

BUZZ POINTS



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Modi to Launch 7,823 Cr Projects During Telangana Visit

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Telangana on May 10, during which he will virtually inaugurate and lay the foundation for development projects worth 7,823 crore.



speech likely to last around 45 minutes. There is also speculation that the Prime Minister may virtually inaugurate the proposed Artificial Intelligence University in the city,

following an invitation from BRS MLA Ch. Malla Reddy. In preparation for the visit, the BJP's Telangana unit has intensified its outreach efforts.



Singareni Team Tops Global Mine Rescue Event

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has earned international recognition by securing first place in the underground mines rescue category at the recently held International Mines Rescue Competition in Zambia.

52 minutes. The task involved repairing and refilling a carbon dioxide absorbent canister, showcasing both speed and precision under pressure.

CM Orders Smooth Traffic, No Public Disruption

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure that public movement is not disrupted during the travel of VIP convoys, emphasizing that citizens should not be forced to wait on roads for long durations.

Director General of Police C.V. Anand stated that the Chief Minister took serious note of the situation and cautioned officials against lapses. He made it clear that unnecessary halting of vehicles, especially those coming from the opposite direction, should be avoided and traffic management should focus on minimizing inconvenience to commuters.

Mancherial to Get Railway Foot-Over Bridge, BJP Welcomes Move

Mancherial, May 6 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Vice President Raghunath Verabelli expressed happiness over the approval of a railway foot-over bridge for the Mancherial Two Town area, a project sanctioned under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the party office on Wednesday, he said repeated representations had been submitted earlier to Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, as well as to senior officials of the South Central Railway, re-

questing approval for the facility. Following these efforts, railway authorities cleared the project last year at an estimated cost of around 4 crore.

As part of the formal process, railway officials recently wrote to the Mancherial Municipal Commissioner seeking a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to begin construction. BJP leaders urged the civic body to issue the NOC without delay so that work on the bridge can commence at the earliest.

Verabelli stated that the proposed foot-over bridge will significantly ease movement for



thousands of residents who currently face difficulties while crossing the railway tracks. He added that once

completed, the structure will improve safety and reduce congestion in the busy Two Town area.

He also remarked that Prime Minister Modi's governance is focused on inclusive development and welfare for all sections of society, highlighting such infrastructure projects as examples of people-centric initiatives.

Several party leaders, including Mukesh Goud, Anita, Nagaraju, Purushottam Jaju, Venkateshwar Rao, Rajkumar, Prem Singh, Venkatesh, and Tarun Singh, were present during the programme.

KIMS Launches International Fellowship in Sports Medicine

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a major step forward for orthopedic education, KIMS Hospitals has introduced the first internationally accredited fellowship in Sports Injuries and Arthroscopy in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The program aims to address the growing need for specialized expertise in treating athletes and physically active individuals.

With increasing reliance on minimally invasive procedures, advanced training in sports medicine has become essential. Arthroscopy—widely used for joint-related conditions—requires exceptional precision, as surgeons operate within confined spaces using fiber-optic cameras and specialized instruments.

The program provides in-depth training in arthroscopic



surgeries of the knee, shoulder, and hip, along with exposure to sports medicine and joint preservation techniques. It blends practical surgical experience with structured academic learning, covering areas such as injury diagnosis, rehabilitation strategies, and evidence-based treatment approaches.

A notable feature of the fellowship is its holistic design, integrating clinical practice with research and patient-focused care. It also emphasizes understanding sport-specific biomechanics and injury patterns, enabling doctors to identify and manage even subtle or complex conditions

effectively. In an official statement, KIMS Hospitals highlighted its continued focus on building centers of excellence that not only deliver high-quality healthcare but also develop highly skilled specialists. The recognition of this fellowship at the international level reflects the institution's commitment to maintaining global standards in medical education and practice.

The program is headed by Dr. R.A. Poornachandra Tejaswi, Director and Head of Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine. He stated that the initiative would significantly improve the quality of sports injury management in the region by equipping doctors with advanced surgical techniques.

Through this initiative, KIMS Hospitals aims to strengthen its role as a leader in specialized healthcare training while setting new benchmarks in orthopedic education and patient care across the country.

RRR-N Project Gets Green Signal, Completion Target Set for 2029

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: The long-delayed northern segment of the Regional Ring Road (RRR-N) has received a major push, with the Central government setting a three-year deadline for its completion by 2029. The project has also witnessed a steep rise in cost, increasing by nearly 9,000 crore due to prolonged delays and revisions.

In a recent communication to the state, the Centre confirmed that the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee under the Union Finance Ministry has cleared 23,995.60 crore for the project. This approval enables authorities to move forward with pending tenders, effectively ending a year-long stagnation.

Earlier, despite completion of land acquisition and tender processes, the project was stalled as both the Centre and the state proposed modifications, leading to uncertainty. With the latest clearance, construction activities are expected to commence soon.

The 161.5-km northern corridor, initially estimated at 15,000 crore, has now seen a sharp escalation in cost. The six-lane access-controlled



highway will connect key national and state highways at nine junctions, where large interchanges spanning 100 to 120 acres each are planned.

For execution, the stretch has been divided into two packages. Package 1 covers 83.5 km from Girmapur in Sangareddy district to Pragunapur in Siddipet district, while Package 2 extends 78 km from Pragunapur to Tangedpalli in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district.

Originally envisioned as an eight-lane expressway, the design has been scaled down to six lanes, with the right-of-way reduced from 100 meters to 90 meters. The remaining land will be handed over to the state government.

The project will be implemented under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), where the Centre will bear 40% of the cost and the remaining 60% will be funded by the contractor. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will repay the contractor over 15 years, including interest, while also assigning maintenance responsibilities.

The infrastructure plan includes 44 major bridges, 127 minor bridges, over 1,200 culverts, multiple underpasses, and road overbridges. Meanwhile, plans for the southern segment of the RRR are still under review, with alignment details yet to be finalized.





# Praja Palana Brings Governance Closer to People

Nelakondapalli, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, stated that the government is committed to delivering welfare services directly to the doorsteps of the poor, reducing the need for citizens to visit offices repeatedly. He made these remarks while attending the 'Praja Palana - Praja Darbar' program in Guvvalagudem village of Nelakondapalli mandal, Khammam district. Along with MP Raghuram Reddy and District Collector Divakar, he received petitions from the public during the event.

The Minister highlighted that the administration is prioritizing farmers' welfare by ensuring procurement of crops at Minimum Support Price, along with an additional 500 bonus for fine-quality paddy. He noted that loan waivers

amounting to 21,000 crore have benefited around 25 lakh farmers, while financial support under the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme is being extended at 12,000 per acre.

Emphasizing housing initiatives, he said the 'Indiramma Housing Scheme' aims to provide homes for all eligible families, with the second phase expected to be sanctioned by the end of May. He also assured that pending issues related to 'Sada Bainama' land registrations would be resolved within 35 days through streamlined processes.

The Minister further stated that women's empowerment remains a key focus, with schemes aimed at improving livelihoods and financial independence. He assured that all genuine grievances submitted during the Praja Darbar would be addressed within three months.

# Direct Grain Supply to Poor, Boost for Farmers

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a significant move aimed at strengthening both farmer welfare and food security, the government has decided to distribute maize and sorghum directly to the public through ration shops at subsidized rates. Departing from the traditional system of auctioning procured grain in the open market, this initiative seeks to eliminate middlemen and ensure that the benefits reach both farmers and economically weaker sections. Under this plan, the government will procure maize and sorghum at Minimum Support Price (MSP), ensuring farmers receive fair compensation for their produce. Instead of allowing intermediaries to purchase these grains cheaply and sell them at higher prices, the Civil Supplies Department will handle direct distribution

to the public at affordable rates. Officials emphasized that this decision was taken with a dual objective—protecting farmers from market fluctuations and providing nutritious food to the poor. The move is expected to curb exploitation in the supply chain while improving access to quality food for low-income families. Additionally, the initiative will support welfare institutions such as residential schools and hostels for SC, ST, BC, and minority communities by ensuring a steady supply of nutritious grains. The government is also exploring supplying these crops to poultry farmers at reduced prices to aid the sector. Overall, this policy marks a shift toward a more inclusive and farmer-centric approach, receiving positive feedback from both agricultural communities and consumers.

# CM Seeks Centre's Nod for Metro Expansion

New Delhi, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Union Minister for Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi, urging early approval for the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II project and seeking support for further expansion.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister explained that a comprehensive plan for Phase-II—covering seven corridors—has already been prepared, with the Detailed Project Report submitted to the Centre. The proposed expansion spans about 122.9 km and is estimated to cost 38,595 crore. He requested that the project be taken up as a joint venture between the Central and State governments.

Highlighting Hyderabad's rapid urban growth, Revanth Reddy stressed the need to strengthen public transport infrastructure to meet rising commuter demand. He noted that the State government has taken over Phase-I operations



to ensure smoother execution of future expansion plans, which would help accelerate Phase-II and Phase-III works.

The Chief Minister also proposed that the Regional Ring Road (RGI) Airport to Bharat Future City corridor be included under Phase-III of the Metro network. He informed the Union Minister that the DPR for this phase has also been sub-

mitted, keeping in view the city's long-term transportation needs. Senior officials from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, and the Telangana government were present during the discussions, which focused on enhancing connectivity and supporting the city's infrastructure development.

# Uttam Kumar Reddy Dismisses 'False Campaign' on Grain Procurement

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

From Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly criticized opposition parties for allegedly spreading misleading information about grain procurement in Telangana. Addressing a press conference, he accused them of creating confusion among farmers through baseless claims.

The Minister asserted that Telangana is witnessing record-breaking grain production and procurement under the present government. During the ongoing Rabi season, paddy has been cultivated across 67 lakh acres, with an estimated output of 141 lakh metric tonnes. He stated that the government is fully prepared to procure up to 90 lakh metric tonnes, and has already purchased over 17 lakh metric tonnes, disbursing 2,310 crore to farmers so far.

Highlighting infrastructure improvements, Uttam Kumar



Reddy said thousands of procurement centers have been set up with enhanced facilities, including tarpaulins, storage capacity, transport vehicles, and essential amenities like drinking water. A token system has also been introduced to reduce waiting time for farmers.

He emphasized that compared to previous years, procurement volumes, payments, and the number of centers have significantly increased

under the current administration. The government has also allocated over 21,000 crore for procurement this season.

The Minister warned that strict action would be taken against any malpractice, including illegal deductions during grain purchases. Reiterating the government's commitment, he said farmers' interests would be protected and urged opposition parties to refrain from spreading misinformation.

# Multi-Level Parking Project Launched in Hanamkonda

Hanamkonda, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar visited Hanamkonda district and laid the foundation stone for a multi-purpose, multi-level car parking facility near Ashok Theatre, with an estimated cost of 15 crore. The project aims to address the long-standing parking congestion in the busy urban area and provide a structured, long-term solution. The event was attended by several prominent leaders and officials, including MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy, Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani, Dis-

trict Collector Chahat Bajpai, KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkatrami Reddy, MLA Nagaraju, and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stated that the new facility would significantly ease traffic and parking difficulties, improving overall urban mobility. He emphasized that the government is committed to strengthening infrastructure in the Warangal urban region, bringing it on par with Hyderabad in terms of essential services.

He highlighted ongoing efforts to upgrade key civic amenities such as drinking wa-

ter supply, drainage systems, sanitation, and healthcare facilities. According to the Minister, a comprehensive development plan is being implemented for the twin cities of Warangal, Hanamkonda, and Kazipet, with a focus on sustainable urban growth.

He further noted that future strategies are being formulated to accelerate development and ensure better living standards for residents. The project marks another step toward modernizing the region's infrastructure and addressing urban challenges effectively.



# Minister Highlights Need for Innovation in Medical Education

Sangareddy, May 6 | TPN Bureau

State Health Minister D. Chittaloori Laxman Roy emphasized the importance of innovation in the medical field while unveiling the book 'Viva and Clinical Guide', authored by oral and maxillofacial specialist Dr. Chittaloori Laxman Roy. The book launch took place at the Minister's residence in Sangareddy.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister stated that continuous advancements and new approaches are vital to strengthen healthcare and medical education. He noted that the Telangana government is placing strong emphasis on improving both sectors, with several initiatives already underway to enhance the quality of medical training across the state.

He highlighted that students from Telangana's medical in-

stitutions have earned recognition at both national and international levels, reflecting the growing standards of education. Reaffirming the government's commitment, he said efforts will continue to ensure that future medical professionals receive high-quality education and practical exposure.

Speaking about the book, Rajanarasimha described it as a valuable resource for dental students and young practitioners, particularly in clinical preparation and examinations. He congratulated Dr. Laxman Roy for contributing to academic literature in the field.

The event was attended by members of the dental fraternity, including Dr. Pramod Kumar and Dr. Sudheer Ram Shetty, who appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of such practical guides for aspiring professionals.



# Court Pulls Up BRS, Orders Removal of 'False' Posts

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development, the Hyderabad City Civil Court has issued interim orders directing the BRS and its chief KCR to immediately remove social media posts related to the Anganwadi mobile phone procurement issue, terming them misleading and baseless.

The court passed these directions while hearing a defamation suit filed by Minister Seethakka. After examining the case in detail, including tender documents and payment records, the court found no evidence supporting the allegations of a 30 crore scam. It noted that the claims circulated by the BRS lacked factual backing.

The court also clarified discrepancies highlighted in the

allegations, stating that the mobile phones were not purchased at inflated rates as claimed. Instead of the figures circulated online, the devices were procured at a unit cost of 11,650, amounting to a total expenditure of over 44.42 crore.

Observing that the allegations appeared to have been made with intent to harm the reputation of the petitioner, the court instructed the immediate deletion of all related posts. This includes content shared on April 10 across platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The interim order reinforces the need for responsible political communication and accountability in public discourse. Advocate Naguluri Krishna Kumar represented Minister Seethakka in the proceedings.

# Drama Festival Highlights Need to Protect Youth

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad witnessed a vibrant Youth Drama Festival at Ravindra Bharathi, organized by the Telangana Government in association with the Telangana Sangeet Natak Akademi. The event brought together prominent personalities, including Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports Vakiti Srihari, along with Akademi Chairperson Acharya Alekhya, Arya Vysya Corporation Chairperson Kalva Sujatha, and several artists.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Vakiti Srihari underlined the importance of arts in shaping society. He said theatre and cultural activities have the power to inspire change and reflect the challenges faced by modern families. He expressed concern over the growing influence of betting apps, calling them a serious threat to youth and family stability.

The Minister emphasized that awareness must go beyond words and translate into action. He urged society to collectively take responsibility for protecting young people from harmful digital addictions. Highlighting the role of drama, he said stage

performances can effectively educate and reform those affected.

Srihari also noted that excessive dependence on television, mobile apps, and social media is distancing people from cultural values. He revealed that he has raised the issue of banning advertisements promoting online betting platforms like rummy and would pursue the matter further with the government.

He concluded by stressing that meaningful change is possible when society upholds cultural roots and works together for a healthier future.



# 'Negligence Behind Farmers' Deaths': Niranjan Reddy

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau
Former Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy has strongly criticized the State government over the deaths of farmers at procurement centres in Mancherla district, calling the incidents a result of administrative failure. In a press statement, he expressed deep sorrow over the loss of four farmers and injuries to several others in separate incidents. Reddy alleged that prolonged delays in procurement operations forced farmers to remain at centres for days, exposing them to unsafe conditions. He stated that the gap between official claims and the ground reality of procurement is significant, with farmers bearing the consequences of delayed action. Highlighting recent developments, he said that multiple

fatalities reported over the past few days reflect a worrying pattern. According to him, such incidents cannot be dismissed as accidents but point to systemic lapses that need urgent attention. He demanded that the government immediately announce an ex-gratia of 25 lakh for the families of the deceased and ensure the best possible medical treatment for those injured. He also called for immediate steps to streamline procurement operations across the State to prevent further hardships. Reddy emphasized that timely procurement is essential to safeguard farmers' welfare and livelihoods. Urging swift action, he appealed to the authorities to address the issue on priority and restore confidence among farmers by ensuring efficient and safe procurement processes.



# KTR Slams Congress Over 'Unfulfilled Farmers' Promises'

Warangal, May 6 | TPN Bureau
BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), speaking at the Farmers' Struggle Conference in Warangal, launched a strong attack on the Congress government, accusing it of betraying farmers and failing to honour its commitments. Referring to Warangal as a historic centre of resistance and pride, he said movements initiated there have always shaped the state's political direction. KTR alleged that the 'Farmers' Declaration' announced by Rahul Gandhi was misleading, claiming that none of the 34 promises made to farmers have been implemented. He questioned delays in delivering key assurances such as 15,000 per acre assistance, 2 lakh farm loan waivers, financial aid for agricultural labourers, crop bonuses, and support for tenant farmers. He also raised concerns over pending crop insurance schemes and land rights.

Targeting Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, KTR accused the government of failing to ensure timely procurement, forcing farmers to wait for weeks under difficult conditions. He cited recent incidents at procurement centres as evidence of administrative lapses. Highlighting the previous BRS regime led by K. Chandrashekar Rao, he credited schemes like Rythu Bandhu for providing timely financial assistance and boosting agricultural growth. He also pointed to irrigation projects such as Kaleshwaram as key achievements. At the meeting, resolutions were passed demanding 10 lakh compensation for families of deceased farmers, immediate procurement of all crops with a 500 bonus, clearance of pending dues, full implementation of loan waivers, and revival of the Rythu Bima scheme. KTR urged farmers to remain united and press for their rights.

# Law & Order Under Fire After 'Midnight Incident'

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau
Senior BRS leader and MLC Dr. Shruvan Dasoju sharply criticized the state government, alleging a serious decline in law and order in Hyderabad. Referring to a recent 'midnight decoy operation' involving a senior police official, he said the incident exposed glaring security lapses. He argued that if even a high-ranking officer could face harassment in a busy locality, it raises serious concerns about the safety of ordinary citizens, especially women. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a society where women can move freely at night, he claimed that the current situation reflects the opposite, with fear and insecurity prevailing. He further stated that the inci-

dent highlights a broader pattern rather than an isolated case, pointing to data indicating a rise in crimes against women in the city and across the state. Dr. Shruvan also questioned the effectiveness of advanced surveillance systems, alleging that despite heavy investment, they failed to prevent such incidents. He accused the administration of misusing policing resources for political purposes instead of ensuring public safety. Raising concerns over reduced patrolling and the functioning of special safety units, he demanded accountability from the leadership. He urged the government to prioritize citizen security and take corrective measures to restore public confidence in law enforcement across the state.

# Minister Ponnampaluri Questions Centre, Hits Back at KTR

Husnabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau
At a media interaction held at the Husnabad MLA Camp Office, Minister Ponnampaluri welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Telangana, while sharply questioning the Centre's contribution to the state's development over the years. Speaking as a Congress leader, he alleged that the Union government had failed to extend adequate support despite repeated representations from the state leadership. He said that while Telangana has no objection to funds being allocated to other states, it deserves its fair share for development. He also criticized what he described as a strained Centre-State relationship due to political differences. The Minister took exception to remarks made by BJP leaders regarding Telangana's formation, stating that such comments undermine the sacrifices of those who fought for statehood. He emphasized that Telangana was formed constitutionally under Article



3 and warned against attempts to distort its history. Targeting BRS leader K. T. Rama Rao, Prabhakar condemned his recent statements and demanded restraint in political discourse. He also defended Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, urging respect for public offices. Highlighting government initiatives, he said Telangana is committed to farmer welfare, including a 2 lakh farm loan waiver and streamlined procurement processes. He added that regular reviews are being conducted to ensure smooth grain procurement and prevent hardship to farmers. Prabhakar accused opposition parties of avoiding constructive debate and relying on personal attacks. He reiterated that the government is open to discussions on farmers' issues and assured that transparency and accountability will guide its actions.

# Outrage Over Farmers' Deaths at Procurement Centres

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau
Senior leader N. Ramchander Rao expressed deep grief over the tragic deaths of three farmers at grain procurement centres in Laxmepet mandal of Mancherla district, allegedly caused by strong winds and a severe storm. He conveyed condolences to the bereaved families of Gundarapu Venkatesh, Tanugula Abhiram, and Lachanna, calling the incident both heartbreaking and preventable. In a strongly worded statement, Rao held the State government responsible, alleging that administrative negligence led to the tragedy. He questioned why farmers, after months of hard work in the fields, are forced to wait for prolonged periods at procurement centres to sell their produce. According to him, delays in procurement exposed farmers to unsafe conditions. He pointed out that during the sudden storm, farmers attempted to protect their harvested grain using tarpaulins. However, weak infrastructure at the centres reportedly failed,



with sheds collapsing and walls giving way, ultimately resulting in the loss of lives. Rao further argued that the financial burden of procurement—including Minimum Support Price payments, labour charges, transport, storage, and packaging costs—is largely supported by the Central government. In this context, he questioned the State government's inability to carry out timely procurement operations. Demanding accountability, he called for immediate and adequate compensation to the families of the deceased farmers. He also urged the government to expedite procurement on a priority basis to prevent such incidents in the future. Warning of public backlash, Rao stated that continued neglect of farmers' welfare would not be tolerated, emphasizing that safeguarding farmers is essential for the nation's survival.

# BRS Leaders Hit Back at Critics in Telangana Bhavan Meet

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau
At a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, former minister Gangula Kamalakar and BRS leaders strongly defended K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) while criticizing both the State and Central governments over governance issues and political rhetoric. Kamalakar stated that KTR, as an opposition leader, has every right to question corruption and law-and-order concerns. He emphasized that governments—whether at the Centre or in the State—must remain accountable to public scrutiny. Taking exception to remarks made by Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, he said the language used was inappropriate for someone holding such a responsible position. He urged restraint and dignity in political discourse, adding that criticism should not descend into personal attacks. The BRS leader also questioned the lack of progress on key development works such as railway overbridges and waste management projects, alleging that no significant funds had been secured for the State in recent years. He warned that attempts to block KTR's visits to Karimnagar



would not be tolerated. Assembly BRS LP Whip K. P. Vivekananda echoed similar views, claiming that the success of recent farmer-focused events had unsettled the ruling party. He accused Congress leaders, including Revanth Reddy and Rahul Gandhi, of failing to deliver on promises made to farmers and resorting to diversionary tactics. Vivekananda demanded a detailed report on the implementation of commitments under the farmers' agenda and urged leaders to focus on resolving agricultural issues instead of engaging in verbal confrontations. He reiterated that BRS would continue to question the government's performance and advocate for farmers' welfare.



# Seethakka Slams KTR, Demands Public Apology

Mulugu, May 6 | TPN Bureau
State Minister Seethakka launched a strong attack on KTR over his recent remarks made during a public meeting, terming them offensive and irresponsible. She condemned his statements against Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, insisting that he immediately withdraw his comments and apologize to the public. Addressing the media, Seethakka said that resorting to personal insults reflects arrogance and lack of political maturity. She remarked that the people have already rejected the previous BRS regime for failing to address farmers' issues and for neglecting their welfare. According to her, the earlier government misled farmers with promises such as phased loan waivers, delayed financial support under Rythu Bandhu, and failed to provide proper compensation to families affected by farmer suicides. She highlighted that the present government is working with a clear commitment to-

ward farmers, citing the implementation of a large-scale loan waiver and other welfare initiatives. She also stated that the administration has ended what she described as a 'farm-house-style governance' and is now focusing on transparent and people-centric policies. Seethakka further defended Rahul Gandhi, noting his efforts toward social justice and welfare of marginalized communities. She criticized KTR for making derogatory remarks despite the contributions of leaders who have worked for the nation's unity and progress. The Minister also accused the previous government of ignoring irregularities in procurement and failing to protect farmers' interests. She emphasized that the current administration is taking corrective steps, including providing subsidized agricultural equipment and ensuring better support systems. Reiterating her demand, Seethakka urged KTR to maintain decorum in public life and act as a responsible opposition leader instead of indulging in provocative rhetoric.

# PCC Chief Launches Sharp Attack on KTR

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau
Telangana PCC chief Mahesh Goud launched a strong verbal attack on BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of corruption and questioning his political credibility. He alleged that KTR and his associates were involved in multiple scams, ranging from passport-related issues to land dealings. Goud criticized KTR for targeting national leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, asking what standing he had to make such remarks. He also accused him of political opportunism and betrayal of senior leaders

in the past. Taking aim at the previous BRS government, Goud claimed that its policies negatively impacted the youth, alleging that they were pushed toward harmful habits. He further questioned the concentration of political power within a single family. Referring to past promises, he said people still remember unfulfilled commitments made during the earlier regime. Goud also condemned provocative statements and warned against irresponsible political rhetoric, asserting that such behavior would not be tolerated.

# Nakirekal MLA Veeresham Criticizes KTR's Remarks

Nakirekal, May 6 | TPN Bureau
Government Whip and Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresham strongly criticized comments made by Sircilla MLA K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of continuing to display arrogance despite being out of power. Addressing the media, Veeresham said KTR's statements reflected a lack of restraint and respect, particularly when referring to the Chief Minister. He remarked that electoral defeat should have encouraged introspection, but instead, KTR's tone remained confrontational. The MLA also raised allegations regarding past decisions during the previous BRS regime, claiming that farmers were misled with promises such as loan waivers. In contrast, he asserted that the pre-

sent Congress government has taken concrete steps to support farmers, including implementing loan relief measures. Veeresham further accused the previous administration of failing to address key public concerns and questioned its commitment to governance. He credited the Congress party with introducing welfare initiatives such as free bus travel, housing schemes, and subsidized food distribution. Highlighting broader political differences, he contrasted the legacy of national leaders with that of regional leadership, alleging that the earlier regime had misused power. He concluded by stating that the public would not accept what he described as irresponsible political rhetoric and emphasized the need for constructive dialogue.



# Demand to Raise Job Age Limit Gains Momentum

Nelakondapalli, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Unemployed youth in the state may soon receive encouraging news, as a proposal to extend the upper age limit for government job aspirants is under active consideration. Political JAC Chairman and MLC Kodandaram, along with Government Whip Addanki Dayakar, have urged the state government to increase the age limit by 10

years in all upcoming recruitment notifications. They submitted representations separately to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. In their appeal, they highlighted that for nearly two decades—spanning the Telangana movement and the subsequent years—government job notifications were either delayed or not issued regularly. As a result, many aspirants crossed the eligibil-

ity age, losing valuable opportunities despite years of preparation.

They stressed that a large number of candidates have been adversely affected due to this prolonged gap in recruitment and requested the government to address the issue as a matter of urgency. According to them, relaxing the age criteria would help restore fairness and open doors for thousands of deserving candidates. Responding to the

request, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka held detailed discussions on the matter and acknowledged the concerns raised. He assured that the government would examine the proposal carefully in consultation with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and relevant departments. A final decision is expected soon, offering hope to many job aspirants awaiting an opportunity to compete for government posts.



# Top Cop's Undercover Night Exposes Safety Lapses

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a striking first-day initiative, Malkajgiri Police Commissioner Sumathi carried out a late-night undercover operation to assess women's safety in the city. Choosing not to reveal her identity, she posed as an ordinary woman at a bus stop, aiming to understand the real challenges faced by women in public spaces after dark.



During the operation, which lasted from midnight until 3:00 am, the commissioner encountered disturbing behavior. A group of around 40 youths gathered near her, many of whom were reportedly students. Unaware of her identity, they allegedly engaged in harassment, making inappropriate remarks and asking offensive questions.

veillance and response.

What raised further concern was the apparent absence of effective police patrolling in the area. Despite the prolonged incident, no patrol personnel intervened or even appeared to notice the situation, exposing serious gaps in night-time sur-

veillance and response. Sources indicated that several individuals in the group appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, which contributed to their unruly behavior. Following the operation, police identified and detained those involved. Instead of pursuing strict legal action, authorities opted to counsel the individuals before releasing them. The exercise has drawn attention to the need for

stronger policing measures and increased vigilance, particularly during late hours. It also highlights the importance of proactive strategies to ensure safer public spaces for women. The commissioner's initiative underscores a hands-on approach to policing and sends a clear message about prioritizing women's safety, while also revealing areas that require immediate improvement within the system.

# Illegal Shed Row Intensifies

Quthbullapur, May 6 | TPN Bureau

The construction of a large industrial shed by Varsha Techno Indo-Equip Private Limited in the SV Cooperative layout of Jeedimetla Industrial Zone has once again stirred controversy. Although authorities reportedly issued notices last month after the issue gained media attention, work at the site has continued without interruption, raising serious concerns about administrative accountability.



Residents have expressed anger over the apparent lack of enforcement, alleging that officials have failed to act despite clear violations of approved plans. Many question whether issuing notices has become a mere formality, with no real in-

tent to stop unauthorized construction.

The situation has also sparked worries about safety, as the structure is said to ignore mandatory setback norms and other regulations. Locals argue that the issue reflects a

deeper failure of oversight, undermining confidence in governance and regulatory systems.

With the shed now nearing completion, criticism has intensified over the continued inaction. Questions are being

raised about why the project was not halted earlier, even after being identified as illegal. Some suspect negligence, while others hint at possible collusion.

Residents warn that the risk of accidents is increasing due to compromised safety standards in the industrial area. They are demanding to know who would be held accountable if an emergency, such as a fire, were to occur.

Amid mounting outrage, locals are calling for immediate intervention to stop the project and take strict action against those responsible, warning that any future mishap will place full responsibility on the authorities.

# Infant Kidnap Case Cracked in 48 Hours

Quthbullapur, May 6 | TPN Bureau

In a swift breakthrough, police solved the kidnapping of a six-month-old baby within the limits of the Suraram Police Station, rescuing the child safely and arresting five accused within two days. The incident had sparked panic after the infant was snatched from her mother's lap while she slept on a footpath.



Following a complaint by the mother, Naveenatha, police formed four special teams and launched an intensive search. Using CCTV footage, they tracked down and apprehend-

ed the suspects near Pillar No. 212, close to the Rajendranagar Dairy Farm.

Investigations uncovered a carefully planned conspiracy. The alleged mastermind, Sridevi, reportedly orchestrat-

ed the kidnapping to provide a child to a relative who was unable to conceive. Police said she had conducted prior surveillance at Malla Reddy Hospital and later collaborated with a group of catering work-

ers employed at a function hall in Mehdiapatnam to execute the plan.

All five accused, including Sridevi and four catering workers, were arrested, with two identified as minors. Officials confirmed that the group hails from Bidar. Police seized five mobile phones and the motorcycle used in the crime.

According to DCP Koti Reddy, the accused have been remanded to judicial custody. Senior officers and multiple police teams, including SOT and CCS units, played a crucial role in successfully cracking the case.

# Marital Dispute Ends in Tragedy

Quthbullapur, May 6 | TPN Bureau

A young man died by suicide in Gundla Pochampally under the limits of the Pet Basheerabad Police Station, reportedly following ongoing marital conflicts. According to police, Nalthuri Saikumar (28), a car driver and resident of Gundla Pochampally, was married to Anusha (25) for around seven years. The couple has two small children—a daughter and a son. While their relationship was initially stable, frequent disagreements later developed over minor issues, leading to repeated quarrels.



About a week before the incident, a serious argument led Anusha to leave their home and stay with her mother in Bahadurpally. On May 5 at approximately 8:30 pm, Saikumar sent a message to a friend through WhatsApp. Concerned by its tone, the friend rushed to his house, where he found Saikumar had taken his life by hanging. Residents in the area stated that Saikumar had earlier attempted suicide twice

but was saved on both occasions by timely intervention from friends and neighbours.

Based on a complaint from family members citing domestic disputes as the reason, police have registered a case and

initiated further investigation into the incident. If you or someone you know is struggling, seeking support from trusted individuals or professional services can help during difficult times.

# Self-Enumeration Drive to Speed Up Census

Quthbullapur, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Venkata Mani Karan has urged residents of the Dundigal Circle to actively participate in the ongoing census process, highlighting that public involvement is key to ensuring accuracy and efficiency. He emphasized that the adoption of the self-enumeration system will make data collection more transparent and streamlined.



Addressing citizens, he pointed out that the government has opened a special window for self-enumeration from April 26 to May 10. During this period, families can submit

their details independently through the official census portal, eliminating the need to wait for field staff.

He explained that the self-enumeration method allows households to directly enter their demographic and family

information online, improving both the speed and reliability of the process. This approach also reduces the chances of errors and helps authorities compile data more effectively.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that the success of the census depends largely on the cooperation of the public. He called on all residents to take responsibility and make full use of this opportunity within the given timeframe.

Officials from multiple departments in the Dundigal Circle also took part in the awareness initiative, encouraging citizens to register promptly and contribute to a smooth and accurate census exercise.

# Farmers Allege Land Grab, Seek Urgent Action

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

A group of farmers from Nadargul in Balapur mandal of Ranga Reddy district approached former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao, alleging large-scale encroachment of government land by real estate interests. The farmers claimed that nearly 373 acres in Survey No. 613, known as Kasubagh Kanchara, are being illegally occupied, with fencing erected and agricultural infrastructure damaged.

alleged that local police were not registering their complaints and, instead, filing cases against them. Many expressed fear and frustration over what they described as harassment by both encroachers and authorities.

Presenting photos and videos, the farmers said their borewells were destroyed and several among them were attacked when they resisted. They also

Responding to the grievances, Harish Rao spoke to senior officials, including the District Collector, Police Commissioner, and local revenue officers, urging immediate intervention. He called for removal of illegal fencing, restoration of farming access, and strict action against those responsible for the encroachments.

Rao questioned the government's commitment to protecting public lands, alleging selec-

tive enforcement and inaction when influential groups are involved. He stressed that authorities must uphold their responsibility to safeguard government property and ensure justice for affected farmers.

The farmers, who say they have cultivated the land for decades, also highlighted threats to their livelihoods, including restrictions on fishing and access to local religious sites. Officials reportedly assured that an inquiry would be conducted and necessary steps taken. Harish Rao assured the farmers of continued support and warned that he would visit the site if prompt action is not taken.



# 18 Illegal Water Motors Seized

Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) carried out a special drive against illegal water usage and seized 18 motors connected unlawfully to pipelines in Dharma Reddy Colony Phase, Balajinagar ward of Kukatpally. The inspection, conducted by vigilance officials between 7:30 am and 10:30 am on Wednesday, revealed that several households had installed motors to draw drinking water at high pressure. Such unauthorized usage disrupts the supply system, leading to reduced pressure in nearby homes and, in some cases, leaving taps dry—especially in low-lying

areas.

Officials warned that strict action will be taken against violators. First-time offenders will have their motors confiscated, while repeat violations will attract a fine of 5,000 along with legal action. The Water Board urged residents to refrain from illegal practices and ensure fair distribution of water. Consumers facing low pressure or other supply-related issues can approach local HMWS&SB officials, including managers or deputy general managers, or contact the customer care helpline at 155313. Authorities stated that inspections will continue in areas reporting water supply issues to ensure equitable access to drinking water for all residents.

# Month-Long Planning Behind Jewelry Heist

**Karimnagar, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
The gang involved in the May 3 robbery at a jewelry store in Karimnagar is believed to have meticulously planned the crime over several weeks, according to police sources. Investigators have identified Shabuddin, a known repeat offender from Maharashtra, as the alleged mastermind behind the five-member group. He reportedly has a criminal history linked to cases in Mumbai and had previously served time in Pune prison. Police, with assistance from Maharashtra authorities, confirmed his involvement along with other suspects identified as Saurav Kumar, Anand, and Intiaz. The gang is said to have conducted reconnaissance visits and stayed in multiple lodges using fake identity documents to avoid detection.

During the month leading up to the robbery, some members reportedly checked into a lodge in Peddapalli on multiple occasions. Later, they shifted to another lodge in Dharmapuri, where they stayed until the day of the crime. On the day of the incident, the group allegedly traveled to Karimnagar on two motorcycles, carried out the robbery, and fled quickly. Investigators suspect local assistance, as one of the suspects was heard speaking fluent Telugu. The gang is believed to have used interior routes for escape and abandoned one of the bikes near the Godavari river before crossing on foot to evade police checks. Authorities are continuing the investigation, relying on CCTV footage and other evidence to track down the suspects.

# Temple Set for Grand Revival with 110Cr Plan

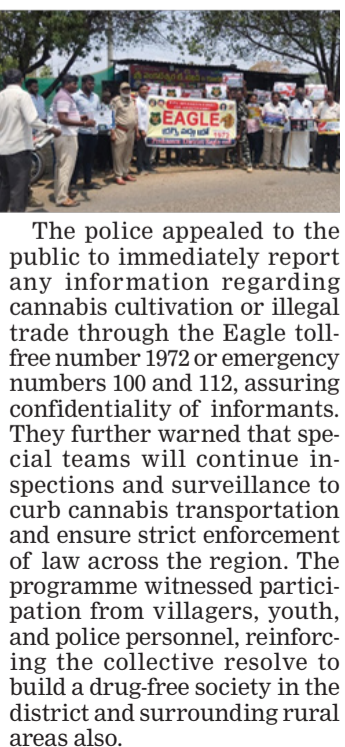
**Vikarabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
The Mahalaxmi Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Kodangal in Vikarabad district, often referred to as the "Tirupati of the Poor," is undergoing a major transformation with the State Government approving 110 crore for its redevelopment. The project aims to recreate the grandeur of the Tirumala temple, turning the shrine into a prominent spiritual destination. Spread across 5.63 acres, the temple will be rebuilt using black granite and designed in accordance with traditional Agama Shastra principles. Plans include the construction of imposing Rajagopurams on all four sides, with a five-tier tower at the entrance and smaller ones around the complex. The redevelopment is scheduled for completion within 18 months. Key facilities such as a Pushkarini (temple tank), Kalyanakatta for ritual tonsure, and an Annadana Satram to provide free meals to devotees will be developed. Additional shrines dedicated to Mahalakshmi, Goda Devi, Garudalwar, Bhu Varaha Swamy, Bedi Anjaneya Swamy, and Bhimeswara Swamy are also part of the plan. To facilitate the project, nearly 100 nearby households were relocated with compensation, allowing uninterrupted construction. Infrastructure improvements, including administrative buildings, a modern kitchen, and wide processional streets, are also underway to enhance pilgrim experience. Located about 120 km from Hyderabad near the Karnataka border, the temple is expected to attract a large number of devotees once completed. Meanwhile, a temporary shrine has been set up to ensure uninterrupted darshan during construction.

# Crackdown on Encroachments Eases Traffic

**Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
Hyderabad: The Malkajgiri traffic police carried out a focused enforcement drive to clear footpath encroachments and road obstructions, registering 516 cases and collecting 74,900 in fines across Traffic Zone-I. The operation was conducted in the Malkajgiri and Trimulgherry divisions with the aim of improving pedestrian access and reducing congestion caused by illegal use of footpaths and roadside spaces. Officials targeted unauthorized vendors, improper parking, and other obstructions that were disrupting the smooth flow of traffic. During the drive, several encroachments were identified and removed, helping restore space for pedestrians and streamline vehicle movement. Authorities emphasized that such actions are part of ongoing efforts to maintain order on busy city roads and ensure public convenience. Data from the traffic department revealed that Begumpet Traffic Police Station reported the highest number of violations, with 168 cases booked. This was followed by Gopalpuram with 110 cases and Alwal with 88 cases. Police officials stated that similar enforcement drives will continue in other areas to curb violations and promote safer, more accessible roads for both pedestrians and motorists.

# 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.



# Battery Vehicles Distributed to Empower Persons with Disabilities

**Bhuvanagiri, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
A major welfare programme aimed at supporting persons with disabilities was organised on Wednesday at Ravi Bhadra Reddy Function Hall in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district headquarters. The initiative, led by the Department of Women, Child, Disabled, and Senior Citizens Welfare, focused on distributing assistive devices to eligible beneficiaries. Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and distributed battery-operated vehicles to individuals with disabilities. Addressing the gathering, he appreciated the joint efforts of the government and various organizations in promoting inclusivity and social empowerment. He stated that such initiatives play a crucial role in improving mobility and independence for persons with disabilities. The MP expressed confidence that the vehicles would make daily travel easier and help beneficiaries participate more actively in society with dignity and self-reliance. He also encouraged recipients to utilize the benefits effectively and make the most of available welfare schemes. Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao, along with Muthineni Veerayya, Chairman of the Association for Persons with Disabilities, and Avai Chisti, Chairman of the Yadadri District Library, were present at the programme. Representatives from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, including Executive Director D. Sudhakar Rao and General Manager G.V. Satyanarayana, also attended. Officials from multiple government departments, members of disability organizations, and a large number of beneficiaries participated in the event, making it a significant step toward inclusive development.



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# Collector Urges Crop Diversification During Farmers' Week

**Nalgonda, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
District Collector B. Chandrasekhar called on farmers to adopt market-driven agriculture and diversify crops while addressing an awareness seminar held at Panagal Rythu Vedika as part of the ongoing "Farmers' Week" programme. The event, organized under the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" initiative, focused on guiding farmers toward sustainable and profitable practices. The Collector emphasized that cultivating crops with strong market demand can significantly enhance both yield and income. He advised farmers to choose crops suited to their soil conditions and announced that Soil Health Cards are being issued to support informed decisions. If required, special drives will be conducted to assess soil quality across villages. Encouraging farmers to move away from monoculture, he highlighted the importance of crop diversification and modern farming techniques. He also pointed out that better use of food processing units and cold storage facilities can help farmers preserve produce and secure improved returns. Fine varieties of paddy and other high-demand crops were recommended over exclusive cultivation of coarse grains. On procurement, the Collector stated that issues are being resolved and the process is progressing steadily. Around 3.2



lakh metric tonnes of grain have been procured within 20 days, with 900 lorries arranged for transportation. Nalgonda Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivasa Reddy urged farmers to utilize government schemes effectively and consider alternative crops. Officials from various departments participated in the programme, spreading awareness about welfare initiatives.

# Massive Saree Order to Boost Textile Sector

**Sirisilla, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
Government Whip Adi Srinivas announced that the state's "People's Government" has placed orders for one crore Indira Mahila Shakti sarees with textile units across seven districts, directing that production be completed within the stipulated timeframe. The formal order distribution event was held at the District Integrated Offices Complex under the Handlooms and Textiles Department. Officials revealed that 130 powerloom societies in Sircilla will manufacture nearly 7

crore meters of fabric, including 95 lakh sarees of 6.3 meters and 5 lakh sarees of 9 meters. The initiative aims to supply sarees to one crore women across the state while strengthening the textile industry's economic base. Adi Srinivas stated that the large-scale order would generate employment and provide stability to weavers and workers. He also appreciated industry stakeholders for successfully completing previous orders and noted that 352 crore in pending dues had already been cleared. Additionally, the government has set up a 50 crore Yarn Bank in Vemulawada, supplying yarn on 90% credit to support production. Principal Secretary Sailaja Ramaiyer emphasized maintaining high quality standards in manufacturing and highlighted that no complaints had been received so far. She encouraged textile units to diversify beyond government orders and fully utilize available schemes. District Collector Garima Agarwal remarked that the sarees have become a symbol of pride for women, often worn during festivals and special occasions, reflecting both cultural identity and local craftsmanship.



# Minister Conducts Surprise Visit to RDO Office

**Husnabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
Minister Ponnam Prabhakar carried out an unannounced inspection at the Integrated Divisional Office Complex (RDO Office) in Husnabad, reviewing the functioning of the facility and interacting with officials. During the visit, he held discussions with RDO Ramamurthy to understand staff strength, roles, and overall administrative performance. The Minister emphasized that government employees must remain easily accessible to the public at all times. He instructed officials to adopt a compassionate approach while addressing citizens' concerns and to ensure that grievances are handled with sensitivity and promptness. Stressing discipline, he also directed staff to maintain punctuality and adhere strictly to office timings. Ponnam Prabhakar noted that the success of government initiatives depends largely on the efficiency and responsiveness of officials. He stated that welfare schemes and development programs can reach people effectively only when there is transparency and consistent public engagement from government departments. In addition, the Minister reviewed infrastructure and ongoing activities within the premises. He instructed concerned officials to expedite all pending works at the Integrated Divisional Office Complex and ensure that the facility operates smoothly without delays. The visit underscored the government's focus on improving administrative efficiency and public service delivery at the grassroots level.

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# Nirmala Jaggareddy Launches Key Initiatives

**Sangareddy, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
TGIIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy conducted an official visit to Sangareddy and Kandi mandals on Wednesday, taking part in multiple development and welfare activities. In Kulpagur village of Sangareddy Mandal, she inaugurated a paddy procurement center set up under the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS). Addressing farmers, she urged them to utilize government procurement facilities instead of selling their produce to private millers, ensuring better transparency and fair returns. Later, in Begumpet village of Kandi Mandal, she attended the housewarming ceremony of a newly constructed 'Indiramma' house allotted to Ella

Goud, a local BRS activist. Speaking at the event, Jaggareddy emphasized that welfare schemes introduced by the Congress government are being implemented impartially, benefiting people irrespective of their political affiliations. As part of her tour, she also inaugurated a new phone service center on the Sangareddy Bypass Road, highlighting the importance of improving local infrastructure and services. Several public representatives and leaders, including village officials and Congress members, participated in the programs. The visit reflected the government's focus on strengthening grassroots development, supporting farmers, and ensuring that welfare initiatives reach all sections of society without discrimination.

# Job Melas Announced for Youth

**Hyderabad, May 6 | TPN Bureau**  
The Department of Sports and Youth Services is set to organize the Prajapalana - Pragathi Pranalika Telangana Job Mela 2026, creating employment opportunities for young people from diverse educational backgrounds. According to officials, the job mela in Rangareddy district will be conducted on May 11 from 9 am at the Sa-

roornagar Indoor Stadium near LB Nagar. This will be followed by a similar event in Hyderabad on May 12 at Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Bhavan in Banjara Hills. The initiative aims to connect job seekers with potential employers and enhance career prospects for youth across the region. It is being held in collaboration with the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) and the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana

(DEET), both of which play a key role in skill development and employment facilitation. More than 50 companies are expected to participate in the two-day event, offering a wide range of job opportunities across multiple sectors. Officials encouraged eligible candidates to attend the job melas and make use of this platform to secure employment and build their careers.



# 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.

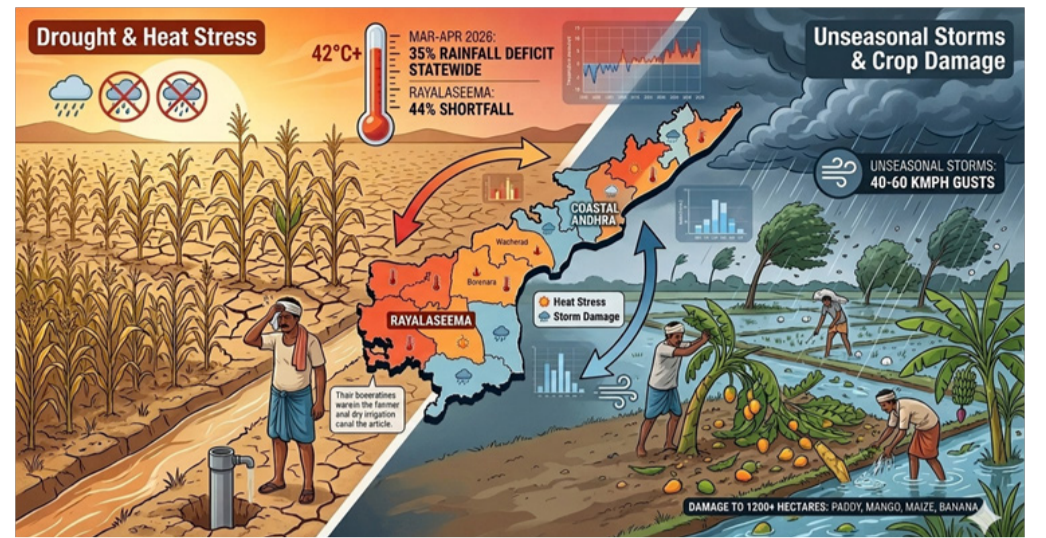
On the other hand, film artist turned politician, Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan carries a strong emotional appeal among young voters, especially first-time voters influenced by his cinematic background and anti-establishment stance. However, converting that appeal into consistent electoral support remains 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.

## 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 DravidaMunnetraKazhagam. 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.

## 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.



## 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.



## 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.

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.

## 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.



## 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

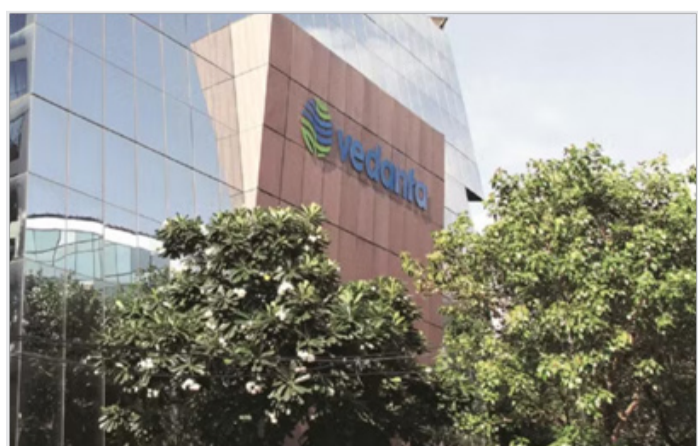
tighter supply conditions in some segments. However, rising input costs continue to pose a challenge for steel manufacturers. Prices of key raw materials such as iron ore and coking coal have moved upward, putting pressure on production costs and margins.

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 colourful 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.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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 Shravan 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 disruption,

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.

