

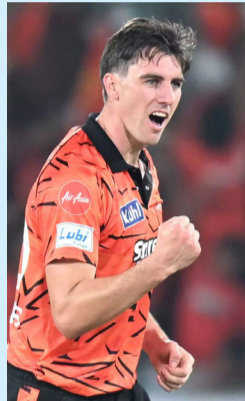


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A.P. Aims to Become 'India's Cool Capital': Nara Lokesh

Sri City, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a major push toward positioning India as a global manufacturing powerhouse, Nara Lokesh, Minister for Education and IT, declared that the country must aim to lead in the manufacturing of data center equipment, not just in hosting data centers. He was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of a new air conditioning and refrigeration facility by Carrier Global at Sri City.

Describing the event as a "historic milestone," Lokesh emphasized that the project represents more than a single industrial investment—it signals the dawn of India's digital and AI-driven industrial future. He highlighted that Carrier, a global leader in cooling solutions, is investing 1,000 crore in the facility, which is expected to generate around 3,000 jobs.

Sri City, spread across 8,500 acres, has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing industrial zones. Hosting over 250 companies from 31 countries and generating exports exceeding \$6 billion, it already provides employment to more than 70,000 people. Lokesh noted that this ecosystem reflects



the success of "Make in India" and "Made in Andhra Pradesh" initiatives.

The minister pointed out that Andhra Pradesh has earned recognition as India's "Cool Capital," with a rapidly expanding HVAC manufacturing ecosystem. With nine major AC manufacturers and over 30 supply partners operating in the state, investments have crossed 12,000 crore. By 2027, the state is expected to account for 60% of India's AC production, potentially rising to 80% by 2028.

Lokesh stressed that the future lies in building a comprehensive ecosystem that integrates data centers with manufacturing hubs. "Data centers are just the beginning. Our goal is to manufacture the systems that power them—cooling technologies, power electronics, and control systems," he said. He added that rising global demand for these components presents a strategic opportunity for India to become a key supplier.

Drawing parallels with India's success in pharmaceuticals, Lokesh said the country could similarly dominate the data center equipment manufacturing sector. The Andhra Pradesh government envisions a fully integrated ecosystem spanning AI data centers in Visakhapatnam to manufacturing clusters across the state.

Reaffirming long-term ambitions, Lokesh referred to the vision of N. Chandrababu Naidu to transform Andhra Pradesh into a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047. He credited the state's growth momentum to proactive governance, fast decision-making, and strong coordination with the central government. Highlighting employment as a core priority, the minister announced a target of creating 2 million jobs over the next five years. A dedicated skills portal is being developed to align workforce training with industry needs, ensuring that youth benefit directly from industrial growth. Lokesh concluded by inviting further collaboration from Carrier, including the establishment of a research and development center in the state, underscoring that this partnership marks "just the beginning" of Andhra Pradesh's industrial transformation.



Ancient Panchaloha Idols Unearthed from Sealed Well at Bhavanarayana Swamy Temple

Epuru, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a remarkable discovery, a rare collection of seven metal idols and three copper plates was unearthed during renovation works at the ancient Sri Bhavanarayana Swamy Temple in Inumella under Epuru Mandal.

The discovery took place late Tuesday night when workers engaged in construction activities stumbled upon a hidden well within the temple premises. The well, which had been sealed with heavy stone slabs for years, drew the attention of locals and laborers. Upon being alerted, officials from the Revenue, Police, and Endowments departments reached the site

and supervised the removal of the stone coverings. Inside the well, authorities found seven idols, believed to be made of Panchaloha—a traditional five-metal alloy considered sacred—along with three copper plates. Preliminary assessments suggest the artifacts are of significant historical and cultural value. Historians and locals believe that the idols may have been deliberately concealed in ancient times to protect them from theft or invasions. On Wednesday, local MLA G V Anjaneyulu visited the temple and inspected the unearthed idols, emphasizing the importance of preserving the region's rich heritage.

Thieves Steal ATM in Dharmavaram

Dharmavaram, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a shocking incident, unidentified thieves stole an ATM machine from Parthasarathi Nagar in Dharmavaram town of Sri Sathya Sai district in the early hours of Thursday. According to police, three masked persons arrived at the ATM kiosk, located beside a main road, in a Bolero vehicle. The accused first attempted to uproot the ATM using iron rods but failed to move it. They then tied ropes to the machine and dragged it out of the kiosk with the help of their vehicle. The ATM was subsequently loaded into the Bolero, and the accused fled the spot. On receiving information, police rushed to the scene and began an investigation. CCTV footage revealed that the suspects escaped towards Bathalapalli. A search operation has been launched along the identified route, and efforts are underway to apprehend the culprits.



2 Lakh Crore Investment Cleared by AP SIPB; Over 39,000 Jobs Expected

Amaravati, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a major push to industrial development, the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) of Andhra Pradesh has approved 25 large-scale projects with a total investment of 2,01,023 crore, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced on Wednesday. The projects are expected to generate employment opportunities for 39,067 people across the State. The approvals were granted at the 17th SIPB meeting held at the Secretariat, with a focus on balanced regional development, particularly in Visakhapatnam and the Rayalaseema region.

A key highlight of the meeting was the approval of a 1,08,010 crore proposal by Reliance Industries to establish a data centre in Visakhapatnam. The project is expected to significantly boost the State's information technology ecosystem. The company will also invest 51,300 crore in a solar power project in Sri Sathya Sai district, contributing to renewable energy capacity and employment generation.

Among other major investments, Adani Hydro Energy received clearance for a 12,297 crore pumped storage project in Kadapa district. In Tirupati district, Royal Enfield will set up a manufacturing facility with an investment of 2,508 crore, expected to create around 3,000 jobs.

Apollo Tyres and Carrier Air Conditioning have also proposed investments of 6,100 crore and 863 crore, respectively.

The Board also cleared proposals in emerging sectors such as green hydrogen, compressed biogas (CBG), and biofuels, with companies like Yamanco India and IOC GPS participating. Chettinad Cements will invest 1,340 crore in Palnadu district, while International Flavors and Fragrances plans a 3,153 crore project in Nellore.

Addressing officials, the Chief Minister emphasised the need for timely execution of projects, stating that approvals must translate into on-ground investments without delays. He called for strict

adherence to timelines from permit issuance to commencement of production, underscoring the need to position Andhra Pradesh as a leader in ease of doing business. Mr. Naidu also highlighted the importance of promoting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), noting their role in achieving the goal of "One Family - One Entrepreneur." He stressed the need to encourage food processing industries to add value to horticultural produce such as oil palm, mango, and coconut, thereby enhancing farmers' incomes. The meeting was attended by Ministers T.G. Bharath and Atehanaidu, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, and other senior officials.



Seaweed Economy Model to Boost Coastal Women's Incomes

Amaravati, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive economic model aimed at generating sustainable income for women through seaweed cultivation, value addition, and allied marine products along the State's coastline.

Reviewing the prospects of seaweed farming for Self-Help Group (SHG) women and fishermen in coastal regions, Mr. Naidu observed that Andhra Pradesh holds vast potential for large-scale seaweed cultivation owing to its extensive coastline. He emphasised that the initiative should evolve into a commercially viable livelihood model capable of creating substantial employment opportunities for women.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to formulate plans enabling SHG women to enhance their income through seaweed cultivation and processing activities. He noted that seaweed could emerge as a key marine resource for wealth creation in the State if supported by adequate infrastructure, robust market linkages,



and value-added production.

Mr. Naidu also held virtual discussions with senior officials from premier Central government research institutions, including the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, the National Institute of Ocean Technology, the Central Institute of Brackish-water Aquaculture, and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, on the opportunities and technical feasibility of seaweed farming in Andhra Pradesh.

He further directed officials to collaborate with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and submit a detailed report on training and promoting seaweed cultivation among women.

Calling for a structured economic framework, the Chief Minister said the model should

outline revenue generation, cultivation methods, production costs, and market opportunities associated with seaweed farming. He stressed that the State must focus not only on cultivation but also on value addition and the manufacture of diversified seaweed-based products. Officials were also asked to explore partnerships with national and international organisations to facilitate commercial-scale production and marketing. Highlighting the growing global demand for marine-based products, Mr. Naidu pointed out that seaweed serves as a crucial raw material for the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries. He expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh could tap international markets by developing a strong seaweed-based industrial ecosystem.

From Ayurveda to Astronomy: Ancient Texts to Be Preserved Digitally

Amaravati, May 6 | TPN Bureau

The Sanatana Jeevan Trust has intensified efforts to digitise centuries-old palm-leaf and copper-plate manuscripts under its ambitious Gyan Bharatham Mission, with a special focus on libraries in NTR and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh.

As part of the ongoing survey, which began on March 16 and will continue until June 15, researchers have identified several rare and fragile manuscripts for preservation. Among the notable finds are copies of the Yuddha Kanda and Uttara Kanda sections of the Ramayana at the well-known Tagore Library. Another significant discovery includes a rare Ayurvedic manuscript housed at Chittaranjan Library.

The initiative aims to safeguard India's vast repository of literary, scientific, and medicinal knowledge that is at risk of deterioration due to age and neglect. Scholars associated with the project have



stressed the urgency of preservation, noting that while modern technologies such as artificial intelligence have revolutionised access to information, ancient knowledge preserved in traditional formats faces the danger of being lost forever.

According to officials, nearly 70 lakh manuscripts have already been identified nationwide under the mission. In Vijayawada alone, researchers have located between 500 and 600 palm-leaf manuscripts, highlighting the region's rich intellectual heritage. At P.B. Siddhartha College, five manuscripts have been documented, while several others are undergoing preservation at the Oriental Library.

Twin Blasts in Punjab: CM Alleges BJP Plot Ahead of 2027 Elections

Amritsar, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Two explosions that occurred within a span of two hours in Punjab's Amritsar and Jalandhar have triggered a major political controversy. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann made sensational remarks on Wednesday, alleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is linked to the blasts and that they are part of a conspiracy ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

He accused the BJP of trying to spread violence and fear among the public to gain votes. Mann said that the people of Punjab always stand for peace and advised the BJP to refrain from such actions. He further claimed that it has become a pattern for the BJP to create unrest wherever elections are approaching. Meanwhile, opposition parties strongly criticized the Chief Minister for linking the blasts to the 2027 elections without a proper investigation. Leaders from the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal said it is inappropriate to make political allegations before a fair probe is completed.

The incidents caused panic across the region. The first blast occurred around 8:00 PM



on Tuesday in a scooter parked outside the Border Security Force (BSF) Punjab Frontier headquarters. The second explosion took place around 10:50 PM near the Khasa Cantonment area in Amritsar, with its impact reportedly felt up to 300 meters. The Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA) claimed responsibility for the blast outside the BSF office in Jalandhar. The group stated that the attack was carried out in retaliation for the killing of militant Ranjit Singh in a police encounter in Gurdaspur district earlier this February.

Punjab Police and forensic teams are currently investigating the intensity of the blasts and the conspiracy behind them. A high alert has been declared across the state for security reasons.

Shooting Shocks Texas, USA: Two Dead

Carrollton, May 6 | TPN Bureau

A deadly shooting at the busy K-Town Plaza shopping center in Carrollton has left two people dead and three others critically injured, triggering panic among shoppers and residents. According to police, the incident occurred during a business meeting inside a room where an argument escalated violently. One individual allegedly drew a firearm and

opened fire on those present. Authorities believe the attack was deliberate and possibly premeditated. Emergency responders rushed to the scene, transporting the injured to nearby hospitals, where they remain in critical condition. Shoppers fled the plaza in fear upon hearing gunshots.

The suspect attempted to escape but was quickly apprehended by Carrollton



## CM to Chair Key Collectors' Meet to Boost Governance and Welfare Delivery

Amaravati, May6|TPN Bureau

Reaffirming that public welfare and citizens' needs remain the government's foremost priority, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will chair the 7th Collectors' Conference at the State Secretariat on Thursday and Friday. The two-day high-level meeting will bring together district collectors and senior officials from multiple departments.

The conference comes in the backdrop of a series of district-wise review meetings recently conducted by the Chief Minister with public representatives. It aims to further strengthen administrative efficiency and review the implementation of key development and welfare programmes across the state.

On the first day, discussions will focus on Swarna Andhra Ten Principles, district-wise GSDP growth, centrally sponsored schemes, grievance redressal mechanisms, investment grounding, file clearance

systems, and RTGS. Select district collectors will also present best practices being implemented in their respective regions. The Chief Minister is expected to evaluate these initiatives and direct their replication across the state where effective. He will also review the progress of best practices identified during the 5th and 6th collectors' conferences.

On the second day, the review will shift to sectors including Sanjeevani, Summer Action Plan, Super Six, welfare schemes, revenue administration, income-generating departments, education, skill development, and law and order. District Superintendents of Police will participate in the post-lunch session to present updates on security and policing.

The conference will be conducted daily from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM and is expected to serve as a key platform for accelerating governance reforms and improving delivery of public services across the state.



## 369 Crore Sanctioned for Guntur Channel Modernization

Guntur, May6|TPN Bureau

In a significant development aimed at strengthening irrigation and drinking water infrastructure in the Krishna delta region, the government has sanctioned 369 crores for the modernization of the Guntur Channel. The long-pending project, awaited by farmers for nearly two decades, is expected to bring substantial relief to both agricultural and urban water needs in Guntur district. The 47-kilometer-long Guntur Channel, which originates near the Prakasam Barrage on the Krishna River's right bank, plays a key role in supplying irrigation water to Mangalagiri, Ponnur, and Prathipadu constituencies. It also serves as a critical drinking water source for Guntur Municipal Corporation and surrounding local bodies. Over the years, deterioration of canal bunds and heavy water hyacinth growth have severely affected water flow and distribution. Once modernization works are completed, the canal is expected to ensure reliable irrigation for around 30,000 acres across mandals including Tadepalli, Mangalagiri, Pedakakani,

Guntur, Chebrolu, Vatticherukuru, and Prathipadu. The upgraded system is also expected to significantly improve drinking water supply to Guntur city and 33 gram panchayats. Alongside modernization, the government has also approved an extension of the canal from Garapadu to Parichur, with 100 crores allocated for land acquisition. Officials noted that expanding the canal without strengthening its capacity would undermine efficiency and could create concerns among farmers regarding water distribution.

Public representatives stated that the project was taken up following repeated demands from farmers and discussions during recent elections. The modernization and extension plans together are expected to benefit five constituencies directly, with potential spillover benefits to three more constituencies in the region. Farmers and local leaders have welcomed the decision, expressing hope that the long-awaited project will finally resolve irrigation challenges and improve drinking water security across the region.

## MLA Conducts Surprise Inspection at Araku PHC

Araku, May6|TPN Bureau

Regam Matsyalingam paid a surprise visit to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) located in Madagada Gram Panchayat under the Araku constituency and inspected the services being provided to patients. During his visit, he reviewed the available medical facilities and interacted with staff to understand patient care at the hospital.

The MLA directed the medical staff to ensure that there is no shortage of medicines under any circumstances, stressing that continuous availability of essential drugs is mandatory for delivering qual-

ity healthcare. He cautioned that responsibility for patient care lies with every staff member and warned that strict action would be taken against negligence.

He also instructed doctors and staff to maintain punctuality and discipline in their duties. Later, he visited patients undergoing treatment at the PHC and enquired about the medical assistance being provided to them.

PHC doctor Jyothi Swaroopa, YSRCP Araku Constituency Social Media In-charge Ram, and other staff members were present during the inspection. Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh, India

## TDP Leaders Meet Nara Lokesh, Express Confidence in Party's Future Growth

Undavalli, May6|TPN Bureau

A delegation of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders from the Panchayat Raj and Uyyuru wings met Nara Lokesh at his residence in Undavalli on Friday, extending their greetings on his assumption of duties as Executive President of the party, in addition to his role as Minister for Education and IT of Andhra Pradesh.

The delegation was led by TDP National Vice President Y.V.B. Rajendra Prasad. He expressed strong confidence that under the leadership of Lokesh, the TDP would become significantly stronger in the coming years and reach new levels of organizational strength.

During the interaction, Nara Lokesh called upon party leaders to work towards strengthening the organization and to focus collectively on achieving victory in the upcoming local body elections. He emphasized unity and coordinated effort



within the party ranks.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajendra Prasad noted that Lokesh had consistently proven his administrative capabilities in the responsibilities entrusted to him by N. Chandrababu Naidu, and expressed confidence in his leadership as Executive President

of the party.

The meeting was attended by several TDP and affiliated wing leaders, including representatives from the Panchayat Raj Chamber, Minority Cell, BC Cell, TNSF, and school committee leaders, who also conveyed their best wishes to the new party leadership.



## Kollu Ravindra Vows Swift Development Push in Machilipatnam

Machilipatnam, May6|TPN Bureau

Minister for Information and Public Relations Kollu Ravindra on Wednesday said the government would transform Bandar (Machilipatnam) with rapid development works and warned that any attempts to obstruct them would be firmly dealt with.

Laying foundation stones for drinking water pipelines and road works, the Minister said the government was committed to ensuring "pothole-free Machilipatnam" and providing basic infrastructure such as roads and drinking water to every locality.

Ravindra launched a sharp

attack on former Minister PerniNani, accusing him of focusing only on criticism instead of constructive contribution. He alleged that the previous administration neglected basic civic infrastructure and failed to maintain roads in the town.

Claiming that development works worth 28 lakh have been initiated to address drinking water issues, the Minister said efforts were underway to resolve supply shortages across Machilipatnam. He also credited coordination between the Central and State governments, along with local MPs, for securing funds for ongoing works. Responding to allegations over the use of iron rods

from market yards in housing works, Ravindra defended the move, saying the materials were repurposed from unused stock and used for public benefit. He further alleged irregularities in TIDCO housing projects between 2014 and 2019, claiming that houses built for the poor were left unallotted and layouts were mismanaged. He also accused opposition leaders of purchasing land cheaply and selling it to the government at higher prices.

Ravindra maintained that the current administration was focused on completing pending works and accelerating infrastructure development in the region.

## YSRCP to Intensify Vigil on Voter List Revision

Tadepalli, May6|TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has decided to step up its monitoring of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) process of electoral rolls, with State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy urging party cadres to remain highly alert to prevent alleged deletion of favourable voters.

During a Zoom meeting held on Wednesday with regional coordinators, district presidents, MLAs/coordinators, and state-level office bearers, Sajjala emphasized the need for stronger technical understanding among coordinators across all 175 Assembly constituencies. He instructed them to closely track developments at the grassroots level and ensure that eligible voters are not removed from the electoral rolls.

He alleged that similar voter deletion practices had been reported in states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and claimed that comparable tactics were being attempted locally. He warned that reinstating deleted names is a difficult process, making preventive



monitoring essential.

Sajjala directed Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to work in coordination with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and improve their technical proficiency. He also noted the possibility of increased pressure on election staff and asked party workers to treat the SSR exercise as crucial for protecting the party's vote base.

He announced the setting up of a special control room at the party's central office and said training programmes would be conducted for BLAs. He expressed confidence that disci-

plined monitoring would strengthen the party's prospects in upcoming local body elections and future general elections.

During the meeting, discussions were also held on farmers' issues, hospital visits, and statewide programmes aimed at addressing concerns in the Aarogyasri health scheme. He instructed leaders to improve coordination, speed up committee verification processes, and ensure wider publicity of party programmes through mainstream and social media.

He further directed cadres to effectively communicate the welfare schemes implemented by the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government while highlighting alleged shortcomings of the current alliance government at the constituency level. Several leaders, including K. Kannababu, Lella Appireddy, Varikuti Ashok Babu, Abbayya Chowdary, Koramutla Srinivasulu, Kethireddy Venkatarami Reddy, and Malladi Vishnu, participated in the meeting and called for heightened vigilance until the completion of the voter list revision process.



## PerniNani Levels Serious Allegations Against AP Housing Department

Amaravati, May6|TPN Bureau

Former Minister and YSRCP leader PerniNani has made strong allegations against the Andhra Pradesh Housing Department, claiming large-scale irregularities and corruption under the current coalition government. PerniNani warned that a complaint will soon be lodged with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) over what he described as "rampant looting" in the department. He alleged that instead of supporting housing beneficiaries, the present administration is obstructing construction activities and weakening welfare initiatives.

He further accused officials of colluding with political leaders, claiming that even steel procured during the YSRCP regime for housing projects is being illegally diverted. Nani also alleged that bank accounts of beneficiaries under the 'Jagananna Colonies'

scheme were frozen soon after the coalition government came to power, calling it a deliberate attempt to hinder the poor from building homes.

Criticizing the government's earlier poll promises, he said leaders who had sought votes by promising three cents of land were now allegedly encroaching upon one-cent house sites previously allotted under the YSRCP regime.

He also took aim at the Housing Minister, accusing him of attempting to cancel allocated plots under the pretext that beneficiaries were not showing interest in taking possession. Nani questioned the authority of the government to cancel property rights that had already been allotted to citizens.

The former minister asserted that while governments may change, the rights of the people remain unchanged, and he vowed to escalate the issue further through legal and anti-corruption channels.



## Advika Trading Scam: 200 Crore Assets Seized, Charge Sheet Expected in 10 Days

Vijayawada, May6|TPN Bureau

The investigation into the Advika Trading Company fraud case—which came to light last year and is centered in Vijayawada—has reached its final stages. The police's efforts to file a charge sheet in this case have reached their culmination. The charge sheet is expected to be filed in court within the next 10 days.

Notices have been issued to agents and depositors who derived the greatest benefit from the scheme; they were summoned and questioned by the authorities. With the court's permission, a special bank account has been opened to deposit the funds recovered from these individuals. Out of a total of 62 agents, 32 were identified as having received excessive benefits. To date, a sum of 200 crores has been deposited into this special account.

Identification of 47 Assets Belonging to the Accused: As part of the process to identify the assets of the accused, 170 bank accounts have been frozen. In an effort to ensure justice for the depositors who suffered losses, the police have identified 47 assets belonging to the 18 individuals accused in the case. So far, assets valued at 200 crores have been identified and subsequently seized.

The police have sent the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)—entered into between the company's management and the depositors—to a forensic laboratory for analysis. Authorities have seized 23

lakhs in cash, silver worth 30 lakhs, 670 grams of gold, and various other items from the accused. Two Government Orders (GOs) regarding the seizure of assets have already been issued, and another GO is expected to be released within two days. The charge sheet is set to be filed immediately upon receipt of the final report from the forensic laboratory. 17 Behind Bars: Rs 413 Crores Collected Across Various Districts. The funds were never repaid. In connection with this affair, the police have arrested a total of 17 individuals—including the prime mastermind, Tadepalli Sri Venkata Aditya (A1), and his wife, Sujatha (A2). Acting on a complaint filed by a depositor in June of last year, a case was registered at the Machavaram Police Station under Sections 61(2), 318(4), 316(2), and 316(5) of the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita), as well as Section 5 of the Andhra Pradesh Protection of Depositors of Financial Establishments Act, 1999. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted under the leadership of Crimes DCP Tirumaleswar Reddy. The Advika Trading Company was established in Vijayawada in 2022. In a phased manner, the company appointed over 60 agents across various districts—including Hyderabad, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, and Prakasam. Through these agents, they lured investors with the promise of high commissions. Ultimately, they collected deposits totaling Rs 413 crores from as many as 1,367 individuals.

# From Ayurveda to Astronomy: Ancient Texts to Be Preserved Digitally

continued

Experts involved in the conservation process are employing scientific methods to extend the life of these delicate artefacts. The process begins with the careful removal of dust and debris from the leaves. This is followed by the application of spirit to prevent insect damage and lemongrass oil to enhance durability. Once restored, each page is scanned at high resolution and uploaded to a national digital repository, ensuring long-term accessibility.

Dr. M. Indira, Andhra Pradesh coordinator of the Trust, said there is a widespread misconception that palm-leaf manuscripts contain

only religious texts. She pointed out that these manuscripts encompass a wide range of subjects, including astronomy and Ayurveda, reflecting the depth and diversity of ancient Indian knowledge systems.

The Trust has urged members of the public possessing such manuscripts to come forward and share information through the Gyan Bharat app. Emphasising transparency, it has also advised individuals to contact the mission directly without intermediaries. Organisers believe that public participation will play a crucial role in preserving the country's cultural and intellectual heritage for future generations.

# AP Faces Dual Weather Challenge

Amaravati, May 6 | TPN Bureau

A weather system extending from Karnataka through Rayalaseema and Tamil Nadu up to the Gulf of Mannar is expected to influence weather conditions across Andhra Pradesh in the coming days, according to the State Disaster Management Authority.

Light rain accompanied by lightning is likely at isolated places on Thursday in several districts, including Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Polavaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, East and West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR Kadapa, Chittoor, and Tirupati.

While parts of the state may receive showers, severe heatwave conditions are expected to persist in several interior regions. Authorities have warned of extreme heat in G.K. Veedhi mandal (Alluri



district) and Chintur and Gurtedu mandals (Polavaram district). Heatwave conditions are also likely in Munchingiputtu mandal (ASR district), Velerupadu mandal (Eluru district), and Kunavaram and Vararamachandrapuram mandals (Polavaram district). Officials cautioned that intense heat may be experienced in isolated pockets across multiple districts. On Wednesday, several locations recorded high temperatures, highlighting the severity of the heatwave. Thovi in Kurnool district recorded 41.6°C, followed by Ventagiri in Tirupati district at 41.2°C and Chintur at 41°C. Salakamcheruvu in Anantapur district recorded 40.7°C, while Jupadu Bunglow in Nandyal reported 40.6°C. Kukunuru in Eluru and Erraguntla in YSR Kadapa both registered 39.9°C. Kambham in Markapuram, Vijayawada East in NTR district, and Durgi in Palnadu district recorded 39.8°C.



# Tobacco Farmers Protest in Devarapalli Over Falling Prices; YSRCP Leaders Slam Coalition Government

Devarapalli, May 6 | TPN Bureau

A major protest was held outside the Tobacco Board office in Devarapalli as farmers and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders voiced strong anger over the steep fall in Virginia tobacco prices and the alleged failure of the coalition government to ensure a Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Former Minister Chelluboyina Venugopala Krishna led the criticism, stating that tobacco prices have dropped from around 400 per kg to nearly 260 per kg, pushing farmers into heavy losses and leaving many unable even to recover cultivation costs. He accused the government of ignoring farmers' distress and demanded immediate procurement of tobacco along with the announcement of a support price. He warned that continued neglect could trigger intensified statewide protests by the YSRCP.

Former MLA Sathi Suryanarayana Reddy extended support to the protest, alleging

that farmers are once again facing severe distress similar to earlier regimes and demanded immediate government intervention and MSP assurance.

Former MLA Talari Venkata Rao highlighted that farmers are not even receiving the expected remunerative price of around 330 per kg. He recalled earlier government interventions, including procurement support through Price Stabilization Funds, and urged the current administration to replicate similar measures.

Party leader G. Srinivasa Naidu said the situation of tobacco farmers was "heart-wrenching," adding that while governments make public claims of supporting farmers, the ground reality shows steep price declines and lack of procurement support.

Protesters demanded immediate intervention from both the state and central governments to stabilize tobacco prices, resume procurement, and ensure fair compensation to farmers.

# Shooting Shocks Texas, USA: Two Dead

continued

police, who also recovered a firearm. Officials have not yet released the identity of the accused and are continuing their investigation to determine whether the motive was solely a business dispute

or linked to deeper conflicts. The area has been secured, and police patrols intensified. The incident has reignited debate across the United States over gun control and public safety in crowded spaces.



# Systemic Failures Alleged After KGH PG Student Suicide; Immediate Reforms Demanded

Vijayawada, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In the wake of the tragic suicide of a postgraduate medical student at King George Hospital (KGH), Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav has called for urgent reforms in postgraduate medical working conditions across Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing the Vice-Chancellor of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Dr. Yadav described the incident as part of a broader "systemic crisis" affecting young medical professionals. The appeal follows the death of Dr. Bopharaju Sashinath, a postgraduate student associated with KGH and Andhra Medical College (AMC), which has sparked concern over extreme workloads and workplace stress.

Citing findings from the National Medical Commission Task Force Report (2024), Dr. Yadav noted that nearly 31% of postgraduate medical students have experienced suicidal thoughts due to professional

pressures. He further pointed out that more than 60 medical students nationwide have died by suicide in recent years, underscoring the gravity of the issue.

The representation highlights long duty hours, lack of adequate rest, and insufficient institutional support as key contributors to mental health distress among postgraduate doctors. It calls for immediate implementation of reforms, including a 48-hour work week, a cap of 12-hour shifts, and mandatory weekly days off.

"The death of Dr. Sashinath is not just a tragedy; it is a failure of the system," Dr. Yadav stated, urging authorities to adopt the National Medical Commission's recommendations without delay to prevent further loss of life.

The incident has intensified discussions around mental health safeguards and working conditions within India's medical education system, with growing demands for accountability and structural change.

# Finance Agents Assault Man Over Bike Loan Dues in Jaggayyapeta

Jaggayyapeta, May 6 | TPN Bureau

A shocking incident of alleged assault by finance representatives has been reported from Chillakallu village in Jaggayyapeta mandal of NTR district.

According to local sources, the victim, Pelluri Mahesh, was attacked by finance agents for failing to clear his bike loan dues. Mahesh had reportedly informed the agents that he would settle the payment within this month. However, an argument broke out, escalating into violence.

Eyewitnesses stated that the agents grabbed Mahesh by his shirt, dragged him onto the road, and physically assaulted him. Despite attempts by nearby residents to intervene and stop the altercation, the attackers allegedly continued the assault and forcibly took him

along. Following the incident, the injured victim approached the local police station and lodged a complaint against the two individuals involved. He has demanded strict action against the accused.

Police are said to be examining the case and further investigation is underway.



# Govt. steps up minority welfare measures: Nasir

Amaravati, May 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government is taking comprehensive measures for the educational, economic and social uplift of minorities, Minority Welfare Committee chairman and MLA Mohammed Nasir said on Wednesday.

Addressing a meeting of the panel held at the Secretariat, Mr. Nasir said the coalition government was committed to ensuring equitable participation of minorities across all sectors through a series of welfare and development initiatives. The meeting was attended by MLAs and MLCs, during which various proposals pertaining to minority welfare were reviewed. Mr. Nasir said priority was being accorded to education, healthcare, employment and skill development for backward minority communities. He noted that 275 crore sanctioned earlier by the Centre under the Prime Minister Jan Vikas Yojana (PMJY) had



remained unutilised during the previous regime due to delay in submission of utilisation certificates and non-release of matching grants.

He said the present government had succeeded in securing the release of the pending funds within a year of assuming office. Detailed project reports worth about 1,000 crore have since been prepared under PMJY for infrastructure and welfare works, including construction of government hospital buildings at Welfare Centres in Guntur and a hostel in Nandyal district.

The chairman further stated

# UTK Honours Vijayawada's Civic Workers, Kicks Off 5th Anniversary Celebrations

Vijayawada, May 6 | TPN Bureau

United Telugu Kitchens (UTK), a prominent Telugu cuisine restaurant, marked the beginning of its fifth anniversary year by hosting a community lunch for civic workers in Vijayawada on Wednesday.

Held at its flagship outlet, the event recognised the contributions of over 80 municipal and sanitation workers who play a vital role in maintaining the city. The gathering was attended by Member of Parliament Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) along with several local dignitaries, who appreciated the initiative and lauded the founders, Koushik Koganti and Theji Pinnamaneni.

Addressing the gathering, the MP highlighted the indispensable role of sanitation workers, especially during challenging times such as the COVID-19 pandemic and flood situations. He described them as "frontline warriors" and emphasised that Vijayawada's



growth and cleanliness are a direct result of their efforts. He also reiterated the government's support for budding entrepreneurs in the hospitality sector.

The civic workers were served a curated menu of traditional Telugu dishes, reflecting UTK's signature culinary style that celebrates regional diversity across Andhra, Telangana, and Rayalaseema.

Founded in 2022, UTK has grown from its expansive Vijayawada outlet into a multi-city brand with a presence in Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

that pending honorarium dues to mouzans and imams had been cleared soon after the new government took charge. He added that fresh proposals were being formulated to extend similar benefits to additional eligible beneficiaries.

An allocation of 20 crore has been made for minority women's skill development and livelihood generation programmes, Mr. Nasir said. Free coaching for competitive examinations is also being arranged for Muslim students to enhance educational opportunities. He said the government would soon hold consultations with banks to improve access to education, agriculture and self-employment loans for minorities. Issues relating to BC-E Dodekula communities and Urdu teacher vacancies under the Mega DSC recruitment process would also be addressed, he added.

Known for its philosophy, "Mana Bhasha. Mana Bhojanam.", the restaurant has built a loyal customer base while promoting Telugu culinary heritage.

"This lunch is our way of expressing gratitude to those who keep Vijayawada running every day," said co-founder Koushik Koganti. Co-founder Theji Pinnamaneni added that UTK's initiatives will continue to reflect a sense of community and belonging. The anniversary year will feature a series of community-driven and cultural events across its locations.

# CMRF Cheques Distributed to 30 Beneficiaries in Bhavani Puram

Bhavani Puram, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Financial assistance under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) was distributed to beneficiaries at MLA Sujana Chowdary's office in Bhavani Puram on Wednesday. A total of 30 individuals from the West Constituency received cheques amounting to Rs. 19,09,076 to support treatment for various health-related issues. The beneficiaries had earlier applied to the CMRF seeking aid for medical

expenses, and the sanctioned amounts were handed over during the programme. Several local leaders and party representatives attended the event, including MLA Office Secretary Prathipati Sridhar, 44th Division BJP In-charge Reddipalli Raju, 42nd Division BJP President Someswara Rao, 48th Division BJP President Devika Hari Prasad, 34th Division BJP President Rudrapati Venkatesh, Urmila Nagar Mandal

BJP President Pagadala Krishna, 54th Division TDP President Aziz, 43rd Division Jana Sena President Koteswara Rao, 48th Division TDP President Devara Jogeswara Rao, BJYM NTR District Vice President Jyothirmayi Reddy, among others.

The event highlighted continued efforts to provide financial relief to those in need of medical assistance through the CMRF scheme.

# Vijayawada Commissioner Calls for Complete Wastewater Treatment Across City

Vijayawada, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyana-chandra has directed officials to expedite construction and operational work, ensuring timely completion. He stressed the importance of treating the city's entire wastewater output to improve sanitation and environmental standards. The Commissioner also urged UNIDO representatives to continue their collaboration with the Municipal Corporation and support the implementation of additional wastewater management and energy recovery projects in the future. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer-in-Charge P. Satyakumari, UNIDO representatives Dr. M.P. Singh, Deepika, and N.U. Gaurav Varma, along with other engineering staff.

Ramalingeswara Nagar. Emphasizing the urgency of the matter, Dhyana-chandra instructed officials to expedite construction and operational work, ensuring timely completion. He stressed the importance of treating the city's entire wastewater output to improve sanitation and environmental standards. The Commissioner also urged UNIDO representatives to continue their collaboration with the Municipal Corporation and support the implementation of additional wastewater management and energy recovery projects in the future. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer-in-Charge P. Satyakumari, UNIDO representatives Dr. M.P. Singh, Deepika, and N.U. Gaurav Varma, along with other engineering staff.



## Awareness Programme Held to Promote Cannabis-Free Society

**Ongole, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
The Prakasam District Police conducted a comprehensive awareness programme on the outskirts of Pelluru village aiming to promote a cannabis-free society and protect the youth from drug abuse. The initiative was held under the supervision of Task Force CI Bheema Naik, with participation from ASI Mahaboob Basha, Eagle squad members, and Special Party personnel who addressed residents about the dangers of cannabis consumption and trafficking. Officials explained the severe health hazards, social consequences, and legal penalties associated with cannabis use, emphasizing that strict action will be taken against offenders involved in its cultivation, sale, or transport. They urged youth

to stay away from drug abuse and focus on education and career development for a better future. The police appealed to the public to immediately report any information regarding cannabis cultivation or illegal trade through the Eagle toll-free number 1972 or emergency numbers 100 and 112, assuring confidentiality of informants. They further warned that special teams will continue inspections and surveillance to curb cannabis transportation and ensure strict enforcement of law across the region. The programme witnessed participation from villagers, youth, and police personnel, reinforcing the collective resolve to build a drug-free society in the district and surrounding rural areas also.



## Additional Court Inaugurated at Court Complex

**Chirala, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
In a significant development aimed at improving access to justice, the newly established court of the Second Additional Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate of First Class was inaugurated on Wednesday at the Chirala court complex. The court was formally inaugurated in the presence of three Hon'ble Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court—Justice Nimmagadda Venkateswarlu, Justice Gannamaneni Ramakrishna Prasad, and Justice Y. Lakshmana Rao—who attended the ceremony as chief guests. Chirala In-charge RDO Gloria and Tahsildar Gopikrishna welcomed the dignitaries and extended their greetings during the inaugural event. The establishment of the additional court comes in response to the increasing number of pending cases in the Chirala jurisdiction, with the objective of ensuring faster disposal of civil and criminal matters and

reducing delays faced by litigants. Legal experts noted that the new court is expected to significantly ease the judicial burden and enhance the efficiency of case handling in the region. After the inauguration, the High Court judges inspected the courtroom and record sections and offered suggestions for further improvements in infrastructure and functioning. Chirala Bar Association President Ramesh, along with members of the legal fraternity, expressed satisfaction over the long-awaited sanctioning of the additional court, stating that it fulfills a long-pending demand of the Bar. The event was attended by judicial officers, senior advocates, Bar Association members, and court staff, marking a notable milestone in the judicial administration of Chirala.

# TTD Doubles Dhupa, Deepa, Naivedyam Aid to Temples in Telugu States

**Tirupati, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Trust Board has approved a series of significant development and welfare measures, including doubling the financial assistance under the Dhupa, Deepa and Naivedyam scheme for temples from 5,000 to 10,000, in line with government norms. Addressing the media after the board meeting held on Wednesday, TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu said the board cleared projects worth hundreds of crores aimed at strengthening temple infrastructure, improving pilgrim facilities, and expanding spir-

itual outreach. A major approval includes 36.95 crore for constructing a seven-storey Maha Rajagopuram, mandapams, and allied utilities at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Venkatapalem, Amaravati. The project will also feature ArjithaSevaMandapam, Addala Mandapam, Vahana and Ratha Mandapams, a Sri Anjaneya Swamy temple, and a pushkarini. The board also sanctioned 2.71 crore for a Rajagopuram at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Ananthavaram (Guntur district), 55 lakh for a Shiva temple at Vardhanapalli in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, and a Kalyana Mandapam at Lepakshi in Sri Sathya Sai district. Additionally, TTD ap-

## Seven Arrested in ₹5.8-Crore Highway Robbery Cases

**Penukonda, May 6 | TPN Bureau**

Police in Sri Sathya Sai district have made a breakthrough in two sensational highway robbery cases on NH-44 near Penukonda, arresting seven members of an interstate gang allegedly involved in the theft of gold and cash worth ₹5.8 crore. According to the police, the accused, hailing from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, were identified using CCTV footage, mobile phone tracking, and analysis of VoIP communications. Of the 21 individuals believed to be involved, seven have been taken into custody so far, while efforts are ongoing to apprehend the remaining suspects. The arrested individuals include drivers, technology professionals, and logistics personnel. Police have seized ₹1.26 crore in cash, along with two cars, an Innova and a BMW, 13 mobile phones, and three knives from the accused. Investigations revealed that



the gang intercepted vehicles on the highway, threatened occupants, and decamped with gold and cash. Officials said crucial evidence has been collected linking the accused to the crimes. Superintendent of Police Satish Kumar said the police are determined to bring all those involved to justice.

“There is no question of letting the accused escape. The investigation is continuing, and the arrested individuals will be taken into police custody after being produced before the court,” he said. Special teams have been formed to trace the absconding accused, police added.

## Narayana Warns Against Encroachments

**Nellore, May 6 | TPN Bureau**

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Dr. Ponguru Narayana warned that no one, irrespective of status, would be spared if they encroached upon government lands during his visit to Nellore on Wednesday. He said immediate action would follow on reports from locals about any encroachments within municipal limits. Touring NTR Nagar in the 11th Division, he interacted with residents to understand grassroots issues and assured expedited issuance of house site pattas. He also pledged to resolve every problem raised and said Nellore would see accelerated development under ongoing programmes. Addressing media, Narayana criticised YSRCP leaders for making allegations without



verifying facts and said such claims would mislead the public. He said drinking water projects worth 14,000 crore are underway and another 14,000 crore would be sanctioned under the Urban Challenge Fund. Minister added that 700

crore has been sought for Nellore's development. He urged the opposition to use RTI and verify information before making public statements. Officials and TDP leaders attended the programme in Nellore city programme held.

## MLA Offers Prayers at Poleramma Temple

**Naidupeta, May 6 | TPN Bureau**

The Sri Sri Poleramma Jathara concluded on a grand and devotional note in Naidupeta, drawing large gatherings of devotees on the final day of the festival. The celebrations, marked by traditional rituals and fervent participation, reflected the deep cultural and spiritual significance of the event. Sullurpeta MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayasree visited the Poleramma Temple on the concluding day of the festivities to seek the blessings of Goddess Poleramma. She performed special rituals within the temple premises and offered prayers with devotion.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA expressed her heartfelt wishes for the welfare of the people, stating that she prayed for the prosperity, good health, and longevity of the people of the Sullurpeta con-



stituency as well as the entire state of Andhra Pradesh. She further prayed for abundant agricultural harvests across the state, hoping that every household would be filled with happiness and prosperity. The event witnessed the participation of local leaders, party workers,

and a large number of devotees who gathered to take part in the concluding rituals and receive blessings. The festival ended on a spiritually uplifting note, reinforcing the cultural harmony and devotion associated with Goddess Poleramma traditions in the region.



## TDP lays foundation stone for new office in Ongole constituency

**Ongole, May 6 | TPN Bureau**

A grand groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new office building of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was held in the Ongole parliamentary constituency on Wednesday, drawing a large gathering of party leaders, activists and supporters. Minister DSBV Swami, MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and several senior leaders participated in the event, which witnessed an atmosphere of enthusiasm and strong cadre mobilisation. Addressing the gathering, Minister Swami said the TDP flag has been flying high for the past 44 years, rooted in the ideals laid down by N. T. Rama Rao. He noted that the party has consistently upheld the principles of public welfare

and social justice, adding that its emergence brought significant transformations in society. The minister also criticised the previous government led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that it misled the public regarding the completion of the Veligonda Project. He claimed that even leaders within the ruling party had acknowledged that the project remained incomplete. Party leaders expressed confidence that the new office building would strengthen organisational activities in the constituency and enhance service delivery to the public. Activists present at the ceremony pledged to work with renewed commitment towards the growth and development of the party.



## Preparations Begin for Mahanadu in Nellore with Bhoomi Puja

**Nellore, May 6 | TPN Bureau**

Municipal Administration Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana laid the foundation stone and performed Bhoomi Puja at the IFFCO Kisan SEZ in Kovur constituency as part of preparations for the upcoming Mahanadu event. The large-scale event, scheduled from May 27 to 29, is expected to witness participation from political leaders, party representatives, and cadres from across Andhra Pradesh and other states. Several prominent leaders, including MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, and MLC Beeda Ravichandra, along with multiple MLAs and party functionaries, took part in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Narayana noted that this is the first time Mahanadu is being hosted in Nellore. He said the 2,200-acre venue has been selected to ensure smooth management of logistics such as parking and traffic. He also stated that the event has created renewed enthusiasm

among party workers and that several important decisions are expected during the conference. He expressed confidence that coordinated efforts would ensure the event's success. Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said that leaders at the state level would stay in the district throughout the three-day programme. He added that the resolutions to be adopted at the conference are intended to focus on long-term public welfare and future generations. According to him, around 20,000 delegates are expected on the first two days, followed by a major public meeting on the final day, which may draw nearly 700,000 party workers. Meanwhile, MLC Beeda Ravichandra made strong political remarks, challenging former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy. He questioned Kakani's past electoral claims and challenged him to demonstrate political strength by securing at least one victory in the undivided Nellore district in the upcoming elections.





### Court Dismisses Liquor Case Against TDP Leader Kamesh Yadav

Srikalahasti, May 6|TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders in Srikalahasti Rural on Tuesday welcomed a court order dismissing a liquor case filed against TDP Mandal President Kamesh Yadav during the previous government's tenure, describing the ruling as a vindication of truth and justice.

cases had been registered against opposition leaders and party workers at various levels. The leaders also claimed that the court's decision underscored the lack of merit in the allegations and expressed confidence that other similar cases would also be resolved in due course.



### BJP Hails Appointment of Vetukuri Suryanarayana Raju as Chairman of APSCPCR

Kakinada, May 6|TPN Bureau

BJP leader and President of the Vishwa Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Ramasena, Kambala Srinivasa Rao, extended his congratulations to senior BJP leader Vetukuri A.V.S. Suryanarayana Raju on his appointment as Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Srinivasa Rao said it was a welcome development for the state that an experienced leader had taken charge of the Commission. He expressed confidence that the institution would function more effectively under Suryanarayana Raju's leadership and contribute significantly to the protection of child rights in Andhra Pradesh.



### Bojjala Gopala Krishna Reddy Remembered on Death Anniversary

Srikalahasti Rural, May 6|TPN Bureau

Former Minister and senior TDP leader late Bojjala Gopala Krishna Reddy was remembered on his death anniversary on Wednesday. His son, Bojjala Sudhir Reddy, paid rich floral tributes to his father's portrait during a commemorative event held in Srikalahasti Rural.

the strong foundation laid by his father. He noted that Bojjala Gopala Krishna Reddy always placed public service above personal interests and described his ideals as a continuing inspiration for his own political journey.

## Officials Told to Issue Advance Notice to Farmers Mandatory for Re-survey

Kurnool, May 6|TPN Bureau

District Joint Collector Nurul Qamar has directed officials to conduct the ongoing land re-survey process in a meticulous and transparent manner, stressing that advance notices must be issued to farmers before the survey begins.

The Joint Collector made a surprise inspection of the re-survey operations at Pyalukurthi village in Kodumur mandal on Wednesday, as part of the fifth phase of the district-wide programme. During his visit, he reviewed the implementation of the ambitious State Government initiative at the field level.

ing of rover-based survey equipment. He also interacted with survey teams and sought details on measurement techniques, use of technical tools, and methods of recording land data. Emphasising accuracy, Nurul Qamar instructed officials to ensure that farmers' land boundaries are recorded without any errors.

The Joint Collector also spoke directly with farmers, asking whether they had received prior notices, were informed of survey schedules in advance, and whether officials were addressing their concerns satisfactorily.

transparency and effective communication with landowners throughout the exercise.

Stating that the re-survey would help permanently resolve land disputes, he said scientifically updated records would eliminate future hardships for farmers. He added that the government is leveraging advanced technology to modernise land records.

Officials informed him that Pyalukurthi village has a total extent of 7,157 acres of land involving around 2,300 farmers. The Joint Collector instructed that the re-survey and e-KYC registration process be completed swiftly, accurately, and without procedural lapses.

## Bengal-Based Foundation Donates 2.50 Crore to TTD for Treatment of Poor Patients

Tirumala, May 6|TPN Bureau

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has once again received a significant contribution towards its social welfare initiatives. The Himadri Foundation, based in Kolkata, West Bengal, has donated 2.50 crore to the Sri Venkateswara Pranadanam Trust under TTD.

The donation was handed over on Wednesday at the TTD Chairman's camp office in Tirumala. Anurag Choudhary, trustee of the Himadri Foundation, presented the Demand Draft (DD) to TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu.

TTD Board members Panabaka Lakshmi, Sadashiva Rao, Janga Krishnamurthy, SAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, and others were present at the event.



Pranadanam Trust, functioning under TTD since 2001, provides free medical treatment to economically weaker sections suffering from life-threatening diseases such as heart ailments, kidney disorders, cancer, and neurological conditions. Treatments are offered through SVIMS Hospital in Tirupati.

eries for newborns and children. In addition, the TTD Blood Bank supplies blood free of cost during emergencies, while financial assistance is extended for medicines, medical equipment, and prosthetic limbs.

## MLA Distributes Appointment Orders to Anganwadi Ayahs

Chittoor, May 6|TPN Bureau

Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jag-an Mohan has called upon Anganwadi Ayahs to work with sincerity and dedication in caring for children in Anganwadi centres and to help bring a good reputation to the government.

Speaking at the 'Praja Darbar' held at the MLA's office on Wednesday evening, he distributed appointment orders to newly selected Ayahs for various Anganwadi centres in the Chittoor constituency.

A total of 24 appointment orders were issued on the occasion, including 11 beneficiaries from Chittoor Urban, 7 from Gudipala, and 6 from Chittoor Rural.



held in the presence of local coalition leaders, including former MLC B.N. Rajasimhulu, Gudipala MPP Golla Hari, Mohan Raj, Venkatesh Yadav, Nar-

esh, along with TDP cluster, division, and booth in-charges, as well as members of the party's main and affiliated committees.



## RSASTF nabs inter-state red sanders smuggler, seizes logs worth 1.95 crore

Tirupati, May 6|TPN Bureau

The Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) has achieved a major breakthrough in its ongoing crackdown on red sanders trafficking with the arrest of a key inter-state smuggler and the seizure of logs valued at 1.95 crore.

Acting on credible intelligence received in the early hours of Wednesday, the RSASTF team, in coordination with Forest Department officials, apprehended Nasser K.N. alias Nasser Bhai (55), a native of Palakkad town in Kerala, who had been evading arrest for nearly three years.

Officials said 76 red sanders logs, along with two cars and a goods vehicle used for transportation, were seized from his possession.

According to the Task Force, the accused is a key operative in an inter-state smuggling network and has been involved in the illegal transportation of red sanders from the Seshacha-

lam forests to Karnataka and Kerala for the past decade, with alleged assistance from labourers based in Tamil Nadu.

While Nasser was arrested at the spot, three of his associates reportedly managed to escape and a search operation has been launched to trace them. Special teams have also been formed to identify and apprehend other members of the wider smuggling network operating across Kerala and Karnataka.

RSASTF officials said investigations are underway to identify the masterminds behind the racket and further dismantle the network. Authorities also confirmed that reward incentives have been announced for the personnel involved in the successful operation.

Officials reiterated that strict enforcement actions against red sanders smuggling will continue in the coming days.



## Collector Launches One Month-One Village-Four Visits

Kurnool, May 6|TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri has directed officials to launch the State Government's "One Month - One Village - Four Visits" programme in the district from Today, aimed at resolving land and revenue-related issues at the village level and transforming villages into "revenue complaint-free villages."

The Collector instructed that the programme be conducted every Thursday of the month in villages where land surveys have been completed or where revenue disputes are prevalent. She stressed the participation of all mandal-level functionaries, including Tahsildars, MPDOs, and Assistant Engineers from PR, Housing, Water Resources, and RWS departments, along with officials from Endowments and Forest departments.

As per the schedule outlined, the first Thursday will focus on receiving petitions from the public, inspection of government lands, field-level inquiries, and issuance of notices. On the second Thursday, officials will work on resolving the grievances received during the first visit while continuing to accept fresh petitions.

During the third Thursday, officials will update the public on the status of petitions submitted over the first two visits, including inquiry outcomes and orders issued. On the fourth Thursday, a Gram Sabha will be held to explain the resolution of issues and overall progress to the villagers.

The Collector appealed to the public to make full use of the initiative for the speedy redressal of land-related grievances at the village level.

## Gold Loan Row Sparks Allegations of Consent Violation and Banking Irregularities

Ongole, May 6|TPN Bureau

A gold loan dispute involving a private bank and a non-banking finance company has triggered allegations of procedural violations and customer grievance, after a borrower claimed his pledged gold was re-pledged without consent and later released only after intervention by a rights group leader.

had pledged 67 grams of gold with Axis Bank on November 30, 2023, to avail a loan of approximately 2.4 lakh. The borrower stated that the outstanding amount, including interest, later rose to around 2.89 lakh.

The complainant alleged that despite the pending loan account, the pledged gold was subsequently transferred or re-pledged to IIFL Finance without his knowledge or explicit consent. He further claimed that when he approached IIFL Finance to recover the pledged gold, he was

informed that repayment of around 7.21 lakh would be required to release it.

The situation escalated after repeated visits between the borrower, Axis Bank, and IIFL Finance, during which differing repayment amounts were reportedly quoted. The family then approached Neelam Nagendra Rao, President of the Dalit Rights Protection Committee, who raised concerns over the alleged handling of the pledged gold and claimed violations of Reserve Bank of India norms. The Reserve

Bank of India sets guidelines governing gold loan operations, including procedures for default and auction.

Following discussions involving the complainant, the bank, and representatives of the finance company, the pledged gold was eventually retrieved and handed back to the borrower's family at the Axis Bank branch, according to those present.

Axis Bank has not issued a detailed public statement on the specific allegations, and the claims regarding re-pledging without consent have not been independently verified.

IIFL Finance has also not publicly responded to the allegations mentioned in the complaint. Local activists and community representatives who were present described the incident as a serious banking grievance, while bank officials reportedly facilitated the return of the gold after discussions. The matter has sparked discussion on gold loan practices, customer consent, and compliance with regulatory guidelines.

# Gen Z Wave Reshaping Eastern and Southern Politics

From Bengal's ballot shift to Tamil Nadu's youth surge, can Andhra's next-gen leaders capture the 2029 vote?

The rise of Gen Z voters is quietly transforming India's electoral landscape, and its impact is now clearly visible from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu. With millions of first-time and young voters entering the system, elections are no longer driven only by traditional loyalties or ideology, they are increasingly shaped by aspirations, jobs, and development.

In West Bengal, the recent political shift has drawn significant attention not just for its outcome but for who influenced it. A substantial portion of the electorate now consists of voters under 35. Estimates suggest that nearly 35-40% of voters in many constituencies fall into this category. This group is less tied to legacy politics and more focused on opportunities, employment, digital growth, and governance efficiency. Their voting behaviour played a crucial role in breaking long-standing political dominance and enabling new narratives to take hold.

A similar trend is emerging

in Tamil Nadu, where the entry of Joseph Vijay has energised younger voters. As reflected in the visual narrative of Gen Z power across key regions, Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, and Salem—the youth are no longer passive observers. They are actively shaping political conversations. The appeal here is not purely ideological; it is emotional, aspirational, and forward-looking. Slogans around jobs, development, and "future in our hands" resonate strongly with a generation that is digitally connected and globally aware. The attached visual reinforces this shift. It highlights how Gen Z is prioritising employment, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, and education over traditional political rhetoric. It also underscores a crucial reality, this generation expects results, not promises. Their patience is limited, and their expectations are high.

Looking ahead to the 2029 Indian general election, the big question is: who in

Andhra Pradesh can capture this decisive voter base?

Among the emerging players, National President of Telugu Desam Party Nara Lokesh has been steadily building his image through outreach programmes like Yuvagalam, positioning himself as a leader who understands youth aspirations. His focus on governance, technology, and structured political communication could appeal to Gen Z, particularly urban and semi-urban voters.

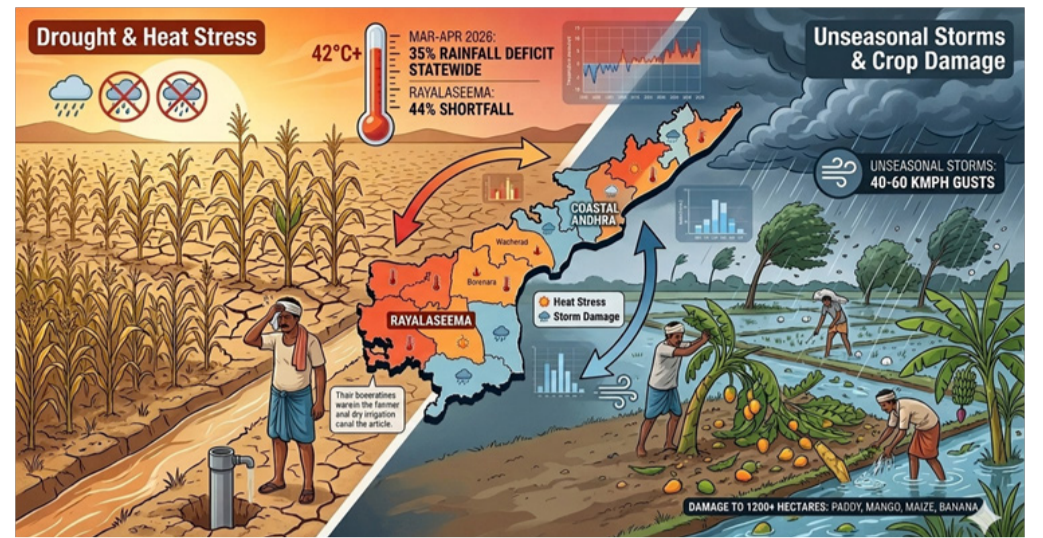
On the other hand, film artist turned politician, Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan carries a strong emotional appeal among young voters, especially first-time voters influenced by his cinematic background and anti-establishment stance. However, converting that appeal into consistent electoral support remains a challenge. YSRC Chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, despite facing electoral setbacks, still retains a base among welfare beneficiaries. But Gen Z voters are gradually shifting focus from welfare to opportu-

nity, jobs, startups, and economic growth, areas where expectations are rising rapidly.

The Bharatiya Janata Party is also attempting to expand its footprint by targeting young voters through nationalistic messaging and development narratives, though its ground presence in Andhra Pradesh remains limited.

The defining factor for 2029 will not just be charisma or legacy, but credibility. Gen Z voters are informed, vocal, and less loyal to political identities. They are willing to switch sides if their expectations are not met. The political message is clear that the future belongs to leaders who can connect with aspirations, not just emotions. Bengal has already shown how powerful this shift can be. Tamil Nadu is witnessing its rise. Andhra Pradesh, in 2029, may well become the ultimate test of whether its leaders can truly understand and win the Gen Z mandate.

-True Point News Desk



## Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Caught in a Climate Tug-of-War

Farming disrupted by shifting heat, rain, and unstable weather patterns

Andhra Pradesh's agriculture sector is currently operating under a sharp and unusual weather cycle—characterised by rainfall deficits, sudden heatwaves, and unseasonal storms. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the state is facing a complex mix of climate extremes that directly impact farm productivity and rural livelihoods.

In March–April 2026, Andhra Pradesh recorded a 35% rainfall deficit, with only 22.1 mm of rainfall against a normal of 34.1 mm. Coastal Andhra saw a 28% deficit, while Rayalaseema suffered a deeper 44% shortfall. This deficit coincided with rising temperatures and heatwave-like conditions in several districts, intensifying stress on crops already in growth or harvest stages.

At the same time, IMD has warned that heatwave days are expected to increase during April–June, particularly in coastal districts. Night temperatures are also expected to remain unusually high, reducing crop recovery time and increasing water demand.

**Crop losses from sudden weather swings**

While drought-like conditions dominate one phase, the state is simultaneously wit-

nessing unseasonal rains, thunderstorms, hailstorms, and gusty winds in another. Recent weather disturbances have damaged crops across multiple districts.

A major IMD-linked assessment reported damage to over 1,200–1,300 hectares of crops, including paddy, banana, maize, mango, and black gram, due to hailstorms and gusty winds reaching up to 40–60 kmph.

In another instance, unseasonal rains affected over 2,000 farmers across 1,200+ hectares, with horticulture crops such as mango, banana, papaya, and citrus fruits heavily impacted.

North coastal Andhra has also reported damage to 800–1,000 acres of crops, including mango, banana, maize, and cashew, due to sudden rain and wind during the harvesting period.

**Agriculture under climate contradiction**

The core issue in Andhra Pradesh is a climate contradiction rather than a single disaster. On one side, rainfall deficit and heat stress are creating drought-like conditions, reducing soil moisture and affecting crop growth. On the other side, sudden storms and heavy rains are causing crop damage and field losses. This alternating

pattern is disrupting all stages of farming. Sowing is affected by delayed or weak rains, the growth phase suffers from heat and water stress, and the harvest stage is hit by unseasonal rain and wind damage. According to the IMD, such instability may be linked to broader climate shifts, including El Niño effects that influence rainfall patterns and temperature anomalies.

**The structural challenge**

Beyond immediate crop losses, the deeper issue is predictability collapse. Farmers are no longer dealing with "bad seasons" but unstable seasons, where weather shifts within days from drought to flood conditions.

**This creates a structural strain on:**

- Irrigation planning
- Crop selection cycles
- Market timing for horticulture

**Input cost recovery**

However, Andhra Pradesh's agriculture is increasingly shaped by climate volatility rather than seasonal stability. The challenge is no longer just agrarian; it is climate-adaptive survival of farming systems in an increasingly unpredictable weather regime.

- True Point News Desk



Weather impact on Andhra Pradesh agriculture (recent months)		
Weather condition	Reported impact	Source scale
Rainfall deficit (35%)	Moisture stress, heatwave risk	State-wide
Heatwave conditions	Crop stress, irrigation demand rise	Coastal + Rayalaseema
Hailstorm & gusty winds	Crop damage (paddy, mango, banana, maize)	1,200–1,300 ha
Unseasonal rain spells	Damage to horticulture crops	1,200+ ha
Erratic rainfall cycles	Yield uncertainty, harvest losses	Multi-district

# Making Every Drop Safe Andhra Pradesh's Model for Last Mile Water Safety

Safe Water Delivery Through In-Line Chlorination and Local Capacity Building

Over the last 6 years, we have seen the ambitious Jal Jeevan mission provide tap connections to over 157M households. Har Ghar Jal's promise is not just water for all, but safe water for all, which is where we provide technical support.

In Andhra Pradesh, with the support of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWS&S) Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, EAII Advisors, Evidence Action's technical arm, is working to provide safe drinking water to rural underserved communities across the state. We deploy In-Line Chlorination (ILC) devices, a simple and effective technology that uses chlorine tablets to ensure water safety at the last mile.

Every time water flows through a pipe, chlorine is dosed automatically. No manual intervention, no gaps in coverage. This consistency is what makes it powerful. Microbial contamination remains the primary threat in groundwater systems, and continuous disinfection addresses it at the point it matters most. Research by Nobel Laureate Michael Kremer and colleagues shows that in-line chlorination can reduce diarrheal deaths by more than 20 per cent.

Over the past two years, this evidence has been put to work. In Andhra Pradesh, field-testing technologies, building institutional capacity, and closing the gap between what the evidence recommends and what reaches communities on the ground.

The rollout has been supported by a structured capacity-building ecosystem. Through state-level technical workshops, regional training programmes, and on-ground demonstrations, the initiative has strengthened the operational capabilities of frontline engineers and officials. This focus on institutional capacity is critical, as technology adoption alone does not guarantee sustained outcomes without the systems and human resources required to manage it effectively.

In Andhra Pradesh, local ownership has been central to the programme's design from the outset. Device operators, Panchayat leaders, and government engineering officers monitor systems on the ground — building the reliability and accountability that no external agency can substitute. Women leaders from self-help groups and community health networks sit at the heart of this effort, serving as village motivators who translate the science of safe water into language that resonates in everyday life.

This points to a broader truth: technology and evidence can open the door, but lasting change walks through it only when communities themselves are invested. Long-term success depends on local entrepreneurship, active participation, and a sustained, community-driven demand for clean water.

From a public health perspective, the implications are significant. Reliable chlorination at the point of distribution directly addresses mi-

crobial contamination, one of the leading causes of waterborne diseases. By ensuring consistency in water quality, the model contributes to reducing disease burden, lowering healthcare costs, and improving overall community wellbeing. Importantly, it also helps build user trust—an often-overlooked factor that influences whether households consistently use piped water for drinking purposes.

As India advances toward universal household tap connections, Andhra Pradesh demonstrates that achieving safe water at scale requires a convergence of technology, policy integration, institutional capacity, and community-level ownership.



Ankur Garg

Country Director  
EAII Advisors  
(The technical partner for Evidence Action in India)



# TVK Chief Vijay Stakes Claim to Form Tamil Nadu Government

In a major political development, actor-turned-politician Vijay, president of the TamilagaVetriKazhagam (TVK), met Tamil Nadu Governor RajendraVishwanathArlekar on Wednesday and formally staked claim to form the next government in the state.

TVK emerged as the single-largest party in the recently concluded Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, winning 108 seats. However, with the majority mark at 118 in the 234-member Assembly, the party is short of the required numbers and is actively seeking support from other parties.

Sources said the Governor is seeking clarity on whether

TVK has the necessary strength to prove majority. As a result, Vijay is unlikely to take oath as Chief Minister immediately. The party needs at least 10 more seats to comfortably cross the halfway mark.

In a significant move, the Congress has extended support to TVK with its five seats. This decision marks a sharp departure from its earlier alliance with the DMK during the polls. The Tamil Nadu Congress unit was given autonomy by its national leadership, and party workers celebrated the development enthusiastically. The DMK, however, accused the Congress of betraying the

people of Tamil Nadu.

Other smaller parties are still weighing their options. The ViduthalaiChiruthai-galKatchi (VCK), which won two seats, is holding internal discussions. The Left parties (CPI and CPI(M)) have sought time till May 8 to take a final call on extending support. There is also speculation about possible backing from independent legislators and sections of the AIADMK.

The Assembly election results have dramatically altered Tamil Nadu's political landscape, ending the decades-old dominance of the DMK and AIADMK. Outgoing Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has already resigned after his

party secured only 59 seats. The AIADMK won 47 seats, while the remaining seats went to smaller parties and independents. Vijay's rise has been described as a tectonic shift, driven largely by strong anti-incumbency against the ruling DMK and his widespread popularity among the youth. However, forming and running a stable government will require skillful coalition management. Political observers are closely watching the coming days as parties finalise their positions. If TVK manages to secure the required support, it will mark the beginning of a new era in Tamil Nadu politics with a young leader at the helm.



## Punjab Congress and BJP Unite Against CM Bhagwant Mann Over Blast Remarks

In a rare show of unity, Punjab's Congress and BJP have come together to strongly criticise Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over his comments linking the BJP to twin low-intensity blasts in the state.

Two minor blasts occurred on Tuesday night—one outside the Border Security Force's Punjab Frontier headquarters in Jalandhar and another near the army cantonment area in Amritsar's Khasa. No casualties were reported in the incidents. Preliminary investigations by Punjab Police have pointed towards possible involvement of Pakistan's ISI.

However, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann stirred controversy by accusing the BJP of orchestrating the blasts to create fear and prepare the ground for the next Punjab Assembly elections. "This is the BJP's preparation for Punjab elections. BJP gets votes by spreading violence and fear among people," Mann said. In a follow-up post on X, he warned that the "Bengal formula" would not work in Punjab and urged the BJP to stop its "politics of fear."

The remarks have drawn sharp reactions from both the BJP and Congress. BJP leader Manoj Tiwari expressed sadness over the Chief Minister's "irresponsible statement" and questioned the AAP government's handling of the situation. Former Congress leader



and now BJP member Sunil Jakhar accused Mann of panic and fear of losing power, saying his comments reflected a failure to address security lapses.

Congress MP Sukhjinder Randhawa criticised the AAP government for shifting blame onto the Centre instead of accepting responsibility. "Law & order is a state subject. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's statement blaming the Centre and BJP reeks of immature politics," he posted on X.

The political slugfest highlights growing tensions in Punjab ahead of future elections. While the AAP government continues to blame external forces and the BJP for the incidents, opposition parties argue that the state government has

failed in its primary duty of maintaining law and order.

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema defended the Chief Minister's stand, claiming that creating violence is part of the BJP's election strategy wherever it contests polls. The twin blasts have raised serious security concerns in a state that has historically been sensitive to issues of peace and stability. Political observers note that Mann's statement has unexpectedly brought two rival parties—Congress and BJP—on the same page, at least on this issue.

As investigations continue, the focus remains on whether the state government can effectively address the security challenges while navigating the intense political crossfire.

## Cop Shot in Drug Raid Near Border

A senior Assam Police personnel was critically injured after being shot during an anti-drug operation near the Assam-Manipur border, underscoring the dangers faced by law enforcement in the region. The incident occurred on Tuesday night in the Diglang area of Jirighat in Cachar district, close to the interstate boundary. Police launched the operation based on specific intelligence inputs about suspected drug traffickers moving through the area from neighbouring Manipur.

The injured officer has been identified as 55-year-old Havildar Sharif Hossain Kazi. He sustained two bullet injuries, one in the abdomen and another in the lower torso, causing severe trauma. He was initially taken to Silchar Medical College and Hospital for emergency treatment. Due to the critical nature of his condition, he was later airlifted to Guwahati for advanced medical care.



According to police officials, the team came under sudden fire from the suspected drug peddlers during the operation. The attackers reportedly opened fire in an attempt to escape, leading to a brief exchange. Taking advantage of the darkness and dense forest

cover along the border, the suspects managed to flee the scene.

Authorities clarified that the operation was carried out by a full police team, including personnel in plain clothes, as part of a coordinated strategy. This clarification came after re-

ports suggested that the injured officer had been operating alone, which officials denied.

Meanwhile, a video showing the injured officer seeking help from locals has surfaced on social media, highlighting the risks and challenges faced by police personnel during such operations in remote areas.

No arrests have been made so far, and a massive search operation has been launched to trace the accused. Security forces are combing the area and strengthening surveillance along the border to prevent further movement of drug traffickers. The Assam-Manipur border has long been identified as a vulnerable corridor for drug trafficking due to its difficult terrain and porous nature. The latest incident once again highlights the persistent challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in curbing the illegal drug trade in the Northeast.

## Bulldozer Vandalism Triggers Kolkata Tension

Tension escalated in Kolkata after a bulldozer was allegedly used to vandalise a party office in the city's busy New Market area following the 2026 Assembly election results.

The incident occurred late Tuesday night in New Market, one of the city's oldest and most crowded commercial hubs. According to the All India Trinamool Congress, a group entered the locality with a bulldozer and targeted a local party office, triggering panic among traders and residents.

Eyewitnesses reported chaos as the situation unfolded, with several shops downing shutters amid fears of further violence. Some nearby structures were also said to have suffered damage during the incident, intensifying concerns over safety in the area. The Trinamool Congress strongly condemned the attack, terming it

an act of organised vandalism. Party leaders alleged that supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party were involved, claiming the bulldozer was used during post-election celebrations. The allegations have added to the already charged political atmosphere in the state. Adding to the controversy, Trinamool leaders also claimed that certain shops, including meat stalls, were targeted during the episode. These claims have raised further questions about law and order in the aftermath of the election results. Police have registered cases and launched an investigation into the incident. Officials confirmed that several individuals have been taken into custody and assured that strict action would be taken against those found responsible. Authorities have also cautioned against the use of

heavy machinery like bulldozers in public areas, particularly during politically sensitive periods. Security has been tightened across key locations in Kolkata, with additional forces deployed to prevent any further escalation. Surveillance has been intensified, and officials are closely monitoring developments. The bulldozer incident comes amid broader post-poll tensions in West Bengal, where sporadic clashes and political confrontations have been reported from multiple districts. The developments underline the fragile situation following the election results, with rival parties trading sharp accusations. As investigations continue, the episode has emerged as a major flashpoint, highlighting concerns over political violence and public safety in the state's volatile post-election environment.



## Rahul-Vijay Tie-Up Redraws Tamil Nadu Politics

In a significant political development following the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and actor-turned-politician Vijay have joined hands, signalling a major shift in the state's political landscape.

The coming together of the Congress and Vijay's TamilagaVetriKazhagam (TVK) is the outcome of months of behind-the-scenes discussions and strategic calculations. Leaders within the Tamil Nadu Congress had reportedly sensed a growing wave of public support for Vijay well before the election results, with many describing it as a strong surge in his favour.

Initially, however, the Congress remained aligned with its long-time ally, the DravidaMunetraKazhagam. Differences began to surface during seat-sharing talks, with the Congress seeking a larger share and a more prominent role in governance. The DMK was unwilling to concede these demands, leading to growing unease within the alliance. In contrast, Vijay's TVK was seen as more accommodating, offering better political space and prospects.



Subtle signs of strain were visible during the campaign itself. Rahul Gandhi maintained a distance from key DMK events, fuelling speculation about internal differences. Despite this, the alliance formally remained intact until the results were announced.

The turning point came on counting day when Vijay's party emerged as the single largest force, though short of a clear majority. Rahul Gandhi was

quick to congratulate Vijay, and the Congress leadership soon held internal discussions before deciding to extend support to the TVK. For the Congress, the move is both strategic and opportunistic. The alliance provides a pathway back to power in Tamil Nadu after years on the sidelines, while also allowing the party to strengthen its organisational presence. Vijay, on the other hand, gains crucial support in his bid to form the

government. The decision has triggered sharp reactions from the DMK, which has criticised the Congress for shifting sides at a crucial moment. The development has added a new layer of political rivalry in the state.

As Tamil Nadu stands on the brink of a new political phase, the Rahul Gandhi-Vijay partnership is expected to reshape alliances and redefine power equations in the years ahead.

## Apex Court Rejects Delay in Poll Panel Case

The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday refused to postpone a key hearing on petitions challenging the law governing the appointment of election commissioners, stressing the urgency and importance of the matter.

The Centre had requested an adjournment, citing the unavailability of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who is currently engaged in another constitutional case. However, the bench declined the plea, observing that the hearing had been scheduled in advance and could not be delayed further. The court underlined that the issue concerns the process of appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners—positions central to ensuring free and



fair elections in the country. It noted that such a matter carries significant constitutional weight and requires timely consideration.

At the heart of the case is a law introduced by the Centre

that changed the composition of the selection panel for appointing election commissioners. A previous Supreme Court judgment had prescribed a panel consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposi-

tion, and the Chief Justice of India. The new law replaces the Chief Justice with a Union minister nominated by the Prime Minister. Petitioners have argued that this alteration gives the executive greater influence in the selection process, potentially affecting the independence of the Election Commission. They contend that the earlier structure ensured a more balanced and transparent mechanism. The case has drawn widespread attention due to its implications for democratic institutions. With the court refusing to grant a delay, the hearing has now commenced, setting the stage for a crucial examination of the legal framework governing the appointment of India's top election officials.

# Trump Pauses Naval Mission, Pressure on Iran Continues

In a significant development amid rising tensions in the Gulf region, former US President Donald Trump has announced a temporary pause in Project Freedom, a naval mission designed to escort commercial vessels through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

The move comes following a request from Pakistan, as international efforts intensify to de-escalate the conflict and push for a diplomatic resolution. The pause is being interpreted as a calculated step to create space for negotiations with Iran, even as tensions remain high.

“Project Freedom” was launched in response to growing disruptions in maritime traffic caused by the conflict. The Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world’s oil supply passes, has been at the centre of the crisis. Several commercial vessels had been stranded or forced to re-route due to security concerns, prompting the United States to initiate escorted passage operations.

Despite halting the mission temporarily, Trump made it clear that the broader US strategy remains unchanged. The na-

val blockade targeting Iranian ports will continue, maintaining sustained pressure on Tehran. This dual approach—pausing one operation while continuing another—reflects a balance between military readiness and diplomatic signalling.

US officials have indicated that a fragile ceasefire is currently holding in parts of the region. However, there is no formal agreement in place, and both sides continue to maintain a strong military presence. Warships, surveillance systems, and defensive measures remain active, underlining the uncertainty that

still surrounds the situation.

Iran, for its part, has enforced strict control over maritime routes in the Strait, issuing warnings of strong retaliation against any perceived violations. The heightened alert has raised concerns among global stakeholders, particularly those dependent on stable energy supplies and uninterrupted shipping routes. The involvement of countries like Pakistan highlights the growing role of regional players in attempting to mediate the crisis. Diplomatic backchannels are reportedly active, with multi-

ple nations urging restraint and dialogue to prevent further escalation.

The temporary pause in “Project Freedom” is being viewed as a confidence-building measure, aimed at reducing immediate tensions while keeping avenues for negotiation open. However, analysts caution that the situation remains highly volatile, with any misstep capable of reigniting hostilities.

As the world watches closely, the coming days are expected to be crucial in determining whether diplomacy can prevail or if the region will slip back into deeper conflict.



# Kamikaze Dolphins Claim Rejected by US

Amid rising tensions in the Gulf, claims that Iran could deploy Kamikaze dolphins to attack US naval vessels have been firmly dismissed by officials linked to former US President Donald Trump.

The unusual claim suggested that Iran might use trained dolphins fitted with explosives to target ships in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. The report quickly gained global attention due to its unconventional nature and the already volatile situation in the region.

However, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth rejected the claim outright, stating there is no evidence that Iran possesses such capabilities. He clarified that there is no active programme involving marine mammals being used for offensive missions by Tehran.

While dismissing the allegation against Iran, Hegseth made a notable remark, saying he could neither confirm nor deny whether the United States had ever explored similar con-



cepts. The comment added intrigue, though officials maintained there is no confirmed use of dolphins as weapons.

Experts note that marine mammals have historically been used in limited naval roles. The US, for instance, has

trained dolphins and sea lions for tasks such as detecting underwater mines and identifying suspicious objects. These programmes rely on the animals’ natural sonar abilities and are focused on surveillance and defence.

Officials stressed that such initiatives are non-lethal and are not designed for attack missions. There is no verified evidence of any country deploying dolphins in combat roles or suicide-style operations.

The claim also revived older reports that Iran had once acquired trained dolphins from the former Soviet Union. However, analysts say there is no indication that any such programme exists today or is operational.

The episode highlights how unusual and exaggerated narratives can surface during periods of geopolitical tension. As the situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains sensitive, authorities have urged caution and reliance on verified information to avoid unnecessary alarm.

While the “kamikaze dolphins” theory has been dismissed, the broader tensions in the region continue to keep global attention focused on maritime security and potential escalation.

# Pak Leader’s Claim Sparks Row Over Militants’ Funerals

A latest controversy has emerged after a Pakistani political leader claimed that militants killed during India’s Operation Sindoor were accorded full military honours at their funerals, raising serious questions about Islamabad’s stance on terrorism.

Shaheer Sialvi, chairman of the Pakistan Nazriyati Party, made the remarks at a public gathering, stating that those killed in the Indian operation were given ceremonial burials with the involvement of the Pakistan Army. According to him, uniformed personnel carried the coffins, indicating official recognition.

The statement has drawn widespread attention as it appears to contradict Pakistan’s long-standing position that such individuals are “non-state actors” with no formal links to the military establishment. Sialvi’s remarks suggest a level of acknowledgment that could have broader implications.

Operation Sindoor was launched by India targeting terror infrastructure across the border, following a major attack. The operation report-



edly eliminated several operatives linked to groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba. Sialvi also reportedly stated that the funerals were conducted in a manner aimed at projecting the deceased as “martyrs” or “freedom fighters,” rather than terrorists. This has intensified criticism and renewed debate over alleged links between Pakistan’s military establishment and extremist organisations.

The claims have sparked sharp reactions, particularly given the sensitive nature of India-Pakistan relations. Ana-

lysts say such statements, if substantiated, could impact Pakistan’s global image and raise concerns in international counter-terrorism circles.

So far, there has been no official response from Pakistan authorities regarding the remarks. However, the episode has added to existing tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

As discussions continue, the statement is likely to remain a key talking point in the ongoing debate over terrorism, accountability, and regional security in South Asia.



# Russian Strikes Kill 21 in Ukraine, Ceasefire Hopes Fade

At least 21 people were killed in a fresh wave of Russian strikes across Ukraine, underscoring the intensifying conflict and dimming hopes of any immediate ceasefire.

The attacks targeted several cities, including Zaporizhzhia, Kramatorsk, and Dnipro. Ukrainian officials said missiles and drones struck civilian areas, damaging residential buildings, public infrastructure, and essential services. The strikes left dozens injured, with emergency teams working through the rubble to rescue survivors. Authorities reported that Zaporizhzhia witnessed some of the heaviest damage, with multiple fatalities recorded after what officials described as direct hits on populated neighbourhoods. In Kramatorsk and Dnipro, explosions were reported in key urban zones, further intensifying the humanitarian situation.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy strongly condemned the attacks, accusing Russia of deliberately escalating violence despite ongoing discussions around a possible ceasefire. He said the strikes reflected a continued disregard for civilian safety and international calls for restraint.

The timing of the assault has raised particular concern, as it reportedly came just ahead of a proposed ceasefire window linked to diplomatic efforts. Ukrainian officials said the at-

tacks cast serious doubt on Moscow’s willingness to de-escalate the conflict, suggesting that military pressure remains a key strategy.

Emergency services across the affected regions have been mobilised on a large scale. Rescue workers, medical teams, and volunteers are engaged in search operations, with fears that the death toll could rise further as more victims are recovered from damaged structures. The conflict, now entering another prolonged phase, continues to take a heavy toll on Ukraine’s civilian population. Repeated strikes have disrupted daily life, damaged energy infrastructure, and forced thousands of people to flee their homes. The psychological and economic impact of the war remains severe.

Despite intermittent diplomatic outreach and calls for peace from global leaders, there has been little concrete progress toward a lasting resolution. Both sides continue to maintain strong military positions, with retaliatory actions and counter-strikes reported in recent weeks.

The latest wave of attacks highlights the fragile and volatile situation on the ground. As international concern grows, the focus remains on preventing further escalation and addressing the worsening humanitarian crisis in the region.

# US-Iran Deal Close, Pakistan Plays Key Role

The United States and Iran are reportedly nearing a breakthrough agreement to end their ongoing conflict, with Pakistan emerging as a key mediator in the high-stakes negotiations.

According to sources familiar with the talks, both sides are close to finalising a preliminary memorandum that could pave the way for a formal end to hostilities. The proposed agreement is expected to act as a framework, allowing both nations to enter a defined negotiation phase to settle broader issues, including sanctions, nuclear concerns, and maritime security.

Pakistan has played a central role in facilitating communication between the two sides. Diplomatic efforts led from Is-



lamabad have helped bring US and Iranian representatives to the table, making it one of the most significant mediation efforts between the two countries in decades. The ongoing

talks are being seen as a rare opportunity to resolve a conflict that has disrupted global energy markets and heightened geopolitical tensions. The Strait of Hormuz, a crit-

ical global oil transit route, remains a major point of contention. Iran’s restrictions on shipping and the US naval blockade have significantly impacted international trade and fuel supplies. Any agreement is expected to address the reopening of the route and ensure safe passage for commercial vessels.

While progress has been reported, challenges remain. Key differences persist over issues such as Iran’s nuclear programme and the lifting of US sanctions. Both sides are also weighing security guarantees and long-term commitments, making the final agreement complex and sensitive.

Recent developments, including the temporary pause in US military operations, are

being viewed as confidence-building measures aimed at supporting the negotiation process. However, the blockade of Iranian ports continues, indicating that pressure tactics remain part of the broader strategy.

Global markets have reacted cautiously to the possibility of a deal, with oil prices showing signs of fluctuation amid optimism over reduced tensions.

As negotiations move forward, the coming days are expected to be crucial. If successful, the agreement could mark a turning point in US-Iran relations and bring much-needed stability to a region that has witnessed prolonged conflict and uncertainty.

# Ramaswamy Wins Ohio GOP Nod



During his campaign, Ramaswamy emphasised the need to revitalise Ohio’s economy, create job opportunities, and improve education systems. He also highlighted his experience as a successful entrepreneur,

positioning himself as someone capable of bringing efficiency and innovation to governance.

Party leaders and supporters hailed his victory as a sign of shifting dynamics within the

Republican base, where outsider candidates with strong ideological positions are gaining traction. His win reflects growing support for candidates who challenge establishment politics while maintaining firm

conservative values.

Ramaswamy now heads into the general election, where he is expected to face a tough contest against the Democratic nominee. Political analysts believe the race could be closely fought, given Ohio’s history of competitive elections and its importance in national politics. If elected, Ramaswamy would become one of the youngest governors in the state’s history and one of the few Indian-Americans to hold such a high executive office in the United States. His candidacy has already drawn attention both domestically and internationally, especially among the Indian diaspora.

The election outcome will be closely watched, as it could signal broader trends within American politics and the evolving priorities of voters in key swing states.

# Markets Rally as Nifty Tops 24,300

Indian equity markets witnessed a strong rally on Wednesday, with benchmark indices surging sharply amid improving global sentiment and easing geopolitical concerns. The BSE Sensex jumped 941 points, while the Nifty 50 crossed the crucial 24,300 mark, reflecting renewed investor confidence.

The rally was largely driven by optimism over potential de-escalation in tensions between the United States and Iran, which led to a decline in global crude oil prices. For India, a major importer of oil, softer crude prices are seen as a positive trigger, as they help reduce inflationary pressures and improve fiscal stability.

Markets opened on a firm note, tracking positive cues from global peers. Though some volatility was witnessed during the trading session due to intermittent profit booking, strong buying in the second half helped indices close near their day's highs.

The uptrend was broad-based, with most sectoral indices ending in the green. Banking, auto, metal, and realty stocks led the gains, supported



by strong institutional buying. Heavyweight banking stocks played a key role in driving the indices higher, contributing significantly to the overall momentum.

Broader markets also participated actively in the rally. Midcap and smallcap stocks outperformed the benchmarks, indicating healthy market breadth and wider investor

participation. A large number of stocks touched fresh highs, signalling bullish sentiment across sectors.

However, not all segments moved in tandem. Defensive

sectors such as FMCG witnessed some pressure, as investors shifted focus towards cyclical and growth-oriented stocks that tend to benefit more from improving economic conditions.

Market experts believe that the rally could sustain in the near term if global cues remain supportive and crude oil prices stay stable. The easing of geopolitical tensions has provided a much-needed boost to sentiment, which had been under pressure in recent weeks. From a technical perspective, the Nifty appears to have established a strong support level around 24,000, while immediate resistance is seen in the 24,450-24,500 range. A sustained move above this zone could open the door for further upside. Despite the positive momentum, analysts advise caution, highlighting that global uncertainties and sudden geopolitical developments could still trigger volatility. Investors are being encouraged to adopt a selective approach, focusing on fundamentally strong stocks while keeping an eye on global developments that could influence market direction.

## AI Giants Challenge Indian IT Model

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence services by OpenAI and Anthropic is beginning to reshape the global technology services industry, posing both opportunities and challenges for Indian IT majors like Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys. In a significant strategic shift, AI firms are moving beyond offering standalone tools to delivering end-to-end enterprise solutions. This includes directly deploying AI systems within organisations, often with dedicated teams working closely with clients to integrate these technologies into daily operations. The transition marks a move toward becoming full-service providers rather than just technology vendors.

This new model fundamentally alters the traditional IT services framework. Indian IT companies have historically relied on a labour-intensive approach, deploying large teams over extended periods to execute projects. However, AI-led delivery systems are now capable of completing similar tasks faster, with significantly fewer people, and at lower costs. Industry experts note that enterprises are increasingly seeking customised, outcome-driven solutions tailored to their specific data and operational requirements. This demand aligns closely with the capabilities offered by AI-native firms, which can automate coding, testing, and support functions with minimal human intervention. As a result, the long-standing labour arbitrage model that underpinned the success of Indian IT services is coming under pressure. Entry-level roles are particularly vulnerable, as automation reduces the



need for large engineering teams. At the same time, pricing models are evolving, shifting from time-based billing to fixed-fee and subscription-based contracts. However, the disruption is not entirely one-sided. Companies like TCS and Infosys are adapting by forming partnerships with AI firms and integrating advanced tools into their own platforms. This has created a "co-opetition" dynamic, where traditional IT players both collaborate with and compete against emerging AI providers for enterprise contracts. Despite the challenges, Indian IT firms retain key advantages, including deep domain expertise, long-standing client relationships, and the ability to manage complex legacy systems. These strengths continue to be critical, especially for large enterprises navigating regulatory and operational complexities. Going forward, the industry's trajectory will depend on how quickly traditional IT companies can transition from manpower-driven models to AI-led, outcome-focused delivery. Hiring patterns, deal structures, and revenue composition are expected to be key indicators of this transformation. As AI continues to evolve, the competitive landscape of the IT services sector is set for a significant shift, with innovation, adaptability, and strategic partnerships determining long-term success.

## Auto Retail Hits April Record

India's automobile retail sector recorded its strongest-ever April performance, with total sales reaching 2.61 million units, registering a growth of nearly 13 per cent year-on-year. The surge reflects strong demand across vehicle segments, supported by favourable economic conditions and improved consumer sentiment.

Passenger vehicle sales touched a record 4,07,355 units during the month, marking a 12.21 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. The segment continued to witness steady demand, driven by rising aspirations, new model launches, and growing preference for utility vehicles.

Two-wheelers, which account for the largest share of the market, also posted significant growth, with sales crossing 1.9 million units. This segment benefited from increased affordability, particularly in

rural and semi-urban areas.

Other segments showed positive momentum as well. Three-wheeler sales registered moderate growth, while commercial vehicle sales saw a strong uptick, indicating improving economic activity and demand for transportation and logistics services.

The growth in April was largely driven by rural demand, which emerged as a key pillar of the sector's performance. A strong rabi harvest boosted farm incomes, leading to higher disposable income and increased spending on vehicles in rural areas. This trend highlights the expanding footprint of the automobile market beyond urban centres.

Favourable macroeconomic factors also played a crucial role. Reduced tax burdens helped make vehicles more affordable, while a supportive interest rate environment ensured easier access to

financing. Together, these factors encouraged both first-time buyers and existing customers to make purchases. Additionally, the extended marriage season contributed to higher vehicle demand, particularly in smaller towns and rural regions where such occasions often drive big-ticket purchases.

Despite the strong performance, industry experts remain cautiously optimistic about the months ahead. While demand trends remain positive, challenges such as rising input costs, fuel price volatility, and global uncertainties could impact future growth.

Overall, the record-breaking April sales indicate a strong start to the financial year for the automobile sector. The broad-based growth across segments and regions underlines the resilience of the market and its ability to sustain momentum under supportive economic conditions.



## Lexus Offers 8-Year Warranty

Luxury carmaker Lexus has announced a major enhancement to its customer ownership experience in India by extending its standard vehicle warranty to eight years or 200,000 kilometres, whichever comes earlier. The new policy will be applicable to all vehicles sold from April 1, 2026, and will be offered at no additional cost. With this move, Lexus India becomes the first luxury automobile brand in the country to provide such an extended warranty period, setting a new benchmark in the premium car segment. The initiative reflects the company's growing confidence in product quality and durability, while also aiming to strengthen customer trust and long-term satisfaction. According to Hikaru Keuchi, the decision underscores the brand's commitment to delivering exceptional ownership experiences. He noted that the extended coverage is a direct reflection of the company's faith in its vehicles and its intent to exceed customer expectations in the Indian market.

The warranty applies across the entire Lexus lineup available in India, ensuring uniform benefits for all new buyers. In addition to the extended warranty, customers will continue to have access to a range of ownership support services. These include flexible finance options, curated service packages under Lexus Luxury Care, comprehensive insur-

ance solutions, and round-the-clock roadside assistance.

Lexus India began operations in the country in March 2017 and has steadily built a niche presence in the luxury automobile space. The company currently offers a portfolio of five models, catering to a diverse range of premium car buyers. Among its lineup, the ES 300h sedan has emerged as the brand's most popular offering in India. Introduced as a locally assembled model in 2020, it has played a key role in driving Lexus's growth by combining luxury with hybrid technology and fuel efficiency.

Globally, Lexus operates in more than 90 countries and has achieved significant milestones in hybrid vehicle adoption. The brand has sold over three million hybrid cars worldwide, reinforcing its leadership in sustainable luxury mobility.

Industry analysts believe the extended warranty could give Lexus a competitive edge in India's evolving luxury car market, where buyers increasingly value long-term reliability and lower maintenance concerns. The move is also expected to push other premium manufacturers to revisit their after-sales strategies.

As competition intensifies, Lexus's focus on customer-centric initiatives may help it strengthen its foothold and expand its presence in one of the world's fastest-growing automotive markets.



## Steel Demand Up 8% in April

India's steel sector reported steady growth in April, with finished steel consumption rising by over 8 per cent year-on-year, signalling strong demand across key industries such as infrastructure, construction, and manufacturing. Total finished steel consumption stood at nearly 13 million tonnes during the month, reflecting sustained economic activity and ongoing investment in large-scale projects. The growth highlights the resilience of core sectors that continue to drive demand for steel products. Production trends remained positive as well. Crude steel output increased by around 5.8 per cent, while finished steel production recorded a growth of about 3.4 per cent. The rise in output indicates stable industrial momentum, although certain segments such as pig iron saw a decline during the period. A significant development in April was the recovery in domestic steel prices across categories. Long steel products, including construction-grade materials, registered modest gains after a prolonged period of subdued pricing. Flat steel products, commonly used in manufacturing and automobiles, witnessed stronger price increases due to improved demand and better market sentiment. The rebound in prices suggests a gradual strengthening of the sector, supported by increased consumption and

tighter supply conditions in some segments. However, rising input costs continue to pose a challenge for steel manufacturers. Prices of key raw materials such as iron ore and coking coal have moved upward, putting pressure on production costs and margins.

On the trade front, India remained a marginal net importer of steel during the month. Imports increased at a faster pace compared to exports, indicating that domestic demand in certain categories outstripped local supply. India's steel industry continues to expand its production capacity in line with long-term growth targets. The country's steelmaking capacity has reached around 220 million tonnes per annum, with plans to scale up significantly over the next decade. This expansion is aligned with the government's focus on infrastructure development and industrial growth. At the same time, there is a growing emphasis on sustainability, with several companies exploring environmentally friendly production methods and green steel initiatives. Looking ahead, the outlook for the steel sector remains optimistic, driven by strong domestic demand and policy support. However, fluctuations in raw material prices and global market conditions are expected to remain key factors influencing the sector's performance in the coming months.

## Vedanta Outlines Mega Expansion Plans Across Key Sectors Post-Demerger

Vedanta Ltd has announced ambitious expansion plans across its aluminium, oil and gas, power, and steel businesses as it transitions into independent verticals following the completion of its corporate demerger. In a letter to shareholders, Chairman Anil Agarwal outlined a bold growth roadmap aimed at transforming each business into a globally competitive entity with significant scale and cost leadership. The demerger, which became effective on May 1, 2026, restructures the group into focused sectoral companies, enabling sharper strategies and better capital allocation.

Vedanta Aluminium plans to double its production capacity to 6 million tonnes per annum. The expansion will be supported by deeper backward inte-



gration in bauxite and alumina, which is expected to strengthen its position among the world's lowest-cost aluminium producers. In the oil and gas segment, the company is targeting a substantial in-

crease in output to 300,000-500,000 barrels per day. This growth will be backed by a \$5 billion investment programme to boost exploration and production activities. The power business is set for a major

scale-up, with current capacity of 4.2 gigawatts (GW) expanding through a pipeline that could reach 12 GW. In a notable strategic shift, Vedanta is diversifying into hydropower and nuclear energy to build a broader clean energy portfolio alongside its existing thermal power operations. On the iron and steel front, the company aims to increase capacity from the current 4 million tonnes per annum to 10 million tonnes in the medium term, with a long-term vision of reaching 15 million tonnes. This expansion will leverage captive iron ore resources and integrated operations for greater efficiency. Vedanta has already invested around Rs 15,000 crore in growth capital expenditure across various segments, including aluminium, zinc, and

oil & gas. The group emphasised its focus on disciplined capital allocation, consistent cash generation, and adoption of technology and automation to enhance productivity. These expansion plans come at a time when India is witnessing rising demand in infrastructure, energy, electrification, and manufacturing sectors. By creating independent listed entities, Vedanta aims to unlock value and position each business as a standalone leader in its domain. Analysts view the move as a significant step in Vedanta's evolution from a diversified conglomerate into a portfolio of large, sector-focused companies. The success of these plans will depend on execution, regulatory clearances, and favourable market conditions in the coming years.

# AI Traffic Cop Takes Over Bengaluru Airport Runways

In a plot twist straight out of a sci-fi comedy, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has quietly handed over runway traffic control to an AI system that's apparently better at its job than most humans. No sleeper ground staff waving lights at 3 a.m., now cameras with brains are calling the shots.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) announced on Tuesday the rollout of its Smart Airside Safety System, a fancy name for what is essentially a hyper-vigilant digital bouncer at the airport's most chaotic intersections. These Cross Service Roads (CSRs) are the airport equivalent of busy Mumbai junctions where aircraft and ground vehicles constantly flirt with disaster. Traditionally, safety relied on manual inset lights and human judgment — a system prone to delays, mistakes, and the occasional "did I just see a luggage tractor almost kiss a Boeing?" moment.

Enter the AI. Using computer vision cameras that never blink (or get distracted by chai breaks), the system watches everything in real time. It spots vehicles, assesses risks, detects rule-breakers, and automatically lights up signals to give aircraft priority. Once the coast is clear, it politely resets every-



thing like a courteous traffic warden. No drama, no delays, just smooth precision.

What makes this delightfully offbeat is how delightfully mundane yet revolutionary it is. Airports have long romanticized the glamour of flying, but

the real magic (and danger) happens on the ground where multi-million-dollar planes share space with speeding vans and tractors. Human error in low visibility or at night has always been the hidden gremlin. This AI creates a "data-driven

separation layer," as BIAL puts it, turning potential fender-benders into logged data points. Beyond safety, the system is an efficiency maniac. It cuts unnecessary stoppages, speeds up aircraft turnarounds, and keeps traffic flowing like a well-

oiled algorithm. A central monitoring dashboard logs every event, giving operators god-like visibility and the ability to predict problems before they happen. Think of it as airport operations finally joining the 21st century while the rest of India's traffic still argues over who goes first at roundabouts.

For frequent fliers tired of "technical delays," this could mean fewer frustrating waits. For pilots and ground crews, it's a tireless co-worker that doesn't call in sick. And for tech enthusiasts, it's proof that AI isn't just writing bad poetry or generating cat memes — it's quietly preventing aviation incidents in one of India's busiest airports. Of course, the real test will come during peak hours or when Bangalore's infamous rains turn the tarmac into a slippery stage. Will the AI develop a sense of humor when a rogue catering truck tries to sneak through? Only time will tell. As airports worldwide chase smarter tech, Bengaluru has staked an early claim as India's most forward-thinking airfield. Who knew the future of flying would depend less on glamorous wings and more on watchful silicon eyes keeping everyone in their lane? Next up: AI that finds your lost baggage on purpose. We can dream.



## Musk's \$1.5M Oopsie Fine: Billionaire's Bargain Basement Settlement

In the latest episode of Billionaires Vs Regulators, Elon Musk has once again turned a potential regulatory headache into little more than pocket change. On Monday, the world's richest man agreed to let one of his trusts pay a \$1.5 million fine to settle a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission lawsuit over his stealthy Twitter shopping spree in 2022.

For context, this is the same Twitter acquisition that eventually cost him \$44 billion and transformed the platform into X. Back then, Musk was quietly scooping up shares while the rest of the market remained blissfully unaware. Securities rules require anyone crossing the 5% ownership threshold to disclose it within 10 days. Musk reportedly arrived fashionably late — by about 11 days. The SEC claimed this delay let Musk keep buying at artificially low prices, pocketing an estimated \$150 million savings at the expense of ordinary shareholders who sold without knowing a mega-takeover was brewing. Yet in true Musk fashion, the settlement involves no repayment of those alleged savings, no admission of wrongdoing, and just a polite promise not to be late on paperwork again.

Musk's lawyer Alex Spiro celebrated the outcome as full vindication, insisting his client "did nothing wrong" and that the case was essentially dismissed. The fine, he noted, was simply for one late filing by a trust vehicle. For a man whose net worth hovers around the \$600 bil-

lion mark, \$1.5 million is roughly the equivalent of a normal person losing a \$20 bill in the couch cushions.

This marks Musk's second notable dance with the SEC. The first, in 2018, involved a \$20 million penalty and stepping down as Tesla chairman after his infamous "funding secured" tweet about taking the company private, a deal that, like many Musk tweets, never quite materialized as advertised. Observers can't help but chuckle at the cosmic irony. The man who buys and sells entire social media empires, launches rockets, and builds brain-chip companies just paid a fine for tardy paperwork. It's like Picasso getting a parking ticket. Critics argue the penalty feels comically light compared to the alleged harm, while Musk supporters see it as yet another example of government overreach finally hitting a pragmatic wall. Either way, the deal still needs a judge's approval, but if history is any guide, Musk will walk away whistling.

In the grand theater of high-stakes finance, this settlement lands somewhere between a slap on the wrist and a gentle high-five. For Musk, it's business as usual: move fast, break things (or at least disclosure deadlines), and settle cheap when the bill comes. Meanwhile, regular investors are left wondering if they too can get such friendly terms the next time they're 11 days late on their taxes. One thing's certain — in Elon's world, even regulatory trouble comes with a discount.

# 6-Year-Old Masters UPI While Dad Still Explains TDS

In a heartwarming dose of generational whiplash, Bengaluru CEO Kunal Kabra found himself stunned when his six-year-old son came home discussing financial literacy, a subject most Indian adults only discover through painful trial and error. Kabra, who has spent his career in finance playing unofficial money advisor to family and friends, shared his surprise on LinkedIn after discovering his child's Class 1 curriculum now includes a book titled *My Paiso: Money Mindfulness*. The colorful primer introduces concepts like saving, responsible spending, and hilariously digital payment icons for UPI and BHIM. "I was shocked," Kabra wrote. The book's cover features payment app logos that "half the adults in my family still don't fully understand." For a man who has fielded countless panicked questions about salary slips, TDS deductions, and frozen PF accounts, seeing his first-grader casually learning these basics felt like watching the future arrive early. What makes this story deliciously offbeat is the role reversal. Parents usually teach kids about money through piggy banks and "wait till your birthday" lectures. Here, the six-year-old is schooling the household on concepts that many in their twenties still fumble. Kabra noted that while schools taught trigonometry,



the periodic table, and ancient battles, practical money skills were mysteriously absent from the syllabus for decades. Most people, he observed, learned finance the hard way — by making expensive mistakes. Now, a new generation is growing up treating UPI IDs as basic knowledge long before they ever see a physical chequebook. Kabra sees this as India finally catching up. "The adults they become will approach money with clar-

ity," he wrote hopefully. "That's all I've ever wanted from my work in finance. To make it understood." The initiative re-frames saving and spending not as adult burdens but as core life skills, like brushing teeth or saying please. No more waiting until that first salary hits the account and panic sets in over taxes, investments, and "where did all the money go?" In a country where financial illiteracy has long been a silent epidemic,

this Bengaluru school's move feels both progressive and overdue. While rocket scientists debate complex equations, kids are learning how not to blow their pocket money — or future salaries. Kabra's post has struck a chord, resonating with parents tired of explaining compound interest to confused relatives. His son's early education offers a glimpse of a less stressful financial future: one where UPI is kindergarten stuff and

"financial responsibility" starts before kids can tie their own shoelaces properly. Who knows? In a few years, these children might be the ones patiently explaining cryptocurrency to their bewildered parents. For now, one Bengaluru CEO is happily playing catch-up with his remarkably money-savvy first-grader — proof that sometimes the future isn't just bright, it's surprisingly solvent.

# Delhi Airport Cab Scam: When Your Ride Takes a Fake Detour to Gurugram

In the eternal Indian saga of "never trust late-night airport cabs," a Delhi passenger has exposed a delightfully devious new chapter. What started as a straightforward mid-night Uber ride from the airport to Janakpuri turned into an unexpected financial detour — complete with a phantom drop-off in Gurugram. The victim booked the ride around 12:45 AM expecting to pay 420. By the time the car reached the destination, the app cheerfully displayed 571. Tired and trusting, the passenger paid up, assuming surge pricing or some mysterious nighttime multiplier had kicked in. Only later, while checking the receipt, did the real plot twist emerge: the trip was logged as ending in Gurugram — a solid 30-40 km away

from the actual Janakpuri drop-off. "That means the driver likely changed or manipulated the trip destination in-app to jack up the fare while still dropping me at my actual location," the passenger wrote in a viral Reddit post that quickly turned into a public service announcement. But the red flags weren't just waving — they were doing the full Republic Day parade. The driver's face didn't match the profile photo. He wasn't using the Uber driver app at all, instead asking the passenger to punch the address into Google Maps. When the rider tried calling through the app, no one picked up. Instead, the driver had conveniently shared his personal number earlier. Classic. Social media reactions poured in with war stories that

made this incident look almost amateur. One user claimed a similar ride ballooned from 300 to 980 thanks to creative routing and possible OTP-sharing between drivers. Others warned about fake starting points near the Delhi-Gurgaon border and unnecessary toll detours via Dwarka Expressway. Airport rides, it seems, are prime hunting ground for these digital sleights of hand. What makes this tale hilariously Indian is how it blends high-tech convenience with good old-fashioned jugaad. Apps promised to eliminate shady taxi-wallahs, yet clever operators have found ways to game the very system meant to protect us. One moment you're relieved there's no haggling; the next, you're funding someone's extra fuel while

sitting in the wrong virtual city. Uber has been notified and a refund plus action requested. But the incident is a timely reminder for sleepy travellers: screenshot your fare at the start, double-check the route, and maybe keep one eye open even at 1 AM. In Delhi's airport ecosystem, trust is a luxury few can afford. As ride-hailing wars heat up between Ola, Uber, and others, passengers are learning the hard way that technology is only as honest as the human behind the wheel. Next time your cab takes an unexpected "shortcut," check if it's heading to your home, or quietly adding kilometres in Gurugram. Welcome to India's late-night cab roulette. Bring snacks, stay alert, and always verify your virtual destination.



# SRH Storm to the Top

Sunrisers Hyderabad delivered a commanding performance to defeat Punjab Kings by 33 runs and move to the top of the IPL 2026 points table in a high-scoring clash at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. Batting first, SRH once again showcased their explosive batting strength by piling up a massive 235/4 in 20 overs. Heinrich Klaasen led the charge with a blistering 69 off 43 balls, while Ishan Kishan played a superb supporting role with a quickfire 55 from 32 deliveries. Travis Head also provided a fiery start, helping Hyderabad dominate the powerplay and maintain the momentum throughout the innings. The Punjab Kings

bowlers struggled to contain the aggressive SRH batting lineup, and costly fielding errors only made matters worse. Dropped catches at crucial moments allowed the Hyderabad batters to capitalize fully and push the total well beyond 230. In reply, Punjab Kings faced early setbacks as Sunrisers Hyderabad struck in the powerplay to put pressure on the chase. Despite the difficult situation, Cooper Connolly produced a sensational counterattack and remained unbeaten on 107 off just 59 balls. The young batter played fearless cricket and kept Punjab's hopes alive with powerful strokeplay all around the ground. However, Connolly received little support from the other end as SRH

bowlers continued to pick up timely wickets. The required run rate kept climbing, and Punjab eventually finished at 202/7 in their 20 overs, falling 33 runs short of the target. SRH skipper Pat Cummins marshalled his bowling resources smartly, while the entire bowling unit contributed with disciplined performances in the middle and death overs. The victory marked Sunrisers Hyderabad's sixth win in their last seven matches and highlighted the team's impressive turnaround after an inconsistent start to the season.

For Punjab Kings, the defeat was their third consecutive loss, causing them to slip from the top spot in the standings. Their bat-

ting unit showed flashes of brilliance, but inconsistency and fielding lapses proved costly in a crucial encounter. Sunrisers Hyderabad, meanwhile, look like one of the strongest contenders for the IPL 2026 title. Their batting lineup has consistently delivered big scores, while the bowling attack has stepped up in key moments. Heinrich Klaasen's outstanding form continues to be a major boost for the franchise, and the team now carries strong momentum heading into the final phase of the league stage.

With confidence soaring and performances improving with every match, SRH fans will now be dreaming of another memorable IPL campaign.



## Shreyas Iyer in Elite Captaincy Debate as IPL Legacy Talk Heats Up

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer has entered the centre of a growing debate over IPL leadership greatness, with former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan suggesting that he could eventually surpass legends MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, but only if he delivers another IPL title. Pathan, speaking on a cricket discussion show, placed Iyer in the elite bracket of IPL captains, alongside Dhoni, Rohit Sharma, and Gautam Gambhir. However, he made it clear that the final step in that conversation depends on silverware. "One more trophy; if he wins it with Punjab, he will surpass everyone," Pathan remarked, underlining the importance of sustained success at the highest level. Iyer's captaincy re-

cord has become a talking point across the cricketing world. He is widely recognised for a rare achievement in IPL history, leading three different franchises to the final. He guided Delhi Capitals to their first-ever IPL final in 2020, later took Kolkata Knight Riders to the title match and lifted the trophy in 2024, and has now steered Punjab Kings into another strong campaign as skipper. This consistency across teams has strengthened his reputation as a leader who adapts quickly to different dressing-room cultures and delivers results under pressure. His ability to build competitive units in short timeframes has also drawn praise from several former cricketers and analysts. However, the benchmark

for greatness remains steep. MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma continue to dominate the IPL's leadership legacy with five titles each, setting a standard that defines sustained excellence rather than isolated success. Gambhir's influence as a two-time champion captain also remains part of the elite conversation. Pathan's assessment reflects a broader sentiment in cricket circles, that Iyer is rapidly closing the gap but still needs a defining championship moment with Punjab Kings to fully enter the all-time great category. As the IPL evolves with newer leaders emerging, Iyer's next challenge is clear: convert promise into legacy, and add another trophy that could reshape how history judges his captaincy journey.



## Ahmedabad to Host Final IPL 2026 on May 31

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has officially released the IPL 2026 playoffs schedule, confirming that the grand finale will be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on May 31.

This marks the second successive year that the IPL final is being hosted in Ahmedabad. The summit clash was originally supposed to be held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, home of the defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru. However, the BCCI decided to shift the venue citing logistical and operational challenges that went beyond its standard protocols and guidelines.

The playoffs will be contested across three different venues. Qualifier 1 between the top two teams from the league stage is scheduled for May 26 at the picturesque HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala. The Eliminator, featuring the third and fourth-placed teams, will take place on May 27 at the New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh (Mullanpur). The same venue will also host Qualifier 2 on May 29. The winners of Qualifier 1 and Qualifier 2 will then battle for the IPL 2026 title in Ahmedabad on May 31.

The schedule gives Punjab Kings a notable advantage, with two crucial knockout matches set to be played at their home ground in New Chandigarh. Dharamshala, renowned for its stunning mountain backdrop and electric atmosphere, returns as a playoff



venue. With the league stage nearing its conclusion, the focus now shifts to the high-stakes knockout phase. The BCCI described the ongoing season as one filled with outstanding performances and thrilling contests. The playoffs promise even more intensity as teams fight for the coveted IPL trophy. The Narendra Modi Stadium, the largest cricket venue

in the world with a seating capacity of over 130,000, is expected to create a spectacular atmosphere for the final. Ticket demand is likely to be massive once sales open.

The venue shift has sparked mixed reactions among fans, particularly supporters of RCB, who were looking forward to hosting the final at home. However, the BCCI's decision prioritises smooth conduct and larger-scale arrange-

ments for the showpiece event.

As the remaining league matches unfold, teams are battling fiercely to secure top positions in the points table. A favourable playoff path could prove decisive in determining the eventual champion.

Cricket enthusiasts across the globe are now eagerly awaiting the knockout stage, which traditionally delivers some of the most memorable moments in IPL history.

## Arteta Hails Fans for Setting Standards as Arsenal Reach UCL Final

Mikel Arteta delivered an emotional tribute to Arsenal supporters after the Gunners booked their place in the 2026 UEFA Champions League final with a hard-fought 2-1 aggregate victory over Atletico Madrid.

Arsenal progressed thanks to a 1-0 win in the second leg at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday, with Bukayo Saka scoring the decisive first-half goal. The north London club will now face either Paris Saint-Germain or Bayern Munich in the final in Budapest later this month — 20 years after their last appearance in the showpiece match.

Speaking to Amazon Prime after the match, Arteta praised the incredible atmosphere created by the fans. "It's an amazing night. To live these kinds of moments with our people, our players, everybody at the club, it's just an incredible feeling," he said.

The Spaniard highlighted how the supporters set the tone for the evening. "It was unbelievable right from the beginning, the manner that our supporters waited for us at the stadium, the energy, the passion that they put in, it was just great to witness."

Arteta added that his players drew energy from the crowd: "I think they set the standards and we tried to catch up with them immediately. It's so good after so many years to give that



joy back to them and see that pride in their eyes. It's beautiful to watch."

The Arsenal manager was particularly pleased with the unity within his squad. He revealed the difficulty of selection decisions but was moved by the players' selfless reactions. "Their reaction immediately was, 'I'm here when you need me, I'm going to be right with the team' and gave me a hug. So what else do I want?" he said.

Arteta reserved special praise for Saka, describing him as the perfect match-winner. "It had to be someone very special and he's certainly someone

very special... for everybody attached to this club." Arsenal remain firmly in the hunt for a historic domestic and European double. They sit five points clear at the top of the Premier League with four games remaining and are chasing their first English title in 22 years. Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone accepted the defeat gracefully, stating his team were beaten by a deserving opponent.

The achievement marks a major milestone in Arteta's transformative reign at Arsenal, taking the club back to European football's pinnacle after years of rebuilding.

## Messi India Tour Organiser Plans Rs 100 Crore Lawsuit Against TMC Leader

Sports organiser Satadru Dutta has broken his silence on the chaotic Lionel Messi event in Kolkata and announced plans to file a massive Rs 100 crore defamation lawsuit against former West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas of the Trinamool Congress.

The controversy erupted during the first leg of Messi's 'GOAT Tour' to India at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium. Argentina captain Messi, accompanied by Inter Miami teammates Luis Suarez and Rodrigo de Paul, was forced to leave the stadium after just 25 minutes due to crowd unrest and vandalism. Fans were left furious as politicians and local administrators reportedly mobbed the football icon, denying ordinary spectators a clear view.

Dutta, the chief organiser of the tour, was arrested at the airport while heading to the Hyderabad leg of the event. He spent nearly 39 days in custody amid the massive public backlash. Speaking out after Biswas's recent electoral defeat in the West Bengal Assembly polls, Dutta accused the then minister of sabotaging the event through interference and intimidation. In a series of fiery social media posts, Dutta claimed he repeatedly warned Biswas against taking photographs and disrupting the event, but his pleas were ignored. "No one heard my cry of anguish. Police also stood



still," he said. He further alleged that Biswas's supporters infiltrated the venue, blackmailed organisers, and issued unauthorised ground access cards, leading to the complete breakdown of arrangements. Dutta vowed to fight till the end, stating he would file a defamation case and approach the Supreme Court if necessary. "You made all the fans disappointed. You put me in jail for 38 days. Now, it's my turn," he

declared. He also announced an upcoming press conference where he promised to expose further details of the alleged sabotage that ruined three years of hard work.

The fiasco had drawn widespread criticism, with many accusing political heavyweights of turning a historic sporting occasion into a publicity stunt. Messi himself was reportedly unhappy with the chaos and the constant physi-

cal contact from the crowd.

The organiser's strong response comes after the change in political fortunes in West Bengal. With Biswas losing his Tollygunge seat, Dutta believes the time has come for accountability. The Rs 100 crore lawsuit threat has added a fresh twist to the already controversial Messi tour saga, keeping the football world and Indian sports fans glued to further developments.



## Dark Love Unleashed

### Ugly Story Trailer Promises a Gripping Romantic Thriller

The much-awaited trailer of Ugly Story, a bold romantic thriller exploring the darker side of love, was unveiled amid growing buzz in film circles. The launch event was attended by Sagar K Chandra, known for BheemlaNayak, adding momentum to the film's promotions. Starring Nandu and AvikaGor in lead roles, the film has gained traction on social media following the trailer release. The glimpse promises an intense cinematic experience, filled with gripping narration, raw emotions, and unexpected twists. The background score by Shrawan Bharadwaj adds depth, blending suspense, romance, and psychological tension effectively. Produced under the banner of Riya Zia Productions, the film reflects strong production values. At the launch, the cast and crew expressed confidence in the film's content and its ability to connect with audiences. Director PranavaSwaroop said the film explores the hidden, darker layers present in every love story. He praised the performances of the lead actors and acknowledged the support of producers Subhashini and Konda Lakshman in maintain-

ing quality throughout the project. Actor Nandu described his role as a challenging departure from his previous work, highlighting the film's engaging and thrilling narrative. He appreciated AvikaGor's performance and credited the director for crafting a compelling story. AvikaGor expressed excitement about being part of a film that portrays the complex realities of love, adding that audiences can expect a strong emotional journey. Producers Subhashini and Konda Lakshman expressed satisfaction with the film's final output and praised the director's vision. They also thanked BekkamVenugopal for his continued support, who in turn voiced confidence in the film's success. The film also features Ravi TejaMahadasyam, Shivaji Raja, and PragnyaNayan in key roles. With cinematography by Sreesaikumar Dara and editing by Srikanth Patnaik, Ugly Story promises a visually engaging and tightly paced narrative. The film is set for a worldwide theatrical release on May 22.

## System Sets OTT Premiere

Prime Video has officially locked May 22 as the worldwide premiere date for its upcoming Original film System, a high-stakes courtroom thriller that explores the intense clash between power and justice. The film will stream globally across more than 240 countries and territories, marking a significant digital release. Directed by AshwinyIyer Tiwari and produced by Harman Baweja, PammiBaweja, and SmithaBaliga under Baweja Studios, System promises a gripping narrative that questions privilege, truth, and the real meaning of justice. The film features powerful performances from Sonakshi Sinha, Jyotika, and AshutoshGowariker in lead roles. They are supported by an ensemble cast including Preeti Agarwal, AdinathKothare, Aashriya Mishra, Gaurav Pandey, and Sayandeep Gupta.



At the heart of the story are two contrasting women—Neha Ravansh, a privileged public prosecutor, and SarikaRawat, a humble stenographer. Their unexpected alliance leads them to uncover deeply buried injustices, ultimately challenging the very system they serve. The film blends emotional depth with legal drama, creating a narrative that is both engaging and thought-provoking. The screenplay is crafted by a team comprising Harman Baweja, ArunSukumar, AshwinyIyer Tiwari, Tasneem-Lokhandwala, and AkshatGhildial, ensuring a layered storytelling approach that tackles themes of ambition, ethics, and truth. With its compelling premise and strong performances, System is poised to captivate audiences when it premieres exclusively on Prime Video this May 22.

## Nithiin's New Film Begins

Actor Nithiin's upcoming project has been officially launched with a traditional pooja ceremony, marking the beginning of an exciting new collaboration in Telugu cinema. The film is being produced by the reputed Sithara Entertainments, a banner known for delivering several successful and quality films. The yet-to-be-titled project will be directed by filmmakers NariSirisawada and Somasekhar T, bringing together a fresh creative vision. The film stars Nithiin in the lead role, with RitikaNayak cast as the female lead. The project boasts a technically strong team, including cinematographer Anith-Madadi, music director Suresh Jobbili, and production designer Jonny Shaik. With such a dynamic crew on board, the film is expected to offer a visually rich and engaging cinematic experience.

Backing the film are producers Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, with presentation by Sri-kara Studios. This production combination has consistently delivered notable films, raising expectations for this new venture. The makers have announced that the regular shoot will commence from the second week of May, with the team gearing up to take the project onto floors in full swing. Additional updates regarding the film, including its title and release plans, are expected to be revealed in the coming days. With a promising cast, experienced technicians, and a successful production house backing it, Nithiin's next is already generating curiosity among fans and industry circles alike.



## Bhagyashri Borse Birthday Poster Buzz

A special poster from the upcoming film Lenin has been unveiled on the occasion of BhagyashriBorse's birthday, creating fresh excitement around the project. The film, starring AkhilAkkineni and Bhagyashri in lead roles, is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on June 26, 2026. Produced under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments by AkkineniNagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, the film is directed by MuraliKishorAbburu. With a strong production backing and an intriguing concept, Lenin has already piqued audience curiosity through its posters and songs. The newly released birthday poster presents Bhagyashri in a striking and unconventional avatar. She appears regal, adorned with a crown, a mustache, and a distinctive costume, hinting at a unique character design. Her look has instantly grabbed attention across social

media, with fans speculating about its relevance to the storyline. The actress is said to be playing a character named Bharathi, though the context behind this transformation remains under wraps. The film's music is composed by Thaman S, whose songs and background score are expected to significantly enhance the film's narrative appeal. On the technical front, cinematography is handled by Leon Britto, while editing is by Naveen Nooli. Production design is overseen by AvinashKolla, promising a visually rich cinematic experience. The film is presented by Annapurna Studios, further adding to its scale and reach. With an interesting cast, strong technical crew, and growing buzz, Lenin is shaping up to be one of the notable releases this summer. As anticipation builds, the makers are expected to reveal more updates in the coming weeks, leading up to its worldwide release on June 26.

## Lavanya Promises Fun Ride

Actor LavanyaTripathi has expressed strong confidence in her upcoming film SathiLe-elavathi, describing it as a thoroughly entertaining comedy that audiences will enjoy. The film, produced under Durga Devi Pictures and presented by Anandi Arts, is gearing up for a grand worldwide release on May 8. Directed by Tatineni Satya, known for films like Bheemili Kabaddi Jattu and SMS (Siva ManasuloSruthi), SathiLe-elavathi stars LavanyaTripathi alongside Dev Mohan in lead roles. Speaking to the media, Lavanya shared insights into her character, the film's tone, and her personal journey during its shoot.



The actress revealed that she had already watched the film and was pleased with its output. "It has come out really

well, and I'm confident about it. Now, we are waiting to see how the audience receives it," she said. Lavanya also disclosed that she discovered her pregnancy during the shooting phase. Despite the challenges, she managed to complete the shoot smoothly with the team's support, even attending regular medical check-ups after daily schedules. Highlighting her role, she said she plays a director in the film, adding that the entertainment quotient is one of its biggest strengths. "The comedy works brilliantly. My manager and I couldn't stop laughing while watching it. Though there are emotional moments, the film never feels preachy and carries

a subtle message," she noted. Lavanya also emphasized that the relationships portrayed in the film are fictional and not reflective of real-life dynamics. She expressed gratitude for her personal life, mentioning her husband Varun Tej as a supportive partner and shared that she is currently enjoying family life with their child. The actress spoke about performing action sequences for the first time, admitting that certain scenes were physically demanding. However, necessary adjustments were made considering her condition. She also appreciated the support extended by Ram Charan, who helped boost the film's reach by releasing its trailer.

## Devil Wears Prada 2 Blends Glamour with Grit

The Devil Wears Prada 2, released in early May 2026, has arrived as a stylish yet more somber follow-up to the 2006 classic, reflecting the transformation of both fashion and media landscapes. Directed by David Frankel, the sequel reunites Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, and Stanley Tucci. The film shifts tone from the aspirational charm of the original to a more realistic and reflective narrative. Anne Hathaway's Andy Sachs is now an investigative journalist who is abruptly fired via text message—an opening that sets the tone for a story rooted in the instability of modern media. Her return to Runway magazine brings her back into the orbit of Miranda Priestly, who is no longer an untouchable icon but a powerful editor struggling to stay relevant in an era dominated by tech billionaires and AI-driven content. As of early May 2026, the film has also emerged as the



top Hollywood release at the weekend box office, collecting approximately \$76.7 million, reinforcing its strong commercial comeback despite divided critical opinions. Critics have largely described the sequel as "better than expected," praising its attempt to balance nostalgia with contemporary issues such as layoffs, digital disrupt-

tion, and the decline of print journalism. Reviews from global publications highlight the evolved dynamic between Andy and Miranda, who are now seen as reluctant allies rather than adversaries. Meryl Streep once again stands out, delivering what many call a "deliciously sharp" performance, complete with biting new lines like, "You are not a visionary, you are a vendor," while also revealing rare vulnerability. Emily Blunt's Emily Charlton returns in a powerful new avatar as a top executive at a luxury fashion house, subtly challenging her former boss. The film's visual appeal remains strong, with a grand sequence set during Milan Fashion Week serving as a major highlight. The supporting cast, including Stanley Tucci as Nigel and newcomer Simone Ashley, adds depth, particularly in navigating themes like cancel culture and shifting workplace dynamics. However, not all feed-

back has been positive. Some critics feel the pacing is slow and the narrative lacks the ruthless edge that defined the original. Despite this, the film's exploration of modern anxieties, from corporate layoffs to the influence of billionaires on creative industries—has struck a chord. With its mix of style, nostalgia, strong opening box office performance, and timely themes, The Devil Wears Prada 2 offers a reflective take on power, relevance, and survival in a rapidly changing world.

