

BUZZ POINTS



PM Modi's UAE Visit Strengthens India-UAE Strategic Partnership

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Marsh Stars as LSG Crush CSK by Seven Wickets

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Centre Defends NEET-UG Cancellation, Says Students' Rights Must Be Protected

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AMCA Defence Project Will Transform Puttaparthi into Global Aerospace Hub: MLA Sindhura Reddy

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CM Chandrababu Urges Centre to Increase Ethanol Blending in Petrol to 40% Says Higher Ethanol Usage Will Benefit AP Maize Farmers

Amaravati, May 15|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday urged the Centre to increase ethanol blending in petrol from the present 20 percent to 40 percent to reduce India's dependence on petroleum imports and strengthen energy security.

blending at much higher levels and said India should also move in that direction to reduce the burden of crude oil imports and save valuable foreign exchange reserves.

AMCA Project a 'Return Gift' to Anantapur: Minister Lokesh Says Puttaparthi Set to Emerge as Major Defence and Aerospace Hub

Puttaparthi, May 15|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh on Friday described the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) stealth fighter jet project coming up in Puttaparthi as a "return gift" to the people of the united Anantapur district for their overwhelming support to the NDA alliance in the elections.



'Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra' Shows Visible Transformation in 16 Months: CM Chandrababu

Amaravati, May 15|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said the 'Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra' programme has brought remarkable transformation in sanitation, waste management and environmental protection across Andhra Pradesh over the past 16 months.

Reviewing the programme with officials at the Camp Office, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved since the initiative began in January last year. He urged officials to draw inspiration from the success of the campaign and work with greater dedication to achieve the goals of a clean and sustainable Andhra Pradesh.

Chandrababu said the achievements were possible only because of public participation and cooperation. As part of cost-saving measures, the review meeting was conducted virtually. Around 150 officials, including Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar, IAS officers, district collectors, municipal commissioners, Panchayat Raj officials, SERP, MEPMA, Health and Pollution Control Board representatives participated online.

The Chief Minister instructed district collectors to conduct future reviews through online or hybrid mode wherever possible. He also directed Water Resources and Agriculture Department officials to prepare an action plan for irrigation water release. He asked officials to ensure

CM Calls Upon Officials to Continue Mission with Greater Commitment



the success of the statewide 'Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra' programme scheduled for Saturday.

Major Achievements of 'Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra' • Around 121 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste cleared in the last 23 months, including 86 lakh metric tonnes after the new government assumed office. The government aims for 100 percent clearance by June. • Daily door-to-door garbage collection of 7,527 tonnes in urban areas and 1,430 tonnes in rural areas. • Six Waste-to-Energy projects worth Rs 1,254 crore underway, along with six upcoming CBG plants. • Integrated waste processing plants worth Rs 603 crore being established across 107 locations, expected to be operational by October. • Net Zero Healthy Campus initiatives launched in hostels and government offices with

solar power, kitchen gardens, rainwater harvesting and composting facilities. • E-waste collection drives conducted in all urban areas twice every month, with 22 metric tonnes collected so far. • Deployment of 200 e-autos for garbage collection, while 5,000 push carts and 12,000 tricycles will be introduced by month-end. • Green cover in the state increased to 31.33 percent, with targets of 37 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2047. • Through 650 Swachh Rathams, nearly 125 tonnes of dry waste are collected daily from villages. Essential commodities worth Rs 8 crore were distributed to citizens depositing waste. • Green Shops introduced where people can exchange recyclable waste such as plastic and iron for household essentials. • Weekly 'Swachh Patham' drives launched every



Pithapuram Becomes Pawan Kalyan's Political Stronghold

Ravi Podili Political observers say Pawan Kalyan has firmly established a stronghold in Pithapuram, turning the constituency into a space increasingly identified with his political presence. Analysts draw comparisons with other symbolic constituencies, Kuppam with N. Chandrababu Naidu and Pulivendula with Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, suggesting that Pithapuram is now similarly associated with Pawan Kalyan.

Since his 2024 victory as MLA from Pithapuram, a win that attracted statewide attention, local supporters have expressed renewed pride. Political analysts argue that his influence in the constituency remains strong and that his position is unlikely to be easily challenged in the near future. His popularity, they say, continues to dominate local political sentiment. Meanwhile, speculation has emerged over the political future of former TDP MLA

Middle-Class Dreams Turn into Crores of Fraud- 1 Raki Avenues scam exposes promises, brochures and celebrity endorsements fraud

Ch Raju

Rajahmundry: A major real estate scam has surfaced in Rajanagar mandal near Rajahmundry, where layouts developed under the name Raki Avenues Pvt Ltd have allegedly left hundreds of middle-class buyers in financial distress. What was marketed as an affordable housing dream has now turned into a crisis of trust, with victims claiming large-scale fraud and abandonment of promised projects.

The layouts promoted under the Raki Avenues brand attracted buyers through glossy brochures and aggressive advertising campaigns. Many customers say they were drawn by promises of well-planned infrastructure, including parks, wide roads, drainage systems, and secure residential development. However, they now allege that most of these features existed only on paper and were never implemented on the ground.

According to complaints, the company sold plots without obtaining proper approvals from relevant authorities, allegedly violating multiple real estate regulations. Victims further claim that the same plots were shown to multiple buyers and, in some cases, plot dimensions were altered during sale agreements, leading to disputes and financial losses.

One of the major attractions in the campaign was the promise of fully developed homes at an estimated cost of around 26 lakh. However, buyers allege that the project cost escalated without clarity and eventually, construction activities were halted after collecting nearly 88 crore from investors. Many



Images on the Broucher

customers now say the project has been completely stalled, with no progress on promised infrastructure or housing delivery.

A key aspect of the controversy involves the promotional campaigns featuring television anchor Suma Kanakala, who appeared in advertisements endorsing the project. Buyers say her presence in the promotional material influenced their decision to invest, believing it reflected credibility and trustworthiness.

Victims allege that they invested their savings based on these endorsements and are now left with unanswered questions. "We trusted the advertisements and invested our life savings. Now the company is not responding, and we are left with nothing," some vic-



Images on the Broucher

tims reportedly said. However, Suma Kanakala has previously clarified that her association with the company ended in 2018 and that older promotional videos were being reused without her involvement. Despite this clarification, victims continue to raise concerns about the role of celebrity endorsements in influencing investment decisions in real estate schemes.

Meanwhile, the company's Managing Director, Ramaiah Venu, has reportedly assured that the project would resume, citing delays due to health and financial constraints. He has maintained that only a limited amount of funds were used for development and that work would restart soon. However, these assurances have failed to convince the affected buyers,



Images on the Broucher

who allege repeated delays and a lack of transparency.

Victims have been regularly approaching the Rajahmundry Urban Development Authority (RUDA) and local police officials, demanding action and accountability. They argue that the issue is not an isolated case but reflects broader loopholes in the real estate regulatory system that allow such projects to mislead and exploit middle-class investors.

With mounting complaints and stalled construction, the Raki Avenues case has now become a symbol of alleged real estate malpractice in the region. Victims continue to demand investigation, legal action, and recovery of their investments, while authorities have yet to announce comprehensive action on the matter.

True POINT will continue to expose these irregularities through a series of investigative reports until justice is served to the victims of Raki Avenues.

Andhra Pradesh Emerging as Nation's Defence Shield: CM Chandrababu

Rajnath Singh, Chandrababu Lay Foundation for AMCA Project in Puttaparthi

Puttaparthi, May 15|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh is set to emerge as a strong defence shield for the nation through the establishment of multiple defence manufacturing units, including the prestigious Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Friday.

The Chief Minister, along with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, laid the foundation stones for the AMCA project and several other defence sector initiatives at Puttaparthi in Sri Sathya Sai district.

The leaders unveiled the

plaque for the AMCA Integration and Flight Testing Project to be developed under the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), a wing of DRDO. They also laid foundation stones for defence manufacturing units including Agneyastra Energetics under Kalyani Strategic Systems, along with facilities by Bharat Dynamics Limited and HFCL. Five drone manufacturing and technology companies planned for the Drone City at Orvakal were also virtually inaugurated.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said Rayalaseema is no longer a drought-prone region but is rapidly emerging as a major growth zone. With the arrival of the AMCA



CM Chandrababu Disburses Rs 306.61 Crore to Polavaram Oustees

Assures Justice to Displaced Families, Says Project Will Be Completed Before 2027 Pushkarams

Amaravati, May 15|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday distributed Rs 306.61 crore towards compensation and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) assistance to families displaced by the Polavaram Project.

The compensation was distributed during an interaction held with project-affected families at the CM Camp Office in Amaravati. The Chief Minister also handed over house keys to several beneficiaries residing in R&R colonies and assured all oustees that the government would ensure complete justice to every affected family.

Officials informed the meeting that 62.05 acres had been identified for distribution of house site pattas, while another 520.02 acres were earmarked under the land-to-land rehabilitation component.

This is the fourth round of compensation distributed to Polavaram oustees after the TDP-led alliance government assumed office. Earlier instalments were released during Sankranti and Deepavali in 2025 and Ugadi this year. So far, nearly 29,936 displaced persons have received around Rs 2,250 crore under various compensation and rehabilitation packages since the coalition gov-

ernment came to power. During the interaction, several displaced families told the Chief Minister that the Polavaram project construction and compensation process regained momentum only after the present government assumed office. They alleged that the previous government failed to provide even basic infrastructure facilities such as roads in R&R colonies and neglected flood-affected families during the 2022 floods.

Addressing the gathering, Chandrababu Naidu said it was a matter of satisfaction for him to extend R&R assistance to Polavaram oustees on the occasion of Sir Arthur Cotton Jayanti. He reiterated that the government is fully committed to both completing the Polavaram Project and safeguarding the interests of displaced families.

The Chief Minister said farmers who sacrifice ancestral lands for major irrigation projects should never be made to suffer. He assured that the government would improve livelihood opportunities in tribal constituencies such as Polavaram and Rampachodavaram through technology integration and infrastructure development.

Naidu also reiterated his long-term vision of

## CM Chandrababu Urges Centre to Increase Ethanol Blending in Petrol to 40%

continued

Chandrababu said increasing ethanol production would also provide additional income to sugarcane and maize farmers. He noted that farmers across the country have already benefited to the tune of Rs 87,558 crore due to ethanol-related initiatives.

The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh, which produces maize on a large scale, would particularly benefit if the Centre increases ethanol blending. Since maize is a key raw material in ethanol production, demand for the crop would rise significantly, he said.

Chandrababu pointed out that although the Centre fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for maize at Rs 2,400 per quintal, farmers are not getting that rate in the market and prices have fallen to around Rs 1,700 to Rs 1,800 per quintal in open markets.

He urged the Centre to take an early decision on increasing ethanol blending percentages to protect the interests of maize farmers.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that he had earlier raised the same issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his recent visit to Delhi.

## AMCA Project a 'Return Gift' to Anantapur: Minister Lokesh

participated in the AMCA project foundation ceremony along with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Addressing the gathering, Lokesh said the sacred land of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is now transforming into a major defence power centre for India. "The united Anantapur district stood firmly with the NDA alliance in the elections and delivered a clean sweep in all 14 seats. This AMCA project is our return gift to the region," he remarked.

Drawing a comparison with the Kia Motors project established in the region earlier, Lokesh said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had earlier brought automobile manufacturing to the drought-prone district and is now bringing advanced fighter jet manufacturing to the same soil.

He said Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's blessings were behind the transformation of the region. "At a time when nobody imagined it, Sathya Sai Baba ensured an airport for this region. Today, with his blessings, fighter jet manufacturing industries are coming here," he said.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Lokesh praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for strengthening India's defence capabilities.

"Many states in the country have double-engine governments, but Andhra Pradesh alone has a double-engine bullet train government. Nobody can match the speed of Modi and Chandrababu," he said.

Lokesh stated that Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a major investment destination under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

"In just 23 months, we have shown the country what speed of doing business truly means. Earlier, we used to feel jealous seeing the development of oth-

er states. Now, other states are looking at Andhra Pradesh with admiration and envy," he added.

The Minister said the AMCA project is being established jointly by DRDO and the Aeronautical Development Agency in Puttaparthi, while Sagar Defence is setting up operations at Juvvaladinne.

He noted that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) played a major role in Bengaluru's growth over several decades and expressed confidence that the AMCA project would similarly transform Puttaparthi into a globally recognised aerospace and defence hub.

The project will manufacture fifth-generation stealth multi-role fighter aircraft in the region, he said.

Lokesh further stated that several reputed companies including Bharat Forge, Bharat Dynamics Limited, HFCL and Premier Explosives Limited are investing in the area, creating large-scale employment opportunities for local youth.

"We will not only manufacture defence equipment here but also export it to other countries," he said.

He asserted that while the Kia project accelerated the development of the united Anantapur district, the AMCA project would make the region number one in development.

The Minister credited Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for personally pursuing the project and ensuring its establishment in Andhra Pradesh.

"This is not just a defence project. It is a transformational initiative that will redefine the future of Rayalaseema," Lokesh said.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for allocating such a prestigious defence project to Andhra Pradesh and assured that the state would play a strong role in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

## CM Chandrababu Disburses Rs 306.61 Crore to Polavaram Oustees

continued

interlinking the Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and even Ganga rivers to eliminate water scarcity across the country. Criticising the previous YSR Congress Party government, the Chief Minister alleged that negligence and repeated changes of officials and contractors severely affected the

progress of the Polavaram Project.

He asserted that had his government continued after 2019, the project would have been completed by 2020 itself. The project has now been brought back on track and will be completed before the 2027 Pushkarakams and dedicated to the nation, he said.



## AMCA Defence Project Will Transform Puttaparthi into Global Aerospace Hub: MLA Sindhura Reddy

Puttaparthi, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Palle Sindhura Reddy on Thursday described the establishment of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Defence Project in Puttaparthi as a historic milestone that would be inscribed in golden letters in the history of the region.

The MLA participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of the prestigious AMCA project held at Brahmanapalli in Sri Sathya Sai district. Addressing the gathering, she said the sacred land once known globally as the spiritual home of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba would now emerge as a major centre for aerospace and defence manufacturing.

Sindhura Reddy said the project aligns perfectly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat," adding that the Government of India and the Andhra Pradesh government are jointly establishing the DRDO-ADA manufacturing unit across nearly 650 acres in Puttaparthi.

She stated that the facility would manufacture fifth-generation indigenous stealth fighter jets and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft using cutting-edge technology. Calling the project a "game-changer," the MLA said it would transform not only Puttaparthi but also India's entire aerospace ecosystem.

## Work for Comprehensive Development and Beautification of Machilipatnam: Minister Kollu Ravindra

Machilipatnam, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra on Friday directed officials to work with the sole objective of ensuring the comprehensive development and beautification of Machilipatnam city.

The Minister conducted a review meeting with officials from various departments at the Roads and Buildings Guest House in Machilipatnam along with Joint Collector M. Naveen.

During the meeting, Kollu



do not pile up anywhere in the city.

Keeping the approaching monsoon season in view, he directed officials to accelerate drainage works and take preventive measures against water stagnation and flooding problems.

The Minister also emphasized coordinated efforts among departments to transform Machilipatnam, a city of historical importance, into a clean, modern and beautiful urban centre. Senior municipal and revenue officials participated in the review meeting.

Ravindra reviewed several civic and infrastructure development issues, including waste removal from the city dumping yard, sanitation management, road connectivity, drainage expansion, sewage-related problems and future urban development plans.

He said the government's priority is to provide better infrastructure and improved civic amenities to the people of Machilipatnam. Stressing the importance of sanitation, the Minister instructed officials to speed up the clearance of accumulated waste from dumping yards and ensure that garbage

does not pile up anywhere in the city.

Keeping the approaching monsoon season in view, he directed officials to accelerate drainage works and take preventive measures against water stagnation and flooding problems.

The Minister also emphasized coordinated efforts among departments to transform Machilipatnam, a city of historical importance, into a clean, modern and beautiful urban centre. Senior municipal and revenue officials participated in the review meeting.

## Andhra Pradesh Emerging as Nation's Defence Shield: CM Chandrababu

continued

project, Puttaparthi would become a strategic defence hub of national importance, he said. The Chief Minister stated that the project aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and India's push toward strengthening indigenous defence capabilities through next-generation stealth fighter aircraft.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Chandrababu said drones used in the operation were manufactured and tested in Andhra Pradesh, showcasing the state's growing defence potential.

Thanking Rajnath Singh for allocating the AMCA project to Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister said the initiative would attract investments exceeding Rs 15,000 crore and generate employment for nearly 7,500 people. Puttaparthi, he said, would evolve into a major centre for fighter jet integration and flight testing.

Highlighting the speed of project clearances, Chandrababu said the foundation was laid within just 36 days and approvals were granted at "jet speed."

He added that several defence-related projects including Bharat Forge, HFCL, Bharat Dynamics Limited and Drone City initiatives in Kurnool district are also being launched. Emphasizing the growing role of drones in modern warfare and civilian applications such as agriculture, the Chief Minister said the coalition government decided to establish a dedicated drone manufacturing ecosystem at Orvakal.

Chandrababu outlined Andhra Pradesh's emerging strategic ecosystem:

- Sriharikota as a centre for space power
  - Nagayalanka for missile capabilities
  - Puttaparthi for defence strength
  - Visakhapatnam as a naval hub
- Together, these developments would transform Andhra Pradesh into a "defence shield for the nation," he said.

The Chief Minister also reiterated plans to transform Rayalaseema into a hub for steel, cement, solar, wind, pumped storage, defence, aerospace, electronics and space-related industries.

He announced that gold production would soon begin at the Jonnagiri Gold Fields in Kurnool district. According to him, 600 kg of gold would be

produced this year and production would rise to 1,500 kg annually from the second year onward. "Andhra Pradesh is poised to become a major centre for gold production in the coming years," he said. Referring to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, Chandrababu observed that rising imports of fuel and gold are putting pressure on India's foreign exchange reserves. He urged citizens to adopt Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seven-point savings agenda and said the Andhra Pradesh government had already initiated cost-saving measures, including reducing convoy vehicles. He also encouraged wider adoption of work-from-home practices and urged people to convert present challenges into opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the AMCA project as a historic milestone for India's defence sector and praised Andhra Pradesh for attracting global technology and defence investments.

"AP today stands for Advanced Pradesh," Rajnath Singh remarked.

He said Rayalaseema, where fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft would be developed, should evolve into a military-industrial complex. The Rs 15,000-crore project would include not only aircraft integration but also an advanced flight testing centre, placing India among a select group of nations with such capabilities.

The Defence Minister also said Bharat Dynamics Limited would invest Rs 480 crore in manufacturing advanced autonomous underwater systems and torpedoes, significantly reducing India's dependence on imports. In the presence of Rajnath Singh and Chandrababu Naidu, seven companies signed Memorandums of Understanding involving investments worth Rs 4,460 crore, creating employment opportunities for around 6,400 youth.

The companies include Bharat Forge, Raghuvanshi Machine Tool, Sagar Defence Engineering, NIBE Group, PMT Defence, Chakravyuh Dynamics and Indus Bridge Ventures. Before the foundation ceremony, the Defence Minister and the Chief Minister viewed displays of AMCA models, missiles, torpedoes, grenades and advanced defence systems showcased by participating firms. Minister Nara Lokesh, Union Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, BJP AP President P. V. N. Madhav and several others participated in the programme.

## Irrigation Projects Being Implemented in Line with Sir Arthur Cotton's Vision: Minister Nimmala

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu on Friday said irrigation projects across the state are being completed in line with the vision and ideals of Sir Arthur Cotton.

Paying floral tributes to Sir Arthur Cotton at his camp office in Vijayawada on the occasion of the engineer's birth anniversary, the Minister described Cotton as a visionary who transformed the Godavari and Krishna delta regions through the construction of

the Dowleswaram and Krishna barrages and an extensive canal network.

Nimmala Rama Naidu alleged that the previous YSR Congress Party government neglected the irrigation sector and damaged the progress of the Polavaram Project. He said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had brought both the irrigation sector and the Polavaram project back on track.

The Minister announced that Rs 150.09 crore had been allocated for installation of 117 new gates at the Dowleswaram Barrage. He also said a LiDAR

survey for rejuvenation of the Godavari Delta had been completed at a cost of Rs 14 crore and a Detailed Project Report is being prepared.

He stated that Rs 397 crore has been allocated this year for desilting canals and clearing weeds ahead of the Kharif season.

Later, observing "No Vehicle Day," the Minister cycled nearly 10 kilometres from Vijayawada to the Chief Minister's camp office in Undavalli, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for fuel and energy conservation.

## 'Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra' Shows Visible Transformation in 16 Months: CM Chandrababu

continued

Wednesday for cleaning roads and dumping yards.

• Awareness campaigns conducted under the WOW initiative.

• Circular Economy Parks under construction in Nellore, Anakapalli and Chittoor districts.

• Fifty plastic waste processing units already operational, with another 210 units expected by June.

• Andhra Pradesh received several Swachh Survekshan awards at the national level.

• Kandulavaripalle village in Chittoor district received a national award in the Climate Action category.

**CM Congratulates Award-Winning Panchayats**

The Chief Minister said it was a matter of pride that Andhra Pradesh gram panchayats received national recognition for achievements in

rural development and sustainable growth. He appreciated village-level staff, Panchayat Development Officers, district officials, public representatives and villagers for their collective efforts.

He called upon gram panchayats to play a crucial role in achieving the goals of Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra.

National Panchayat Awards Won by Andhra Pradesh

• Sringavaram Gram Panchayat in Anakapalli district won first prize in the Good Governance category for 2025, receiving Rs 1 crore.

• Bokkasampalem Gram Panchayat in Tirupati district secured first prize in the Women-Friendly Panchayat category for 2026, receiving Rs 1 crore award.

• Chittoor District Panchayat Resource Centre secured first place nationally in the Panchayat Kshamata Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan category for 2026, receiving Rs 1 crore.

• Kanipakam Gram Panchayat in Chittoor district won second prize under the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Special Award category for 2026 with Rs 75 lakh award.

## Pithapuram Becomes Pawan Kalyan's Political Stronghold

continued

Varma, who represented Pithapuram earlier. Reports suggest growing dissatisfaction within his camp, with discussions on social media indicating a possible distancing from the Telugu Desam Party. Varma and his supporters maintain that he made way for Pawan Kalyan during the last election as part of an alliance understanding.

Varma had reportedly hoped for an MLC position after the coalition government came to power. However, the post was instead allocated to Naga Babu, leading to discontent among his followers. Since then, Varma has been vocal in expressing dissatisfaction, including criticism over local issues such as campaign material and party visibility. His supporters claim he has not received adequate recognition within the party structure.

Despite this, political analysts point out that Varma's electoral track record remains limited, with only one win in three attempts. In contrast, Pawan Kalyan's support base in Pithapuram appears significantly stronger and more consolidated. They argue that Varma's influence is largely dependent on his association with the Telugu Desam Party

rather than independent popularity.

According to observers, even committed TDP voters in the constituency appear to lean towards Pawan Kalyan's leadership under the current political alignment. TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh has also highlighted that the coalition's success in recent elections was strengthened by the alliance between the Telugu Desam Party and Jana Sena.

Analysts further recall earlier elections in the region, noting that leader Mudragada Padmanabham Reddy contested from Pithapuram in 2009 as a Congress candidate but finished in third place. In 2014, Varma reportedly secured victory as an independent with indirect backing from TDP supporters, reflecting the complex local political dynamics over the years.

At present, political commentary suggests that Pawan Kalyan's influence in Pithapuram remains dominant, with expectations of continued strong electoral performance. While opposition figures attempt to assert relevance, analysts argue that the constituency's current political identity is closely tied to Pawan Kalyan, making Pithapuram one of his most secure political bases.

## Major Political Convention Shifted to Virtual Platform to Promote Austerity

**Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau**  
 Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has directed that the prestigious annual convention, Mahanadu, be conducted virtually on May 27 and 28. This decision serves as a key component of the government's ongoing austerity measures aimed at reducing public expenditure and promoting financial discipline. Under the new plan, a central stage will be established at NTR Bhavan, where Politburo and state committee members will participate in the proceedings. To ensure the grassroots cadre

can participate in the two-day festival, the party will set up digital screens across 1,845 clusters statewide. This virtual format allows for wide-scale engagement while significantly cutting down on logistical costs. All state committee members have been instructed to remain available at the party's central headquarters during the event. By transitioning this significant political festival to an online platform, the leadership aims to maintain tradition while setting a strong example of resource conservation and modern efficiency.

## Opposition Criticizes Medical Infrastructure Neglect and Policy Failures

**Tadepalli, May 15 | TPN Bureau**  
 The YSRCP heavily criticized the ruling coalition for deteriorating healthcare standards and poor upkeep of government hospitals. Addressing the media on Friday, YSRCP representative Devineni Avinash highlighted a shocking incident at a public hospital where a patient's amputated limb was dragged away by stray dogs, calling it a reflection of absolute administrative negligence. He alleged that essential facilities like ventilators and functioning air conditioning are severely lacking, instilling fear among poor patients seeking treatment. Avinash contrasted the cur-

rent situation with the previous administration under YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, asserting that healthcare and the Aarogyasri scheme operated efficiently even during crises like the pandemic. He claimed that the system has now collapsed, with vital welfare schemes being systematically scrapped. Furthermore, he raised concerns over farmers missing out on minimum support prices and youth feeling deceived by unfulfilled promises. Turning to economic issues, the opposition demanded a reversal of the recent fuel price hike, urging the ruling party to leverage its partnership with the central government to ease the financial burden on the public.

## Governance at People's Doorstep: Rs 25 Crore CMRF Assistance Distributed in Santamaguluru

**Santamaguluru, May 15 | TPN Bureau**  
 Andhra Pradesh Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Friday said the state government is committed to ensuring welfare and development reach every eligible citizen through proactive governance and direct public outreach programmes. Speaking at the "Public Grievance Redressal Forum" held in Santamaguluru Mandal of Prakasam district, the Minister said the government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is working to resolve public grievances swiftly while simultaneously accelerating development works across villages and towns. District Collector Raja Babu said the district administration has been conducting constituency-level grievance redressal programmes every Friday in addition to the regular Monday grievance sessions, as per the Chief Minister's directions.

He informed that a total of 204 petitions were received during the programme, with nearly 50 percent related to revenue issues. Around 40 petitions sought sanction of new pensions, while several others concerned various government departments. The Collector directed officials to ensure immediate and complete resolution of all petitions. Addressing the gathering, Minister Ravi Kumar highlighted welfare measures such as pension distribution, implementation of the PM Surya Ghar scheme and infrastructure development works including roads, drains, substations, community halls and RO water plants. He also stated that bicycles were distributed to government school students while scooters and tricycles were provided to persons with disabilities. During the programme, CMRF cheques worth Rs 25.31 crore were distributed to 2,938 beneficiaries in the constituency.



## Newly Appointed Zonal Incharge Discusses Regional Strategy with Party Leadership

**Mangalagiri, May 15 | TPN Bureau**  
 A high-level meeting took place at the party central office where Avinigadda constituency leaders, led by observer Kanaparthi Srinivasa Rao, met with the newly appointed Zonal Incharge Redeppari Srinivasa Reddy. The leaders discussed current political developments and local grievances within the constituency. Congratulating the

new incharge, the representatives urged swift action on key regional issues. Srinivasa Reddy called for coordinated efforts to secure a 90 percent victory in upcoming local body elections. He assured the delegation that their concerns would be brought to the attention of the Chief Minister and Nara Lokesh to ensure prompt resolution and continued organizational strengthening.

## Organizational Restructuring Launched to Foster Leadership and Ideological Unity

**Mangalagiri, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Deputy Chief Minister and Party President Pawan Kalyan announced a comprehensive institutional restructuring during a party meeting on Friday. He unveiled three specialized wings, Lakshya Dal for grassroots execution, Nirvahak Dal for policy implementation, and Paripalak Dal for administrative coordination, to transition the organization from a person-centric entity into a sustainable, ideology-driven institution. Highlighting his twelve-year journey in establishing a disciplined cadre, he emphasized that the party now serves as an open platform where ordinary volunteers can transform into capable societal leaders. He announced that five-man committees, including dedicated secretaries and treasurers, will be established across all constituencies to streamline operations ahead of the upcoming local body elections.

Addressing socio-political issues, Kalyan rejected narrow, opportunistic politics, advocating instead for the holistic development of all marginalized communities, including backward classes and scheduled groups. To achieve true social integration, he suggested dissolving caste-segregated student accommodations in favor



of unified systems. Furthermore, he clarified that the political landscape of neighboring states differs fundamentally from local dynamics, noting that his organization focuses on extracting positive governance values from all ideological spectrums. Reassuring supporters about his health, he confirmed he has fully recovered from previous respiratory and spinal complications and is actively returning to full-time political duties.

Kalyan also aligned his party's vision with national priorities by endorsing the Prime Minister's call for resource and energy conservation. He urged the cadre and citizens to embrace fuel-saving measures, adopt public transit, and cur-

tail luxury imports to protect national foreign exchange reserves amid ongoing global energy instabilities. He condemned political rivals for baselessly criticizing these necessary economic adaptations. Reflecting on the ruling coalition, he acknowledged operational challenges at the ground level but firmly pledged to protect the self-respect of his party workers while rectifying alliance grievances. Concluding his address, he reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to national integrity and cultural heritage, tasking the volunteers with propagating the party's seven foundational principles directly to the grassroots level to prepare for future democratic challenges.

## Structural Defects in Bridge Raise Serious Questions Over Infrastructure Quality

**Undavalli, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Opposition leaders Ambati Rambabu, Malladi Vishnu, and Vema Reddy have voiced grave concerns following the tilting of a steel bridge under construction over the Buckingham Canal. Inspecting the site, they alleged that the structure developed significant defects within just six months, attrib-

uting the failure to hurried execution and a lack of proper engineering oversight by the current administration. The leaders questioned whether mandatory technical approvals were secured for the 60 crore project, suggesting the government prioritized political publicity and bill clearances over structural integrity. They further noted that the construction firm initially de-

nied issues before later admitting to defects, raising broader doubts regarding the quality of ongoing works in the capital region. Warning of potential risks to future large-scale structures, the leaders demanded transparency and strict adherence to safety standards to prevent the state from incurring debt for unsustainable or poorly executed infrastructure projects.

## Visionary Decision to Transition Major Party Convention to Digital Format Applauded

**Amaravati, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Minister for Agriculture Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu hailed the strategic decision of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to conduct the annual Mahanadu festival virtually on May 27 and 28. He emphasized that the move reflects exceptional foresight, promoting financial discipline and resource conservation by leveraging modern technology. The event will feature a central stage at NTR Bhavan for the



state leadership and Politburo members, while digital screens will be set up across 1,845 clusters statewide to ensure maxi-

mum participation of the grassroots cadre. Atchannaaidu also commended Nara Lokesh for his pivotal role in modernizing the organization, synchronizing youth and technology to elevate the convention to a high-tech digital scale. He stated that this innovative approach marks a new chapter in the party's history, which will successfully propagate its foundational ideology and development roadmap while inspiring workers across the state.

## Former IAS Officer B.V. Rama Rao Passes Away at 86

**Bengaluru, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Former IAS officer B. V. Rama Rao, a senior bureaucrat of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, passed away on Thursday morning at his son's residence in Bengaluru following prolonged illness. He was 86. A 1962-batch IAS officer, Rama Rao held several key positions during his distinguished administrative career

at both the state and Central levels. He served as Secretary of the Education Department, Managing Director of APIIC and Principal Secretary of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department. He later retired as Special Chief Secretary of the Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department and also served as Acting Chief Secretary of the undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Even after retirement, he remained active in the field of education and public policy. He served as Dean of the ICFAI School of Public Policy and guided several students and young administrators. Rama Rao is survived by his wife and three sons. Several IAS officers, academicians and prominent personalities expressed condolences over his demise and conveyed sympathies to the bereaved family.

## Opposition Rebutts Claims of Financial Austerity and Political Propriety

**Visakhapatnam, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

The YSRCP has criticized the administration for what it terms as contradictory behavior regarding financial austerity and public conduct. Addressing the media on Friday, representative Gudivada Amarnath questioned the sincerity of the leadership's cost-cutting measures, pointing out

that while official convoys were reduced for publicity, the frequent use of chartered flights and expensive renovations at multiple private residences continue unabated. The opposition also took strong exception to the use of an official defense project inauguration for political rhetoric. Amarnath argued that leveling accusations against political rivals on a stage shared with promi-

nent national leaders was inappropriate and lacked professional decorum. Furthermore, he highlighted that the state currently faces some of the highest fuel prices in the country, adding a significant burden to the common citizen. He concluded that the ruling party's shifting stances and lack of a consistent ideology remain a concern for the state's progress.

## Strategic Fuel Price Hike Coupled with EV Infrastructure Push

**Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Member of Parliament Vijayasai Reddy stated that the recent three-rupee increase in petrol and diesel prices is a minimal yet necessary adjustment given the ongoing global energy crisis. In a social media post addressed to the Prime Minister, the leader suggested that while such fiscal decisions are essential for economic stability, they should be strategically coupled with the rapid expansion of green energy infrastructure. He advocated for the establishment of thousands of fast electric vehicle charging stations across the

country to accelerate the transition to sustainable mobility. Furthermore, he emphasized the critical need for promoting last-mile public transportation systems in all urban centers to provide efficient and eco-friendly commuting alternatives for the public. By integrating these measures, the government can effectively balance immediate energy demands with long-term environmental goals, ensuring that urban transit becomes more accessible while reducing the national dependence on conventional fuels during volatile international market conditions.

## Concerns Raised Over Regional Water Security and Agricultural Neglect

**Tadepalli, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Senior leader Sake Sailajana has accused the current administration of compromising the state's water rights and neglecting the drought-prone Rayalaseema region. Speaking at the party headquarters, he alleged that the government has remained silent on projects in neighboring states that threaten local water security. He specifically criticized the decision to halt the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project and the proposed reduction in the Polavaram project's height, claiming these moves drastically diminish irriga-

tion potential for lakhs of acres. Furthermore, he highlighted that inaction regarding the Upper Bhadra project in Karnataka could severely impact canal systems dependent on the Tungabhadra river. Sailajana noted that a lack of irrigation has already led to the drying of orchards, undermining claims of regional agricultural development. He concluded by demanding full job reservations for local youth in upcoming regional industrial projects, warning that the government would be held accountable for neglecting essential agricultural needs.

## Employment Drive Marks Golden Era for State Youth

**Amaravati, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Dola Shree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy stated that the coalition government has ushered in a golden era for the youth by prioritizing employment and industrial growth. He highlighted the recent notification for 1,523 university faculty positions and the recruitment of 16,000 teachers through the Mega

DSC. The Minister emphasized that while the previous administration neglected job creation and drove away industries, the current leadership is working tirelessly to fill long-standing vacancies, including SC, ST, and disabled backlog posts. He credited this proactive approach to the commitment of the Chief Minister and Nara Lokesh toward youth empowerment.

## Tributes Paid to Sir Arthur Cotton on Birth Anniversary

**Tadepalli, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy paid rich tributes to Sir Arthur Cotton on his birth anniversary. In a social media post, he highlighted that the agricultural prosperity of the coastal districts remains a lasting testament to the engineer's visionary con-

tributions to irrigation. Recalling the landmark construction of the Dowleswaram project, he noted that the pioneer successfully transformed volatile floodwaters into a vital lifeline, securing water for lakhs of acres. He concluded that the engineer's invaluable services to the farming community will be remembered forever.

## CM Chandrababu to Lead Swarnandhra-Swacchandhra Drive in Srikakulam Today

**Srikakulam, May 15 | TPN Bureau**

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will tour Srikakulam district today to participate in the 'Swarnandhra-Swacchandhra' programme at Narasannapeta, where he is expected to focus on sanitation awareness, public interaction and party coordination.

According to officials, the Chief Minister will spend nearly five hours in the district during which he will personally inspect sanitation activities and interact with local residents as part of the state government's cleanliness initiative. The Chief Minister is scheduled to leave his residence at Undavalli at 9 am and arrive at the Tamarapalli helipad by helicopter at 10.40 am. He will later address a 'Praja Vedika' public meeting at Narasannapeta between 11 am and 12.45 pm, where he is also expected to receive petitions from the public on local civic and development issues. As part of the Swarnandhra-Swacchandhra programme, Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate a plastic recycling unit set up at the Solid

Waste Processing Centre on the outskirts of Narasannapeta town. He will also inspect sanitation management works and review waste processing operations at the facility. Later in the afternoon, the Chief Minister will hold a meeting with Telugu Desam Party leaders and cadres at a special camp in Tamarapalli and provide guidance on future organisational activities.

District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar and Superintendent of Police K. V. Maheshwara Reddy said elaborate arrangements and security measures have been made for the visit. Around 1,300 police personnel along with 200 support staff have been deployed for security and crowd management. Union Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu and other district leaders inspected the arrangements on Friday. In line with the Chief Minister's recent call for austerity and fuel conservation, officials also reduced the size of the CM's convoy from 21 vehicles to just four for the Narasannapeta tour.



### Venkata Sai Food Plaza Under Fire for Serving Stale Food

Jaggayyapeta, May 15 | TPN Bureau
The Venkata Sai Food Plaza on the Jaggayyapeta highway has sparked public outrage after serving foul-smelling, stale chicken biryani to customers despite charging premium prices.

sumption. Residents claim the establishment operates with political backing, allowing it to evade strict food safety inspections and ignore dangerous illegal road dividers that have caused fatal accidents.

### AP Power Employees Forum Expresses Gratitude Over Recruitment Approval

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau
The Andhra Pradesh Power Employees Forum, led by President Guttavili Ramakrishnu and General Secretary S. Koteswara Rao, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the state government for approving the recruitment of 629 Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) posts.

representatives noted that the filling of 100 posts in APGENCO, 200 in APTRANSCO, and the remainder across three DISCOMs will significantly strengthen the power sector.



### EO K.S. Rama Rao Reviews Devotee Amenities and Sanitation on Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau
Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam Executive Officer V.K.S. Rama Rao, alongside Temple Chairman Shri Borra Radhakrishna, conducted a comprehensive review meeting with engineering, sanitation, and administrative officials on Friday.

staff. Addressing infrastructure, he announced plans to strengthen the Ghat Road from the toll gate to 'Om' turning. To ensure devotees face no inconvenience during potential road closures, he ordered the enhancement of facilities at Kanakadurga Nagar.

### Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Orders Stringent Action Against Water Body Encroachments

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has called for a coordinated effort to identify and remove encroachments on canals, ponds, and water bodies to safeguard public interests.

environmental protection and flood prevention. Referring to a 2024 public interest litigation, he directed officials from Revenue, Municipal, and Irrigation departments to conduct joint surveys and submit accountability-driven reports.

## Blood Donation is the Ultimate Gift: CM's Special Secretary Pradyumna

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau



CM's Special Secretary Pradyumna highlighted the life-saving impact of blood donation during a voluntary camp organized by the Indian Red Cross Society's NTR District Branch on Friday.

Pradyumna remarked that blood donors possess the unique power to save lives and urged every healthy individual to contribute voluntarily.

organizers appealed to citizens to donate at least once a year, emphasizing that service to society remains the core objective of the Red Cross mission.

## BJP SC Morcha to Conclude Ambedkar-Jayanti Celebrations with Massive Rally

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

BJP SC Morcha State President Panatala Suresh and NTR District President Adduri Sriman released air balloons at Ambedkar Smriti Vanam to announce the grand finale of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th birth

anniversary celebrations on May 17. The event will feature a rally from Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium to Smriti Vanam, followed by a massive percussion performance.

partments for folk instruments in music colleges. They credited Prime Minister Modi for globalizing Ambedkar's legacy while criticizing previous regimes for limiting his historical significance.



## Collector Lakshmisha Directs Accelerated Progress on Jakkampudi TIDCO Housing

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha visited the Jakkampudi TIDCO housing site on Friday to inspect construction progress and labor deployment.

ing the project, officials informed the Collector that out of 6,576 sanctioned houses, 2,256 were handed over in March 2026, with plans to deliver another 3,000 units by June.

well at Gollapudi, emphasizing that infrastructure and trunk services must meet high quality standards. He ordered the executing agencies to expedite the remaining works to ensure the timely handover of homes to all eligible beneficiaries

## "BadiPilustondi" Awareness Rally Inspires Enrollment in Government Schools

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

The BadiPilustondi (School is Calling) awareness rally was held with great enthusiasm across the Vijayawada West constituency to encourage student enrollment in government educational institutions.



Notably, the initiative inspired several students to shift from private schools to government schools during the event. The rally saw active participation from Mandal Education Officers, school principals, teachers,

Samagra Shiksha staff, and the local community, all working together to promote public education and ensure every child returns to the classroom for the upcoming academic year.

## Kalamkari Art Training Program Empowering Women Launched

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

A one-day Kalamkari art training workshop was organized by the FICCI FLO Vijayawada Chapter at Malineni Kalayana Mandapam to foster entrepreneurship and creativity among women.

achieve financial independence by honing their unique skills. She highlighted the high market demand for traditional arts like Kalamkari and encouraged participants to utilize government welfare schemes and bank loans to establish small-scale cottage industries.

opportunities. Expert artisans from Srikalahasti, including Muni Lakshmi and Hymavathi, provided hands-on training to approximately thirty women on using natural dyes and traditional techniques.



## Devotees Donate 1 Lakh to Indrakeeladri Annadanam Scheme

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

G. Ramamohana Rao and his wife, residents of Gudavalli, donated 1,00,000 to the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple's Nitya Annadanam

scheme on behalf of their family. The donation was handed over to temple officials atop Indrakeeladri, supporting the sacred mission of providing free meals to visiting devotees.



## AP Nirudyoga JAC Hails Age Relaxation and Assistant Professor Recruitment

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

AP Nirudyoga JAC State President Samayam Hemanth Kumar has welcomed the coalition government's decision to increase the age limit for general candidates to 44 years for APPSC jobs.

lar Assistant Professor positions in universities, including 203 posts at Andhra University, which had been pending for years. In a congratulatory message to Minister Lokesh, he emphasized that while this move provides a lifeline to many, further opportunities should be extended to those still affected by past delays.

## Joint Collector Reviews Mission Vatsalya Progress

Vijayawada, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya chaired a review meeting on the implementation of the Mission Vatsalya scheme by the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare.

ing the session, the Joint Collector directed officials to issue orphan certificates to homeless children, implement foster care programs, and establish a dedicated shelter home for girls. She emphasized multi-departmental cooperation to prevent child marriages and urged staff to work with better coordination to ensure comprehensive child protection and welfare across the district.



## Water Conservation Works Expedited to Secure Irrigation Future

Reddigudem, May 15 | TPN Bureau

The prestigious Jaladhara-Jalaharati initiative is progressing rapidly in the region, with significant restoration works underway at the local major tank.

to prevent monsoon flooding. These measures aim to provide reliable irrigation to over 540 farming families cultivating various crops. By reviving traditional water bodies and enhancing canal efficiency, the government ensures a sustainable water supply for agriculture and livestock, fostering long-term regional prosperity and drought resilience.



## Collector Reviews Master Plan for Tiruchanur Road Expansion

Tiruchanur, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswarlu convened a high-level meeting with TTD and TUDA officials to review a comprehensive master plan aimed at alleviating traffic congestion near the Sri PadmavatiAmmavari Temple. During a detailed PowerPoint presentation, the Collector, alongside TTD JEO Veerabrahmam and SP Subbarayudu, assessed proposed road widening and parking projects designed to accommodate the heavy influx of devotees during Brahmotsavams and regular days. Dr. Ven-

kateswar emphasized that these infrastructure upgrades are critical for providing a seamless darshan experience and reducing overcrowding in temple surroundings. The session involved a collaborative discussion with municipal and engineering officials to ensure the works are executed as planned. Key participants included the Municipal In-charge Commissioner, RTO, and various departmental Superintending Engineers, all focused on fast-tracking the development to improve pilgrim convenience and local traffic management within the temple zone.



## Arani Srinivasulu's Birthday Celebrated

Tirupati, May 15 | TPN Bureau

The birthday of Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu was celebrated on a grand scale this Friday by Jana Sena Party leaders, corporators, Veeramahilas, and activists. The constituency was filled with festive energy as supporters gathered at prominent locations, including the Four-Legged Mandapam junction and AnanthaVedhi intersection, to perform ceremonial cake cuttings. Demonstrating the party's commitment to service, extensive Annadanam programs were organized to

feed the needy. Additionally, loyalists conducted special pujas and rituals in various temples, praying for the legislator's continued health and success. The celebrations witnessed a massive turnout for the party's ranks, with many Jana Sainiks and key representatives personally extending their heartfelt greetings to the MLA. These charitable activities and spiritual gatherings effectively turned the occasion into a major public event, highlighting the strong bond between the MLA and his supporters across the Tirupaticonstituency.



## Collector Sumit Kumar Orders Transparent Land Re-Survey in Palamaner

Chittoor, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar has directed officials to execute the land re-survey across Palamaner constituency with absolute transparency and zero errors. Reviewing progress with Joint Collector A. Rajendran and RDO Bhavani, the Collector emphasized that Mandal Surveyors and VROs must remain impartial, keeping local politics aside while performing their duties. He instructed officials to utilize the KYC app for accuracy and mandated that farmers be formally noti-

fied before any survey begins. The Collector further tasked the Palamaner RDO and DIOS with maintaining a comprehensive understanding of every survey number within the division, specifically tracking DKT and patta lands. Regular monitoring of surveyor logins and the submission of detailed field reports were also ordered to ensure accountability. Key revenue and survey officials participated in the meeting, where the Collector reaffirmed that resolving village-level land issues remains a top administrative priority.

## Kolusu Parthasarathy Offers Prayers at Tirumala

Tirumala, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Information and Housing, Kolusu Parthasarathy, visited the Lord Sri VenkateswaraSwamy Temple on Friday accompanied by his family members. Following his granddaughter's traditional tonsure ceremony, the Minister chose to experience the pilgrimage as a common devotee by purchasing 300 special entry darshan tickets. After completing the prayers, the family gathered at the RanganayakulaMandapam, where Vedic scholars performed traditional chants and invoked divine blessings. Tirumala TirupatiDevasthanams (TTD) officials facilitated the visit and honored the Minister with the



Lord's TirthaPrasadam and a sacred Seshavastra. The spiritual visit concluded with a formal presentation ceremony involving temple authorities and

the Minister's family. This gesture of joining the general queue for darshan was appreciated by fellow pilgrims at the shrine.

## Dr. Salkapuram Prasad Achieves Doctorate in Management from Rayalaseema University

Kurnool, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Salkapuram Prasad, a distinguished scholar from Kurnool, has achieved a prestigious milestone by receiving an honorary doctorate in Management from Rayalaseema University. The son of late Sri S. Joseph, Dr. Prasad conducted comprehensive research on the professional performance and social contributions of insurance agents, guided by Professor K. Venugopal Rao. Cur-



rently based in Delhi as Chief Manager at Axis Max Life, he maintains a strong vision for his hometown's development. Dr. Prasad announced plans to

introduce Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to enhance education, employment, and environmental sustainability in the region. Emphasizing that primary education is the cornerstone of societal progress, he intends to collaborate with local authorities and industry leaders to create modern infrastructure and job opportunities. This honorary recognition highlights his dedication to both academic excellence and impactful community service.

## Collector Himanshu Shukla Prioritizes Resolution of Employee Grievances

Nellore, May 15 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Himanshu Shukla, accompanied by Joint Collector MogiliVenkateswarlu and DRO Vijay Kumar, conducted the "Employees' Grievance Day" at the Nellore Collectorate this Friday. In line with state government directives to hold these sessions on the third Friday of every month, the Collector personally accepted petitions concerning various professional and workplace challenges. A significant portion of the session was dedicated to addressing specific concerns raised by SC/ST employees and representative union leaders. After listening to the grievances, the Collector issued immediate orders to departmental heads to expedite resolutions. Prominent



district officials, including the ZP CEO and heads of DRDA, MEPMA, and Social Welfare departments, participated in the program. Collector Shukla emphasized that ensuring a

transparent and prompt redressal system for government staff remains a top administrative priority to maintain operational efficiency and employee morale.

## Sridhar Reddy Launches 17 Crore Projects

Nellore Rural, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy marked a significant milestone by launching 168 development projects valued at 17 crore. The legislator garnered widespread acclaim for his distinctive leadership style during the event; choosing to forgo traditional security convoys and escorts, he arrived on an electric bike to champion environmental sustainability and energy conservation. Jana Sena Party District General Secretary Kishore Gunukula attended the ceremony and hailed the MLA as a role model who effectively bridges the gap between the administration and the public. Gunukula emphasized that by prioritizing essential service over rigid protocol,



Sridhar Reddy has set a new benchmark for public representatives. Expressing total support from the Jana Sena Party, Kishore praised the rapid execution of local infra-

structure works and voiced a collective wish for the MLA's inclusion in the upcoming state cabinet to further bolster regional development..

## Macha Datta Reddy Selected for Kiran More's Special Training Camp

Anantapur, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Macha Datta Reddy, a prominent Ranji cricketer from Anantapur, has secured a place in a specialized state-level wicket-keeping training camp under the mentorship of legendary former Indian selector and keeper Kiran More. Conducted by the Andhra Cricket Association, the high-performance clinic is currently being held at the North Zone Cricket Academy in Vizianagaram and is scheduled to wrap up on May 17. Datta Reddy is one of only thirteen senior and emerging keepers selected from across the state for this prestigious opportunity. Having progressed through the ranks by representing Andhra in the U-12, U-14, U-16, U-19, and U-23 categories, his inclusion in this camp underscores his tal-



ent and consistent contributions to the sport. This initiative by the ACA aims to refine technical skills and prepare top-tier keepers for the upcoming professional season.

## APSPDCL to Launch Prepaid Smart Meters for Govt Services from June 1

Tirupati, May 15 | TPN Bureau

To enhance transparency and financial stability, APSPDCL is transitioning 1.17 lakh government electricity services to a prepaid smart metering system starting June 1. This initiative, aligned with Central Government directives, covers districts including Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, and Anantapur. By converting existing infrastructure into prepaid systems, the Discom aims to recover pending dues totaling 9,507 crores while encouraging disciplined energy consumption across municipal bodies, water works, and administrative offices.



CMD Siva SankarLotheti emphasized that this move will foster accountability, allow for continuous monitoring of usage, and significantly reduce the financial burden of unpaid bills. Departments are required to coordinate advance payments by the 5th of every month to ensure uninterrupted service. This systemic shift is expected to streamline billing processes and optimize power regulation across the state's southern region.

The rollout includes 91,306 single-phase and 26,507 three-phase connections. Under this new model, departments must maintain an advance balance via an e-wallet system, similar to mobile recharges. Charges approved by APERC will be deducted in real-time, with automated SMS alerts sent when balances run low. If credit reaches zero, power supply will be disconnected. APSPDCL



## ACB Urges Public to Report Corruption

Ongole, May 15 | TPN Bureau

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has issued a strong appeal to citizens to report any instances of bribery or malpractice encountered in rural and urban government offices. Highlighting an increase in illegal demands for essential services such as pensions, ration cards, land documentation, and municipal approvals, the ACB DSP of Ongole assured the public that the bureau will take direct responsibility for resolving the issues of those who

come forward. By reporting corruption, citizens can ensure their tasks are completed without any illicit costs. To facilitate this, the ACB has provided dedicated contact numbers: 9440446189, 9440446187, and 8333925624. The Bureau emphasized that the identities of all informants will be kept strictly confidential to foster a safe environment for public cooperation. This initiative aims to eradicate systemic corruption and ensure transparent governance across all government departments.

## Satya Kumar Inaugurates Modern Dialysis Center

Puttaparthi, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Dharmavaram MLA Satya Kumar Yadav inaugurated a modern dialysis center at the Sri Sathya Sai Palliative Care and Cancer Centre on Friday. Established in collaboration with the Bangalore Kidney Foundation, the facility aims

to provide high-quality medical relief to rural and economically disadvantaged patients. During his visit, the Minister also inspected the ongoing construction of a 7.4 crore Cancer and Palliative Care Center, reviewing its progress with officials. He lauded the Sathya Sai organizations for their selfless commitment to providing free medical services, noting that such initiatives offer essen-

tial psychological and physical support to those battling life-threatening illnesses. Minister Yadav emphasized that the state government remains dedicated to making healthcare accessible to all, particularly in the Rayalaseema region. The event was attended by Sri Sathya Sai District Collector Shyam Prasad, medical officers, and representatives from various service organizations.





### MP Pledges Highway Bridge Completion by August

Nellore, May 15 | TPN Bureau
Nellore Member of Parliament Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy has announced a commitment to complete the high-level bridge works on the national highway by August.

that Minister Ponguru Narayana and Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy are actively coordinating with officials to expedite the works.



### KishoriVikasam Awareness Program Conducted

Peddamushturu, May 15 | TPN Bureau
The RDT organization successfully organized the state government's flagship "KishoriVikasam" initiative in Peddamushturu, featuring Charitha Ferrer and Regional Director Krishnaveni as chief guests.

urged children to utilize dedicated helplines, including 1098 for child safety, 100 for police assistance, and 181 for women's support, whenever challenges arise.



### Govt Prioritizes Grievance Redressal and GST Compliance

Kurnool, May 15 | TPN Bureau
District Collector Dr. A. Siri and MLA GouruCharitha Reddy inaugurated the constituency-level Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) at Kallur on Friday.

request cannot be fulfilled, preventing residents from repeatedly visiting offices or falling prey to middlemen.

## Drunk Driver of Private Travels Bus Sentenced to Jail in Bapatla

Bapatla, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District Superintendent of Police, B. Uma Maheswar, announced that the district police are conducting extensive inspections of private travels and heavy vehicles to ensure passenger safety.

with a high blood alcohol level of 118.6. The police immediately took him into custody and arranged an alternative sober driver to ensure the passengers reached their destination safely.

for various violations. Furthermore, the district is implementing the "Face Wash and Go" initiative between midnight and 5 AM to prevent fatigue-related accidents, covering over 9,247 drivers to date.



## TDP Holds Chittoor Constituency Mahanadu with Unity Focus

Chittoor, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Chittoor city witnessed a vibrant gathering as the Telugu Desam Party held its "Constituency Level Mahanadu" under the chairmanship of MLA Gurajala Jagannathan Mohan.

tion and a commitment to winning upcoming local body elections under Nara Lokesh's guidance.

## Minister Ravi Kumar Addresses Public Grievances

Addanki, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar visited Addanki on Friday to preside over the Public Grievance Redressal Program held at the Santamagalurumandal headquarters.

dents across various mandals and directed officials to resolve the reported issues promptly.

Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) checks and Letters of Credit totaling over 69 lakh to 84 beneficiaries.

## Private Travels Bus Gutted by Fire on NH-16

Ulavapadu, May 15 | TPN Bureau

A major tragedy was averted on National Highway-16 near the Bhimavaram crossroad in Ulavapadumandal when a private travels bus caught fire.



investigating the incident while alternative travel arrangements were made for the stranded passengers.

## Collector Spearheads Public Grievance and School Enrollment Drives

G. Konduru (NTR District), May 15 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi, alongside Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, actively participated in a specialized Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and the "BadiPilustondi" enrollment program held at Kuntamukkala village on Friday.



tor championed the "BadiPilustondi" campaign, visiting local MPUP and ZP High Schools to interact with newly enrolled children.

## Energy Conservation Promoted Through No Vehicle Day Initiative

Machilipatnam, May 15 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, participated in the state-mandated No Vehicle Day by cycling from his residence to the local party office.



ing oil, and gold. Following directions from the Prime Minister and state leadership, the Minister highlighted that top

## CITU Demands Immediate Reduction in Soaring Petrol and Diesel Prices

Bapatla, May 15 | TPN Bureau

CITU leader K. Sarath and town co-convenor O. Lakshman led a protest at the Old Bus Stand Center on Friday, demanding the government curb rising fuel prices.

of common families. Furthermore, the rising cost of diesel burdens farmers by increasing cultivation expenses for tractors and pump sets.



## Putti Nagalakshmi Honored with AmruthaLathaApuroopa Award

Pedana, May 16 | TPN Bureau

Putti Nagalakshmi, a retired headmistress, poet, and philatelist from Gudivada, Krishna district, has been conferred with the prestigious AmruthaLathaApuroopa Award 2026.

of her exceptional collection of postal stamps. The honors were handed over by Justice Dr. G. Radha Rani, renowned actress and dancer ManjuBhargavi, and educationist Dr. AmruthaLatha.



# World That Can Be Healed and Prosper

The year 2026 presents a striking paradox. On one hand, humanity has reached a pinnacle of scientific achievement that once belonged to the realm of science fiction. Our technological prediction mechanisms have largely neutralised the threat of natural calamities, and agricultural production marvels have created a world where famine should be a relic of the past. In theory, the blueprint for a global utopia, where every citizen is assured a decent living, supported by robust health indices and universal education, is already drawn.

Yet, as we look across the geopolitical horizon, the soil that should be nourishing crops is instead being soaked in the blood of the innocent. While we have mastered the art of sustaining life through

medicine, we have failed to curb the "stubborn leadership" and "religious extremism" that threaten to dismantle it all.

As of May 2026, the global security landscape is arguably at its most volatile point in the 21st century. The direct combat operations between the US-Israel alliance and Iran have sent shockwaves through the global economy, while the attrition of the Russia-Ukraine war and the neglected conflicts across Africa and Asia create a fragmented, interconnected web of violence.

The most tragic casualty of this era is not just physical infrastructure, but the credibility of international institutions. The United Nations, once the beacon of collective security, has seen a precipitous decline, often perceived

as a tool for big-power alignment rather than a protector of the vulnerable. In this power vacuum, the most "stubborn" voices have grown the loudest, treating human lives as disposable variables in a high-stakes game of "War Economy."

There is a chilling reality that often escapes the sanitised reports of nightly news: the systematic use of the vulnerable as political currency. To witness the Middle East as a journalist is to see a recurring nightmare where children and women are not just collateral damage, but strategic assets.

History remembers the accounts of leaders who viewed their own youth as a front-line defence. The anecdote of Yasser Arafat, claiming that every Palestinian child is born with "vengeance" in

their DNA, highlights a devastating cycle, while his wife and daughter were leaving the comforts of Paris. When militants or officials seek shelter in hospitals and schools, pushing the most vulnerable to the front as "human shields," they aren't just fighting a war; they are performing a macabre theatre designed to solicit charity and international outrage. This is a betrayal of leadership that transcends borders.

In the current conflict, we see a dangerous resurgence of the belief that a "War Economy" is a healthy engine for domestic prosperity. By prioritising military-industrial expansion and framing destruction as a precursor to "rebuilding," leaders like Donald Trump or his international counterparts fall into a fool's trap.

While the ledgers of defence contractors might show growth, the human ledger shows a bankruptcy of the soul. War is never a sustainable solution for prosperity. It is a vacuum that sucks resources away from the very agricultural and health innovations that could actually stabilise the planet.

The most dangerous export of modern warfare is not weaponry, but vengeance. When we subject children to the "heat" of these wars, they are not just destroying buildings; they are manufacturing a generation that knows only the language of the bullet and the bomb.

If a child is raised to believe their birthright is conflict, the world loses a potential innovator, a doctor, or a peace-maker. To heal the world, we must move beyond the stand-

ardisation of conflict and the stubbornness of power-hungry elites.

Decentralising Peace is one option. Moving away from failed global bureaucracies toward genuine local cooperation. Protecting the child's mind should be the priority. Ensuring that schools remain sanctuaries of learning, not incubators for ideological warfare. Reframing Prosperity needs to realise that true economic strength comes from innovation and love, not the manufacturing of ordnance.

The world is indeed in a position to heal and prosper. We have the tools, the food, and the medicine. Nature is also in prediction. What we lack, and what we must urgently find, is the collective will to demand that our leaders stop sacrificing the future for the

ego of the present. Peace is not a passive dream; it is an active, necessary investment in the survival of the human spirit.



**Ram Kamal**  
Social Engineer

# Beyond 100% Results Rethinking Education Through the Lens of Children's Rights

As schools are ready to begin the new academic year in almost a month, shockingly, many teachers are already under pressure about the demand for 100 per cent results. Every academic year ends and begins with this single expectation. This number has become the main measure of school performance. But behind this obsession lies a quieter truth: the pressure placed on children, their mental well-being, and their basic right to a healthy childhood.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) reminds us that education is not only about marks. Article 28 guarantees the right to education, while Article 29 defines its true purpose: the full development of a child's personality, creativity, and physical and mental abilities. Yet today's exam-driven system often ignores this wider goal, reducing learning to scores and rankings.

When marks become everything, children stop being learners and become statistics. Curiosity is replaced by fear, and the joy of asking questions slowly disappears. In such an environment, mistakes are treated as failures rather than opportunities to learn. As a result, many children begin to suppress their natural thinking, struggling under pressure that often leads to anxiety and emotional stress. Education, instead of building confidence, starts creating fear.

Article 31 of the UNCRC also recognises a child's right to play, rest, and leisure. However, in many schools, play is treated as secondary to academic

work. Tight schedules, heavy homework, and little space for recreation. This raises an important question: if play is considered unimportant, what happens to a child's physical and emotional development?

The UNCRC further emphasises dignity, safety, and freedom of expression under Articles 12 and 19. But in a system dominated by grades, children's voices are rarely heard. Schools often focus more on results than on understanding a child's thoughts, emotions, and individual needs. This imbalance weakens the true spirit of education.

Teachers are also deeply affected by this system. Ideally, a teacher is a guide who supports a child's overall growth. But in reality, they are often judged only by exam results. The pressure to deliver 100 per cent outcomes turns teaching into a performance-driven task rather than a meaningful learning process.

When students do not perform well, teachers are frequently held responsible without considering other factors such as family environment, emotional health, or learning difficulties. This creates a situation where success is celebrated as numbers, and failure is blamed on individuals, ignoring the complexity of education.

In such conditions, teachers lose the freedom to teach creatively. The focus shifts to completing the syllabus and training students for exams. Emotional development, creativity, and curiosity often take a back seat. This system cre-



ates stress not only for students but also for teachers, who are caught between expectations and reality.

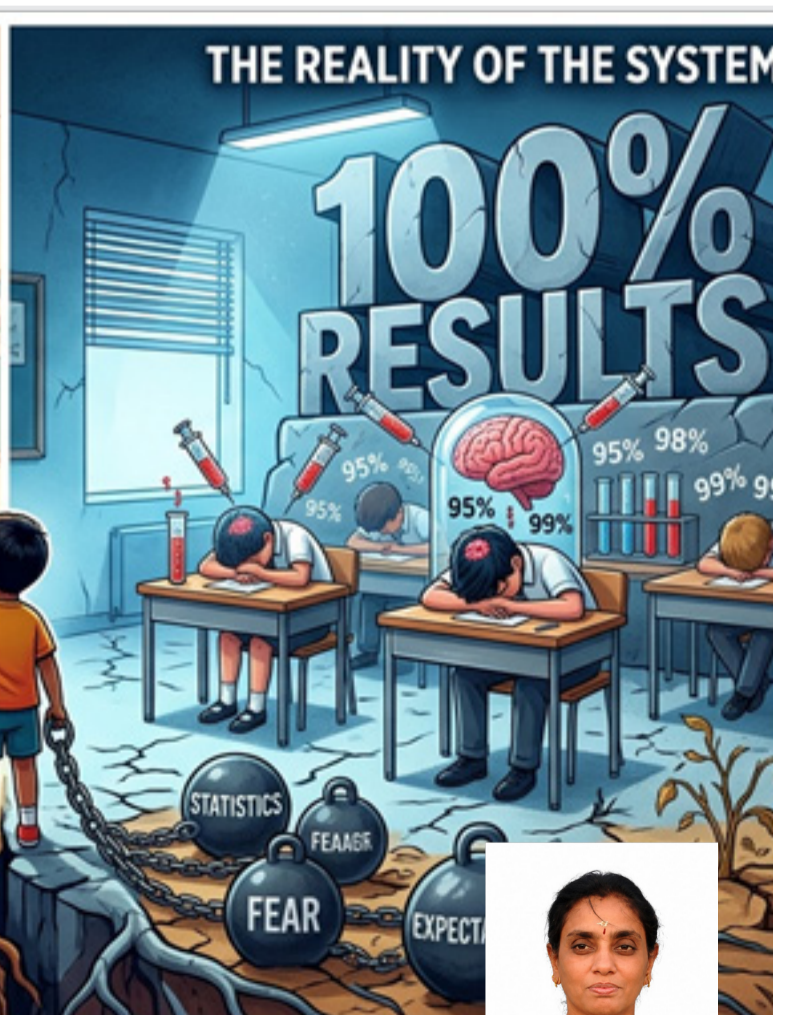
Instead of blaming teachers, the system must support them with trust and autonomy. If teachers are given the freedom to understand students and teach accordingly, education can become more meaningful

and humane. The UNCRC can only be truly implemented when classrooms become spaces that respect childhood, rather than fear results.

Striving for good results is not wrong. The problem arises when results are demanded through pressure and fear. True success in education should come naturally in a

stress-free environment where children learn with joy and confidence. If a student passes exams but loses confidence in life, the purpose of education is defeated.

Ultimately, what society needs is not just 100 per cent marks or pass percentages, but 100 per cent respect for childhood. The principles of child



rights must move beyond documents and become part of everyday classroom practice.

A society that neglects its children's emotional and creative growth risks weakening its own future. It is time to rethink education and restore childhood to its rightful place at the center of learning.



**Sudha Mani Inamanamelluri**  
PGT Mathematics  
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# PM Modi's UAE Visit Strengthens India-UAE Strategic Partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates marked another major step in strengthening ties between the two countries, with India and the UAE signing several important agreements focused on energy security, defence cooperation, infrastructure, and strategic partnerships.

During his visit to Abu Dhabi, Modi held high-level talks with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Both leaders discussed expanding cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, technology, energy, and regional security. The meeting highlighted the rapidly growing relationship between India and the UAE

under their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership framework.

One of the biggest focus areas of the visit was energy security. India signed key agreements related to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supplies and strategic petroleum reserves with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). These agreements are expected to strengthen India's energy stability at a time of rising global oil prices and geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia.

Reports also stated that India and the UAE expanded their defence cooperation through strategic defence agreements aimed at improving collaboration in advanced

defence technology, security, cyber cooperation, and military coordination. The defence partnership has become increasingly important as both countries seek greater regional stability and stronger strategic alignment.

Another major discussion point was trade and investment. India and the UAE have already crossed \$100 billion in bilateral trade, and both sides are now targeting \$200 billion in trade by 2032. The UAE remains one of India's largest investors, while Indian companies continue expanding their presence across the Gulf region.

The visit also focused on emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, digital

infrastructure, logistics, food security, and advanced manufacturing. Officials from both countries stressed the need for deeper collaboration in technology-driven industries as global economic competition intensifies.

Modi also acknowledged the contribution of the large Indian community living in the UAE, describing the country as a trusted partner and close friend of India. Reports noted that the welfare of nearly 4.5 million Indians residing in the Emirates was also discussed during bilateral meetings.

The UAE visit was the first stop in Modi's multi-country diplomatic tour covering Europe and the Gulf region. An-



## India Issues Chair's Statement After BRICS Meeting Amid West Asia Differences

India issued a chair's statement instead of a joint declaration after the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi ended without consensus on the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The development highlighted growing divisions within the expanded BRICS bloc over how to respond to the escalating regional crisis.

The two-day meeting brought together foreign ministers and representatives from BRICS nations, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia. However, differences between member nations — particularly Iran and the UAE — reportedly prevented the group from agreeing on common diplomatic language regarding the conflict in West Asia.

According to India's chair statement, BRICS members shared "differing views" and presented their individual national positions on issues linked to the Middle East crisis. The statement noted that member countries discussed the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, sovereignty, territorial integrity, protection of civilians, and the uninterrupted flow of maritime trade through international waterways.

The disagreement reportedly centered around the ongoing tensions involving Iran, the United States, Israel, and Gulf countries. Iran had pushed for stronger condemnation of US and Israeli actions, while the



UAE maintained a different position due to regional security concerns and tensions with Tehran.

India attempted to balance the competing interests carefully during the discussions. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stressed the importance of protecting maritime security, especially around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global energy route. India also expressed concern over disruptions to energy supplies, sanctions, and rising geopolitical instability affecting the global economy.

The inability to issue a unified statement has been viewed by analysts as a sign of the growing complexity within the expanded BRICS grouping. With new members joining in recent years, the bloc now includes countries with sharply different geopolitical priorities

and regional alliances.

Despite the divisions, BRICS leaders reportedly agreed on the need for continued dialogue and cooperation on global challenges. Discussions also covered broader topics such as economic resilience, multilateral reforms, energy security, and global governance. India additionally reiterated its demand for reforms in international institutions, including the United Nations Security Council, arguing that current global structures no longer reflect modern geopolitical realities.

The meeting served as a preparatory step ahead of the BRICS Summit scheduled to be hosted by India later this year. Observers believe the inability to reach consensus on West Asia may continue to challenge BRICS unity in future diplomatic discussions.

## Centre Defends NEET-UG Cancellation, Says Students' Rights Must Be Protected

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan defended the decision to cancel the NEET-UG examination, stating that the government would not tolerate any malpractice that compromises the future of students. He said the move was necessary to protect the integrity of the examination system and ensure fairness for lakhs of aspirants across the country.

The controversy erupted after allegations of question paper leaks, irregularities, and unfair practices surfaced following the medical entrance examination. The issue triggered widespread protests from students and parents, many of whom demanded a fresh examination and strict action against those responsible.

Addressing the matter, Pradhan said the government's top priority was safeguarding the interests and rights of honest students. He stressed that no compromise would be made if there was evidence suggesting malpractice or manipulation in the examination process. According to him, maintaining



transparency and trust in competitive exams is essential for the country's education system.

The minister also stated that authorities are conducting a thorough investigation into the alleged irregularities. Multiple agencies have reportedly been involved in examining the allegations, including possible paper leaks and organised cheating networks. Several arrests and raids have already taken place in connection with the case.

The cancellation of the exam has created uncertainty and

stress among students preparing for medical admissions. However, the government argued that allowing a tainted examination process to continue would have been unfair to genuine candidates who prepared honestly.

Pradhan assured students that the government is working to ensure the re-examination process is conducted smoothly and securely. He also promised stricter monitoring mechanisms and stronger safeguards to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The NEET-UG examination

is one of India's largest entrance tests, with millions of students appearing every year for admission into medical colleges. Because of its importance, any allegation of malpractice often triggers nationwide concern and political debate.

Opposition parties have criticised the government over repeated examination controversies in recent years, arguing that paper leaks and irregularities are damaging students' confidence in the system. Some opposition leaders demanded accountability and called for major reforms in the examination process. Meanwhile, many students expressed mixed emotions online. While some supported the cancellation in the interest of fairness, others worried about the additional pressure, delays, and uncertainty caused by a re-examination. The controversy has once again highlighted the urgent need for stronger exam security systems, faster investigations, and greater transparency in conducting large-scale competitive examinations in India.

## Southwest Monsoon Likely To Arrive Early In Kerala, Says IMD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted an early arrival of the southwest monsoon over Kerala, with onset likely around May 26, several days ahead of the normal schedule. The early onset has raised hopes for improved agricultural activity and relief from intense summer heat across many parts of the country.

Normally, the southwest monsoon reaches Kerala around June 1 before gradually advancing across India over the following weeks. An earlier arrival is generally viewed positively because it supports timely sowing of crops and helps replenish water reservoirs ahead of the crucial farming season.

According to the IMD, favourable atmospheric and oceanic conditions are supporting the faster progress of the monsoon system. Weather experts noted that strengthening cross-equatorial winds, increased moisture flow, and supportive sea surface temperatures are contributing to the expected early onset.

Despite the possibility of an early start, the IMD has also warned that rainfall during the broader monsoon season may remain below average in some regions. This means that while the monsoon could arrive earlier than usual, the overall rainfall distribution may still be uneven across the country.



Meteorologists explained that factors such as El Niño-like conditions, regional climate patterns, and variations in ocean temperatures could influence rainfall intensity during different phases of the season. Some agricultural regions may experience good rainfall, while others could face deficits.

The monsoon is extremely important for India's economy because nearly half of the country's farmland depends heavily on seasonal rainfall. Agriculture, rural incomes, water supply, and hydroelectric power generation are all closely linked to monsoon performance.

Farmers across several states are closely monitoring the forecast, especially after recent years of unpredictable weather patterns, heatwaves, and irregular rainfall. Timely monsoon rains are critical for crops such as rice, pulses, cotton, soybean, and sugarcane.

An early monsoon can also help reduce temperatures and improve water availability in regions facing heatwave conditions. Several parts of India have experienced unusually high temperatures this summer, increasing pressure on electricity demand and water resources.

Economists and policymakers are also watching the monsoon outlook carefully because food production directly affects inflation and rural consumption. A healthy monsoon season generally supports stable food prices and stronger rural economic activity.

The IMD is expected to continue updating forecasts as the monsoon system progresses toward the Indian coast. Experts caution that the timing of onset alone does not determine the quality of the monsoon season, and rainfall distribution over the next few months will remain the key factor for agriculture and the economy.

## Priyanka Gandhi's Rising Influence over RaGa Sparks Debate in Congress

Ravi Podili

In the wake of recent assembly elections across five states, political attention has shifted sharply to internal leadership dynamics within the Congress party, particularly after delays in finalising the Chief Ministerial candidate in Kerala, according to political sources.

Elections were held in five states last month, with results declared on May 4. Following the verdict, parties that secured a majority were expected to convene legislative party meetings within a few days, elect their leader, and complete the formalities for swearing in as Chief Minister. This process was completed smoothly in four states. In Tamil Nadu, where no party secured an outright majority, the emerging TVK-led arrangement managed to secure support from other parties and completed the floor test as required.

However, in Kerala, the United Democratic Front (UDF), despite winning a majority of seats, has faced delays in forming the government. The key reason has been the time taken, nearly ten days after the results, for internal consultations to finalise a Chief Ministerial candidate. The delay was further complicated by intense competition within the Congress party, which leads the coalition, among multiple aspirants for the top post, as well as differing views within the party's central leadership in Delhi.

Eventually, the UDF finalised V.D. Satheesan as its Chief Ministerial candidate through what party insiders described as a sealed cover selection pro-

cess. The decision reportedly came after prolonged discussions involving senior leaders at both the state and central levels.

The internal contest involved senior leaders, including K.C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala, alongside Satheesan. According to political sources, differences also emerged within the Congress high command. While Rahul Gandhi is said to have leaned towards Venugopal, Sonia Gandhi reportedly supported Chennithala, citing seniority and organisational experience. Party insiders also suggest that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra backed Satheesan, who ultimately emerged as the consensus choice.

The decision has triggered discussions within political circles about Priyanka Gandhi's growing influence in organisational matters. While she does not hold a formal executive position in the party structure equivalent to senior office-bearers, her perceived role in key decisions has fuelled speculation about shifting power dynamics within the Congress leadership.

The Kerala contest highlights Priyanka Gandhi's growing prominence within the Congress leadership. For some time, sections within the party have suggested that Priyanka Gandhi, often compared to her grandmother Indira Gandhi, could be given greater priority, even alongside or over Rahul Gandhi. With the recent developments in Kerala, this discussion has gained fresh momentum.

Attention has also turned to the outcome for K.C. Venugo-



pal, a senior AICC general secretary and close aide to Rahul Gandhi, who has previously played a key role in organisational management across southern states. Despite his proximity to the high command and his influence in internal affairs, he was not selected for the Chief Ministerial post, adding to discussions about evolving equations within the party.

Meanwhile, Satheesan's selection has drawn interest due to his relatively independent political background. A lawyer by profession, he practised at the Kerala High Court for several years before entering politics. He first contested elections in 1996 but lost, and later

won his maiden Assembly seat in 2001.

Since then, V.D. Satheesan has steadily risen within Kerala politics, eventually becoming Leader of the Opposition and playing a key role in strengthening the Congress-led front. His leadership is credited within party circles for consolidating the opposition's position against the long-ruling Left alliance in the state.

With his formal selection now confirmed, political observers view the Kerala development not only as a state-level leadership decision but also as a reflection of evolving power centres within the Congress party's national structure.

# Tensions Erupt In Jerusalem During Controversial Flag March

Tensions flared in Jerusalem as thousands of Israeli ultranationalists took part in the annual "Flag March" through East Jerusalem's Old City, an event that once again triggered clashes, racist slogans, and heavy security deployment.

The march marks Israel's capture of East Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War, which Israelis celebrate as the "reunification" of Jerusalem. Palestinians, however, view the event as a symbol of Israeli occupation and a challenge to their claim over East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Large crowds carrying Israeli flags moved through the Muslim Quarter under tight police protection. Reports said many Palestinian residents shut their shops and stayed indoors due to fears of violence and confrontation. Israeli police reportedly deployed thousands of officers across the city to maintain order during the procession.

Several videos and eyewitness accounts from the march showed groups of participants



chanting slogans such as "Death to Arabs" and "May your villages burn," sparking widespread criticism and concern. Clashes reportedly broke out between marchers, Palestinian residents, activists, and

journalists in parts of the Old City. A major point of controversy came when Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during the event. Ben-Gvir

was seen raising an Israeli flag at the site while surrounded by heavy security. His actions intensified tensions because the Al-Aqsa compound is one of Islam's holiest sites and remains highly sensitive in the

Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Under a long-standing arrangement, non-Muslims are allowed to visit the compound but are generally not permitted to pray there. Ben-Gvir has repeatedly challenged this status quo in recent years, leading to criticism from Palestinians and several international observers.

Despite the tensions, some Israeli peace activists and Jewish-Arab groups were also present in Jerusalem to help protect Palestinian residents and reduce violence. Volunteers from activist groups reportedly formed protective lines in parts of the Old City during the march.

The Jerusalem Day march has long been considered one of the most controversial events in the region. In previous years, similar processions have led to violence and heightened tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. Analysts believe the latest clashes once again highlight how deeply divided the city remains over issues of sovereignty, religion, and national identity.



## US Senator's 'Visa Temple' Remark Triggers Outrage Among Indians

US Senator Eric Schmitt has sparked controversy after linking Hyderabad's famous ChilkurBalaji Temple to what he described as a "visa cartel" while criticising America's H-1B visa system. His remarks triggered strong reactions from Indians online, many of whom accused him of disrespecting religious beliefs and unfairly targeting Indian professionals.

The Republican senator from Missouri made the comments while attacking employment-based visa programs such as H-1B, L-1, F-1, and Optional Practical Training (OPT). According to Schmitt, these programs allegedly disadvantage American workers by allowing companies to hire cheaper foreign labour instead of domestic employees.

The biggest backlash, however, came after Schmitt referred to Hyderabad's ChilkurBalaji Temple — popularly known as the "Visa Temple" — in his criticism. Sharing an image of the temple on social media, he claimed that thousands of Indians visit the shrine to get blessings for US work visas, calling it part of a larger "visa cartel."

The ChilkurBalaji Temple, located near Hyderabad, has long been associated with students and IT professionals seeking blessings before visa interviews or overseas travel. Devotees traditionally perform multiple rounds around the temple while praying for successful visa approvals. Over the years, the temple gained popularity among aspiring immigrants and became informally known as the "Visa Temple."

Schmitt's remarks quickly triggered outrage across social

media platforms. Many users criticised the senator for mocking a religious practice and misunderstanding the cultural significance of prayer. Several Indians pointed out that people across religions pray for success, jobs, education, and opportunities, arguing that visiting a temple for blessings should not be portrayed negatively.

Others accused Schmitt of promoting anti-immigrant narratives and unfairly blaming Indian professionals for broader economic issues in the United States. Some users also defended the contribution of Indian-origin workers in America's technology sector, saying Indian engineers and students have played a major role in the growth of US companies and innovation.

The controversy comes amid continuing political debate in the United States over immigration and work visa policies. Critics of the H-1B system argue that some companies misuse the program to reduce labour costs, while supporters believe the visas help fill skill shortages in industries such as technology, healthcare, and engineering.

India remains the largest beneficiary of the H-1B visa program, accounting for the majority of approvals issued each year. As a result, discussions around the program often attract strong reactions from both Indian and American communities.

While Schmitt's comments have intensified online debate, they have also brought renewed international attention to Hyderabad's famous ChilkurBalaji Temple and its unique connection with visa aspirations.

## Russia And Ukraine Exchange 205 Prisoners In Major Swap Deal

Russia and Ukraine carried out a major prisoner exchange involving 205 prisoners of war from each side, marking one of the most significant humanitarian developments in the ongoing conflict this year. The exchange took place as part of a broader agreement linked to a temporary ceasefire reportedly brokered with the involvement of US President Donald Trump.

Both Moscow and Kyiv confirmed the swap, with officials saying the prisoners included soldiers, officers, and servicemen who had been in captivity for several years. Many of the Ukrainian prisoners were reportedly captured during some of the war's most intense battles, including the siege of Mariupol in 2022.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the return of the prisoners as an emotional moment for families waiting years for news about their loved ones. Images shared by Ukrainian authorities showed released prisoners wrapped in national flags and reuniting with fellow soldiers after returning home.

Russia's Defence Ministry



said the returned Russian servicemen were taken to Belarus, where they were receiving medical and psychological assistance before being transferred back to Russia. Officials also acknowledged the role of the United Arab Emirates in

helping mediate and facilitate the exchange process.

The prisoner swap is reportedly part of a much larger agreement under which Russia and Ukraine had earlier agreed to exchange up to 1,000 prisoners each. The deal emerged

during discussions connected to a short-term ceasefire observed earlier this month around Russia's Victory Day commemorations.

Despite the successful exchange, the broader situation between the two countries re-

mains tense. Both Russia and Ukraine have continued accusing each other of violating ceasefire arrangements, and fighting has resumed in several frontline areas after the temporary truce expired. Reports indicate that missile strikes, drone attacks, and artillery exchanges have continued across multiple regions.

Prisoner exchanges remain one of the few areas where limited cooperation between the two sides has continued despite the prolonged war. Humanitarian negotiations involving prisoners, missing soldiers, and the return of bodies have frequently been facilitated by international mediators since the conflict escalated in 2022.

The latest swap has generated cautious optimism among observers, with some analysts viewing it as a possible confidence-building measure that could support future diplomatic discussions. However, experts also warn that a lasting peace agreement still appears distant as military operations and political tensions continue on both sides.

## Andy Burnham Emerges As New Challenge To Keir Starmer's Leadership

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is facing growing political pressure within the Labour Party as Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham positions himself as a potential challenger to the party leadership. The latest developments have intensified speculation about Starmer's future after Labour suffered disappointing results in recent local elections.

Reports suggest Burnham is now seeking a return to Parliament, a move widely seen as the first major step toward a possible leadership challenge. The situation escalated after Labour MP Josh Simons reportedly agreed to step down, opening the door for Burnham to contest a by-election and potentially return to Westminster.

Burnham has publicly stated that he wants to bring the model of governance used in Greater Manchester to the national level. He has also stressed the need for a "much bigger change" across Britain, particularly on issues such as the rising cost of living, public services, and regional inequality.

The pressure on Starmer has increased significantly in recent days following criticism from Labour MPs and internal party unrest. Reports indicate that several senior party figures are privately questioning whether Starmer can continue leading Labour into the next



general election. Some estimates suggest that close to 100 Labour MPs have expressed concerns over his leadership after the party's poor electoral performances.

The internal turmoil has also been fuelled by the resignation of senior Labour leader Wes Streeting, who reportedly criticised the government's direction and popularity problems. Other influential Labour figures, including Angela Rayner, Ed Miliband, and some union leaders are believed to support his return to Parliament. Political observers say Burnham's broad popularity among both traditional Labour supporters and moderate voters makes him a serious contender

if a leadership contest takes place.

Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, has also reportedly identified Burnham as a stronger political opponent than Starmer because of his appeal beyond Labour's core base. This has further increased attention around Burnham's possible mounting speculation, Starmer has not shown any public indication that he plans to step down. His allies argue that replacing a prime minister so soon after returning to power could damage Labour's credibility and create further instability. However, the political atmosphere inside Labour remains tense, with analysts describing the party as deeply divided over its future direction. If Burnham successfully returns to Parliament through a by-election, many believe the pressure on Starmer could intensify dramatically in the coming months.

## Trump Faces Backlash Over Proposed \$1 Billion White House Ballroom Plan

US President Donald Trump is facing growing criticism over plans to build a massive new ballroom at the White House after reports revealed that the total cost linked to the project could rise to nearly \$1 billion. The proposal has triggered political backlash, public debate, and questions about how the project would ultimately be funded.

The controversy began after Republican lawmakers reportedly discussed allocating federal funds for security upgrades connected to Trump's planned White House ballroom project. While Trump had earlier claimed that the ballroom itself would be funded through private donations and corporate support, critics argue that taxpayers may still end up covering a large portion of the overall expenses through related security and infrastructure spending.

According to reports, the proposed funding package includes hundreds of millions of dollars for White House security hardening, visitor screening facilities, Secret Service training, protection upgrades, and modern surveillance systems. The combined security-related costs reportedly pushed the total figure close to the \$1 billion mark, sparking outrage among opposition leaders and even some Republicans.

Democrats strongly criticised the proposal, accusing Trump and Republican lawmakers of prioritising a luxu-



ry construction project during a time of economic pressure, rising inflation, and concerns over government spending. Senate Democratic leaders argued that public money should instead be directed toward lowering living costs, healthcare, and public services.

Interestingly, criticism has not come only from Democrats. Several Republican senators also reportedly expressed discomfort over the enormous price tag and demanded greater transparency regarding how the money would be used. Some lawmakers questioned whether such a large expenditure was necessary, especially when the country is already dealing with fiscal and eco-

nomical challenges.

Trump has defended the project by arguing that the White House currently lacks a proper large-scale event venue and often relies on temporary tents for state dinners and major gatherings. He reportedly described the ballroom as a long-term improvement for national events and presidential security. Supporters of the project also claim that hosting major functions within the White House complex could reduce security risks compared to external venues.

The proposed ballroom has already become controversial for other reasons as well. Reports suggest parts of the White House East Wing were

modified to make space for the project, leading to criticism from preservation groups and historians concerned about changes to the historic building. Public reaction on social media has been sharply divided. Critics have called the project extravagant and unnecessary, while Trump supporters argue that previous administrations also spent heavily on White House renovations and security upgrades.

Despite the backlash, construction and planning discussions around the ballroom continue, with the project emerging as one of the most debated political and architectural controversies in Washington.

# Sensex, Nifty Under Pressure As Rising Oil Prices Weigh On Markets

Indian stock markets witnessed a cautious and volatile trading session as rising crude oil prices, fuel price hikes, and weakness in the rupee continued to impact investor sentiment. Both the Sensex and Nifty opened on a weak note and remained under pressure throughout the day amid concerns over inflation and global economic uncertainty.

At market close, the BSE Sensex fell around 160 points to settle near 75,238, while the Nifty 50 slipped below the 23,650 mark. Weakness was visible across several sectors, particularly metal, PSU banking, oil-linked, and realty stocks. Midcap and small-cap shares also underperformed, indicating cautious sentiment among

broader market participants. One of the biggest concerns for investors remains the sharp rise in crude oil prices. Brent crude reportedly stayed above the \$105 per barrel mark due to geopolitical tensions and fears of supply disruptions in the Middle East. Since India imports a large portion of its crude oil requirements, higher oil prices generally increase inflationary pressure and weaken the rupee. The government's recent decision to raise petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre also affected market sentiment. Analysts believe higher fuel costs could increase inflation and reduce consumer spending in the coming months. Sectors dependent on strong consumer de-

mand, including FMCG and automobile companies, may face pressure if inflation continues to rise. Despite the overall weak market mood, information technology stocks provided some support. Investors continued to show interest in select IT companies after strong global technology market performances and optimism surrounding artificial intelligence-related growth opportunities. Global cues also remained mixed. While Wall Street closed higher overnight, Asian markets traded cautiously due to ongoing geopolitical tensions and uncertainty surrounding global oil supplies. Investors are also closely monitoring developments related to international trade talks and interest

rate expectations in the United States. Market experts believe volatility may continue in the near term if crude oil prices remain elevated and the rupee continues weakening against the US dollar. However, some analysts also pointed out that foreign institutional investors have started selective buying again, which could provide limited support to the markets. Overall, the Indian stock market is currently balancing between strong domestic economic fundamentals and external pressures such as rising oil prices, inflation concerns, and global uncertainty. Investors are expected to remain cautious until there is greater clarity on crude oil trends and macroeconomic conditions.



## Muthoot Finance, Strong Growth, a Attractive?

Muthoot Finance delivered a strong Q4 FY26 performance with impressive growth in profit and loan assets, but the company's stock reaction shows that investors remain cautious about valuations and future profitability. Despite reporting a sharp rise in earnings, the stock fell significantly after the results, indicating that markets expected even stronger performance and clearer visibility on margins.

The gold loan giant reported more than 100 percent growth in quarterly profit, driven mainly by robust demand for gold loans and rising gold prices. The company's loan book continued to expand rapidly as customers increasingly turned to secured gold-backed borrowing amid economic uncertainty and high gold valuations. Analysts believe Muthoot remains one of India's growing gold loan market.

However, investors appear concerned about whether the current valuation already reflects most of the growth potential. Some brokerages noted that while business momentum remains strong, rising competition in the gold loan segment and concerns around asset quality could limit future upside. Reports also highlighted increasing stress in parts of the loan portfolio, which has raised questions about sustainability of margins and long-term profitability.

Another factor supporting Muthoot Finance is the continued strength in gold prices.

Higher gold prices generally allow borrowers to access larger loans against collateral, boosting loan disbursement growth for companies like Muthoot. India's gold prices have remained elevated throughout 2026, helping gold financiers maintain strong business expansion.

At the same time, the stock's sharp correction after earnings suggests that markets may be shifting focus from growth toward execution quality and valuation comfort. Some analysts believe the company's premium valuation leaves limited room for disappointment, especially if gold prices stabilise or loan growth slows in the coming quarters.

Long-term investors still see Muthoot Finance as a strong franchise because of its dominant position in the gold loan sector, wide branch network, and strong customer base. The company continues to benefit from rising financial inclusion and increasing demand for quick secured loans across semi-urban and rural India.

Overall, the risk-reward for Muthoot Finance now appears more balanced rather than heavily favourable. While strong earnings growth and high gold prices support the business outlook, concerns around valuation, competition, and profitability pressures may keep the stock volatile in the near term. Investors are likely to watch future loan growth, margin trends, and asset quality very closely before turning aggressively bullish again.



## Chambal Fertilisers Shares Jump After Strong Q4 Profit Growth

Shares of Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals surged nearly 6 percent after the company reported a strong rise in fourth-quarter profit, boosting investor confidence and improving sentiment around fertiliser stocks. The rally came after the company announced a significant jump in net profit for Q4 FY26, supported by better operational performance and stable demand in the agriculture sector.

According to the company's latest financial results, net profit rose to Rs 169 crore during the quarter, marking a strong improvement compared to the same period last year. Investors reacted positively to the earnings report, with the stock witnessing strong buying interest during trading hours.

Market analysts believe the improved profitability was driven by better fertiliser sales, operational efficiency, and favourable market conditions.



Stable rural demand and continued government support for the agriculture sector also helped strengthen investor confidence in fertiliser companies.

Chambal Fertilisers remains one of India's major fertiliser manufacturers, particularly known for its urea production. The company has benefited from steady agricultural activity and consistent fertiliser demand across key farming

states. Experts say strong monsoon expectations and healthy crop sowing trends are also supporting optimism in the fertiliser sector. Brokerages noted that the company's earnings performance was better than expected, especially at a time when many industrial sectors continue facing pressure from rising costs and global uncertainty. Improved operating margins and efficient cost management reportedly played a major role in boosting quarterly profitability.

The broader fertiliser sector has recently attracted investor attention due to expectations of higher rural spending and stable government subsidy policies. Analysts believe companies with strong distribution networks and efficient production capacity may continue performing well if agricultural demand remains healthy.

Despite the strong quarterly results, some market experts cautioned that fertiliser companies still remain sensitive to factors such as subsidy payments, global raw material prices, and government policy decisions. Any sharp increase in input costs or delays in subsidy disbursement could affect future profitability.

However, long-term sentiment around Chambal Fertilisers remains positive because of its established market presence, large-scale manufacturing operations, and consistent role in India's agricultural supply chain. Investors also view the company as a relatively stable player within the fertiliser industry due to its strong rural market reach. Following the earnings announcement, the stock emerged as one of the notable gainers in the market session, with traders and investors reacting positively to the company's stronger-than-expected financial performance.

## Rising Oil Prices Keep Rupee Near Record Low

The Indian rupee remained under pressure against the US dollar as rising crude oil prices and strong global dollar demand continued to weigh heavily on the currency market. The rupee stayed close to its record low levels during trading, reflecting growing concerns among investors over inflation, import costs, and external economic pressures.

Market analysts said the primary reason behind the rupee's weakness is the sharp increase in global crude oil prices. Since India imports a large share of its crude oil requirements, higher oil prices increase the country's import bill and create additional demand for US dollars. This usually puts downward pressure on the rupee.

Reports indicate that Brent crude prices have remained elevated due to geopolitical tensions and concerns over global supply disruptions. Rising en-



ergy prices are also increasing fears of imported inflation in India, which may affect economic stability if oil prices continue climbing.

Despite the pressure, the rupee managed to avoid a sharp fall because state-run banks reportedly sold dollars in the

market. Traders believe these dollar sales were likely aimed at controlling excessive volatility and preventing panic in currency trading. Such interventions often help stabilize the rupee during periods of sudden weakness.

Currency experts noted that

foreign investor activity has also influenced market sentiment. While some foreign institutional investors continue investing in Indian equities, others remain cautious because of global uncertainty, high US interest rates, and geopolitical tensions. A stronger US dollar globally has further added to pressure on emerging market currencies, including the rupee. The recent increase in domestic fuel prices has also contributed to concerns around inflation. Higher petrol and diesel prices may raise transportation and production costs across multiple sectors, potentially affecting consumer spending and business profitability.

Economists believe the Reserve Bank of India may continue monitoring the situation closely to avoid excessive currency volatility. While the central bank generally allows market-driven movements, it

occasionally intervenes through dollar sales to maintain stability and prevent sudden disruptions.

Import-heavy sectors such as aviation, oil marketing, and manufacturing companies are expected to face additional pressure if the rupee weakens further. On the other hand, export-oriented sectors like information technology and pharmaceuticals could benefit from a weaker domestic currency because their overseas earnings become more valuable in rupee terms.

Market participants are now closely watching crude oil movements, US Federal Reserve policy signals, and foreign investment trends for clues about the rupee's future direction. Analysts believe the currency may remain volatile in the near term unless global oil prices stabilize and external economic conditions improve.

## HAL Shares Fall After Weak Q4 Results Disappoint Investors

Shares of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) declined nearly 4 percent after the company reported weaker-than-expected fourth-quarter earnings, triggering concern among investors and brokerages. The fall came as the defence major posted lower profitability margins despite recording healthy revenue growth during the quarter.

According to market reports, HAL's quarterly revenue increased compared to the previous year, supported by strong execution of defence orders and aircraft deliveries. However, the company's profit growth failed to meet market expectations due to rising operational expenses and pressure on margins. Analysts noted that the company's EBITDA margins were lower than anticipated, which negatively impacted investor sentiment.

Brokerages highlighted that

although HAL continues to maintain a strong order book and long-term growth visibility, the latest results revealed concerns regarding profitability efficiency. Several analysts pointed out that higher employee costs, execution-related expenses, and project-related spending affected the company's bottom line during the quarter.

The stock witnessed heavy selling pressure soon after the earnings announcement, with investors reacting cautiously to the weaker margin performance. Trading volumes in HAL shares also increased significantly as short-term traders booked profits following the disappointing results.

Despite the near-term weakness, many brokerages continue to remain positive on HAL's long-term prospects because of India's growing defence manu-

facturing push and increasing government focus on indigenous military production. The company remains one of the key beneficiaries of large-scale defence procurement programs, including fighter aircraft, helicopters, and advanced aerospace systems.

Analysts also believe HAL's strong order pipeline provides solid revenue visibility for the coming years. The company is currently involved in multiple strategic defence projects, including Tejas fighter jets, helicopters, aircraft engines, and maintenance contracts for the Indian armed forces.

However, experts caution that investors may continue monitoring margin trends closely in future quarters. Profitability improvement, timely execution of defence contracts, and faster delivery schedules are expected to become key factors influencing the stock's performance going forward.

The broader market sentiment also remained slightly cautious due to global uncertainty, rising crude oil prices, and concerns around inflation, which added further pressure on defence and industrial stocks.

Even after the recent decline, HAL remains one of the most closely watched public sector companies in India's defence sector. Long-term investors continue to view the company as strategically important due to its dominant position in aerospace manufacturing and defence production.

Market analysts believe that while short-term volatility may continue after the earnings miss, HAL's long-term outlook still depends heavily on execution strength, margin recovery, and continued government support for domestic defence manufacturing initiatives.



# AI vs Pigeons, Smart Balcony Defence System Leaves Internet Amazed

Artificial Intelligence is no longer limited to chatbots, robots, or big tech companies. It is now solving everyday household problems too. In a surprising example of creative innovation, a tech enthusiast has built an AI-powered system that automatically detects pigeons on a balcony and sprays water at them to scare them away. The unusual invention has gone viral online, leaving social media users both impressed and amused.

The creator reportedly designed the system after repeatedly struggling with pigeons nesting on his balcony. Instead of using traditional methods like nets,

spikes, or fake birds, he decided to use artificial intelligence to create a smarter and more automated solution. The system works without harming the birds and is meant only to keep them away from the area.

According to reports, the setup uses a USB camera connected to an Orange Pi 5 mini computer. The camera continuously monitors the balcony, and an AI vision model known as YOLO World V2 identifies pigeons in real time. Once a pigeon is detected, a modified water gun mounted on servo motors automatically rotates toward the bird and sprays water. The entire process happens within

seconds and requires no human intervention.

The project uses simple but effective hardware components, including servo motors, resistors, a transistor, and a battery-powered water gun. What makes the system more impressive is its flexibility. Since it relies on AI-based object detection, it can reportedly be trained to recognize other unwanted animals such as squirrels, cats, or raccoons as well.

Social media users reacted enthusiastically after videos of the device began circulating online. Many called it a "genius" solution to a common urban problem, while others joked that

AI has now entered "balcony management" and pest control. Several users also appreciated the fact that the invention scares pigeons away harmlessly instead of injuring them.

The viral invention also reflects a growing trend where affordable AI tools and open-source technology are helping ordinary people build advanced systems at home. Experts say such innovations show how accessible AI has become in recent years. From solving minor inconveniences to automating household tasks, artificial intelligence is gradually becoming part of daily life in unexpected ways.



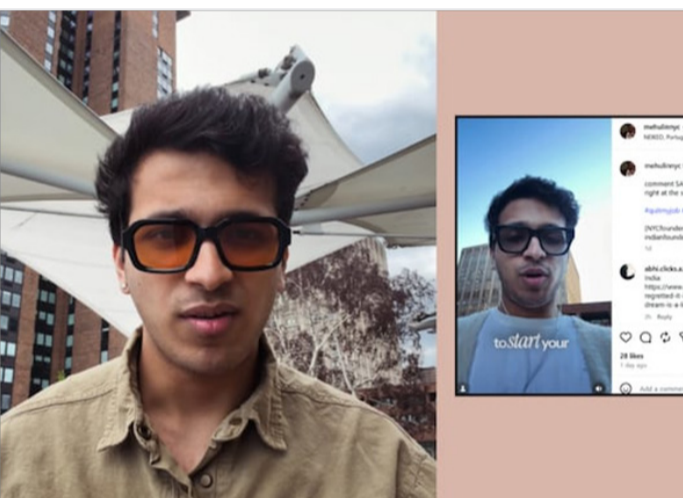
# "Freedom Lasted Just 11 Minutes", Entrepreneur Reveals The Harsh Reality Of Quitting A Job

The dream of leaving a corporate job to become your own boss is often portrayed as exciting and liberating on social media. However, entrepreneur and digital creator Mehul Agrawal has shared a very different side of that journey — one filled with stress, uncertainty, and nonstop pressure.

In a viral post that has sparked widespread discussion online, Mehul revealed that he quit his job hoping to gain "freedom," only to regret the decision within just 11 minutes. His honest confession has resonated with many young professionals who often idealise entrepreneurship without fully understanding its challenges.

According to Mehul, the initial excitement of escaping office meetings, deadlines, and corporate routines disappeared almost instantly. Instead of feeling relaxed, he suddenly realised that all responsibilities now rested entirely on his shoulders. From managing finances and making business decisions to handling clients and planning for the future, the pressure became overwhelming.

He explained that social media frequently presents entrepreneurship as a glamorous lifestyle filled with flexibility, travel, and financial success. But in reality, building a company often means longer working hours, sleepless nights, emotional stress, and constant



uncertainty. Unlike salaried jobs, there is no guaranteed income, no fixed work schedule, and no safety net during difficult times.

Mehul also pointed out that being your own boss does not necessarily mean working less. In fact, he admitted that he now works far more than he ever did in his corporate role. The difference is that the pressure feels more personal because every success and failure directly impacts his future.

Despite the difficulties, he clarified that he does not completely regret his entrepreneurial journey. While the experience has been mentally exhausting, it has also given him a stronger sense of purpose and ownership over his work. He believes entrepreneurship can still be reward-

ing, but only for people who are prepared for the sacrifices and emotional challenges that come with it.

His comments quickly gained attention online, with many users appreciating his honesty. Several people said his experience reflects the reality faced by many startup founders and freelancers who struggle behind the scenes while social media only highlights success stories.

The viral discussion has also started a broader conversation about work culture, burnout, and the growing pressure among young professionals to quit stable jobs in pursuit of "dream careers." Mehul's story serves as a reminder that entrepreneurship is not always the shortcut to freedom it is often made out to be.

# "Why Isn't Work From Home Normalised?" Mumbai Techie Sparks Debate Over Long Office Commutes

A Mumbai-based software professional has ignited a major conversation online after questioning why work-from-home culture is still not widely accepted, especially in the technology industry. Her comments, shared through a viral social media video, have resonated with thousands of office workers who deal with exhausting daily commutes in large cities like Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The woman, identified as Dharani, revealed that she was recently given 20 days of work from home after suffering a hairline fracture. However, within just one week of working remotely, she began wondering why flexible work arrangements are still treated as unusual for jobs that can easily be done online.

In the video, Dharani explained that working from home made her feel more focused, healthier, and mentally relaxed. Without spending hours travelling through traffic-packed roads and overcrowded public transport systems, she found herself with more energy and better concentration throughout the day.

She argued that many software-related jobs involve independent work that does not always require employees to be physically present in an office. According to her, modern technology already allows teams to communicate efficiently through online meetings, mes-



saging platforms, and collaborative software tools. Because of this, she questioned why companies continue insisting on mandatory office attendance.

Her comments quickly struck a chord with social media users. Many professionals shared similar experiences, saying daily commuting often leaves employees physically drained before the workday even begins. Several users supported hybrid and remote work models, claiming they improve productivity while also benefiting mental and physical health. Some people also pointed out

the financial advantages of remote work. Employees can save money on fuel, transportation, meals, and even housing by avoiding relocation closer to expensive office districts. Others highlighted how flexible work policies can help employees achieve a healthier work-life balance and spend more time with family.

However, not everyone completely agreed with the idea of permanent work from home. Some users argued that offices encourage teamwork, collaboration, and stronger professional relationships. Others said certain companies prefer

office work because it allows better supervision and communication among teams.

The debate comes at a time when discussions around flexible work culture are growing across India. Since the pandemic, many employees have become more vocal about the need for hybrid work options, especially in industries where physical presence is not essential.

Dharani's viral video has once again highlighted a question many professionals continue asking: if remote work improves productivity and reduces stress, why has it still

# US Man Who Won Lottery 18 Times Says His Wife Is The Real Secret Behind His Luck

Winning the lottery even once is considered incredibly rare, but an American man from Idaho has stunned people after reportedly winning lottery prizes 18 different times over nearly three decades. However, what surprised the internet even more was not his repeated victories, but the emotional reason he gave for his extraordinary luck.

Robert Bevan recently won \$50,000 in the "\$1,000,000 King Scratch Game," marking the 18th lottery prize he has claimed over the years. According to officials, his winning journey began back in 1997 when he won a Chevrolet Blazer during a special lottery promotion. Since then, he has collected multiple rewards ranging from small cash prizes to jackpots worth as much as \$200,000. Naturally, many people assumed Bevan must have some special formula, strategy, or lucky ritual behind his un-

believable streak. But when lottery officials asked him about the secret to his success, his answer quickly went viral online for its heartfelt simplicity. Bevan said his "real luck" was not the money or prizes he had won, but spending 40 years with the same woman — his wife. He explained that buying lottery tickets together had become a small tradition and a fun activity they enjoyed as a couple over the years.

His touching statement instantly resonated with social media users. While many were amazed by his incredible lottery record, others said his words about love and companionship were far more meaningful than the winnings themselves. Several users praised him for valuing his relationship more than money, calling his response both genuine and emotional. According to reports, Bevan has always treated lottery games as entertain-

ment rather than a serious way to earn money. His story also highlights how repeated lottery wins can sometimes happen simply through years of regular participation and luck.

The Idaho Lottery shared details of his achievements online, noting that the money generated from ticket sales helps support public schools and government infrastructure projects in the state. The organisation also celebrated Bevan's unusual streak, joking that "lightning may strike 18 times" after all.

Although his latest \$50,000 prize added another remarkable chapter to his long list of wins, it was his heartfelt tribute to his wife that truly captured public attention. For many readers, the story became less about gambling or money and more about appreciating lasting relationships and the people who bring happiness into life.



# "Can You Join In 2 Weeks?", Viral Post Exposes 'Recruitment Circus' In India

An Indian job applicant has sparked a major online discussion after sharing a frustrating experience with recruiters who repeatedly ghosted him, only to later demand that he join the company immediately. The viral story has struck a chord with thousands of professionals who say they have faced similar treatment during the hiring process.

The applicant shared his experience on Reddit under the title, "The absolute audacity of HRs and 'Immediate Joiner' requirements." According to the post, he had applied for a job through a recruitment platform nearly a month earlier. Soon after applying, a recruiter contacted him and explained that the company urgently needed someone who could join within two weeks.

The candidate clearly informed the recruiter that he was currently serving a 60-day notice period at his existing company. However, he also explained that the notice period was negotiable because he had a buyout option and unused leave days that could reduce the duration. The recruiter reportedly accepted these terms and scheduled an interview.

Things quickly became frustrating afterward. The applicant said he took leave from his current job to attend the interview, but the interviewer never



showed up. The HR team later rescheduled the meeting for the following day, yet once again, nobody attended the interview or informed him about any cancellation.

After the second failed attempt, the company completely stopped communicating with him. The applicant claimed there were no emails, calls, or updates for almost four weeks. Then, unexpectedly, the same recruiter contacted him again and asked whether he could still join within two weeks.

The incident left the candidate furious. In his post, he

criticised recruiters for wasting applicants' time while still expecting unrealistic joining timelines. He also pointed out what he described as hypocrisy in corporate hiring practices. According to him, many companies demand "immediate joiners" even though they enforce long notice periods of up to 90 days for their own employees. His post quickly went viral, with many social media users sharing similar experiences involving ghosting, cancelled interviews, delayed responses, and sudden hiring demands. Some users even sug-

gested creating public lists of companies with poor recruitment practices so job seekers could avoid them. Others argued that such behaviour has become increasingly common in the competitive job market, especially in the technology sector. Several professionals admitted they now hesitate to trust recruiters until they receive formal offer letters. The viral discussion has once again highlighted growing concerns about recruitment ethics, candidate treatment, and the stressful realities of modern hiring culture in India.

# Marsh Stars as LSG Crush CSK by Seven Wickets

Lucknow Super Giants delivered a commanding performance to register a convincing seven-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings in an important IPL 2026 encounter at the Ekana Stadium. The win kept Lucknow's playoff hopes alive while putting Chennai under pressure in the race for the knockout stage.



Asked to bat first, Chennai Super Kings managed to post 187 for 5 in their allotted 20 overs. Their innings began steadily, with the top order focusing on building a solid foundation before accelerating during the middle overs. A few aggressive partnerships helped CSK move towards a competitive total, but Lucknow bowlers tightened the screws in the death overs to prevent the score from crossing the 200-run mark.

Lucknow's bowling unit worked in tandem and executed their plans effectively. The pacers used variations smartly while the spinners controlled the run flow during crucial phases. Wickets at regular intervals also stopped Chennai from building the kind of momentum they were hoping for in the final overs.

Chasing 188, Lucknow Super Giants approached the target

home crowd erupted as Marsh took control of the chase with authority.

He also received valuable support from the other batters, who rotated the strike well and capitalised on loose deliveries. Lucknow maintained a healthy scoring rate throughout the innings and never allowed Chennai an opportunity to fight back into the contest.

Nicholas Pooran added the finishing touches with an explosive cameo, helping Lucknow complete the chase comfortably in just 16.4 overs with seven wickets remaining. The emphatic victory not only boosted Lucknow's net run rate but also lifted the team's confidence heading into the final phase of the tournament.

For Chennai Super Kings, the defeat exposed concerns in both bowling execution and fielding under pressure. Their bowlers struggled to contain Lucknow's aggressive batting unit, especially once Marsh settled at the crease.

With the tournament entering a decisive stage, Lucknow Super Giants will look to carry this momentum forward, while Chennai Super Kings face mounting pressure to bounce back quickly and keep their playoff hopes intact.

# Pakistan Penalised By ICC, Loses World Test Championship Points

Pakistan Cricket has suffered a major setback after the International Cricket Council (ICC) imposed a strict penalty on the team for maintaining a slow over-rate during a recent Test match. As part of the punishment, Pakistan has been docked points in the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC), affecting their position in the standings.

According to reports, the ICC found Pakistan guilty of being behind the required over-rate after accounting for all permitted time allowances. Match officials determined that the team failed to complete the required number of overs within the allocated time, which led to disciplinary action under ICC regulations.

As per WTC rules, teams lose one championship point for every over they fall short of the target. In addition to the points deduction, players were also reportedly fined a percentage of their match fees. The penalty has now added pressure on Pakistan's campaign in the World Test Championship cycle, where every point plays a crucial role in qualification for the final.

Slow over-rate offences have become a serious issue in modern Test cricket, with the ICC



increasing its focus on maintaining the pace of matches. Over the past few years, several top teams, including Australia, England, and India, have faced similar punishments for failing to meet over-rate requirements.

Cricket experts believe the penalty could prove costly for Pakistan later in the tournament, especially in a tightly contested WTC table where qualification margins are often very narrow. Fans on social media also reacted strongly, with many criticising the

team's on-field discipline and tactical delays during matches.

Some supporters, however, argued that modern Test cricket has become increasingly difficult for bowlers due to frequent interruptions, DRS reviews, injuries, and lengthy strategic discussions. Others defended the ICC's strict stance, saying maintaining over-rates is necessary to protect the quality and timing of the game.

Pakistan's management has not publicly challenged the

punishment so far. Reports suggest the team will now focus on improving its match tempo and avoiding similar penalties in future Test series.

The incident serves as another reminder of how important discipline and time management have become in international cricket. In an era where World Test Championship qualification is decided by even the smallest margins, losing points because of slow over-rates can significantly impact a team's chances of reaching the final.



## Kiran More Leads Three-Day Wicket-Keeping Camp at ACA Academy

Vizianagaram, May 15 | TPN Bureau

A three-day specialized wicket-keeping training camp under the aegis of the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) began on May 14 at the ACA North Zone Academy in Vizianagaram. The camp, which will continue until May 16, is being conducted under the guidance of former Indian wicket-keeper Kiran More.

Kiran More, known for his vast international experience, arrived at the venue early in the morning and engaged closely with the players. He shared valuable insights from his playing career and provided hands-on coaching to enhance the technical and tactical



skills of the participating wicket-keepers. His presence offered a unique learning opportunity for players across different age groups. The ACA, which has been actively promoting cricket development in the state, organized the camp as part of its ongoing efforts to nurture emerging talent. ACA President Kesineni Chinni and

Secretary Sana Satish Babu expressed their gratitude to Kiran More for his contribution. They highlighted that such initiatives play a crucial role in building a strong foundation for the future of Andhra cricket. Wicket-keepers from senior, U-23, U-19, and U-16 categories are taking part in the camp, including notable players like Ricky Bhui, U.M.S. Girinath, and Revanth Reddy among the seniors. Young prospects across various age groups are also benefiting from the intensive training sessions. The camp reflects ACA's commitment to improving standards and providing professional exposure to young cricketers, ensuring the steady growth of the sport in Andhra Pradesh.

# IPL Playoff Race Heats Up After MI Beat PBKS, Big Opportunity For CSK And RR

Mumbai Indians' victory over Punjab Kings has completely changed the IPL 2026 playoff race, opening the door for teams like Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals to push strongly for a top-four finish. With the tournament entering its final phase, the points table has become tighter than ever, and every remaining match could now decide the playoff lineup.

According to the updated standings, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans are almost certain to qualify for the playoffs after reaching 16 points. Historically, teams with 16 or more points have rarely missed qualification, making both sides strong favourites to secure their spots. They are also fighting to finish in the top two positions for a direct advantage in the playoffs.

Punjab Kings, however, are suddenly under pressure despite still being in the top four. After suffering five consecutive defeats, PBKS now face a



must-win situation in their remaining matches. Their recent poor form has significantly reduced their qualification chances and placed them in danger of slipping out of the top four entirely.

The biggest beneficiaries of PBKS' defeat appear to be Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals. Both teams currently sit on 12 points and

still have realistic chances of reaching the playoffs. CSK, in particular, have regained momentum with a recent winning streak and could jump into the top four with victories in their remaining games. Reports suggest Chennai may still qualify even if they lose one match, provided other results go in their favour.

Rajasthan Royals are also

firmly in contention. RR have a relatively manageable schedule ahead and could directly reach 18 points by winning all their remaining matches. Their strong batting performances and improved consistency have kept them alive in the race despite earlier setbacks.

Meanwhile, Sunrisers Hyderabad remain in a strong position with 14 points and likely need only one more win to secure qualification. Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders are still mathematically alive but face extremely difficult qualification scenarios. Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants, on the other hand, are already eliminated from the playoff race.

The current standings have made the final stretch of IPL 2026 incredibly competitive, with multiple teams still fighting for the remaining playoff spots. Fans are now expecting several dramatic twists in the coming days as the battle for qualification intensifies.

# Virat Kohli Opens Up On 2027 ODI World Cup Plans, Sends Clear Message

Indian cricket superstar Virat Kohli has finally spoken about his chances of playing in the 2027 ODI World Cup, and his comments have quickly become a major talking point among cricket fans. During a recent interaction on the RCB podcast, Kohli made it clear that he is not interested in proving himself to anyone and will continue playing only as long as he genuinely enjoys the game. The former India captain addressed growing speculation about his future in international cricket after recently retiring from T20 Internationals and Test cricket. At present, Kohli continues to play only One Day Internationals for India, making the 2027 ODI World Cup his next possible major international target.



records or silencing critics.

Kohli's remarks are being viewed by many as a subtle response to ongoing discussions around senior players' fitness, workload management, and participation in domestic cricket ahead of future ICC tournaments. Reports in recent months suggested that Indian cricket authorities want experienced players to remain active in domestic competitions to maintain match fitness and preparation standards for the 2027 World Cup.

Despite being in the later stages of his career, Kohli remains one of the most successful

ODI batters in cricket history. He currently holds the record for the most ODI centuries and was the leading run-scorer in the 2023 ODI World Cup, where India finished runners-up. His consistency, fitness standards, and ability to perform under pressure continue to make him a vital part of the Indian team.

Fans reacted emotionally to Kohli's comments, with many saying they hope to see him continue playing until the 2027 World Cup in South Africa. Social media platforms were filled with messages praising his honesty and mature outlook toward the game. Some supporters even described his statements as a sign that he now wants to enjoy cricket without the burden of constant public scrutiny. While Kohli did not directly confirm whether he will definitely play the 2027 World Cup, his comments suggest that the decision will depend entirely on his motivation, fitness, and enjoyment of the sport over the next few years. For now, Indian cricket fans remain hopeful that one of the game's modern legends still has another World Cup chapter left in him.

# Virender Sehwag Makes Explosive Remark On Hardik Pandya's Future With Mumbai Indians

Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag has sparked a huge debate in the cricket world after making a bold statement about Hardik Pandya's future with Mumbai Indians. Speaking about the ongoing rumours surrounding MI's dressing-room atmosphere, Sehwag said that if the reports of internal issues are true, then the franchise should seriously consider releasing Hardik Pandya.

The former opener did not hold back while discussing Mumbai Indians' disappointing IPL 2026 campaign. According to Sehwag, a team cannot function successfully if there is unrest or tension inside the dressing room, no matter how talented the players may be. His comments have now intensified speculation about possible problems within the MI camp.

Sehwag reportedly said that Hardik Pandya remains a highly valuable player because of his all-round abilities and leadership qualities. However, he added that if the captain's presence is negatively affecting team unity, then management must take difficult decisions in the larger interest of the franchise.

The comments come during a difficult season for Mumbai Indians, who have struggled



with inconsistent performances and are already out of the playoff race. Hardik's absence from a few recent matches due to injury has further fuelled rumours about internal issues and confusion within the team environment.

Social media has been flooded with reactions since Sehwag's statement went viral. While some fans agreed that team harmony should come before individual stardom, others defended Hardik and argued that too much blame is being placed on the captain alone. Several supporters also pointed out that Mumbai Indians have faced multiple problems

this season, including injuries, poor bowling performances, and inconsistent batting.

Interestingly, this is not the first time Hardik Pandya's leadership at Mumbai Indians has faced scrutiny. Ever since he replaced Rohit Sharma as captain ahead of IPL 2024, discussions around dressing-room dynamics and fan reactions have continued to follow the franchise.

Despite the criticism, Hardik remains one of India's most important white-ball cricketers. He continues to be valued for his match-winning ability, aggressive mindset, and versatility as both a batter and bowl-

er. Many experts believe Mumbai Indians would still struggle to find a player capable of replacing his all-round impact.

At present, there has been no official response from either Hardik Pandya or the Mumbai Indians management regarding Sehwag's remarks or the dressing-room rumours. However, the controversy has once again placed the franchise under intense public attention during an already disappointing season.

With IPL 2026 nearing its conclusion, fans are now waiting to see whether Mumbai Indians make major changes ahead of next season or con-

# Shiva Rajkumar's 'Peddi' Glimpse Raises Excitement Ahead Of Trailer Launch

The makers of Ram Charan's upcoming sports action drama Peddi have unveiled a special character glimpse featuring Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar, creating fresh excitement among fans ahead of the film's trailer launch. The newly released video not only introduces his character but also offers several behind-the-scenes moments from the movie's sets, giving audiences a closer look at the intense preparation behind the project. In the film, Shiva Rajkumar plays a powerful character named Gournaidu. According to the glimpse, he appears as a wrestling trainer who plays a major role in transforming Ram Charan's character, Peddi,

from a cricketer into a wrestler. The video showcases emotionally charged training sessions, rugged action visuals, and the strong bond shared between the mentor and his student. The glimpse has been receiving a highly positive response online, especially from fans excited to see Shiva Rajkumar in a raw and commanding role. Many viewers praised his rugged makeover, intense expressions, and screen presence. The behind-the-scenes footage also impressed audiences by revealing the physical effort and realistic training sequences involved in the film.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is being promoted

as a rural sports action drama that combines traditional Indian sports with emotional storytelling. Ram Charan appears in a completely transformed avatar for the movie, sporting a muscular wrestler look that has already generated massive buzz through previous teasers and posters. Apart from Ram Charan and Shiva Rajkumar, the film also stars Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead. Actors Divyendu Sharma, Jagapathi Babu, and Boman Irani play important supporting roles. Music for the film is being composed by Oscar-winning musician A.R. Rahman, adding even more anticipation around the project. The makers are now preparing for the grand trailer

launch scheduled for May 18. Fans are expecting the trailer to reveal more details about the film's storyline, action sequences, and emotional conflicts. Social media discussions around Peddi have grown rapidly in recent weeks, with many viewers calling it one of Ram Charan's most promising projects after RRR. The film's rustic setting, sports backdrop, and emotionally driven characters have helped it stand out among upcoming Telugu releases. With Shiva Rajkumar's latest glimpse adding further momentum, expectations surrounding Peddi continue to rise as audiences wait for the full trailer and official release.



# Prabhas' Viral 'Spirit' Leak Turns Out To Be Fake, Fans Shocked

A picture claiming to show actor Prabhas from the sets of his upcoming film Spirit recently went viral across social media, creating huge excitement among fans. The image featured Prabhas in a stylish mass avatar, dressed in a white kurta while holding a shotgun, leading many people to believe it was an actual leaked still from the highly anticipated movie directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga.

As the picture spread rapidly online, fans praised Prabhas' intense look and began sharing the image widely across platforms. Many assumed it offered the first glimpse of the actor's character from Spirit, one of the most awaited Indian films currently in production.

However, the excitement soon took an unexpected turn.

According to reports, the viral image was not a real leak from the movie at all. It was actually created using artificial intelligence. Sharp-eyed fans and social media users reportedly noticed several unusual visual details in the photo, which later confirmed that the image had been digitally generated rather than captured from the film's set.

Despite being fake, the image successfully grabbed massive attention online because of how realistic it appeared. Many fans admitted they initially believed it was genuine due to the impressive quality of the AI-generated artwork. The incident once again highlighted how advanced AI image technology has become, making



it increasingly difficult for people to distinguish between real and fabricated visuals.

Even though the viral picture turned out to be fake, it has further increased curiosity surrounding Spirit. The film marks Prabhas' first collaboration with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who is known for blockbuster films like Arjun Reddy and Animal. Reports suggest that Prabhas will be seen playing a powerful police officer in the action thriller.

The movie also stars Tripti Dimri as the female lead, while

Vivek Oberoi is expected to play the antagonist. Music for the film is being composed by Harshvardhan Rameshwar. Industry buzz around the project has remained extremely high ever since the film was officially announced.

Meanwhile, fans are now eagerly waiting for the makers to release an official first look or teaser instead of relying on viral leaks and fan-made edits. Until then, filmmakers have advised audiences to follow only official updates related to the movie.

# Ram Pothineni Surprises Fans By Turning Director For 'RAPO23'

Tollywood actor Ram Pothineni has given fans a massive birthday surprise by officially announcing his directorial debut with his upcoming film, tentatively titled RAPO23. Known for his energetic screen presence and commercial entertainers, Ram is now stepping behind the camera for the first time in his career, making the project one of the most talked-about announcements in Telugu cinema today.

The announcement was made through a striking first-look poster that introduced Ram's character, Veera. The intense poster showcases the actor in a rugged and stylish avatar, wearing a leather jacket with a sharp new hairstyle. A giant red "V" in the background adds a dark and mysterious tone to the design, while the tagline, "The Story of a Lone Wolf," hints at a psycho-



logically layered protagonist.

According to the makers, RAPO23 will be a psychological action thriller, a genre that is relatively rare in mainstream Telugu cinema. Reports suggest that Ram himself conceived the story and wanted to present himself in a completely different role compared to his previous films. The project is being produced by Krishna

Pothineni under the newly launched RAPO Cinematics banner.

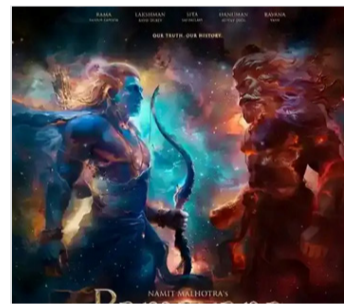
The announcement has generated huge excitement among fans because Ram recently explored multiple creative roles beyond acting. Earlier, he surprised audiences by working as a lyricist and singer for Andhra King Taluka. With RAPO23, he has now taken an even bigger leap by handling direction as well. Social media reactions have been mixed but highly energetic. While many fans praised Ram's ambition and appreciated the stylish first-look poster, others expressed curiosity about how he would manage both acting and directing responsibilities. Some users compared the film's dark aesthetic to international crime dramas and action thrillers, while a few advised audiences to wait for the final prod-

uct before building expectations.

Industry observers say the move places Ram among the select Telugu stars who have ventured into filmmaking themselves. Actors like NTR, Krishna, and Pawan Kalyan have previously explored direction, and Ram now joins that list with an ambitious psychological thriller. Reports indicate that regular shooting for RAPO23 is expected to begin in June, with the makers targeting a theatrical release in December 2026. Details regarding the supporting cast and technical crew are likely to be revealed in the coming months. For now, the announcement has successfully grabbed attention across social media, with fans eagerly waiting to see how Ram Pothineni reinvents himself as both actor and director in this ambitious new project.

# Is 'Ramayana' Causing Delays For Yash's 'Toxic'?

Speculation surrounding Yash's much-awaited film Toxic continues to grow as fresh rumours suggest that the movie's release may be getting delayed because of Ramayana. The buzz has now become a major talking point among fans, especially since both projects are among the biggest Indian films currently in production. According to reports circulating in industry circles, the makers of Ramayana are allegedly pressuring the team behind Toxic to postpone the film further and avoid scheduling conflicts. While there has been no official confirmation regarding these claims, the rumours have already triggered intense discussions on social media. Interestingly, Yash is deeply connected to both films. Apart from starring in Toxic, the KGF star is also playing the role of Ravana in Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious mythological



epic Ramayana. In addition, he is reportedly co-producing Ramayana along with producer Namit Malhotra under Monster Mind Creations.

Reports indicate that Ramayana is planned as a massive two-part franchise, with releases expected during Diwali 2026 and Diwali 2027. Because of the scale and global expectations surrounding the project, industry insiders believe the makers may want complete audience focus on the mythological epic without interference



from another large Yash release. At the same time, Toxic itself is one of the most awaited pan-Indian films in recent years. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the action drama has already created huge hype through its posters, teaser visuals, and Yash's intense makeover. The film was reportedly delayed earlier as well due to production schedules and large-scale planning. Social media users remain divided over the latest rumours. Some fans believe the delay could actually

help Toxic more time to perfect the film's visual effects and promotions. Others, however, are frustrated with the repeated postponements and want an official release date announcement soon. Online discussions have also focused on Yash's busy schedule. The actor is currently balancing two giant productions simultaneously, and he recently admitted that the demanding workload has been physically and mentally exhausting. Reports even suggest he may take a short break after completing both projects. Despite all the speculation, neither the makers of Toxic nor Ramayana have officially commented on the rumours. For now, fans continue waiting for clarity regarding the release plans of both films, while excitement surrounding Yash's upcoming projects keeps growing stronger.

# Telugu Film Industry Crisis, Producers And Exhibitors Hold Crucial Meeting

The Telugu film industry is currently facing a major internal crisis as producers and exhibitors continue to clash over revenue-sharing models, theatre rentals, and OTT release policies. In an attempt to resolve the growing tensions, the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce held an important meeting today involving representatives from both sides.

The discussions were led by Film Chamber President D. Suresh Babu and focused mainly on replacing the traditional fixed rental system with a percentage-based revenue-sharing model. Exhibitors have been demanding this change for several months, arguing that the current rental structure is making it increasingly difficult for single-screen theatres to survive.

According to exhibitors, theatre owners are struggling because of rising operational costs, poor occupancy rates, and inconsistent box office collections. Many claim that the fixed rental system puts heavy financial pressure on theatres, especially when smaller films



fail to attract audiences. They believe a percentage-sharing model would reduce risk and help theatres remain financially stable.

Another major topic discussed during the meeting was the OTT release window. Exhibitors are reportedly requesting a longer gap between theatrical releases and OTT premieres. Theatre owners argue that early digital releases are affecting box office collections by reducing audience interest in watching films in cinemas.

Representatives from the Producers Guild, however, believe the issue is more complicated. Producers and distribu-

tors have also faced significant losses in recent years due to rising production costs, high actor remunerations, piracy, and changing audience habits. Some producers reportedly expressed disappointment over exhibitors publicly criticising the industry instead of resolving issues through internal discussions.

Senior producer C. Kalyan described the situation as highly sensitive and stressed the need for immediate cooperation between all sectors of the industry. Reports suggest both sides are now trying to find a balanced solution that protects the interests of producers, distributors, and theatre owners

alike.

The issue has gained even more attention after a few industry personalities exchanged sharp public comments regarding theatre operations and revenue models. Social media discussions around the controversy have also intensified, with fans and trade analysts debating whether the Telugu film industry needs major structural reforms.

Following today's meeting, reports indicate that the Film Chamber may form a special committee involving producers, distributors, and exhibitors to continue discussions and suggest long-term solutions. Industry insiders believe the outcome of these talks could significantly impact the release strategies of several upcoming Telugu films.

With many big-budget movies scheduled for release in the coming months, the industry is hoping for a quick resolution to avoid disruptions and ensure smoother business operations across theatres and production houses.

