterating the government's stand on road safety, the Home Minister made it clear that helmet usage must be strictly followed across the constituency. She also directed police officials to impose double fines on violators, regardless of their position or political affiliation, if found riding without helmets.

JaladharaJalaharati Programme Gains Momentum

Chittoor, May 5| TPN Bureau

As part of the Jaladhara-Jalaharati programme, large-scale canal desilting and tank restoration works are progressing in Gangadhara Nellore mandal of Chittoor district, aimed at strengthening irrigation sources and improving rural livelihoods.

District Building and Watershed Development Project Director (BWD PD) Ravikumar conducted a field-level inspection of the ongoing desilting works stretching nearly one kilometre from Marapa Reddy Tank to Basireddy Tank within the limits of Etteri village in Kotagaram Panchayat. During the visit, he examined muster rolls and also distributed buttermilk and ORS packets to wage earners engaged in the works.

Speaking on the occasion, officials informed that there are around 112 tanks in the mandal, of which 30 tanks are fully filled, 65 tanks are at 75 per cent capacity, while 17 tanks with less than 50 per cent storage are being prioritised for restoration. At present, about 26 works are underway involving nearly 1,500 wage earners under the employment genera-



tion initiative. They also noted that 18 chained tanks in the mandal are being interlinked to improve water flow and storage efficiency.

Local residents expressed satisfaction over the programme. C. Jayaram of Etteri village said the employment guarantee scheme has been highly beneficial and supports agricultural activity, noting improved water flow from Marapa Reddy Tank to Basireddy Tank.

Vennela, another resident, highlighted that earlier the canal was blocked with shrubs and debris, disrupting rainwater flow. "After desilting under JaladharaJalaharati, water is now flowing smoothly into fields," she said.

Sara of Kotagaram Panchayat described the programme as highly useful for agriculture

and appreciated the opportunity for daily wage employment. Similarly, S. Kuppaiah noted that removal of silt and waste will ensure uninterrupted rainwater flow into tanks, improve groundwater levels, and enhance borewell yield, thereby supporting stable agriculture and rural employment.

Officials stated that the long-term objective is to complete desilting across all tanks in the mandal, improve storage capacity, and bring irrigation systems to full efficiency through continuous maintenance of canals and tank networks. The JaladharaJalaharati programme, they added, is playing a key role in strengthening irrigation infrastructure while simultaneously generating rural employment.

Elderly Woman Murder Case Solved in 24 Hours; Two Arrested

Tirupati, May 5|TPN Bureau

Tirupati Rural police have solved the murder of a 62-year-old woman living alone in Cherlopalli village within 24 hours and arrested two accused persons, District SP L. Subbarayudu, IPS, said on Tuesday. The accused, Reddappa and Mahalakshmi, were taken into custody near Kaluru MLC KalyanaMandapam and confessed to the offence.

T. Lokeshwari was allegedly murdered on the night of May 1 while she was sleeping in her



house. When she failed to respond the next morning, her relatives broke open the door and found her dead. Initially suspected to be a natural death, injuries on the body and the disappearance of the tenants raised suspicion, leading to a

police complaint.Special teams were formed under senior officers and conducted a coordinated investigation. The accused reportedly killed the victim and stole Rs. 50,000 cash and jewellery. However, they later discovered the ornaments were imitation jewellery.While attempting to flee to Vijayawada, they were apprehended. Police recovered Rs. 14,000 cash and fake jewellery from their possession. The accused will be produced before court, police said

Tatayyagunta GangammaJ athara Begins with Vadibala Ritual

Tirupati, May 5| TPN Bureau

MLA AraniSrinivasulu, along with his wife Satyavati, participated in the traditional Vadibala ritual marking the commencement of the TatayyaguntaGangammaJathara on Tuesday morning. The Abhisheka of the Goddess was performed subsequently, with temple officials facilitating darshan.

He stated that priority is being given to common devotees for darshan, while VIPs will be allowed during fixed slots from 6 am to 8 am and 3 pm to 5 pm. He said the festival,



jointly arranged by TTD, Municipal Corporation and TUDA, will conclude on the 13th with the ChampaNarak-

adam ceremony. Adequate security and crowd management arrangements have been made.



Collector Reviews Paliveekshanam

Nellore, May 5| TPN Bureau

As part of the Paliveekshanam programme, Nellore District Collector Himanshu Shukla visited Appasamudram village in Udayagiri Mandal on Tuesday to review development works and address local grievances on the spot.

The Collector said the main aim of the programme is the swift resolution of village-level issues in coordination with district officials. During his inspection, he reviewed MGN-REGS works, Waste-to-Wealth centres, livestock water troughs, Anganwadi centre, citizen service centre, medical camps, and Mini Gokulam cattle shelters.

He interacted with villagers while walking through the village streets and received petitions directly. He directed officials to provide a tricycle to a differently-abled resident and instructed steps for land allo-

cation to a woman applicant. A Gram Sabha was also held at the village secretariat where residents raised issues related to infrastructure, electricity, and public services.

Responding to concerns, the Collector assured that the encroachment of the old village tank would be thoroughly investigated and necessary action taken. He also directed APSPDCL officials to resolve electricity-related issues, including power lines and line-men shortages.

On education, he instructed officials to appoint teachers for Classes 1 to 5 in the local elementary school from July 12. He also reviewed rural road connectivity issues and assured appropriate measures.

Meritorious students were felicitated during the visit. District officials from various departments participated in the programme and reviewed ongoing welfare activities.



“Vasu... Keep It Up!” CM Naidu Praises MLA Adireddy Vasu

Mangalagiri, May 5|TPN Bureau

Rajahmundry City MLA Adireddy Srinivas (Vasu), who has been making a distinct mark in Rajamahendravaram city politics through sustained public service initiatives, received rare appreciation from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during a review meeting held at the party central office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday.

The high-level meeting focused on development works and organizational strengthening across East Godavari district constituencies. During the session, MLA Adireddy Vasu presented a detailed report outlining ongoing development projects in Rajamahendravaram city, progress in grievance redressal mechanisms, and efforts being undertaken to strengthen the party's grassroots structure.

Impressed by the clarity and comprehensiveness of the presentation, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the constituency-level progress. In a notable moment, Chandrababu Naidu personally

ly appreciated the MLA, patting him on the shoulder and saying, “Vasu... Keep it up! Your performance is excellent. Continue to stay close to the people and further accelerate development in your constituency.”

The Chief Minister's words of encouragement are being seen as a significant morale booster for the MLA and his cadre. Party sources said the review reflected a strong emphasis on performance-based governance and constituency-level accountability.

Expressing happiness over the appreciation, MLA Adireddy Vasu said the Chief Minister's encouragement has further increased his sense of responsibility. He reaffirmed his commitment to developing Rajamahendravaram city into a model urban centre in line with the government's vision.

Following the meeting, party cadres and supporters in Rajahmundry city expressed enthusiasm, describing the CM's praise as recognition of the MLA's active role in development and public outreach activities.

SrivariMettu Vendors Stage Protest at TTD Office

Tirupati, May 5| TPN Bureau

Small-scale vendors at SrivariMettu continued their 625-day-long protest, demanding immediate resolution of their grievances and issuance of trade licenses. On Tuesday, they staged a demonstration in front of the Tirumala TirupatiDevasthanams (TTD) Administrative Building.As part of the protest, the vendors performed PorluDandalu (rolling prostrations) from nearby areas to the TTD office and raised slogans seeking justice. They also carried black umbrellas as a mark of protest. The agitation was led by CITU leaders S. Jayachandra, District President, and T. Subrahmanyam, General Secretary.They urged the TTD management to include the issue in the upcoming Governing Council meeting and take immediate steps for resolution. Protesters al-



leged that despite repeated appeals over the past 625 days, no response has been received from either the TTD authorities or the governing body.The vendors said nearly 30 family's dependent on vending at SrivariMettu are facing severe financial hardship, with livelihoods disrupted and children's education affected. They warned that if the issue is not addressed soon, they would intensify their agitation. Several union leaders, including MadhuYugandhar, Chittibabu, Chiranjeevi Prakash, and others, participated in the protest.

BJP vs Regional Parties:

Two Models, One Electoral Battlefield

Centralised Command vs Localised Power in India's Democracy



India's contemporary political landscape is increasingly defined by a striking contrast—the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party as a dominant national force, and the enduring relevance of regional parties that continue to command deep loyalty within their states. This is not merely a contest for power; it is a clash between two distinct political models shaping the future of Indian democracy.

At the core of the BJP's success lies centralised leadership, with Narendra Modi as its principal face. Elections

are increasingly framed around his persona, transforming parliamentary contests into presidential-style mandates. This approach offers clarity, consistency, and a unified national narrative that resonates across regions.

In contrast, regional parties are anchored in strong state-level leadership. Leaders such as M. K. Stalin in Tamil Nadu or N. Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh derive their strength from local identity, administrative track record, and direct connection with the electorate. Their pol-

itics is intimate, rooted, and responsive to regional aspirations.

Organisationally, the BJP operates through a disciplined, cadre-based structure supported by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Its strength lies in booth-level management, ideological cohesion, and continuous grassroots mobilisation. It is a machine that functions with precision, not just during elections but throughout the political cycle.

Regional parties, however, rely on decentralised networks. Their strength flows

from community linkages, caste alignments, and localised influence. While they may lack the uniform organisational depth of the BJP, they compensate with sharper ground-level insights and flexibility.

The divergence is equally visible in narrative construction. The BJP blends nationalism, cultural identity, and governance into a broad, pan-Indian message. Regional parties emphasise linguistic pride, cultural uniqueness, and state-specific concerns. In Tamil Nadu, Dravidian ideology continues to define po-

litical discourse, while in Andhra Pradesh, development and welfare remain central themes.

Campaign strategies further highlight this divide. The BJP has mastered data-driven campaigning, social media outreach, and message discipline, often setting the national agenda. Regional parties depend more on direct engagement—public meetings, local outreach, and personalised voter contact.

Governance approaches also differ. The BJP leverages national schemes and uniform development narratives,

while regional parties prioritise state-centric welfare models tailored to local needs. Both approaches have their strengths, appealing to different voter expectations.

Ultimately, the BJP represents scale, centralisation, and narrative control, while regional parties embody localisation, cultural depth, and grassroots connection. India's political future will not be shaped by the dominance of one model over the other, but by their dynamic coexistence and the ability of each to adapt to a rapidly changing electorate.



Subbarao Pokkuluri
Veteran Journalist

Vijay's Moment of Truth in a Shifting Political Landscape

Development choices, alliance dilemmas, and the real test of leadership in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

The emergence of Joseph Vijay as a political force has created fresh interest in Tamil Nadu's changing political scene. His party's early gains, especially in a situation where no single party has a clear majority, have brought him to an important stage, one that requires clear thinking, patience, and a long-term vision beyond speeches.

At the heart of the current debate is a simple question—should Vijay focus on ideology, or move towards governance and development? The argument strongly supports the second option. It suggests that electoral success, especially in a state like Tamil Nadu, cannot depend only on ideology. Today's voters care more about real results, including jobs, infrastructure, and industrial growth, than about past narratives or identity-based politics.

The idea of aligning with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA reflects a practical approach. Since the Central Government plays a major role in funding and policy decisions, working together rather than confronting it could bring faster development. The warning against repeating past conflicts between the state and the Centre, often seen in Dravidian politics, is worth noting.

At the same time, this view has its limits. Ideology still plays an important role in Tamil Nadu. Dravidian

politics, despite criticism, has contributed to social justice, welfare schemes, and regional identity. Ignoring ideology completely may oversimplify the state's political reality.

The idea of sharing power between Tamil Nadu and Puducherry sounds interesting, but it may be difficult to achieve. While cooperation between the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and BJP in Puducherry could serve as an example, Tamil Nadu's political environment is far more complex. In a hung assembly, compromise is necessary, but it also tests the consistency of new leaders like Vijay.

The criticism of aligning with the Indian National Congress reflects the view that the party is weakening. However, Indian politics has often shown that even smaller or weaker parties can play key roles in forming governments. Ignoring Congress completely may reduce political options.

One important point raised is accountability. The idea that one mistake could cost public trust is very relevant today. Young voters, professionals, and business groups expect clear results and consistent leadership.

The role of Telugu-speaking voters is also mentioned, but focusing too much on one group can be risky. Tamil Nadu has a diverse popula-

tion, and any long-term political strategy must include all sections of society.

In the end, Vijay's challenge is not just about winning elections. It is about choosing what kind of leader he wants to be. Should he remain a popular figure driven by emotion, or grow into a leader focused on governance and results? That choice will define his future.

Tamil Nadu is politically aware and emotionally driven. While people are open to new leaders, they are also quick to judge. Vijay's next steps will decide whether he remains a short-term sensation or becomes a strong and lasting political leader.



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BJP Appoints Amit Shah, JP Nadda as Central Observers for Government Formation in Bengal, Assam

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed senior leaders Amit Shah and JP Nadda as central observers for West Bengal and Assam respectively, following the party's significant electoral victories in both states.

According to party sources, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been assigned as the central observer for West Bengal, where the BJP is set to form its first-ever government after a historic win in the Assembly elections. His role will involve overseeing the process of selecting the Chief Minister and

coordinating discussions with newly elected legislators.

In Assam, BJP national president JP Nadda has been entrusted with a similar responsibility. He will supervise the formation of the government and play a key role in finalising the leadership in the state, where the party has retained power. The appointment of top leadership as observers signals the importance the BJP is placing on ensuring a smooth and coordinated transition of power in both states.

The decision comes in the backdrop of the

BJP's sweeping performance in the 2026 Assembly elections, particularly in West Bengal, where the party secured a decisive majority, ending years of rule by the Trinamool Congress. The focus has now shifted to the selection of the Chief Minister, with several senior leaders being considered for the top post. Party insiders indicate that the observers will hold consultations with elected MLAs and senior leaders before arriving at a consensus on leadership. The process is expected to be completed swiftly, with government formation likely to take

place in the coming days.

The appointment of Amit Shah and JP Nadda underscores the BJP's centralised decision-making approach in key political developments and highlights the leadership's intent to maintain tight coordination during government formation in strategically important states.

With both states entering a new political phase, all eyes are now on the BJP's leadership choices, which are expected to shape the governance and political direction in West Bengal and Assam in the coming years.



“Election Commission Played Nasty Games”,Mamata Banerjee Slams Poll Body After Bengal Verdict

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched a sharp attack on the Election Commission following her party's defeat in the 2026 Assembly elections, alleging serious irregularities and calling the outcome unfair.

Reacting strongly to the results, Banerjee claimed that the election process was compromised, accusing the poll body of indulging in “dirty, nasty and mischievous games.” She alleged that the mandate did not reflect the true will of the people and suggested that the system had been manipulated in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief went further, claiming that more than 100 seats were effectively “stolen” through irregular practices. She described the situation as a “murder of democracy” and questioned the credibility of the electoral process. Banerjee also alleged collusion between the Election Commission, central forces, and the BJP-led central government. According to her, the counting process and overall conduct of elections were not transparent, raising serious concerns about fairness.

In addition to procedural



concerns, the Chief Minister referred to incidents during polling and counting, including alleged disruptions and lack of proper monitoring. She indicated that her party had faced significant challenges on the ground, including intimidation and violence. Despite the setback, Banerjee made it clear that her party would not accept the results without scrutiny. She announced plans to take further action and possibly investigate the alleged irregularities through internal mechanisms. A fact-finding effort is also expected to examine complaints related to post-poll

developments.

The BJP, which secured a decisive victory in West Bengal, has dismissed these allegations, maintaining that the elections were conducted fairly and in accordance with democratic norms. The 2026 West Bengal Assembly election marks a significant political shift, with the BJP forming the government in the state for the first time. However, Banerjee's strong reaction indicates that the political battle is far from over, with disputes over the integrity of the electoral process likely to continue in the coming days.

RaGa Rebukes Congress Leaders for Gloating Over TMC Loss

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has strongly criticised members of his own party and other opposition leaders for celebrating the Trinamool Congress (TMC) defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections, warning that such reactions only strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In a sharp message issued a day after the election results, Gandhi said that “gloating” over TMC's loss reflects misplaced priorities at a time when the opposition should remain united. He cautioned that the BJP's victory in West Bengal and Assam represents a significant step forward in what he described as a larger threat to India's democratic framework. Gandhi stressed that the outcome of the elections should not be viewed as a win or loss for individual parties alone, but as a broader political development with national implications. He argued that internal divisions and petty political rivalries within opposition ranks only serve to benefit the BJP's expanding influence.



Taking a strong stand, the Congress leader alleged that the electoral outcomes in both Assam and West Bengal amounted to a “theft of mandate.” He urged party colleagues to move beyond narrow political considerations and focus on safeguarding democratic institutions.

“This is not about one party or another. This is about India,” Gandhi emphasised, underlining the need for a collec-

tive opposition response rather than fragmented reactions.

His remarks come amid growing concerns within opposition circles about unity and coordination, especially after significant electoral setbacks in key states. Gandhi's intervention is seen as an attempt to reinforce cohesion within the broader anti-BJP bloc and discourage public disagreements that could weaken their political position. The comments

also signal the Congress leadership's effort to recalibrate its strategy following the election results, where the BJP registered major gains, particularly in West Bengal.

As political reactions continue to unfold, Gandhi's message highlights a key challenge for opposition parties—balancing competition among themselves while presenting a united front against the ruling party at the national level.

SuvenduAdhikari Emerges BJP’s Undisputed Hero in Bengal’s Historic Political Shift

In a dramatic political turnaround in West Bengal, SuvenduAdhikari has emerged as the central figure behind the Bharatiya Janata Party's sweeping victory, cementing his position as the party's “indisputable hero” in the 2026 Assembly elections. Adhikari's performance stands out not only for the scale of the BJP's triumph but also for the symbolic battles he won. He secured victories in both Nandigram and Bhabanipur—two high-profile constituencies closely associated with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. His win in Bhabanipur, considered Banerjee's stronghold, is being seen as a decisive political setback for the Trinamool Congress leadership. What makes Adhikari's rise particularly significant is his political journey. Once a trusted aide of

Mamata Banerjee in the Trinamool Congress, he later switched to the Bharatiya Janata Party, setting the stage for a fierce rivalry that has now culminated in a decisive victory. His consistent success in Nandigram and his ability to challenge Banerjee in her own turf have elevated his stature within the BJP. According to party insiders, Adhikari's influence extended well beyond individual constituencies. He played a key role in mobilising grassroots support, consolidating votes, and expanding the BJP's reach into regions where the party previously had limited presence. His campaign strategy, organisational network, and strong local connect contributed significantly to the party crossing the majority mark in the state. The BJP's overall victory has been his-

toric, marking its first-ever government in West Bengal and signalling a major political shift in a state long dominated by the Trinamool Congress. Adhikari's double victory and his role in breaking the TMC's strongholds have also placed him among the frontrunners for the Chief Minister's post. His emergence as a “giant slayer” and a mass leader reflects a new phase in Bengal politics, where leadership dynamics are rapidly evolving. As the BJP prepares to form the government, attention is now focused on the party's leadership decision. Regardless of who assumes office as Chief Minister, SuvenduAdhikari's role in shaping this landmark victory has firmly established him as the face of the BJP's rise in West Bengal.



Following the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) setback in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, party president M. K. Stalin delivered a message of resilience to party workers, asserting that the people's trust in the party remains intact and that the DMK will win again.

Addressing cadres after the results, Stalin emphasised that electoral defeat does not weaken the party's core ideology or commitment to public service. He stated that whether in power or in opposition, the DMK's focus would remain on serving the people and addressing their concerns. He underscored that the party would now take on the role of a strong opposition and continue fighting for public issues.

In his message, Stalin highlighted the legacy of the Dravidian movement, reiterating the party's commitment to its long-standing principles, in-



cluding social justice and regional identity. He assured supporters that the DMK would continue its political journey without leaving anyone behind and would stay true to its foundational values.

The DMK leader also expressed gratitude to voters who supported the party and its alliance candidates in the elec-

tion. Despite the disappointing outcome, he conveyed confidence that the party's support base remains strong and that setbacks are a natural part of political life. Reflecting on the results, Stalin noted that the DMK has experienced both victories and defeats in its history and has always emerged stronger. He urged party work-

ers to remain steadfast and united, stressing that ideological commitment matters more than temporary electoral outcomes.

The 2026 Tamil Nadu election saw a significant shift in the political landscape, with the DMK losing power and finishing behind its rivals. However, Stalin's message sought to boost morale within the party ranks and project confidence about the future. Political observers view his remarks as an attempt to stabilise the party following the defeat and to prepare it for a renewed role in opposition politics. His emphasis on unity, resilience, and continued public engagement signals the DMK's strategy going forward. As the state enters a new political phase, Stalin's assertion that “trust remains undefeated” reflects the party's intent to regroup, rebuild, and position itself for a comeback in the next electoral cycle.

One Vote Makes History, TVK Shocks DMK in Tiruppattur Thriller as TN Politics Sees Major Shift

In one of the most dramatic outcomes of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga VetriKazhagam (TVK) pulled off a stunning upset in Tiruppattur, where a DMK minister lost by just one vote.

TVK candidate Seenivasa Sethupathi R defeated senior DMK leader and Minister for Co-operatives K. R. Periyakaruppan in a nail-biting finish that highlighted how every single vote can decide political fate. The final tally showed 83,375 votes for the TVK candidate against 83,374 votes for the DMK leader, marking one of the closest electoral margins in recent history.

Periyakaruppan, a veteran DMK leader who had represented the constituency multi-



ple times and served in the state cabinet, was considered a strong contender. However, the late surge in counting results shifted the seat in favour of TVK, delivering a major symbolic setback to the ruling party. The Tiruppattur result has drawn widespread attention across the state, not only for its

razor-thin margin but also for its political significance. TVK, led by Vijay, has emerged as a major force in its debut election, challenging both the DMK and AIADMK across several constituencies.

Political observers note that the result reflects a larger trend of voter realignment in

Tamil Nadu, where new political movements have significantly disrupted traditional party strongholds. The defeat of a sitting minister by a single vote is being seen as one of the most striking examples of this shift. The 2026 elections have already produced a series of unexpected outcomes, with TVK emerging as the single largest party in the state, pushing the DMK into a weakened position and reshaping the political landscape.

In Tiruppattur, the result is likely to be remembered as a defining moment in Tamil Nadu electoral history, where a single vote changed the course of a seasoned politician's career and marked a breakthrough victory for a rising political force.

21 Killed, 61 Injured in Fireworks Factory Explosion in Hunan Province,China

A massive explosion at a fireworks manufacturing facility in central China's Hunan province has left at least 21 people dead and 61 others injured, according to state media reports. The incident has triggered a large-scale emergency response and a high-level government investigation into the cause of the blast.

The explosion took place on Monday afternoon at around 4:40-5:00 pm in Liuyang city, which falls under the administration of Changsha, the capital of Hunan province. The facility involved is reportedly operated by Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Co., a company located in a region widely known for its fireworks production industry.

Authorities said the blast originated in one of the workshops where large quantities of fireworks materials were stored and processed. The sudden explosion led to a rapid spread of fire and multiple secondary blasts due to the presence of flammable substances at the site.

Following the explosion, thick smoke was seen rising



from the factory complex, while several buildings within the facility collapsed or were severely damaged. Debris was scattered across the surrounding area, and nearby homes reportedly suffered broken windows and structural damage.

Emergency services quickly launched a large-scale rescue operation, deploying nearly 500 firefighters, medical staff, and rescue personnel to the site. Specialized equipment, in-

cluding robots and drones, was used to navigate hazardous conditions and search for survivors amid the wreckage.

Officials also carried out safety measures such as spraying water and humidifying the area to prevent further explosions, especially given the presence of black powder storage zones nearby.

Residents living close to the factory were evacuated as a precaution due to ongoing

risks of secondary blasts. Authorities established restricted zones around the site and continued monitoring air and environmental conditions to ensure public safety.

The incident has once again highlighted long-standing safety concerns in China's fireworks manufacturing industry, which is known for handling highly explosive materials. Liuyang, where the blast occurred, is often referred to as

the "fireworks capital" due to its large-scale production and export of pyrotechnic products.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered a full investigation into the cause of the explosion and directed officials to ensure accountability. Local authorities have also reportedly detained individuals linked to the factory's operations while inspections are being intensified across similar facilities in the region.

The exact cause of the explosion remains under investigation; though early reports suggest possible safety lapses may have played a role.

Rescue and recovery operations are still underway, and officials have warned that the death toll could change as more information becomes available. Many of the injured are being treated for severe trauma, including injuries caused by flying debris. The tragedy adds to a series of industrial accidents in China's fireworks sector, raising renewed concerns over enforcement of safety regulations and hazardous material handling in manufacturing units.



India Condemns Attack on UAE's Fujairah

India has strongly condemned the recent attack in the Fujairah region of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that left three Indian nationals injured amid escalating tensions linked to the ongoing Iran-UAE conflict. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) termed the incident "unacceptable" and urged an immediate halt to hostilities in the region.

The incident occurred at a key energy facility in Fujairah, where a drone or missile strike—reportedly linked to the broader Iran-UAE conflict—sparked a fire and caused damage in the industrial zone. The attack resulted in injuries to three Indian workers present at the site.

Fujairah is a strategically important oil and shipping hub for the UAE, making it a frequent point of concern during regional tensions. The latest strike has further heightened fears over civilian safety and global energy infrastructure security.

Reacting to the incident, India's Ministry of External Affairs said the attack on civilian infrastructure and harm to innocent lives is unacceptable. The government also stressed the need for restraint and diplomatic engagement to prevent further escalation in the region. The MEA emphasized that India continues to support dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts, especially in light of growing instability in the Middle East. Officials reiterated that the

safety of Indian citizens abroad remains a top priority.

The Fujairah attack comes amid intensified military exchanges involving Iran and regional actors, with drone and missile strikes reported across Gulf waters and strategic installations. The UAE has accused Iran of carrying out multiple attacks on its territory, further deepening tensions in the region.

Several recent incidents have targeted energy infrastructure, raising concerns about disruption to global oil supply routes passing through the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding areas.

The injuries to Indian nationals have highlighted the risks faced by migrant workers in conflict-prone regions. Thousands of Indians are employed in the UAE's construction, industrial, and energy sectors, making their safety a key concern for New Delhi.

India's response aligns with broader international calls for de-escalation, as countries warn that continued hostilities could have serious humanitarian and economic consequences.

The attack in Fujairah has added another layer of tension to the already volatile Middle East situation. With Indian citizens among the injured, New Delhi has taken a firm diplomatic stance, urging restraint, protection of civilians, and an immediate end to attacks on critical infrastructure.

Ukraine Strikes Russia's Primorsk Oil Hub and Shadow Fleet in Major Drone Assault

Ukraine has launched a large-scale drone offensive targeting key Russian energy infrastructure, striking the strategic Primorsk oil export terminal in the Baltic Sea along with vessels linked to Russia's so-called "shadow fleet," according to multiple reports.

The coordinated attacks form part of Kyiv's ongoing strategy to disrupt Russia's oil exports, which are considered a critical source of funding for its war effort.

The main strike focused on the Primorsk port, one of Russia's largest oil export terminals operated by the state-owned Transneft. The facility handles massive volumes of crude oil shipments and is located in the Leninograd region near the Baltic Sea.

Russian regional authorities confirmed that Ukrainian drones triggered a fire at the terminal after hitting fuel storage infrastructure. Emergency services were deployed to contain the blaze, which was later brought under control. Officials also stated that no major oil spill was detected following the attack.

The port is considered a critical export gateway, capable of handling close to a million barrels of oil per day, making it a high-value strategic target.

Alongside the Primorsk attack, Ukraine also claimed responsibility for hitting multiple oil tankers described as part of Russia's "shadow fleet," a network of ships allegedly used to bypass Western sanctions and continue crude exports. Reports indicate that at least two tankers were struck near the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, with Ukrainian officials stating that these vessels were actively transporting oil before be-

ing targeted.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the strikes aimed to reduce Russia's ability to fund its military operations by targeting both infrastructure and transport routes linked to oil exports.

The attacks on Primorsk and the tanker fleet are part of a broader escalation in Ukraine's drone campaign deep inside Russian territory. In recent months, Ukrainian forces have repeatedly targeted oil refineries, storage depots, and export terminals across Russia.

The strikes have caused fires, temporary shutdowns, and logistical disruptions at several energy facilities, though Russian authorities have often claimed that damage has been contained and environmental risks minimized.

The latest offensive comes amid intensified cross-border drone warfare between the two countries. Russia has also launched repeated drone and missile strikes on Ukrainian cities and infrastructure, leading to civilian casualties on both sides and widespread destruction.

While Ukraine frames its attacks as "economic pressure operations" aimed at weakening Russia's war capacity, Moscow has condemned them as acts of sabotage targeting civilian infrastructure.

The strike on Primorsk and the shadow fleet highlights Ukraine's expanding long-range drone capabilities and its focus on Russia's energy sector. As both sides escalate attacks on critical infrastructure, the conflict continues to intensify beyond the frontline battlefield, directly affecting industrial and economic targets deep inside Russian territory.



US Flying Gas Station Declares Emergency Mid-Air, Goes Missing Briefly Over Qatar

A U.S. military aircraft known as a flying gas station-triggered alarm after it reportedly went missing briefly while flying over or near Qatar, following an in-flight emergency signal, according to flight tracking data and reports. The aircraft involved was identified as a Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, a long-range aerial refuelling tanker used by the U.S. Air Force to supply fuel to fighter jets and other military aircraft during missions. The plane reportedly issued a "7700" emergency transponder code, which signals a general in-flight emergency, prompting immediate concern among aviation trackers and monitoring systems.

According to flight data, the KC-135 had taken off from Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates and was operating over the broader Persian Gulf region. During its flight, it reportedly entered a circular holding pattern before initiating a descent, raising further questions about its status. At one point, tracking signals appeared to weaken or disappear temporarily over the Qatar region, leading to speculation online that the aircraft had gone "missing." However, aviation monitoring systems later indicated continued movement, suggesting a possible communication or tracking interruption rather than a crash or disappearance.

Authorities and official sources have not confirmed



any hostile involvement in the incident. There is also no indication that the emergency was caused by an attack or external interference.

Reports suggest that the situation was treated as a standard aviation emergency, which can include technical malfunctions, pressurisation issues, fuel concerns, or onboard system failures. The KC-135 Stratotanker is a key support aircraft for the U.S. military. Often called a "flying gas station," it enables fighter jets, bombers, and surveillance aircraft to remain airborne for extended periods by refuelling them mid-air.

The aircraft has been in service for decades and plays a critical role in U.S. and allied military operations, particularly in regions like the Middle East where long-range air missions are common.

The incident comes at a time of heightened military ten-

sion in the Middle East, with multiple countries on alert due to ongoing conflicts and recent drone and missile activity in the region. Such conditions often lead to increased monitoring of military and civilian air traffic. While the KC-135 emergency appears to have been resolved without confirmed damage or loss, the brief loss of tracking signals sparked widespread attention due to the sensitive airspace over which it was operating. As of now, there is no official statement indicating damage to the aircraft or injuries to crew members. The cause of the emergency signal remains unclear, and investigations into the flight event may follow standard military aviation procedures. The aircraft's eventual status suggests it likely recovered or continued to a safe landing after the emergency alert, but official confirmation is still awaited.

Global Spotlight on BJP's Bengal Breakthrough

International media US to Pakistan calls Modi-led victory a historic shift

International media outlets closely tracked the recent election results in India, especially the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) historic win in West Bengal under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. According to reports, foreign publications from the US, UK, and neighbouring countries widely focused on the scale and political significance of the outcome. Most international coverage highlighted the BJP's first-ever major victory in West Bengal, ending a long-standing dominance of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). The result was widely described as one of the most important political shifts in India's recent electoral history, with analysts noting its potential impact on the country's wider political landscape. Reports from global media outlets, including British publications, framed the win as a "breakthrough" for the BJP, calling it a milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political journey. Several articles suggested that the outcome could further weaken



India's already fragmented opposition alliance. The NDTV report also noted that international coverage extended beyond India's borders, with media in cities such as London, New York, Islamabad, and Dhaka analysing the implications of the results. Much of the attention centered on how the BJP's expansion into a politi-

cally challenging state like West Bengal could reshape regional political dynamics in South Asia. Some reports also highlighted reactions from neighbouring countries, including Pakistan, where media commentary focused on India's internal political shifts and their possible foreign policy implications. Alongside the

BJP's performance, international media also paid attention to other electoral outcomes, including the rise of new regional political forces such as actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay in Tamil Nadu. His party's strong showing was seen as another example of changing voter preferences and the growing influence of

non-traditional political leaders in Indian politics.

Political observers quoted in international reports suggested that the West Bengal result could strengthen Prime Minister Modi's national position ahead of future elections. Some analyses described the BJP's performance as part of a broader "saffron surge," indicating expanding influence across eastern and southern India. At the same time, commentators noted that while the victory is significant, India's political diversity ensures continued regional variation, with strong opposition pockets still remaining in several states. International media coverage of the BJP's West Bengal victory has largely focused on its scale, symbolic importance, and potential long-term implications. From Western capitals to South Asian neighbours, the election result has been interpreted as a major political development that could influence both India's domestic politics and its regional standing in the coming years.

Sensex, Nifty Slide Amid Global Tensions and Weak Rupee

Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp decline on May 5, 2026, as global uncertainties and macroeconomic pressures weighed heavily on investor sentiment. Both benchmark indices—Sensex and Nifty—traded in the red throughout the day, reflecting widespread caution in the markets.

The BSE Sensex fell around 500-750 points intraday, while the Nifty50 slipped below the 24,000 mark, indicating a clear bearish trend. At mid-session, the Sensex was hovering near 76,800 levels, while Nifty traded around 23,950-24,000.

One of the biggest reasons behind the fall was the escalation in US-Iran tensions, which pushed global crude oil prices above \$110 per barrel. As India is heavily dependent on oil imports, rising crude prices triggered fears of higher inflation and economic pressure, leading to selling across sectors.



Another major concern was the weakening Indian rupee, which hit a record low of around 95.40 against the US dollar. A falling currency often

signals economic stress and discourages foreign investments, further dragging markets down.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) also contributed to the negative sentiment, with continued selling activity in recent sessions. This outflow of foreign capital has kept mar-

kets volatile and uncertain.

Sector-wise, oil & gas stocks, banking, and heavyweight companies like ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, L&T, and ONGC were among the major laggards. The broader market showed mixed trends, with mid-cap and small-cap indices relatively stable compared to frontline indices.

Despite the overall weakness, some pockets of the market showed resilience due to strong quarterly results and stock-specific movements. However, the broader sentiment remained cautious due to geopolitical risks and macroeconomic concerns. In summary, the Indian stock market on May 5 was driven by global geopolitical tensions, rising crude oil prices, a weak rupee, and foreign investor outflows. Unless these pressures ease, markets are likely to remain volatile in the near term.



Crude Oil Surge Poses Big Risks for India's Economy

Rising crude oil prices are emerging as a major concern for India's economy, with experts warning of potential ripple effects on inflation, the rupee, and fiscal stability. A senior economist from UBS has highlighted how the recent oil price shock could create multiple economic challenges if the trend continues.

According to the UBS Chief Economist, higher crude oil prices directly impact India because the country imports a significant portion of its energy needs. When oil prices surge, it increases the import bill, putting pressure on the country's current account deficit and weakening the rupee.

The weakening of the rupee, in turn, makes imports even more expensive, creating a cycle that can further strain the economy. A depreciating currency also affects investor confidence and can lead to volatility in financial markets.

Inflation is another key concern. As crude oil prices rise, fuel costs increase, which then pushes up transportation and production expenses across sectors. This often leads to higher prices for goods and services, affecting both business-

es and consumers. The economist warned that sustained high oil prices could make it difficult for policymakers to keep inflation under control.

There are also implications for government finances. To shield consumers from rising fuel prices, the government may need to cut taxes or increase subsidies, which could widen the fiscal deficit. This would put additional pressure on public finances at a time when economic stability is crucial. The UBS expert noted that while India has managed similar situations in the past, the current global environment—marked by geopolitical tensions and uncertain oil supply—adds complexity to the challenge. Policymakers will need to strike a careful balance between controlling inflation, supporting growth, and maintaining fiscal discipline.

In summary, the crude oil price surge is not just a temporary concern but a significant economic risk for India. Its impact could be felt across multiple fronts, including currency stability, inflation levels, and government finances, making it a key factor to watch in the coming months.



RBI May Hold Back on Heavy Intervention as Rupee Nears 95/USD

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to avoid aggressive intervention in the foreign exchange market even as the rupee approaches the 95 per dollar mark, according to recent reports. Instead, the central bank may opt for more measured and strategic steps to manage currency volatility.

Traditionally, the RBI intervenes in the forex market by selling dollars from its reserves to support the rupee. However, with global pressures intensifying—such as rising crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions—the central bank appears to be taking a cautious approach rather than deploying large-scale interventions.

Experts suggest that defending a specific currency level, like 95 per dollar, can be costly and unsustainable in the long run. Heavy intervention could significantly deplete forex reserves, especially if global factors continue to push the rupee downward. As a result, the RBI is expected to focus on smoothing excessive volatility rather than trying to maintain a fixed exchange rate.

Instead of direct intervention, the RBI may explore alternative tools. These could include tightening liquidity in

the banking system, adjusting interest rates, or using forward market operations to influence currency movements indirectly. Such measures allow the central bank to manage pressure on the rupee without exhausting reserves.

Another key factor influencing the rupee is the surge in crude oil prices. Since India imports a large portion of its oil needs, higher prices increase demand for dollars, putting downward pressure on the rupee. Additionally, foreign investor outflows and global risk aversion have added to the currency's weakness.

Despite the depreciation, policymakers are likely to tolerate a gradual weakening of the rupee as long as it remains orderly. A controlled depreciation can even support exports by making Indian goods more competitive globally.

In summary, the RBI's strategy appears to be shifting from aggressive defence of the rupee to a more balanced approach—intervening only when necessary while using a mix of policy tools to manage volatility. This reflects a broader effort to maintain economic stability in the face of global uncertainties.

Auto Stocks Recover After Early Dip Despite Global Concerns

Auto sector stocks staged a recovery on May 5, 2026, bouncing back after a weak start, even as concerns over global tensions and rising crude oil prices continued to weigh on sentiment.

The sector had opened lower, with several major stocks—including Maruti Suzuki, Bajaj Auto, Eicher Motors, and UNO Minda—falling up to 3% in early trade. The decline was largely driven by profit booking and caution following warnings from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

FADA highlighted that ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East, could impact the auto industry by pushing up crude oil prices.

Higher fuel costs typically reduce consumer demand for vehicles, making investors wary. Additional risks such as heatwaves and supply chain constraints were also flagged as concerns. However, the mood improved later in the session as investors bought stocks at lower levels, helping the sector recover losses. The turnaround was led by Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), which surged after reporting strong fourth-quarter results.

M&M posted a robust 48.5% year-on-year jump in consolidated net profit, reaching 5,259.91 crore for Q4 FY26. Its revenue also saw a significant rise, driven by strong performance in both its automotive and farm segments.

Despite near-term concerns, underlying demand trends in the auto sector remain positive. Data from FADA showed that total automobile retail sales in India rose 12.94% year-on-year in April, reaching a record 26.1 lakh units. Passenger vehicle sales grew over 12%, while two-wheeler sales increased by around 13%, supported by factors such as better affordability, strong rural demand after a good harvest, and favorable financing conditions.

In summary, while global uncertainties and rising oil prices continue to pose risks, the auto sector showed resilience with strong recovery in stock prices—led by M&M's impressive earnings and healthy domestic demand trends.



Mahindra & Mahindra Q4 Profit Jumps 42% to 4,668 Crore

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) delivered a strong performance in the fourth quarter of FY26, reporting a sharp rise in earnings supported by robust demand across its automotive and farm equipment businesses. The company also announced a final dividend for shareholders, adding to positive investor sentiment.

The auto major posted a 42% year-on-year jump in consolidated net profit, which rose to 4,668 crore in Q4 FY26, compared with the same period last year. This growth was backed by higher sales volumes and improved realisations across key segments.

Revenue also saw a healthy increase, rising 29% year-on-year to 54,982 crore, reflecting strong demand in both domestic and international markets.

On the standalone front, the company outperformed expectations with a 53.3% rise in net profit to 3,737 crore, driven largely by strong performance in SUVs and tractors. (Moneyco)The automotive division remained the biggest growth driver, supported by continued strong demand for sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and new model launches. The segment recorded a significant jump in both revenue and profitability.

The farm equipment business also contributed steadily, benefiting from stable rural demand and healthy tractor sales. Meanwhile, the services segment delivered strong

growth, further strengthening overall performance.

Despite revenue expansion, margins showed a slight decline due to input cost pressures and a changing product mix, although profitability remained strong overall.

In addition to earnings growth, the board of Mahindra & Mahindra recommended a final dividend of 33 per share for FY26, subject to shareholder approval. This move signals confidence in the company's cash flow strength and financial stability.

The strong Q4 results highlight M&M's continued focus on volume-led growth, product innovation, and operational efficiency. However, analysts note that while demand remains strong, future margins may face pressure from rising costs and evolving industry dynamics, including the shift toward electric vehicles.

Despite these concerns, the company's overall performance reflects solid momentum across key business segments, particularly in SUVs, tractors, and international operations.

Mahindra & Mahindra's Q4 results underline its strong positioning in India's automobile and farm equipment sectors. With double-digit revenue growth, a sharp rise in profits, and a healthy dividend payout, the company has ended the fiscal year on a strong note, even as it navigates cost and industry transitions ahead.

Emcure Pharma Shares Slip 6% After Q4 Results Amid Profit Booking

Emcure Pharmaceuticals' stock came under pressure in Tuesday's trading session, falling nearly 6% after the company announced its quarterly earnings. The decline was largely attributed to profit booking by investors, despite the company reporting a strong set of financial numbers for the March quarter.

The stock ended the session at around 1,689 on the National Stock Exchange, reflecting a sharp intraday correction as investors chose to lock in recent gains following the results announcement.

For the fourth quarter, Emcure Pharmaceuticals posted a 24% year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit, which stood at approximately 243.74 crore. Revenue also showed healthy growth, rising to about 2,469.7 crore compared to 2,116.25 crore in the same pe-



riod last year.

The company's performance was supported mainly by robust growth in its international markets, while its domestic business also contributed steady gains. Management highlighted improvements in product launches and opera-

tional efficiency as key drivers of performance.

International business continued to be the primary growth engine, registering strong double-digit growth driven by new product introductions and expansion across key global markets. Domestic

sales also increased, although at a comparatively slower pace due to portfolio restructuring in certain divisions.

Overall, the company maintained a healthy growth trajectory in both revenue and profitability, reflecting sustained demand for its pharmaceutical offerings. Despite the positive earnings report, Emcure Pharma shares witnessed selling pressure as investors opted to book profits after a recent rally in the stock. Market participants suggested that the post-results correction was more technical in nature rather than driven by concerns over fundamentals. The stock's valuation levels were also seen as a factor influencing the decline, with some investors considering the recent gains ahead of earnings as overextended.

Along with the results, the company's board recommend-

ed a final dividend of 3.6 per equity share for the financial year, subject to shareholder approval. This added a positive note for long-term investors.

Going forward, Emcure continues to focus on expanding its international footprint and strengthening its research-driven pipeline, particularly in complex formulations and biosimilars. While Emcure Pharma delivered strong financial growth in Q4, short-term market movements were dominated by profit booking. Analysts suggest that such corrections are common after earnings announcements, especially when stocks have already seen strong pre-result momentum.

Overall, the company's fundamentals remain steady, but near-term volatility may persist as the market digests recent gains and valuations adjust.

Indian Mango Mania Sweeps US, Sparks Debate Over Limited Supply

The love for Indian mangoes has reached a fever pitch in the United States, with demand soaring so high that fresh shipments are selling out within minutes. A viral social media post recently captured this frenzy, showing how a batch of mangoes arrived at 4:56 pm and was completely sold out by 5:16 pm, highlighting just how difficult it is for buyers to get their hands on the prized fruit. Often referred to as the “King of Fruits,” Indian mangoes such as Alphonso and Kesar

are especially sought after for their rich taste and aroma. During the summer season, they become a luxury item abroad, with Indian communities and fruit enthusiasts eagerly waiting for limited shipments. The viral post, which gained over 5 lakh views, triggered widespread discussion online, with many users sharing their own struggles and experiences of buying mangoes in the US. Some users expressed frustration over the quality and availability of

the fruit. One commenter noted that even after securing a box, the mangoes were often “bruised and mushy,” while others pointed out that cheaper alternatives like mango pulp sent from India sometimes offer better quality. Another user humorously remarked that even non-premium varieties like Kesar sell out quickly, underlining the intense demand. The craze has also reignited interest in India’s mango production. India produces over 20 million metric tonnes

of mangoes annually—nearly half of the global supply—yet exports only a small fraction of it. This limited export volume has puzzled many online users, sparking debates and even jokes about India keeping most of its beloved fruit for domestic consumption. Adding context to the situation, Indian mangoes were banned in the US for nearly two decades before the restriction was lifted in 2006 following an agreement between then US President George W. Bush and

former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. However, supply remains constrained due to strict import processes and logistical challenges, keeping prices high and availability limited. As a result, Indian mangoes have become a seasonal obsession in the US—rare, expensive, and highly coveted. The viral buzz not only reflects their unmatched popularity but also highlights the ongoing imbalance between global demand and limited international supply.



Chinese Envoy’s Varanasi Visit Goes Viral, Calls India-China Oldest Civilisations

China’s Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, has drawn widespread attention online after sharing a video of the iconic Ganga Aarti in Varanasi, describing the experience as a powerful reminder of the deep cultural ties between India and China. The envoy posted visuals from Dashashwamedh Ghat, one of the most prominent ghats along the Ganga River, where the daily ritual takes place. The video captured priests performing the aarti with lit lamps, accompanied by chants and devotional music, while large crowds of devotees and visitors watched the ceremony unfold. In his post, Xu Feihong reflected on the spiritual atmosphere of the event, noting the presence of “fire, flowers, chanting, and the sacred river.” He said the moment made him feel a strong connection across the Himalayas, referring to India and China as two of the world’s oldest civilizations that continue to thrive and shine today.

The Ganga Aarti is a significant religious ritual held every evening in Varanasi, attracting both locals and tourists from around the world. Known for its elaborate and rhythmic per-



formance, the ceremony symbolizes devotion to the Ganges River, which holds immense spiritual importance in Hindu culture. The ambassador’s post quickly gained traction on social media, with many users appreciating his recognition of India’s cultural heritage and the shared historical depth between the two nations. Several viewers highlighted how such moments help foster cultural

understanding and strengthen people-to-people connections despite political differences. Varanasi itself is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with a history stretching back thousands of years. The ghats along the Ganga, especially Dashashwamedh Ghat, remain central to the city’s identity as a spiritual and cultural hub. The viral video not only

showcased the beauty and significance of the Ganga Aarti but also served as a reminder of the enduring cultural links between India and China. By highlighting shared civilizational roots, the ambassador’s message resonated with many, offering a glimpse into how cultural experiences can bridge nations and create mutual appreciation beyond borders.

Foreign Couple’s Viral Video Challenges Stereotypes, Showcases Modern India

A foreign couple has gone viral on social media after sharing a refreshing perspective on India, challenging widely circulated stereotypes and highlighting a calmer, more modern side of the country. Their video, posted on Instagram, has sparked conversations about how India is often misrepresented online and how real experiences can differ significantly from viral portrayals.

In their post, the couple pointed out that much of the content about India that gains traction online tends to focus on chaos, overcrowding, and unhygienic conditions. According to them, this narrow representation shapes how many foreigners perceive the country, often overlooking its diversity and development. They emphasised that while such issues do exist in certain areas, they do not define the entire nation.

The couple, Chris and Carol, are visiting India for the second time. Unlike their previous trip, this time they chose to explore more relaxed and less crowded regions. Their journey began in Hyderabad, a city they described as modern and surprisingly different from common expectations. They highlighted the presence of major IT hubs and well-developed infrastructure, noting that their experience contradicted the negative image often portrayed online.

Through their video, they aimed to show that India offers a wide range of experiences—from bustling urban centres to peaceful and scenic locations. Their travel plans also include heading towards the Himalayas, further exploring the country’s quieter and more serene side.

The video quickly gained attention, with many social media users appreciating the couple’s balanced and positive outlook. Several commenters expressed pride in seeing a different side of India being recognised, while others shared their own travel plans and excitement about visiting cities like Hyderabad.

This viral moment highlights a broader issue of how countries are often reduced to stereotypes through selective online content. The couple’s message serves as a reminder that India is vast and multifaceted, offering experiences that go far beyond the commonly circulated narratives.

By shedding light on the country’s modern infrastructure, cultural diversity, and peaceful destinations, the couple has contributed to a more nuanced global perception of India—one that encourages travellers to look beyond stereotypes and discover the reality for themselves.

10,000 Sent by Mistake, Uber Driver’s Honesty Wins Hearts Online

In a time when digital payment mistakes often lead to frustration and loss, a heartwarming story from Odisha has gone viral, restoring faith in human honesty. A Bhubaneswar-based software engineer accidentally transferred 10,000 to an Uber driver—but what followed surprised everyone.

The incident was shared by Debashis Tripathy on social media platform X (formerly Twitter). He explained that after taking an Uber ride, he mistakenly sent 10,000 via Google Pay to the driver instead of a business contact who had the same name. Realising the error, he tried reaching the driver through the app but failed, assuming the money was gone for good.

However, later that night, an unexpected turn of events changed everything. Around 9:30 pm, Tripathy received a call from his apartment security informing him that someone had come looking for him. To his surprise, it was the Uber driver, who had personally driven back to return the entire amount.

The driver, identified as Srikantha, not only returned every rupee but also refused to accept any reward for his honest-



ty. Tripathy expressed deep gratitude and admiration, noting that such integrity is rare to find today, especially between strangers.

The story quickly gained traction online, with the post receiving over 1.6 lakh views and sparking widespread discussion. Many users praised the driver’s actions, calling it a refreshing example of kindness and moral values in an era often dominated by stories of online fraud and scams.

At the same time, the comments section reflected mixed experiences. While some users shared similar positive encounters, others recounted less fortunate incidents where mistakenly transferred money was not returned. One user men-

tioned losing 2,000 in a similar situation, highlighting that such honest acts, though appreciated, are not always guaranteed.

Despite these contrasting experiences, the viral story stood out as a rare and uplifting moment. It not only highlighted the importance of honesty but also reminded people that goodwill still exists in everyday interactions.

In a digital age where transactions happen instantly and mistakes can be costly, this incident serves as a powerful example of integrity. The Uber driver’s thoughtful gesture has resonated with thousands online, proving that even small acts of honesty can leave a lasting impact.

A routine school sports day in China turned chaotic after a humanoid robot lost control mid-performance, leaving onlookers shocked and raising fresh questions about the safety of such machines in public spaces.

The incident took place in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, where the robot was part of an entertainment segment designed to engage students. Initially, the humanoid robot appeared to perform smoothly, showcasing a mix of dance moves and martial arts-style kicks on the sports field. The performance drew attention and excitement from the crowd gathered at the event.

However, things quickly took a dramatic turn when students joined the robot on the field for a synchronized routine. Moments later, the robot malfunctioned, tripped, and began behaving erratically. According to reports, it started swinging its arms uncontrollably, almost striking nearby participants and causing panic among those present.

A viral video circulating online captured the tense moment, showing the robot appearing to “go rogue” as it flailed unpredictably. The situation could have escalated further, but staff members quickly intervened and managed to shut down the machine before anyone was seriously hurt.

The robot involved is believed to be a Unitree humanoid model, part of a new generation of machines increasingly used in public



demonstrations, performances, and events. While such robots are designed to mimic human movements and entertain audiences, the incident highlights the limitations of current technology, especially in dynamic, real-world environments.

The episode has sparked widespread discussion online, with many users expressing concern over the risks of deploying humanoid robots in

close proximity to people, particularly children. Experts have repeatedly emphasised the need for stricter safety protocols, better control systems, and reliable emergency shutdown mechanisms when robots are used in public settings.

This is not an isolated case. Similar incidents involving humanoid robots behaving unexpectedly during live demonstrations have been reported in

recent months, reflecting both the rapid progress and the challenges of robotics development.

While humanoid robots continue to evolve and impress with their capabilities, the viral sports day mishap serves as a reminder that the technology is still far from perfect. As their presence grows in everyday life, ensuring safety and reliability will remain a critical priority.

Samson Powers Chennai to Dominant Win

In a commanding display of batting brilliance, Sanju Samson led Chennai Super Kings to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals in their Indian Premier League 2026 clash at Arun Jaitley Stadium. Chasing a modest target of 156, Chennai reached 157/2 in just 17.3 overs, thanks largely to Samson's explosive unbeaten 87 off 52 balls. His innings, studded with seven fours and six towering sixes, completely shifted the momentum after an early wobble in the chase. Earlier, Delhi Capitals

opted to bat first after winning the toss but struggled to build partnerships against Chennai's disciplined bowling attack. The top order failed to fire, putting the team under pressure early on. However, late resistance from Sameer Rizvi, who remained unbeaten on 40, and Tristan Stubbs, who scored a quick 38, helped Delhi post 155/7 in their allotted 20 overs. Chennai bowlers maintained tight lines throughout the innings, with Noor Ahmad emerging as the standout performer, picking up two crucial wickets and restricting the scoring

flow in the middle overs. In response, Chennai's chase began on a shaky note. Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad was dismissed cheaply for 6, while Urvil Patel managed only 17 before departing. At 30/2, the game seemed evenly poised. That's when Samson took charge. Walking in under pressure, he played with authority and composure, finding boundaries with ease and rotating strike effectively. He found a reliable partner in Karthik Sharma, who remained unbeaten on 41 off 31 deliveries. The duo stitched together a match-winning

unbroken partnership of 114 runs for the third wicket, dismantling the Delhi bowling attack with calculated aggression. Samson's innings stood out not just for its power but also for its timing and control, as he dictated the pace of the chase effortlessly. His performance ensured Chennai cruised to victory with 15 balls to spare, reinforcing their strong run in the tournament. With this win, Chennai Super Kings added another impressive result to their campaign, showcasing both bowling discipline and batting firepower.



ViratKohli Leads Emotional RCB Farewell for Long-Time Physio Evan Speechly

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) witnessed an emotional moment off the field as the franchise bid farewell to its long-serving head physiotherapist, Evan Speechly, who stepped down after an incredible 18-year association with the team. Speechly, who was part of RCB since the inaugural IPL season in 2008, played a crucial behind-the-scenes role in the team's journey across generations of players. To honour his contribution, the franchise organised a special farewell event in Bengaluru, bringing together players and support staff to celebrate his legacy. Leading the tribute was ViratKohli, who shared a heartfelt message reflecting on their long-standing bond. Kohli acknowledged that he had spent more time with Speechly than almost anyone else in the RCB setup. He praised not just his professionalism, but also his kindness, care, and integrity—qualities he said would always stay with him. In an emotional note, Kohli told Speechly that he would "always be a part of this family," emphasising the deep personal



connections built within the team over the years. His words captured the sentiment of the entire squad, highlighting how Speechly's impact went far beyond his official role. RCB's Director of Cricket, Mo Bobat, also paid tribute, describing Speechly as a key figure in the franchise's history. He noted that the farewell was not just about marking the end of a tenure, but about celebrating the immense contribution Speechly made to the team's culture and success. Speechly himself expressed deep gratitude for the gesture, saying that returning to the RCB environment felt like "coming home." He highlighted the strong relationships he built over the years and said he would always feel connected to the franchise, calling his 18-

year journey a privilege. Having worked closely with players across different eras, Speechly became one of the most respected and trusted figures within the RCB camp. His long tenure reflects the stability and continuity he brought to the team, often playing a vital role in player fitness and recovery. The farewell served as a reminder that while players often take the spotlight, it is the contributions of support staff like Speechly that help shape a team's identity and success over time. As RCB continues its IPL 2026 campaign, the emotional send-off stands as a tribute to one of its most dedicated members—someone whose legacy will remain an integral part of the franchise's history.

Hardik Pandya Missed MI vs LSG Clash Due to Health Issue

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya's absence from the IPL 2026 match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) raised plenty of questions, but the team has now clarified the real reason behind it. According to Mumbai Indians, Pandya missed the match because he was unwell. Stand-in captain Suryakumar Yadav revealed at the toss that Pandya was "not well" on the day of the game. However, further details from within the team provided more clarity. MI opener Ryan Rickelton later disclosed that the all-rounder was actually dealing with back spasms, which forced him to sit out of the crucial encounter. The franchise also indicated uncertainty about his recovery timeline. Rickelton admitted that the team was unsure about the severity of the issue or when Pandya would return to action, suggesting that the management is taking a cautious approach. In Pandya's absence, Suryakumar Yadav stepped in



as captain for the match, while Rohit Sharma returned to the playing XI, marking a significant reshuffle in the lineup. Pandya's absence was particularly notable given his role as both captain and a key all-rounder for Mumbai Indians. His presence usually provides

balance to the side with both bat and ball, and missing such a player can impact team strategy. This wasn't the first time in the season that Pandya missed a game, adding to concerns about his fitness during an already challenging campaign for MI.

In summary, Hardik Pandya's absence was purely due to a fitness issue—specifically back spasms—and not due to form, rest, or tactical decisions. The team will now be hoping for his quick recovery as they continue their IPL 2026 campaign.

Punjab Kings' Batting Concerns Grow Ahead of Crucial Clash vs SRH



“I Was Never Rated a T20 Player”, KL Rahul Opens Up on Criticism and Comeback

KL Rahul has candidly spoken about the doubts and setbacks he faced in his T20 career, admitting that he was "never rated as a T20 player" despite his consistent performances across formats. His remarks come during a stellar IPL 2026 season, where he has emerged as one of the top performers. Rahul revealed that throughout his career, especially in T20 cricket, he often felt overlooked or judged harshly. A major reason behind this perception was criticism of his strike rate, which led to him losing his place in India's T20I squad after 2022. Reflecting on those challenges, Rahul acknowledged that such setbacks were difficult but also motivating. Instead of letting criticism affect him negatively, he used it as fuel to improve his game. Over time, he worked on increasing his scoring rate and adapting to the evolving demands of modern T20 cricket. That transformation is now clearly visible in IPL 2026. Rahul has been in outstanding form for Delhi Capitals, scoring heavily with both consistency and aggression. His improved strike rate, well above 180 this season, has silenced many critics who previously

questioned his suitability for the shortest format. Rahul also spoke about how the T20 game itself has changed, with younger players bringing fearless and attacking styles of play. He admitted that adapting to this shift was necessary and helped him redefine his own approach. Rather than sticking to a traditional anchor role, he has embraced a more aggressive mindset. Importantly, Rahul highlighted the mental aspect of dealing with rejection. Being dropped from the T20I side and facing constant scrutiny could have dented his confidence, but he chose to stay focused on his strengths and continue evolving. His performances this season back up that resilience. Rahul is among the leading run-scorers in IPL 2026, playing a key role in Delhi Capitals' campaign and proving that he can thrive in high-pressure T20 situations. The statement "I was never rated a T20 player" now stands as a reflection of his journey—from being doubted to becoming one of the most dominant batters in the league. Rahul's story is not just about runs and records, but about perseverance, adaptation, and proving critics wrong.

Punjab Kings (PBKS) are facing mounting concerns over their batting performance as they prepare for an important IPL 2026 encounter against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). Despite having a strong squad on paper, inconsistency with the bat has emerged as a major issue in recent matches. The team's batting unit has struggled to deliver collectively, with over-reliance on a few key players hurting their overall performance. While PBKS have shown flashes of brilliance this season, they have often failed to build partnerships or maintain momentum during crucial phases of the innings. This lack of consistency has put added pressure on the middle and lower order.



Another concern has been the inability of top-order batters to convert starts into big scores. In T20 cricket, where

quick acceleration is vital, PBKS batters have sometimes lost rhythm at key moments, leading to below-par totals or

missed opportunities to dominate games. The issue becomes even more significant given the current IPL trend of high-scoring matches. Teams like SRH have demonstrated their batting strength with powerful run chases and aggressive stroke play, making it essential for PBKS to match that intensity. Adding to PBKS' worries is the pressure of maintaining their position in the tournament. While they have had a decent campaign overall, recent performances suggest that their batting lineup needs to step up to stay competitive in the playoff race. On the other hand, SRH enter the contest with confidence, especially after showcasing

their ability to chase big targets. Their in-form batters and aggressive approach could pose a serious challenge to PBKS if the latter fail to address their batting issues. For Punjab Kings, the upcoming match is more than just another fixture, it is an opportunity to regain momentum and restore confidence in their batting unit. A strong collective effort from the top and middle order will be crucial if they hope to overcome SRH's challenge. As the tournament progresses, PBKS will need to quickly resolve these batting woes. Otherwise, their campaign risks slipping despite having the talent and potential to compete with the best teams in IPL 2026.

RR Takeover Row, Rejected Bidder Alleges Foul Play in 15,600 Crore Deal



A major controversy has erupted around the takeover of IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals (RR), after a rejected bidder publicly questioned the integrity of the process and alleged foul play in the high-value deal. The franchise was recently acquired by a consortium led by steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal and businessman Adar Poonawalla in a deal worth approximately 15,600 crore (\$1.65 billion). The acquisition replaced an earlier bid from a group led by US-based entrepreneur Kal-Somani, which had initially been considered a frontrunner. However, the Somani-led consortium has now expressed "deep disappointment" after being excluded from the final deal. The group claimed that its bid was rejected citing "funding issues," a reason they appear to dispute. They alleged that the process lacked trans-

parency and did not offer a level playing field to all bidders. In a strongly worded statement, the rejected bidders raised concerns over fairness, suggesting that the outcome of the takeover did not reflect a

transparent or equitable evaluation. Their remarks have intensified scrutiny around one of the biggest franchise deals in IPL history. The controversy comes amid reports that the Somani group

is even considering legal action. Sources indicate that the consortium may approach authorities, including the BCCI, to challenge the sale and seek clarity on how the decision was made.

Interestingly, earlier developments revealed that negotiations with the Somani group had broken down due to disagreements over ownership structure, particularly regarding whether existing stakeholders would retain a share in the franchise. With the Mittal-Poonawalla consortium now moving forward, the deal still awaits regulatory approvals. But the public dispute has cast a shadow over the process, raising broader questions about governance and transparency in high-stakes sports investments. As the situation unfolds, this controversy could potentially lead to legal battles and closer scrutiny of IPL franchise ownership deals. For now, what was expected to be a landmark business transaction has turned into one of the most talked-about off-field disputes in IPL 2026.

RIISING STAR



ANKITA BRAHMA



Prabhas’ Spirit May Shift to December Release Amid Scheduling Delays

Prabhas’ much-anticipated film Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, is likely to see a change in its release plans. Initially expected to hit theatres in March 2027, the film may now be postponed due to scheduling challenges and production delays.

The primary reason behind this possible shift is Prabhas’ busy lineup. The actor is currently involved in multiple high-budget projects, which has made it difficult to allocate continuous dates for Spirit. With significant portions of his ongoing films still pending, the team is finding it challenging to proceed as originally planned.

As a result, the makers are now considering a December release window instead of rushing the film for an early 2027 debut. This move is not only practical but also strategic. December has proven to be a highly successful period for both Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga in the past.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s Animal, released in December 2023, turned out to be a massive box-office success. Similarly, Prabhas’ Salaar: Part 1 also released during the same period and performed exceptionally well. These successes have created a strong sentiment around December releases, encouraging the team to aim for the year-end slot.

Apart from the “sentiment factor,” December is considered a lucrative time for film releases due to holiday seasons and increased audience turnout. A festive window often allows big-budget films to enjoy longer theatrical runs and better box-office collections.

Spirit marks the first collaboration between Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga, which has already generated immense buzz. The film is expected to be an intense action drama, with Prabhas reportedly playing a powerful police officer in a gritty and emotionally driven storyline.

Although there is no official confirmation yet, the possibility of a December release has already excited fans. If finalised, Spirit could emerge as one of the biggest year-end releases, capitalising on both star power and favourable timing.

For now, audiences will have to wait for an official announcement, but expectations for Spirit remain extremely high.

Samantha’s Maa Inti Bangaram Likely Postponed



Samantha Ruth Prabhu’s upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaram appears to be heading for a release delay, with fresh reports suggesting a new timeline for its theatrical debut. The film, directed by Nandini Reddy, was initially scheduled to hit screens on May 15, 2026, but the makers are now reconsidering that plan.

According to the latest updates, the release is likely to be pushed to mid-June 2026. This change comes after multiple factors disrupted the film’s earlier schedule. One of the primary reasons is the ongoing IPL season, which tends to dominate audience attention during May, making it a less favourable window for film releases.

Additionally, the team had briefly considered shifting the film to early June. However, that slot has now been locked by Ram Charan’s Peddi, leaving limited room for another major release. As a result, the makers

are reportedly opting for a safer mid-June window, giving the film a better chance at box office visibility.

Another concern surrounding the film is the relatively low promotional activity so far. Despite Samantha’s strong fan base and the film’s intriguing premise, there hasn’t been a significant marketing push yet, which may have influenced the decision to delay the release. Industry observers believe that additional time could help the team build better buzz and reach a wider audience before the film arrives in theatres.

Maa Inti Bangaram is a female-centric project produced by Samantha herself under her banner. The film features a notable supporting cast including GulshanDevaiah, DiganthManchale, Gautami, Sreemukhi, and Sathyaraj, with music composed by Santhosh Narayanan.

While an official confirmation is still awaited, the likely postponement indicates a strategic move by the makers to avoid competition and ensure better audience reach. Fans, who have been eagerly waiting to see Samantha in a powerful new role, may have to wait a little longer—but expectations remain high for this much-anticipated release.



Huma Qureshi to Marry Rachit Singh in October, Wedding Buzz Grows

Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi is reportedly set to tie the knot with her long-time partner, acting coach Rachit Singh, later this year. According to recent reports, the couple is planning a wedding around late October or early November 2026, and preparations are already underway.

The relationship between Huma and Rachit has largely remained private, though they have been spotted together on several occasions. Speculation about their romance began a few years ago, followed by reports of a quiet engagement ceremony held in the United States. While neither of them has officially confirmed these developments, sources suggest that their bond has been growing stronger over time. Reports indicate that the couple is planning an intimate wedding ceremony, likely attended by close family members and friends. This will reportedly be followed by a grand reception, possibly in Mumbai, for industry colleagues and well-wishers.

The wedding buzz has taken over social media, with fans expressing excitement and curiosity about the couple’s big day. Many are eager to see Huma step into a new phase of her personal life, especially since she has always maintained a low profile when it comes to relationships. Huma Qureshi, known for her powerful performances in films like Gangs of Wasseypur and Double XL, has built a strong reputation in Bollywood with her unconventional roles and bold choices. Meanwhile, Rachit Singh, an acting coach and emerging actor, has also been gaining attention in industry circles.

Despite the growing buzz, it is important to note that the wedding details are based on reports and insider sources, as the couple has not yet made an official announcement. If the reports turn out to be true, this wedding could become one of the most talked-about celebrity events of the year. With preparations reportedly in progress and dates being discussed, fans are now eagerly waiting for an official confirmation from Huma Qureshi herself.

New Poster of Ram Charan’s Film Builds Massive Buzz

The makers of Ram Charan’s much-awaited film Peddi have unveiled a brand-new poster, officially kickstarting a 30-day countdown to its theatrical release. The update has heightened excitement among fans, as anticipation continues to build around the big-budget sports action drama.

The poster presents Ram Charan in an intense and rugged avatar, hinting at the powerful role he plays in the film. With a fierce expression and strong visual tone, the latest look reinforces the film’s theme of grit, determination, and resilience. The makers accompanied the poster with a countdown announcement, signalling that the film is now just a month away from hitting theatres.

Peddi, directed by BuchiBabu Sana, is one of the most anticipated Telugu films of 2026. The movie stars Ram Charan in the lead role, alongside Janhvi Kapoor, and features a strong supporting cast that includes Shiva Rajkumar, JagapathiBabu, and Divyennadu.

Originally slated for an earlier release, the film faced multiple delays before locking its current release date. It is now scheduled to hit cinemas worldwide on June 4, 2026, positioning itself as a major summer release. The revised date has also set the stage for a potential box office clash with other films releasing around the same time.

The film has already generated significant buzz due to Ram Charan’s transformation for his role, where he reportedly



portrays a wrestler. His physical makeover and intense preparation have been widely discussed, adding to the hype surrounding the project.

Adding to its appeal is the music composed by Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman, which has further elevated expectations. Combined with high production values and a compelling storyline, Peddi is being positioned as a Pan-India entertainer.

As the countdown begins, fans have taken to social media to express their excitement, with the new poster quickly going viral. The film’s promotional campaign is expected to intensify in the coming weeks, with more updates, trailers, and songs likely to be released ahead of its premiere.

With just 30 days to go, Peddi is shaping up to be one of the biggest cinematic events of the year. The latest poster not only fuels anticipation but also sets the tone for what promises to be a high-energy, emotionally driven spectacle on the big screen.

Sai Pallavi’s Bollywood Debut Faces Setback



Sai Pallavi, widely admired for her natural acting style and unconventional choices, has always maintained a unique position in the film industry. Unlike many mainstream stars, she has often prioritized script quality over commercial appeal, which

has earned her both critical acclaim and a loyal fan base.

However, this setback highlights the challenges actors often face when transitioning between film industries. Success in one language or region does not always guarantee the same reception elsewhere, particularly in a competitive market like Bollywood.

Even so, this is unlikely to affect Sai Pallavi’s long-term career. With several promising projects lined up, including big-ticket films, she continues to remain one of the most respected and sought-after actresses in Indian cinema.

While her Bollywood debut may not have lived up to expectations, fans remain hopeful that she will bounce back with stronger projects in Hindi cinema.



SP Inaugurates Summer Sports Coaching Camp

Ongole, May 5| TPN Bureau
The Prakasam District Superintendent of Police on Tuesday inaugurated the “Children’s Summer Sports and Games Coaching Camp–2026” organised by the district police at the Police Parade Grounds in Ongole. The SP formally launched the programme by releasing balloons and marking the commencement of various sporting activities including athletics, football, cricket and tug-of-war.

Ganja Smuggling Bid Foiled at Ponnavaaram Crossroad

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau
Police foiled an attempt to smuggle ganja at Ponnavaaram crossroad in Veurulapadu mandal. Acting on a tip-off, SI Abhimanyu and his team conducted a surprise check. A young man traveling in an autorickshaw from Kanchikacherla

LOCs Distributed to Patients at Sujana Chowdary’s Office

Vijayawada, May 5|TPN Bureau
MLA Sujana Chowdary distributed Letters of Credit (LOCs) to beneficiaries from the West Constituency for medical treatment, under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund. Financial assistance included Rs. 2.24 lakh to Vemupati Vijayalakshmi for spinal surgery,



TVK Victory Sparks Celebrations in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam, May 5|TPN Bureau
Jubilant scenes unfolded in Jagadamba Junction as YSRCP cadres celebrated the Tamil Nadu poll victory of Vijay. Led by former MLA Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar, supporters burst crackers and hailed the result.

Younger Brother Slain by Elder Brother

Donakonda, May 5| TPN Bureau
A tragic incident occurred in the SC Colony of RudraSamudram village under Donakonda Mandal, Prakasam district, where a family dispute turned deadly. An argument between elder brother KandulaPedakasayya and younger brother KandulaChinnaKasayya escalated while both were under the influence of alcohol. In a fit



Commissioner Calls for Speedy LRS Processing

Kurnool, May5| TPN Bureau

Municipal Corporation Commissioner ChallaObulesu has directed the Urban Planning wing to expedite the processing of applications submitted under the Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS), in line with State Government instructions. He held a review meeting on Tuesday with Urban Planning officials, Planning Secretaries and Licensed Technical Personnel (LTPs) at the Municipal Corporation meeting hall in SBI Employees Colony. Stating that the application window for LRS has been closed, he emphasized that all pending applications must be cleared without backlog. He instructed that 580 applications identified with shortfalls be placed in the respective LTP login portals and communicated to both applicants and LTPs.



He also ordered that fee payment details be conveyed to 478 applicants. The Commissioner further directed preparation of In-Principle Layout Patterns (IPLP) for all layouts covered under the scheme. He urged applicants to coordinate with their respective LTPs to complete regularisation swiftly. Officials including In-charge City Planner Y. Venkataramana and Town Planning Officer AmjadBasha participated.

Illegal Excavation at Chakirevu Tank Raises Concern

Ongole,May 5| TPN Bureau

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) has demanded an immediate halt to the alleged illegal excavation of soil at ChakirevuKunta in Koppolu, under the 10th Division of Ongole city. Party leaders claimed that real estate developers have been removing soil from the tank for nearly 20 days and transporting it for land-filling purposes.

A CPM delegation led by city secretary ChikatiSrinivasa Rao, along with local leaders, inspected the site on Tuesday and criticised officials for failing to act despite the large-scale activity. Mr. Srinivasa Rao alleged that excavation is being carried out without mandatory permissions from the Mining Department and in violation of environmental norms.



He expressed concern that digging up to a depth of 20 feet could adversely impact groundwater quality, potentially leading to salinity and hardship for residents. The use of heavy machinery and the movement of nearly 100 tractors for soil transport were also flagged as violations under the WALTA Act.

The party alleged that the excavation primarily benefits private individuals rather than public development. It called for an immediate inquiry, strict action against those responsible, and measures to protect the tank, while urging the government to prioritise environmental conservation and welfare of the poor.

KMC Targets Clearance of 3.4 Lakh Tonnes of Legacy Waste in 60 Days

Kurnool, May 5| TPN Bureau

The Kurnool Municipal Corporation has launched an intensive drive to clear long-pending waste dumps across the city, with a target of processing nearly 3.40 lakh tonnes within 60 days. Municipal Commissioner ChallaObulesu said on Tuesday.

Inspecting bio-mining works at the Joharapuram and Gargheyapurumdumpyards, Mr. Obulesu directed contractors to expedite operations and complete the clearance before the onset of the monsoon. He set a deadline of the end of this month for processing 40,000

tonnes of waste at Joharapuram, and the end of next month for nearly 3 lakh tonnes at Gargheyapuram.

The Commissioner also instructed officials to initiate steps for establishing a Waste-to-Energy plant and a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to ensure sustainable waste management in the future. He emphasized optimal utilization of the existing Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Management Plant at Joharapuram.

Addressing public health concerns, Mr. Obulesu ordered the resumption of sterilization surgeries for stray dogs at Gar-

gheyapuram, directing that at least 32 dogs be covered daily at the newly set-up facility. He stressed that sanitation standards should not be compromised and called for increased plantation efforts to improve urban greenery.

Earlier, the Commissioner conducted inspections at ITC Junction in the 11th Sanitation Division and reviewed sanitation works in the 12th and 13th divisions. He also visited the Anna Canteen near the SET-KUR office. Public Health Officer Dr. M. Raghu and other officials were present.

Swayam brand to boost SHG products, says Minister

Thulluru, May 5|TPN Bureau

A review meeting on the implementation of MEPMA programmes was held at the AP-CRDA building here on Tuesday, with a focus on strengthening livelihoods of Self-Help Group (SHG) women and enhancing their income through the newly launched ‘Swayam’ brand.

The initiative, launched by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on the occasion of International Women’s Day, aims to standardise, package, and brand products made by SHG women across the State, while facilitating their marketing through both online and offline platforms.

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Ponguru Narayana chaired the meeting, which was attended by MEPMA Mission Director VakatiKaruna and other officials. The review covered key programmes such as Mobile Book Keeping, ‘Mana



Dabbulu Mana Lekkalu’, EMCP, and the Annual Livelihood Action Plan.

Karuna made a detailed presentation on the development and marketing strategy for ‘Swayam’ products, including standardisation, packaging, and branding aspects. Around 10 to 15 SHG products were showcased with models designed to reflect a unified Andhra Pradesh brand identity.

Officials also outlined plans to promote the products

through e-commerce platforms and retail outlets to ensure wider visibility and better returns for SHG members. The Minister appreciated the efforts and expressed confidence that the initiative would create sustainable livelihood opportunities for urban women.

He said steps were being taken to extend the facilities to all SHGs in a phased manner and added that the ‘Swayam’ brand had the potential to gain national and international recognition.



In-charge Collector Reviews Drone City Works

Kurnool, May 5 | TPN Bureau

In-charge Collector Nurul Qamar on Tuesday inspected ongoing works for the proposed Drone City at Chintalapalli village in Orvakalmandal and reviewed progress of land acquisition and key infrastructure such as road connectivity, electricity and drinking water facilities. He directed officials to expedite all works related to drone manufacturing, testing and research facilities and stressed inter-departmental coordination to avoid delays or land disputes. He instructed continuous monitoring to ensure adherence to project timelines and to develop Drone City

as a major technology hub in the region. Earlier, he also reviewed revenue administration works following a video conference held by the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) and directed Tahsildars to speed up removal of pending lands from the 22A list in a transparent and time-bound manner. He emphasized completion of E-KYC ground-truthing under the fifth phase re-survey, timely issuance of draft Pattadar Passbooks and 100 per cent distribution in the May cycle. He further asked officials to improve grievance redressal under PGRS system across the district level effectively and efficiently.

APDISCOM Introduces Monthly VC to Address Industrial Power Issues

Tirupati, May 5| TPN Bureau

Chairman and Managing Director Shiva Shankar Loteti announced that a video conference will be held today from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM to address issues of industrial power consumers across Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Sri Sathya Sai

districts. The monthly interaction will now be conducted on the first Wednesday to resolve concerns including power interruptions, voltage fluctuations, billing, solar net metering, open access, and safety issues. Consumers must register via 8977779471. The earlier grievance forums at circle and corporate levels have been discontinued, he added.



South Coast Railway Zone a Game-Change, Says Whip Ganababu

Visakhapatnam, May 5| TPN Bureau

The announcement of the South Coast Railway Zone has been hailed as a landmark development for Andhra Pradesh, with celebrations held across Visakhapatnam following the Centre’s Gazette notification.

State Government Whip Ganababu described the move as a “pivotal turning point” that would accelerate infrastructure growth and expand employment opportunities for the youth. He noted that the development fulfilled a long-standing aspiration of the people, dating back nearly four decades.

Supporters of Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament MathukumilliSribharat gathered at the city’s railway station, expressing their gratitude for his efforts in securing the zone. Party cadres displayed placards, burst fire-crackers, cut a celebratory cake, and distributed sweets to

the public. The programme, led by ChodePattabhiram, saw participation from a large number of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) activists and leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pattabhiram said the establishment of a railway zone headquartered in Visakhapatnam fulfilled a key demand of North Andhra and marked a significant step in regional development.

He credited the efforts of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, and Mr. Sribharat, stating that repeated representations to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were instrumental in achieving the goal.

Chalasani Gandhi termed the development the result of sustained public struggle, adding that the railway zone was a key assurance made during the State’s bifurcation.

Several party leaders, women, and cadres attended the event in large numbers.

