

BUZZ POINTS



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Kalabhairava Mutt Controversy Sees Allegations of Exploitation and Encroachment

Chebolu Raju

Rajamahendravaram : Serious allegations of exploitation and misuse of religious sentiment have emerged against a private spiritual establishment, 'Amrutakali Siddhaphitham - Sri Kalabhairava Guru Sansthan Mutt,' operating in Rajamahendravaram.

According to reports, the Mutt has gained visibility through aggressive promotion, presenting itself as a unique and authoritative spiritual seat. Observers allege that the organiser has attempted to elevate the institution's stature to that of established religious centres, despite lacking historical or institutional backing.

One of the major points of contention is the reported alteration of the official identity of a municipal ghat. The Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation had designated a ghat near the Sri Uma Kotilingeswara Swamy Temple as 'Lakshmi Ganapathi Ghat.'



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as YouTube and Facebook with his own digital media Kalabhairava TV, claims are reportedly being made that the site is home to the world's only 'Lakshmi Kubera Swarnakarshana Bhairava Kshetram.'

amounts of money are collected for rituals such as Dosha Nivarana and Swarnakarshana Pujas, without issuing official receipts, leading to concerns about transparency.

Revenue, and Municipal Administration are accused of failing to take action, prompting speculation about administrative apathy.

There are also calls for stricter monitoring of online content, with suggestions that authorities such as the Income tax and Police departments should verify and regulate misleading promotional claims.



Pedal Politics: Austerity Drive or Optics?

Ravi Podili

A recent move by Minister Nimmala Ramanayudu to commute by bicycle to secretariate, aimed at promoting fuel conservation, has sparked widespread public curiosity and debate.

Attention has now turned to whether other ministers will follow suit. Social media platforms are abuzz with commentary suggesting that if the entire cabinet adopted cycling, even occasionally, it would send a strong message about simplicity and accessibility.

The State government has also highlighted austerity measures, including the reduction of the Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's official convoy from 11 vehicles to four.

personnel will adapt and whether effective protection can be ensured under such changes.

Comparisons have been drawn with states like Odisha, where several public representatives reportedly travel without extensive security and often use motorcycles or bicycles.

Adding to the debate is the view that austerity should not be limited to symbolic gestures. Citizens have pointed to instances where individuals associated with political leaders misuse authority, such as using unofficial designations on vehicles or violating traffic norms.

As the discussion continues, the key question remains whether these initiatives reflect a genuine shift toward responsible governance or are merely temporary optics.

AP Announces Population Policy Incentives, Launch of 'Pillale Sampada' Programme

Narasannapeta, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced a new Population Management Policy aimed at addressing declining birth rates and strengthening demographic growth in the state.

Speaking at the Swachh Andhra-Swarnandhra programme held in Narasannapeta of Srikakulam district, the Chief Minister said children are the "real wealth of a nation" and expressed concern over the rising trend of single-child families and ageing populations in several countries.

He announced that the state government will soon launch a new initiative titled "Pillale Sampada" as part of its broader demographic action plan. The programme will focus on encouraging higher birth rates through awareness measures and financial support.

As part of the policy, the government has proposed financial incentives of 30,000 for the third child and 40,000 for the fourth child in eligible families. The Chief Minister said the initiative is intended to address long-term population balance and economic sustainability.

Naidu noted that several

countries are experiencing population decline, which is impacting workforce availability and economic growth. He said Andhra Pradesh must take proactive steps to avoid similar challenges in the future.

The government also plans to strengthen Anganwadi centres to improve nutrition for mothers and children under the Women and Child Welfare Department. Officials said these measures are aimed at ensuring better maternal care and child health outcomes.

The Chief Minister further highlighted ongoing welfare support for mothers under the "Thalli Ki Vandanam" scheme, under which 15,000 financial assistance is being provided to eligible beneficiaries.

Officials said the Population Management Policy will combine financial incentives with health, nutrition and awareness programmes to encourage balanced population growth. Detailed guidelines and implementation mechanisms are expected to be announced soon.

The announcement marks a significant policy shift, with the state government linking demographic planning to long-term economic development and social welfare goals.

Handloom Sector Enters Golden Era Under Coalition Government

Amaravati, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The coalition government in Andhra Pradesh has said that the handloom sector, once described as being in distress, has now entered a "golden era" with a series of welfare and development initiatives aimed at strengthening weavers' livelihoods and boosting production.

According to the government, a new textiles policy, direct welfare schemes, subsidy support and marketing reforms have collectively revived the sector. Officials said the focus is on ensuring 365 days of employment for weavers while improving income stability and market access.

Minister for Handlooms and Textiles S. Savitha said the government is committed to providing dignified livelihoods to weavers. She noted that the coalition leadership, under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has introduced mul-



iple support measures including free electricity, subsidy-based raw material supply and modernization of weaving tools.

Under the welfare measures, over 1.04 lakh weaving families are receiving free electricity benefits, with 200 units for hand-

loom units and 500 units for power loom units, resulting in significant annual savings for beneficiaries. The government has also enhanced pensions for 92,724 weavers and increased its contribution under thrift schemes to support cooperative societies.

Officials said yarn is being supplied at 15 per cent subsidy, while modern equipment is provided with up to 90 per cent subsidy. Pending dues to handloom cooperative societies are being released in phases to improve financial stability at the grassroots level.

The government has also invested in cluster development and textile parks across the state, including projects in Dharmavaram, Rayadurg, Hindupur, Mangalagiri and Emmiganuru. Mega textile parks and infrastructure projects are expected to generate large-scale employment opportunities in rural areas.

Marketing reforms have been a key focus area, with AP Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (APCO) expanding retail and online sales channels. Officials said APCO showrooms have recorded increased sales after the introduction of redesigned and ready-to-wear handloom

products, including modernised sarees, shirts and wedding attire.

The state has also signed marketing agreements with major textile and retail brands including Tata Taneira and Aditya Birla Group to expand reach for handloom products.

The government said APCO's digital expansion and e-commerce initiatives have enabled direct delivery of handloom products to consumers, increasing visibility among younger buyers. Officials added that the sector has received multiple national recognitions, including ODOP awards and SKOCH awards for digital initiatives.

The coalition leadership said the combined impact of welfare, infrastructure development and marketing support is helping reposition Andhra Pradesh handlooms as both a cultural heritage industry and a sustainable livelihood source

CM Appreciates Abhayam Helmet Bank Initiative in Srikakulam

Srikakulam | May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has appreciated the innovative 'Abhayam Helmet Bank' initiative launched by the Srikakulam district police, during his visit to the Swarna Andhra - Swachh Andhra programme held at Narasannapeta.

During the event, the Chief Minister inspected the Helmet Bank stall set up at the Praja Vedika venue. Srikakulam Superintendent of Police K.V. Maheswara Reddy explained the concept and implementation of

the initiative, which aims to reduce road accidents and promote helmet usage among two-wheeler riders.

Under the programme, motorists found riding without helmets are temporarily provided one by the police. They are then instructed to purchase a new helmet within 48 hours and return the borrowed helmet to the Helmet Bank. Police officials said the initiative is designed to improve compliance with road safety norms while also building public awareness on the importance of wearing helmets.

The Chief Minister appreciated the creative approach

and said such community-oriented policing measures play a key role in preventing road accidents and saving lives. He stressed that helmet usage should become a non-negotiable safety practice for all two-wheeler riders across the state. He also advised the police department to expand similar awareness-driven initiatives to wider areas to strengthen road safety enforcement. As part of a symbolic gesture promoting safe riding habits, the Chief Minister himself wore a helmet and mounted a Bullet motorcycle at the venue, drawing attention from par-

ticipants and officials present.

Police officials stated that the 'Abhayam Helmet Bank' has been receiving positive responses from the public and is gradually helping change riding behaviour, particularly among young motorists. They added that the initiative combines enforcement with awareness, ensuring both immediate compliance and long-term behavioural change. The programme is expected to be replicated in other districts if the model continues to show effective results in reducing helmet violations and road accident risks.





## BJP Launches Dappu Cultural Outreach for Dalit Empowerment

Vijayawada, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a special cultural initiative titled "Dalit Atma Gaurava Gundechapudu," aimed at highlighting the role of traditional Dappu artists and promoting social dignity through folk art.

BJP Andhra Pradesh president PVN Madhav said the programme will use the Dappu, a traditional percussion instrument, as a medium for spiritual, cultural and awareness-based activities. He stated that the initiative is intended to recognise the cultural contribution of Dalit artists who have dedicated their lives to the art form.

As part of the programme, the event will begin with a symbolic Dappu performance by a Dalit artist, followed by other musical instruments joining in to represent unity and inclusiveness. Party leaders said the initiative seeks to bring visibility and respect to artists who often remain economically disadvantaged despite their cultural importance.

The programme is being organised under the leadership of Panathala Suresh, who has arranged a special performance and exhibition featuring Dappu artists. He said the BJP is committed to ensuring welfare measures and financial support for traditional folk

artists across the state.

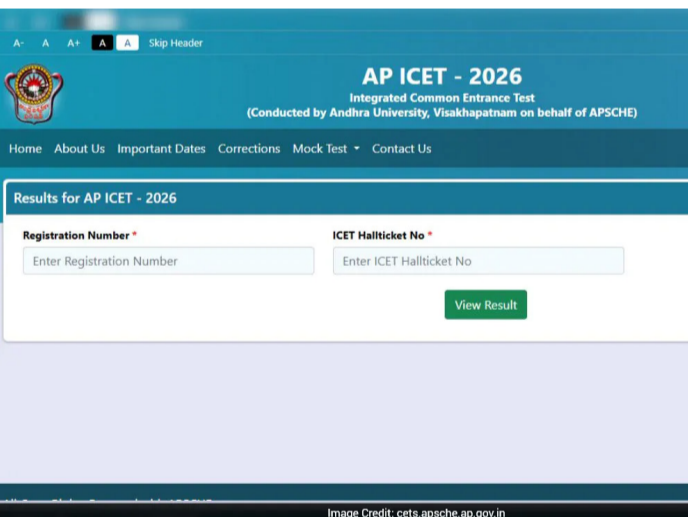
A large-scale Dappu performance is scheduled for the evening of May 17 near the Ambedkar statue in Vijayawada. Party leaders said the programme will also focus on the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, particularly his message of "Educate, Organise and Agitate," stressing the importance of education in social upliftment.

Senior leaders, including Minister Satya Kumar Yadav and representatives of the coalition parties, are expected to participate in the event.

The BJP also referred to the Ambedkar statue in Vijayawada, stating that it was developed with 430 crore sanctioned by the Union government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration.

Party leaders added that the initiative aims to promote equal participation of all communities in cultural and temple traditions, where Dappu artists play a vital role during festivals and public celebrations.

The press conference was attended by SC Morcha state president Panathala Suresh, Vengamamba Srinivas, Sarva Shudhi Raju, Valluru Gangadhar and other leaders. They expressed confidence that the programme would mark a new step toward cultural recognition and social inclusion for traditional artists.



## AP ICET 2026 Results Announced, 91.41 Percent Students Qualify

Vijayawada, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The results of the AP ICET-2026 examination, conducted for admissions into MBA and MCA courses in the state, were officially released on Saturday.

State Education Minister Nara Lokesh announced the results through the social media platform X, congratulating all students who qualified and stating that the results are available on the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education website.

Later, Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Professor G.P. Rajasekhara released the detailed results at his office. He said that out of 26,219 candidates who applied for the examination, 23,198 appeared, of whom 21,205 qualified, registering an overall pass percentage of 91.41.

He also announced that P. Vaishnavi from Kakinada secured the first rank in the examination. AP ICET Convener Professor M. Sashi said the entrance test was conducted on May 2 in two sessions across 92 examination centres in Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad.

The convener further shared gender-wise performance details, stating that out of 10,432 male candidates who appeared, 9,380 qualified with a pass percentage of 89.91. Among female candidates, 11,825 out of 12,766 qualified, recording a higher pass percentage of 92.62.

Rank holders include B. Venkata Siddhartha Yadav from YSR Kadapa district, who secured second rank, followed by Shaik Khajaliyakhat from Nellore in third place, P. Ramachandra Reddy from Tirupati in fourth, and J. Nani Mahesh Babu from East Godavari district in fifth position.

Officials noted that the examination was conducted smoothly and efficiently, with strict adherence to procedures across all centres. University authorities appreciated the coordinated efforts of the examination teams for ensuring a peaceful conduct of the test.

Rector Professor P. King, Registrar Professor K. Ramba, Professor K. Rama Sudha, Computer Center Director Professor Bhaskar Reddy, and other senior officials participated in the event.

## AP Ramps Up Solar Drive, Focuses on Energy Savings and Lower Power Costs

Amaravati, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Saturday said the Andhra Pradesh government is placing special emphasis on energy conservation in line with the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He underlined that energy savings will become increasingly crucial in the future and stressed the need to shift towards alternative and renewable energy sources.

Speaking after participating in a grievance redressal programme at the Telugu Desam Party central office, the minister said the government is actively encouraging households to generate and use solar power during daytime to reduce electricity costs. He highlighted that the State has taken up an ambitious initiative to provide free "Surya Ghar" connections to poor households, offering 2 kW solar capacity systems to nearly six lakh homes.

While the Centre aims to achieve one crore solar connections across the country, Andhra Pradesh alone has set a target of installing 20 lakh such connections, he said. The minister added that the Central government is providing subsidies of 60,000 for 2 kW systems and 78,000 for 3 kW



systems. Additionally, the State government is extending further support, including an extra 20,000 subsidy for Backward Classes and up to 1.25 lakh total subsidy for SC and ST beneficiaries.

Ravi Kumar noted that India continues to rely heavily on imports of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol and diesel, making it imperative to adopt sustainable alternatives like solar and wind energy. He said the coalition government has prioritised renewable energy since its inception and is working to reduce the burden on consumers by promoting non-conventional energy sources.

The minister also stated that solar panels are being installed on government offices, schools

and hospitals to generate electricity and reduce operational costs. He pointed out that despite financial pressures, the State has not increased power tariffs over the past two years and has absorbed additional costs to shield consumers, including a burden of 5,000 crore. Criticising the previous government for imposing heavy charges such as true-up tariffs, he said the present government has already reduced power charges by 13 paise and aims to bring further relief in the coming days. Reaffirming the government's commitment, he said Andhra Pradesh is striving to deliver quality, uninterrupted power while transitioning towards clean energy solutions.

## Minister Ravindra Cycles Through Machilipatnam to Promote Energy Saving

Machilipatnam, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Braving the scorching summer heat, Minister Kollu Ravindra on Saturday toured several parts of Machilipatnam constituency, interacting directly with the public and promoting energy conservation by riding an electric bicycle.

Starting from his residence in Jagannathapuram, the minister travelled on an e-cycle along with APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, covering key locations and engaging with residents to understand their concerns. The initiative, he said, was part of a broader effort to encourage fuel conservation and environmentally responsible practices.

During his visit to the Rythu Bazaar, the minister interacted with vendors and consum-

ers, urging them to minimise the use of plastic. He advised market staff to create awareness among shoppers about the ban on single-use plastic carry bags and promote eco-friendly alternatives. Highlighting the environmental damage caused by plastic waste, he stressed the need for collective responsibility in protecting the ecosystem.

At the RTC bus stand, Ravindra spoke with passengers and appreciated those opting for public transport, noting that it plays a key role in reducing fuel consumption and traffic congestion. He also interacted with women beneficiaries of the free bus travel scheme, seeking feedback on its implementation.

The minister acknowledged that while the 'Stree Shakti' free bus scheme places a financial burden on the government, it is being implemented

as promised for the welfare of women. He encouraged people to make full use of such welfare initiatives designed for their benefit.

Emphasising that APSRTC is a public asset, Ravindra called upon citizens to take collective responsibility in safeguarding it. He instructed officials to maintain cleanliness and ensure better facilities at the bus stand premises.

The minister reiterated that staying connected with the public helps leaders better understand grassroots issues and deliver effective governance. His field visit, conducted despite extreme weather conditions, reflected the government's commitment to both public outreach and sustainable practices.

Officials and local leaders accompanied the minister during the tour.



## Heatwave Alert Across Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada, May 16 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has urged people to take precautionary measures in view of rising temperatures, heatwave conditions, humidity, and the possibility of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning across the state.

APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said temperatures continue to soar, with Kurnool district's Nagaradona recording a high of 43.5°C on Saturday. He noted that temperatures above 40°C were recorded in 41 mandals across nine districts, including 12 mandals in Kurnool, 10 in Nandyal, and six in YSR Kadapa district.

The authority has forecast severe heat conditions on Sunday (May 17), particularly in districts such as Vizianagaram, Manyam, Polavaram, Kakina, East Godavari, NTR, Palnadu, Markapuram, Nandyal, and YSR Kadapa. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 42°C and 44.5°C in these regions.

Seethampeta mandal in Manyam district is likely to experience severe heatwave conditions, while heatwave impact is expected in 34 mandals across multiple districts, including Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, Alluri, Polavaram, Kakinada, and East Godavari.

According to APSDMA, 37

mandals are likely to face severe heatwave conditions and another 66 mandals may experience moderate heatwave conditions on Sunday.

Meanwhile, a low-pressure system persists over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, accompanied by a cyclonic circulation. Due to its impact, light rains accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning are likely at isolated places in districts including Manyam, Alluri, Polavaram, East Godavari, Kurnool, Anantapur, and Sri Sathya Sai.

Authorities have advised farmers and cattle rearers to avoid taking shelter under trees during thunderstorms and to move to safer structures immediately. Temperature readings across the state on Saturday included 42.6°C at Bellamkonda (Palnadu), 42.5°C at Pedda Devalapuram (Nandyal), 41.9°C at Kondapalli (NTR), and Penugonda (West Godavari), 41.6°C at Chennai (YSR Kadapa), 41.2°C at Nandan Marella (Markapuram), 41.1°C at Chinturu (Polavaram), and 41°C at Patha Kothacheruvu (Anantapur).

People have been advised to avoid exposure to direct sunlight, especially those with heart ailments, diabetes, and blood pressure issues. Officials recommended consuming plenty of fluids such as lemon water, buttermilk, coconut water, and drinking water to stay hydrated.

## AP Government Mulls Policy Response on Rising Shrimp Feed Prices

Amaravati, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated key discussions on the sharp rise in shrimp feed prices, holding a high-level meeting with aqua farmers, feed manufacturers, scientists, processors and officials to assess the impact on the aquaculture sector.

The meeting, chaired by Special Chief Secretary B. Rajasekhara, was held at the State Secretariat and focused on the challenges faced by the aquaculture industry, including rising input costs, market pressures and farmer concerns over sustainability.

Officials from the Fisheries Department presented a detailed report on shrimp production trends, feed consumption patterns and current pricing structures. They also placed before the committee the demand from feed manufacturing companies for a revision in prices, while noting that farmers have urged the government to maintain existing rates to avoid financial distress.

Scientists from CIBA explained that key raw materials such as soy, fish meal and fish oil have witnessed significant price increases between January and May 2026. They estimated that feed production costs have risen by an average of 31.03 per kilogram due to these fluctuations. Industry representatives informed the meeting that raw material prices have increased by over 20 per cent in recent months. They stated that fish meal prices have risen from 1.55 lakh per metric tonne to 2.40 lakh, fish oil from 2.80 lakh to 4.40 lakh, soy lecithin from 68,000 to 1.10 lakh, and DLM from

2.71 lakh to 6.50 lakh per metric tonne. According to them, these increases have added an additional burden of around 25,115 per tonne of feed, making a price revision to 25-31 per kg necessary for industry survival.

However, farmer representatives strongly opposed the proposed hike, alleging that feed companies and exporters are functioning as a unified business group and shifting the burden onto cultivators. They also demanded that current feed prices be retained for at least two months until the completion of the ongoing summer crop cycle.

Farmers further requested a subsidised electricity tariff of 1.50 per unit for aquaculture connections registered under APSADA, which they said would benefit nearly 12,500 connections across the state.

The meeting also discussed policy measures, including a proposal to link shrimp feed prices to monthly raw material trends, similar to poultry feed pricing models. Officials also considered introducing a 15-day pricing mechanism for shrimp procurement to ensure transparency and stability in the value chain.

The government decided to take up key issues such as fish meal export incentives and restrictions on soy imports with the Central government. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had earlier written to the Centre on the matter, and another representation is expected soon. Officials said the decisions taken in the meeting will be placed before the Chief Minister for further action, with the aim of protecting both farmers' interests and industry viability.



# Congress Slams BJP Over Remarks and Price Rise

East Godavari, May 16 | TPN Bureau

Congress Parliamentary Coordinator T.K. Visweswara Reddy launched a sharp attack on the BJP and its leaders, stating that Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy lacks the stature to criticise the Congress party. Addressing the media at the Congress office in Municipal Colony on Saturday, he accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of misleading the nation and weakening the country's economic system.

Visweswara Reddy said that the promises made by Modi in 2014, particularly bringing back black money from foreign banks and depositing 15 lakh in every citizen's account, remain unful-

filled. He questioned why leaders like N. Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh have not demanded accountability from the Prime Minister on these assurances.

He also condemned the remarks made by Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy against former minister Perni Nani and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. Raising doubts over the MLA's political consistency, Visweswara Reddy remarked that Nallamilli himself may not be clear about which party he truly belongs to. He alleged that despite being in the BJP, the MLA's focus appears to be more on praising Chandrababu Naidu.

Taking a dig at several leaders

who shifted allegiance from Congress to other parties, he said many, including Chandrababu Naidu and BJP MP Daggubati Purandeswari, had once benefited from positions within the Congress before leaving the party. The Congress leader further accused the central government of selling public sector undertakings to corporate giants like Adani and Ambani. He alleged that massive loan waivers worth 34 lakh crore were extended to a select group of defaulters who fled the country, questioning the government's priorities.

Calling upon the public to bring a change in governance, Visweswara Reddy urged voters to defeat the BJP and support the Congress in forming the next

government at the Centre, projecting Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Ministerial candidate.

Urban district Congress president Balepalli Muralidhar also criticised the BJP government over rising fuel prices. He questioned the logic behind increasing petrol and diesel rates despite claims of adequate reserves. He further pointed out the steep hike in commercial LPG cylinder prices and warned of additional burdens on common households.

Several Congress leaders, including Sindhiyarani, Dr Rajasekhar, Medavarapu Bhadraram Dora, Barre Subrahmanyam, Chinnam Murali Krishna, Kishore, and others, were present at the meeting.



## CPI Calls for Protection of MGNREGA, Opposes Policy Changes

Kadapa, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

CPI Kadapa district secretary Gali Chandra has alleged that the Central government is attempting to weaken the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) by reducing funds, limiting workdays and considering changes to the scheme's name.

Speaking during an inspection of MGNREGA works at Ambavaram village in Vallur mandal, he urged workers and trade unions to prepare for a statewide struggle to protect the scheme. He interacted with labourers and reviewed issues being faced at work sites.

Workers complained about the lack of basic facilities such as drinking water, shade, first-aid kits, medical support and resting shelters at work locations. Leaders also raised concerns over rising heat conditions, stating that women, elderly workers and daily wage labourers are suffering from dehydration and heat-related illnesses.

Union leaders demanded mandatory safety measures, including drinking water supply, buttermilk distribution, and on-site medical monitoring in view of increasing temperatures.

Addressing the gathering, CPI leaders said MGNREGA was introduced in 2005 after long struggles by Left parties and is the first law in India to guarantee the "right to work". They said the scheme has provided livelihood security to millions of rural households,

particularly landless labourers, small farmers and migrant workers.

However, they alleged that the present Central government is weakening the scheme through budget cuts, delayed wage payments and restrictive implementation policies.

They also criticised Aadhaar-based payment systems and mobile-based attendance mechanisms, stating that technical glitches and network issues in rural areas are causing delays in wage disbursement. Workers reportedly face months of delay despite legal provisions mandating payment within 15 days.

Leaders warned that weakening MGNREGA would severely impact rural livelihoods amid agricultural distress, erratic rainfall and unemployment. They demanded that the guaranteed workdays be increased from 100 to 200 days and wages be revised in line with rising prices.

They also called for timely clearance of pending dues and greater powers to gram sabhas in selecting works. The leaders suggested expanding MGNREGA beyond earthwork activities to include long-term rural development projects such as tank restoration, soil conservation, water harvesting, rural roads, and livestock-related works.

The CPI stated that if necessary, statewide protests would be launched to safeguard workers' rights under the scheme and ensure its continued implementation as a legal guarantee of rural employment.

## Illegal Mining Killing Lives in Kandukur, Says Kakani

Nellore, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and YSR Congress Party leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy has alleged large-scale illegal gravel, sand and soil mining in Sarvepalli constituency of Nellore district, claiming that the activity is endangering lives and destroying livelihoods of poor farmers.

Accompanied by local villagers, Kakani submitted a representation to the Deputy Director of Mines at the district mining office in Nellore, demanding immediate action against those involved in illegal mining operations in Kandalapadu and surrounding areas.

He said the permit for gravel quarrying in Kandalapadu had already expired on April 30, 2026, yet mining activity continued without authorization. He alleged that the AMR company was illegally collecting royalty charges even in areas where no val-

id mining permissions existed, and questioned the authority under which such operations were being carried out.

Mining department officials reportedly acknowledged during the meeting that the operational consent had expired. Kakani strongly objected to what he described as unauthorized collection of royalty and demanded criminal cases against those allegedly intimidating villagers under the guise of enforcement.

He alleged that illegal gravel extraction was destroying agricultural lands that have been cultivated for generations, particularly affecting small and marginal farmers growing paddy, lemon orchards and vegetables.

Kakani further claimed that villagers opposing illegal mining were being subjected to police cases and intimidation. He also alleged widespread irregularities across sand reaches in multiple locations, in-

cluding Sarvepalli constituency.

He demanded a high-level inquiry into mining operations and said evidence of irregularities had been submitted to authorities. He warned that the party would escalate the issue legally by approaching the Lokayukta, National Green Tribunal (NGT) and other judicial bodies if immediate action was not taken.

The YSRCP leader also alleged political collusion behind illegal mining activities and said he would raise the issue with party leadership for further action.

He stated that once the party returns to power, a comprehensive investigation would be conducted and strict punishment would be ensured for those responsible.

Kakani reiterated that illegal mining is leading to dangerous pits, loss of livestock and human casualties, and urged authorities to act without delay to protect public land and livelihoods in the district.



## YSRCP Leaders Demand SC Status for Dalit Christians

Kadapa, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Dalit associations and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders have demanded that Dalit Christians be granted Scheduled Caste (SC) status, terming the recent Supreme Court observation that SC benefits do not apply to converted Christians as "constitutionally unacceptable".

The issue was discussed at a round table meeting held at the YSRCP party office in Kadapa, organised under the leadership of district SC Cell president Venkateshwarlu. The meeting was attended by party leaders, Christian clergy, pastors, bishops and minority representatives.

Participants argued that the 1950 Presidential Order restricting SC status based on religion has become "an injustice" to Dalit Christians. They said the order has deprived converted Dalits of constitutional safeguards despite continuing social and economic discrimination.

YSRCP Kadapa district president Ravindranath Reddy said the Supreme Court ruling was deeply painful and alleged that marginalised communities are being affected by political decisions linked to caste and religious considerations. He demanded that Dalit Christians be included under SC status and announced plans to discuss the issue with party president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for a statewide movement.

He also said the party would take up the matter in Parli-

ament and state legislative bodies, intensifying efforts through MPs, MLAs and MLCs to protect the rights of Dalit Christians.

Badvel MLA Dr. Sudha said caste- and religion-based politics is being used to weaken marginalized communities socially, economically and politically. She called for a united struggle against what she described as constitutional injustice. Former Deputy Chief Minister Amzad Basha said the 1950 Presidential Order has caused long-term deprivation for Dalit Christians and urged community members to pursue legal and mass movements, including a postcard campaign to highlight their demands.

Former Mayor Suresh Babu said that round table meetings alone would not be sufficient and stressed the need for broader public mobilisation to achieve SC status, including awareness campaigns across Christian communities.

Speakers at the meeting said that discrimination against Dalit Christians continues in various forms, including alleged attacks on churches and restrictions on religious practices. They urged the government to take corrective steps and ensure equal constitutional rights. The meeting concluded with a call to launch a statewide movement in coordination with Dalit and Christian organisations to press for SC status for Dalit Christians. Leaders said further action plans would be announced after consultations with the party leadership.

# TDP to Hold Online Mahanadu Across All Constituencies

Krishna District, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra has said that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has decided to conduct its Mahanadu programme through an online format across the state under the leadership of party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu.

He stated that the decision was taken in view of prevailing national circumstances and logistical considerations, following guidance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Mahanadu, which was earlier scheduled to be held in Nellore, will now be conducted from the party central office in Mangalagiri in the presence of Polit-

buro members and senior leaders.

According to party leaders, screens will be set up in all 175 Assembly constituencies, where party workers and leaders will participate in cluster-wise viewing sessions. The objective is to communicate key resolutions, decisions and the overall message of the Mahanadu to cadre across the state in a coordinated manner.

Minister Ravindra said the move ensures wider participation of party workers despite the changed format. He added that the leadership aims to maintain organisational strength and internal communication through digital platforms.

The party also noted that the de-

cision was taken in the context of sensitive national conditions and to ensure smooth conduct of organisational activities without disruption.

Leaders further assured that the state government is closely monitoring essential commodities to prevent any abnormal price rise or artificial shortage. They warned that strict action would be taken against those involved in selling essential goods at inflated prices.

The government has constituted a special committee under the leadership of Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar to oversee supply chain stability and price regulation.

Officials said that there is no

reason for public panic and assured that adequate stocks of essential commodities are available across the state. They added that special monitoring teams have been deployed to prevent hoarding and black marketing.

Authorities also reiterated that strict action will be taken against individuals or traders found creating artificial scarcity or exploiting consumers through overpricing.

The TDP leadership stated that the online Mahanadu initiative reflects the party's attempt to adapt organisational activities to changing conditions while ensuring direct communication with grassroots cadre across Andhra Pradesh.



# CIP Works in Amaravati Villages Must Meet Targets

Amaravati, May 16 | TPN Bureau

Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmi Parthasarathi on Saturday directed officials to ensure that ongoing Capital Investment and Infrastructure Projects (CIP) in the capital region villages are completed within stipulated targets.

Conducting field inspections across key capital villages including Malkapuram, Mandadam, Krishnayapalem, Errabalem and Rayapudi, the CMD reviewed the progress of infrastructure works and stressed the need for timely execution with quality standards.

She instructed engineering officials to prioritise essential civic amenities such as drinking water supply, beautification of village ponds, construction of stormwater and underground drainage systems, and installation of street lighting. These works, she noted, are crucial for improving living conditions for residents in the capital villages.

During her visit to Malkapuram, Lakshmi Parthasarathi inspected ongoing pond beautification works along with water supply and drain-



age construction activities. She directed officials to expedite the works and ensure their completion without delays.

At Mandadam, where development works are in progress, she reviewed the water pipeline installation along the main road. Emphasising the strategic importance of the road as a key access route to the State Secretariat, she issued clear instructions to Chief Engineer C.H. Dhanunjaya to complete the pipeline works immediately while ensuring safety measures are strictly followed.

In Krishnayapalem, the

CMD examined the installation of high-mast lighting systems at a major junction and directed Superintending Engineer R. Hanumantha Reddy to make the facility operational within 10 days.

Subsequently, she inspected works in Errabalem and Rayapudi, urging engineering officials to discharge their responsibilities diligently and deliver infrastructure that enhances convenience for residents. She reiterated that achieving project targets in the capital villages remains a top priority for the state government.



## Collector Cycles to Work to Promote Energy Conservation

NTR District, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a unique initiative to promote energy conservation and eco-friendly practices, NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshimisha on Saturday rode an electric bicycle from his camp office to the Collectorate, setting an example for sustainable living.

Highlighting the importance of adopting energy-saving measures amid global challenges, the Collector called upon citizens to embrace the spirit of "My Nation - My Responsibility" by integrating conservation practices into their daily lives. He said energy efficiency not only brings financial savings but also contributes significantly to environmental protection.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lakshimisha said the district administration has initiated steps in line with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's call to optimise resource usage and reduce expenditure. He noted that Andhra Pradesh is steadily moving towards the goals of Viksit Bharat, Swarna Andhra, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, and such initiatives are essential in the current scenario.

The Collector explained that his decision to commute on an electric bicycle was aimed at encouraging the public to shift from conventional fuel-based vehicles to electric mobility. He

also appreciated the efforts of local youth in designing and developing electric bicycles, calling them innovative and cost-effective solutions that deserve wider encouragement.

As part of the broader campaign, officials are being encouraged to observe a "No Vehicle Day" every Friday. The administration is also promoting the use of electric bicycles for local inspections and visits, while electric vehicles are being suggested for longer distances.

Dr. Lakshimisha revealed that he has already purchased two 'Chitti Panther' electric bicycles, which can travel up to 40 kilometres on a single charge. He encouraged interested citizens to learn more about such eco-friendly transport options by contacting the Collectorate Command Control Centre.

Reiterating the need for collective action, the Collector said government machinery must lead by example in promoting environmentally responsible and cost-saving lifestyles. He emphasised that adopting such practices today is crucial for securing a sustainable future for the country.

The initiative has drawn attention as a practical demonstration of how small changes in daily routines can contribute to larger environmental and economic benefits.



## VMC Conducts Training on QR Code-Based Digital Door Numbering System

Vijayawada, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has conducted a special training programme for staff of Circles 1, 2 and 3 on the implementation of the QR code-based digital door numbering system proposed by the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Department. The training session was organised at the new meeting hall in the VMC head office and was conducted in batches from morning to evening. Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Srujana supervised the programme, which was held as per the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Dhyanchandra.

Officials said the initiative

aims to provide every property in the city with a technology-driven digital identity to ensure faster, more transparent and efficient delivery of civic services.

Trainers who had undergone prior orientation conducted the sessions for Ward Planning and Regulation Secretaries, Ward Amenities Secretaries, and Ward Administrative Secretaries, along with other concerned officials.

The training covered key aspects such as the implementation process of QR code-based door numbering, Urban Local Body (ULB) boundary verification, road mapping, property data collection, parcel mapping, and integration of ERP data systems



## Myneni-Poonacha Win Karnataka Open Doubles Title

Bengaluru, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

India's Saketh Myneni and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha clinched the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger doubles title on Saturday, defeating the Russian-Kazakh pair of Petr Bar Biryukov and Grigoriy Lomakin 6-2, 6-3 in the final at the K S L T A Stadium in Bengaluru.

The unseeded Indian pair dominated the contest from start to finish, completing the victory in just 53 minutes with aggressive and controlled hard-court tennis. They secured early momentum in the first set with two service breaks in the sixth and eighth games, taking it 6-2 in 24 minutes. In the second set, both teams held serve initially before Myneni and Poonacha broke decisively in the eighth game. They then held their nerve to serve out the match and seal the championship with a 6-3 finish. The victory marks their first ATP Challenger title as a pair. For Myneni, it is his 21st Challenger

er doubles crown, while Poonacha adds his ninth career title at this level.

Their campaign to the final included a quarterfinal win over Sidharth Rawat and Manish Sureshkumar, followed by a semifinal victory against top seeds S.D. Prajwal Dev and Nitin Kumar Sinha. The champions earned USD 2,980 in prize money.

Saketh Myneni, originally from Vuyyuru in Andhra Pradesh and raised in Visakhapatnam, currently serves as a Deputy Collector in the Andhra Pradesh government in addition to his tennis career.

Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha, hailing from Kodagu roots in Karnataka and raised in Tamil Nadu, has been a consistent performer on the ATP Challenger circuit and represents Karnataka in domestic competitions.

The duo's combination of experience and aggressive doubles play proved decisive as they outplayed their opponents to lift the title in Bengaluru.

# Anti-Plastic Drive Gains Momentum in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Highlighting the health hazards of plastic usage, Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Ramamohan on Saturday urged citizens to minimise the use of plastic products, warning that they can lead to serious diseases, including cancer.

He was speaking at the 'Swachh Andhra - Swarna Andhra' awareness programme held in the 11th division near Koneru Basavayya Chowdary Zilla Parishad High School, close to the Rythu Bazaar. Municipal Commissioner Dhyanachandra and several local leaders participated in the event.

Addressing residents, the MLA said the government has been organising innovative cleanliness drives every month to promote public awareness. This month's campaign focuses on the harmful effects of plastic usage. He explained that certain chemicals in plastic materials can enter the human body, especially when hot food or beverages are consumed in plastic containers, increasing the risk of serious health conditions.

He also pointed out that indiscriminate disposal of plastic waste in drains and underground sewer systems leads to blockages, causing sewage overflow onto roads. This results in unhygienic conditions, mosquito breeding, and the spread of diseases. He further noted that improper dis-



posal of sanitary napkins into drainage systems severely damages infrastructure. Calling for collective responsibility, Ramamohan urged citizens to reduce plastic consumption and cooperate in making Vijayawada a cleaner and healthier city. Municipal Commissioner Dhyanachandra emphasised the crucial role of sanitation workers, noting that even a single day without waste clearance would make roads unusable. He observed that plastic usage was significantly higher a decade ago but has reduced due to sustained awareness campaigns and strict measures by both Central and State governments, including the ban on single-

use plastics and regulations on plastic manufacturing. He encouraged residents to switch to eco-friendly alternatives such as cloth and paper bags and adopt responsible waste disposal practices. Stressing civic participation, he called upon citizens to pledge against single-use plastics and contribute to maintaining cleanliness. The Commissioner added that Vijayawada ranks among the top three cleanest cities in the country and appealed to the public to support sanitation efforts by handing over waste to municipal staff instead of dumping or burning it. Several party leaders and officials attended the programme.

## Nationwide Medical Shop Strike on May 20 Over Online Pharmacy Concerns

Vijayawada, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Medical shops and wholesale drug distributors across the country will observe a nationwide bandh on May 20, announced Krishna District Pharma Dealers Association president Amma Thalli Ravindranath Reddy.

He said the strike is being organised in response to a call given by the All India Chemists and Druggists Association (AICDA), protesting against the growing influence of online medicine sales and e-pharmacies. According to the association, more than 12.40 lakh medical shops across India are expected to remain closed during the bandh, severely impacting retail medicine distribu-



tion and supply chains.

The leaders expressed concern over what they described as the unchecked expansion of

online pharmaceutical platforms, alleging that medicines are being sold without proper prescription verification. They

warned that this practice poses risks to public health and safety. They also highlighted financial pressure on local chemists due to deep discounting by e-pharmacies, stating that small and medium-scale medical shops are facing significant losses and market imbalance.

Association representatives said the protest is aimed at safeguarding the interests of traditional pharmacists and ensuring that all medicine sales follow proper regulatory norms. They demanded strict enforcement of prescription-based drug dispensing rules and regulation of online platforms. The association advised the public to purchase essential medicines in advance ahead of the bandh date, particularly those who require

regular or emergency medications, to avoid inconvenience during the shutdown. Leaders said that the strike is expected to send a strong message to policymakers regarding the need for a balanced regulatory framework that protects both consumer interests and the livelihood of local chemists. A meeting held in Krishna district saw participation from pharma dealers' association leaders and committee members, who finalised participation details and discussed coordination for the statewide and nationwide protest. The organisers stated that the bandh will remain in effect throughout the day on May 20, with participation expected from both retail and wholesale medical establishments across India.

## DME Seeks Reports on Biomedical Waste Management in Teaching Hospitals

Amaravati, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Director of Medical Education (DME) has directed superintendents of all teaching hospitals to submit detailed reports on the current status of biomedical waste management systems, following recent concerns raised at the Vijayawada Government General Hospital (GGH).

Acting on instructions from Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav, DME Dr. Radha Reddy issued orders asking hospital superintendents to furnish comprehensive details by Monday regarding waste handling, storage, and disposal systems in their respective institutions.

Officials have been asked to report on the condition of biomedical waste storage rooms, access control measures, door-locking systems, and whether CCTV monitoring is in place. Hospitals have also been instructed to provide details on authorization granted by the State Pollution Control Board and the validity period of such approvals.

The directive further seeks information on the transportation of biomedical waste, including the movement of waste from operation theatres, laboratories, and other hospital units to storage facilities, supported with proper documentation. Superintendents have been instructed to ensure strict compliance with the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Authorities have been told to personally monitor waste segregation and disposal processes on a daily basis and ensure that biomedical waste is regularly cleared from storage rooms without delay. Training programmes for doctors, nurses, sanitation staff, laboratory personnel, operation theatre staff, security personnel, and medical students have also been mandated to ensure proper segregation and handling of waste using color-coded bins.

The DME stated that all reports submitted by teaching hospitals will undergo high-level review.

Meanwhile, serious disciplinary action has been taken following an incident at the Vijayawada Government General Hospital, where a dog was seen carrying a severed human body part after a surgical procedure. The incident triggered strong criticism over lapses in biomedical waste handling.

In response, the hospital superintendent issued a show-cause notice to the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) for supervisory negligence. A sanitation worker has been removed from duties, and the private agency responsible for waste management has also been issued a notice.

Officials said stricter enforcement measures will be implemented to prevent such incidents in the future and ensure compliance with biomedical waste management standards across all government teaching hospitals.

# Chinaganjam Set for Tourism Boost

Chinaganjam, May 16 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar, IAS, has announced plans to develop the beaches in Chinaganjam mandal into attractive tourist destinations. He stated that comprehensive measures will be undertaken to enhance the region's coastal appeal and infrastructure to draw more visitors.

On Saturday, the Collector, along with DFO Ravi Shankar, Special Deputy Collector Lavanna, and Fisheries Department DD Srinivas Naik, undertook an inspection tour of the backwaters, traveling by boat from Romperu Amin Nagar to Etimoga. During the visit, they examined the mangrove forests and assessed the potential for eco-tourism development.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vinod Kumar said that detailed plans would be prepared to develop beaches in Chinaganjam mandal on par with popular destinations like Suryalanka and Chirala beaches. He directed officials from the



forest, fisheries, revenue, police, and tourism departments to work in coordination with local communities to transform the area into a major

tourism hub.

The Collector noted that Andhra Pradesh has a vast coastline of nearly 900 kilometers, and developing it is a key

priority of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He emphasized that tourism has the potential to generate significant revenue while also creat-

ing livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Highlighting the role of fishermen, he said they continue to depend on fishing for their livelihood, while women from self-help groups are being supported through bank loans to enhance their income. These women are engaged in activities such as making cloth bags and preparing local seafood dishes like fish curry and fried fish, which are popular among tourists.

He added that a large number of tourists from Andhra Pradesh as well as neighboring states like Telangana and Tamil Nadu visit the coastal areas, especially on weekends, boosting the local economy.

Officials including Special Deputy Collector and Chirala In-charge RDO Lavanna, DFO Ravi Shankar, Tourism Department In-charge Officer Anand Satyapal, Fisheries DD Srinivas Naik, AD Galidevudu, District Fire Officer Vinay, along with local Tahsildar, MPDO, and villagers, were present during the visit.

# YSRCP Leaders Urge Cadre Vigilance on SIR Process

Ongole, May 16 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Prakasam District President and Darsi MLA Dr. Buchepalli Siva Prasad has called upon party cadres to remain alert regarding the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

An awareness meeting on the SIR process was held on Saturday at the party office in Ongole. The meeting was attended by constituency in-charges, observers, mandal party presidents, constituency presidents, booth-level leaders, and cell team members.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Siva Prasad said that the SIR process will commence from June 15 and instructed party leaders to appoint booth-level agents in all constituencies and submit their details to the Returning Officers before the deadline. He emphasized the need to verify every voter in coordination with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and to identify and remove duplicate and deceased voters from the electoral rolls. He also urged cadres to carefully scrutinize entries linked to the ruling party. YSRCP State Official Spokesperson Putta Siva



Shankar Reddy said that the party is prioritizing the SIR exercise across the state and directed leaders at all levels to actively participate in the voter revision process. He stressed that every vote is crucial and cited instances in other states where electoral revisions significantly influenced election outcomes. He also called for organizing training sessions for booth-level agents in all constituencies.

Among those present at the meeting were Yerragondapalem MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhar, former ministers Merugu Nagarjuna and Adimulapu Suresh, Ongole in-charge Chundur Ravi, Kanigiri in-charge Daddala Narayana Yadav, Ongole Parliament observer Battula Brahmananda Reddy, State Secretaries K. Adenna, K. V. Ramana Reddy, Y. Venkateswara Rao, Botla Ramarao, and other party leaders.



# Women Rally Against Ganja Menace

Tirupati, May 16 | TPN Bureau

Raising strong concerns over the growing ganja menace in Tirupati, a large number of women staged a protest on Saturday, demanding strict action against those allegedly involved in the illegal trade. The demonstration, organized under the aegis of the women's wings of coalition parties, was held near the Ambedkar statue in the city.

The protestors voiced alarm over the increasing impact of ganja consumption on the youth in the temple city, stating that it is destroying lives and pushing families into distress. Holding placards and raising slogans such as "Save Tirupati from Ganja" and "Protect Youth from Drug Abuse," the women conducted a peaceful dharna, calling for immediate intervention by authorities.

Speaking on the occasion, leaders from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party alleged that an extensive ganja network worth crores is operating in the city. They claimed that the recent arrest of an individual, identified as



a close aide of a local political leader, with six kilograms of ganja near the Tirupati railway station, indicates the scale of the issue. The leaders further alleged that the drug trade is being carried out through organized channels at key public locations such as bus stands, railway stations, colleges, and schools. The speakers expressed concern that easy availability of ganja is leading many young men and women towards addiction, severely affecting their health, education, and future. They noted that families of the affected youth are undergoing emotional and psychological distress, urging the government to take stringent measures to curb the menace. The protestors demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged network and called for

strict legal action against all those involved in the illegal trade. They also urged the police to intensify surveillance and enforcement measures in sensitive areas across the city.

A formal complaint was reportedly lodged at the East Police Station seeking action against the accused. The women emphasized that safeguarding the youth and preserving the sanctity of Tirupati must be a priority for the administration.

Prominent leaders who participated in the protest included TDP State Secretary Kumaramma, Parliament Secretary Revathi, Jana Sena Party State Secretary Akepati Subhashini, and TDP City Women's Wing President Bank Shantamma, along with several other women activists.

# Plastic a Major Health Hazard: Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti

Eluru, May 16 | TPN Bureau

District Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President and Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti has warned that plastic has become a serious health hazard and advised people to reduce the use of single-use plastic. He said excessive use of plastic is leading to several diseases and environmental damage.

The Swarna Andhra - Swachh Andhra programme, a flagship initiative of the coalition government, is being conducted in the Eluru Assembly constituency on the third Saturday of every month with a focus on achieving cleanliness targets. As part of this initiative, a programme was held on Saturday at Bhulokamma Temple in Bavishettivari Peta of the 2nd Division under the theme of a "Plastic-Free State."

Badeti Chanti attended the programme as the chief guest along with APSRTC Vijayawada Zone-2 Chairman Reddy Appalanaidu. The event began with a warm welcome to the dignitaries, followed by administering a cleanliness pledge to local residents. Saplings were planted on the occasion to promote environmental awareness. The MLA also felicitated three sanitation workers for their outstanding performance in maintaining cleanliness and encouraged them to continue their efforts. Speaking on the occasion, Badeti Chanti said the coalition government is

taking the Swarna Andhra - Swachh Andhra mission seriously and is working to take its message effectively to the public with the support of party leaders. He said plastic pollution is contaminating all aspects of life and is responsible for several health issues. He pointed out that plastic is one of the contributing factors to the rise in cancer cases and urged people to minimize the use of single-use plastic as much as possible.

He further stated that the government is moving forward with a vision to ensure that plastic does not become a threat to future generations and to build a clean and healthy environment. Among those who participated in the programme were EDA Chairman Peddiboyina Siva Prasad, AMC Chairman Mamilapalli Parthasaradhi, Deputy Mayor Karri Srinivas, Corporation Commissioner A. Bhanu Pratap, co-option member SMMR Pedababu, Corporator Jannuru Kanaka Narasimha Rao, Cluster In-charge Amara vathi Ashok, BJP leader Gadi Rambabu, Jana Sena City President Veeranki Pandu, Cluster Co-In-charge Medapalli Yesu, Division In-charge Nagulapalli Gangadhar Rao, Division Co-In-charge Lankalappalli Satish, Division President Shankha Battula Nagaraju, Secretary Vempa Anil, and other local leaders and residents.

# Apollo Nursing Students Bid Emotional Farewell in Chittoor

Chittoor, May 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The farewell celebrations for the 2021-2026 batch of students at Apollo College of Nursing, Apollo Knowledge City, were held with enthusiasm, cultural performances and emotional moments in Chittoor on Saturday.

The event, organised at the college seminar hall, saw final-year students of the fifth batch being given a warm send-off by juniors and faculty members. The programme was marked by dance performances, songs and cultural presentations, making it a memorable occasion for students.

Chief guest K. Bhaskar Reddy addressed the gathering and advised nursing students to uphold discipline, dedication and a strong service mindset in



their professional careers. He said nurses play a crucial role in the healthcare system and emphasized the importance of compassion, patience and human values in patient care.

Guest of honour D. Jagadeesan described nursing as a no-

ble profession and encouraged students to pursue excellence through commitment and hard work. He advised them to serve patients with empathy and professionalism.

Principal T. Jayanti highlighted the contributions of



Apollo Hospitals founder Dr. Prathap C. Reddy in transforming healthcare delivery. He noted that nursing graduates have wide employment opportunities both in India and abroad and encouraged students to pursue higher studies,

including the newly introduced MSc Nursing programme.

Final-year students became emotional while recalling their experiences and memories during their academic journey. Juniors expressed their affection through cultural performances dedicated to their seniors, which became a highlight of the event.

A specially designed selfie point attracted students, where both seniors and juniors captured photographs to preserve their memories of the occasion.

Vice Principal Dr. Jinto Mathew, faculty members, staff and a large number of students participated in the programme, making the farewell a vibrant and memorable celebration.

# 1 Crore Donation for Thalassemia Centre in Kurnool

Kurnool, May 16 | TPN Bureau

Industries, Commerce and Food Processing Minister T.G. Bharat Gupta said that his family remains committed to public service and is working tirelessly for the development of Kurnool. He made these remarks during the foundation stone laying ceremony for a Thalassemia Centre at TGV Bhavan.

The programme was held on Saturday morning at the Kurnool Blood Bank premises, where the Thalassemia Centre is being constructed at an estimated cost of around 1.5 crore.

Minister T.G. Bharat Gupta and Kurnool Member of Parliament Bastipati Nagaraju jointly performed the bhoomi puja, lit the ceremonial lamp, and unveiled the foundation plaque.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that irrespective of political outcomes, his family has always prioritized the development of Kurnool. Marking the birthday of his father, former Union Minister and former MP T.G. Venkatesh, he announced a donation of 1 crore from the TGV Group for the construction of the Thalassemia Centre. As part of this commitment, a cheque of 25 lakh



was handed over to the Red Cross Society associated with the Kurnool Blood Bank.

He urged the organizers to complete the construction of

the TGV Bhavan within three months. Highlighting the family's contribution to public welfare, he said they have undertaken several initiatives

including construction of function halls, mineral water plants, sports facilities, and now the Thalassemia Centre. He also mentioned ongoing efforts to upgrade Kurnool Government General Hospital to corporate standards using personal funds. Additionally, in collaboration with alumni of the medical college, a knowledge centre is being developed on 70 cents of land at a cost of around 60 crore. Kurnool MP Bastipati Nagaraju said the establishment of a dedicated Thalassemia Centre in Kurnool is a significant development, as no such facility exists elsewhere in the

State. He noted that the proposed 20-bed facility, supported by the T.G. Bharat family, will benefit patients not only from Andhra Pradesh but also from neighbouring Karnataka and Telangana, as regular blood transfusions can help extend the lives of those suffering from the condition. On the occasion of T.G. Venkatesh's birthday, the MP also announced an allocation of 9 lakh from his MP-LADS funds for the purchase of a microtome machine for the Kurnool Cancer Hospital. He reiterated his commitment to the development of Kurnool as a priority. District Medical and

Health Officer Dr. Kameswara Prasad emphasized the importance of blood donation, stating that donating blood can save lives and urged people to overcome misconceptions and participate actively. Red Cross Society Chairman Dr. K.G. Govind Reddy, K.V. Subba Reddy, and Medical Officer Dr. Ramachandra Rao appreciated the initiative and said the new centre would bring great relief to Thalassemia patients. District Revenue Officer Venkatanarayana, medical officials, Red Cross members, blood donors, and others attended the programme.

# A monumental source of inspiration Girish Raghunath Karnad Born on May 19, 1938

Inspired by Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai* like *Yayati* (1961), *Tughlaq* (1964), *Hayavadana* (1972), and *Nagamandala*, and as the filmmaker behind *Ondanondu Kaladalli*, *Utsav*, and *Kaadu* Mr. Girish Karnad established himself as one of India's most original creative minds. His oeuvre seamlessly fused modernity with progressive humanism, expanding the possibilities of Indian theatre and cinema alike.

Beyond his artistic achievements Karnad remained an uncompromising public intellectual. He strongly opposed violence and intimidation directed at writers and artists, and openly condemned the murders of Gauri Lankesh and M. M. Kalburgi. On the first death anniversary of Gauri Lankesh, he appeared holding a placard bearing the words "#MeTooUrbanNaxal," reaffirming his steadfast commitment to democracy and freedom of expression.

Born on May 19, 1938, Karnad passed away on June 10, 2019, at the age of eighty-one after prolonged illness. His passion for Indian arts, folk



traditions, cinema, and creativity itself remained undiminished throughout his life. Not only did he redefine Kannada theatre he also distinguished himself as a filmmaker and actor of rare versatility. As an individual too his life was deeply inspiring. During his later years, when respiratory illness forced him to carry a portable oxygen cylinder, he responded to questions about the inconvenience with characteristic clarity "When eyesight weakens, we wear spectacles. This is no different." Accepting life's inevitabilities with grace. Girish Karnad became a symbol of dignity and resilience.

A multifaceted genius Girish Karnad made extraordinary contributions across literature, theatre, cinema, and public discourse. As playwright, filmmaker, and actor,

his accomplishments remain unparalleled. Honoured with the Jnanpith Award, the Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan, and numerous other distinctions including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Karnad earned equal distinction as both dramatist and filmmaker.

A passionate believer in multiculturalism and freedom of speech, Karnad attained international recognition through works written in his mother tongue over several decades. Rooted in Indian history and mythology yet resonating universally his writings transcended geographical and cultural boundaries. Remarkably his *Yayati* was published when he was only twenty-three years old. Drawing upon a story from the *Mahabharata*, the play achieved immense acclaim and marked the beginning of

new direction in Indian dramatic writing. From then onward, Karnad began reinterpreting ancient myths and legends through the lens of contemporary human crises.

His celebrated play *Tughlaq*, while based on the history of the Delhi Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq, also served as a subtle critique of the Nehruvian era. *Hayavadana*, adapted from a tale in the *Kathasaritsagara* employed the folk idiom of *Yakshagana*, while *Nagamandala* drew richly from oral folklore traditions.

These works were staged not only by eminent Indian theatre practitioners such as Ebrahim Alkazi and Vijaya Mehta but also by several international directors securing Karnad a unique place in world theatre. He went on to write several other significant plays including *Anju-*



*mallige* and *Hittina Hunja*. Among his later works, *Boiled Beans on Toast* emerged as a powerful contemporary play on Bengaluru, exploring the alienation and complexity of urban existence in the age of television and modern city life. He also wrote plays such as *Flowers and Broken Images*, which reflected his continuing experimentation with form and psychology.

Karnad's journey into cinema began in 1966 while he was associated with the Madras Players theatre group in Chennai. One of its members, filmmaker Pattabhirama Reddy invited him to act in *Samskara*. The film marked the beginning of the Kannada New Wave movement, and Karnad's acting career began with it. Later filmmaker G. V. Iyer selected Karnad and B. V. Karanth to direct the adaptation of S. L. Bhyrappa's '*Vamshavruksha*'. Karnad subsequently adapted young writer Srikrishna Alanahalli's *Kaadu*, portraying the feudal realities of rural India through the eyes of a young boy.

Thereafter his *Ondanondu Kaladalli*, inspired by Kuro-



sawa's *Seven Samurai*. In *Utsav*, Karnad transformed the classical text *Mrichchhakatika* into a visually rich cinematic experience. Later films such as *Cheluvi*, *Kanooru Heggadithi*, *Godhuli*, and *Ohh Ghar*, along with documentaries like *The Lamp in the Niche* and *Bendre*, further displayed the breadth of his cinematic vision.

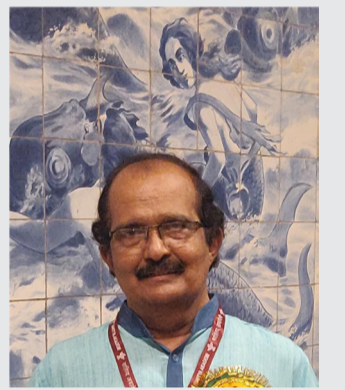
As an actor, Karnad appeared in films such as *Nisnant*, *Manthan*, *Swami*, *Pukar*, *Iqbal*, *Ananda Bhairavi*, and *Shankar Dada M.B.B.S.*, besides acting in numerous mainstream productions. In later years he continued to perform memorably including in *Tiger Zinda Hai*.

Born into an affluent Rao Saheb family on May 19, 1938, Girish Raghunath Karnad was born in Bombay and later moved to Karnataka. After completing his graduation in Dharwad, he pursued higher studies at the University of Oxford. He later worked with the Oxford University Press in Chennai before devoting himself entirely in creative writing. Over the years, he also held prestigious positions at the Film and Televi-

sion Institute of India in Pune, the Nehru Centre in London, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Creative until his final days, Karnad eventually stepped away from active film direction, yet remained intellectually and artistically vibrant as a writer. The life and art of Girish Karnad continue to stand as a monumental source of inspiration to Indian literature, theatre, and cinema.

With the passing of Girish Karnad, an era in Indian parallel cinema and modern theatre came to an end. Few creative figures left such a profound and lasting imprint on both these spheres.



**Varala Anand**  
Poet, Film Critic and Recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award for Translation

# English Dominance, Regional Resistance and the Three-Language Debate in India

While some argue that languages will naturally survive through usage and cultural continuity, others stress the urgent need for deliberate efforts to preserve linguistic diversity. In India, English continues to dominate education, administration, and aspirations, often regarded less as a tool and more as a symbol of social mobility. This dominance has gradually pushed several Indian languages to the margins of formal learning and public discourse, raising concerns about cultural imbalance and weakening linguistic unity across states.

Against this backdrop, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced a significant policy shift by making the Three-Language Formula mandatory for students of Classes 9 and 10. As per the board's directive, which comes into effect from July 1, students will study three languages, with at least two being Indian languages. While this move aligns with broader national education objectives, it also reflects the growing policy emphasis on multilingual competence among school students.

The board has, however, provided some flexibility for Class 10 students by removing the board examination requirement for the third language. Instead, evaluation will be based on internal school assessments, aiming to reduce examination pressure while ensuring that language



learning remains meaningful and skill-oriented. This approach attempts to balance academic rigour with reduced stress on students during a critical academic year.

The Three-Language Formula is an integral component of the National Educa-

tion Policy (NEP) 2020. The policy recommends that students learn three languages, with at least two being Indian languages, across both government and private schools. However, the implementation is not centrally rigid, as the choice of specific languages

is left to state governments, allowing regional flexibility within a national framework.

At the secondary level, the NEP also opens space for foreign language learning. Languages such as Japanese, Korean, French, German, and

Spanish may be offered alongside Indian languages and English. In most Indian schools, English continues to function as the primary medium of instruction, effectively making it a compulsory language in practice. Students opting for English are

therefore expected to choose additional Indian languages to meet the formula's requirements.

Proponents of the policy argue that it promotes national integration by encouraging students to engage with multiple linguistic traditions.

They believe that exposure to different Indian languages fosters cultural understanding and strengthens the idea of unity in diversity. The NEP further justifies the approach by linking it to constitutional values and the broader objective of developing multilingual citizens capable of adapting to a diverse society.

However, the policy has not been without political and regional resistance. Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, has historically opposed the imposition of a three-language system, viewing it as an attempt that could undermine regional linguistic identity. Similarly, in Maharashtra, a government decision to introduce Hindi as a compulsory subject for primary classes faced strong criticism, eventually leading to its withdrawal along with revisions to the language policy framework.

These developments highlight the continuing tension between national educational integration and regional linguistic autonomy. While the intent of the Three-Language Formula is to promote inclusivity and multilingual proficiency, its implementation remains sensitive and politically charged. The challenge lies in ensuring that language policy strengthens unity without diminishing the cultural and emotional significance of India's diverse linguistic heritage.

**True Point Desk**



## Congress Holds Protest Over Fuel Price Hike

The Congress party staged a protest in Delhi opposing the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices. Party leaders and workers gathered to raise concerns over the rising fuel costs, which they said are adding pressure on common households across the country. The protest highlighted the impact of fuel price fluctuations on transportation costs, inflation, and daily essential commodities. Congress leaders accused the government of failing to provide relief to citizens despite global changes in crude oil prices. The party also pointed out that austerity measures and cost-control efforts are being implemented differently across states, leading to what they described as an uneven policy approach nationwide. According to them, each state is adopting its own

strategy, resulting in a lack of uniformity in managing fuel-related challenges. Speakers at the protest demanded immediate intervention to stabilize fuel prices and provide relief to consumers. They also called for a more transparent pricing mechanism and stronger regulation to protect public interests. The demonstration in Delhi is part of a broader series of protests being organized in different parts of the country, reflecting growing political debate over fuel pricing and its economic impact. Meanwhile, discussions around inflation and cost of living continue to remain central in national political discourse, with both ruling and opposition parties presenting contrasting views on how to address the issue.



## Indian Railways Updates Logo With 18 Stars After Formation of South Coast Zone

The Indian Railways has reportedly updated its official logo following the creation of the South Coast Railway Zone, headquartered in Visakhapatnam. According to officials, the railway emblem includes red stars that represent the number of railway zones across the country. With the South Coast Railway Zone set to become the 18th zone from June 1, the Railway Board has revised the logo to reflect the new structure. The updated logo now features 18 stars, symbolising the expanded network of railway zones under Indian Railways. This change marks the formal inclusion of the newly formed zone and aligns the emblem with the latest organisational

structure. The South Coast Railway Zone is expected to improve administrative efficiency and railway operations in the region, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and surrounding areas. Visakhapatnam will serve as its headquarters, making it a key operational hub for the zone. Officials say the restructuring is aimed at improving connectivity, reducing administrative burden on existing zones, and enhancing passenger and freight services across the region. The revised logo is also seen as a symbolic step, reflecting the growth and continued expansion of India's railway infrastructure.

## Lunch Box to Secretariat: CM Vijay's Simple Lifestyle Wins Attention

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, who achieved a historic political victory and assumed office recently, is drawing attention for his disciplined and simple lifestyle in office. Since taking charge, Vijay's approach to governance has been widely discussed within administrative circles. Officials note that he has been maintaining strict punctuality, reportedly arriving at the Secretariat at Fort St. George, Chennai, well ahead of his scheduled time every day. Adding to the discussion is his habit of carrying his own lunch box from home, instead of relying on official arrangements. During lunch breaks, he is said to remain in his chamber, completing his meal quickly before returning to work without delay. This routine has led many officials to describe his working style as similar to that of a regular government employee, emphasizing discipline, time manage-



ment, and simplicity in daily functioning. Administrative sources suggest that his early arrival and structured work habits have created a sense of efficiency within the Secretariat. Senior officials have reportedly welcomed the approach, saying it sets a tone of seriousness in governance. Vijay's style of functioning is being seen as a departure from traditional political routines, with a strong focus on punctuality and direct involvement in administrative work. His disciplined image is now becoming a talking point in Tamil Nadu politics, with many observing how this approach may shape his governance style in the coming months.

## PM Modi's UAE Visit Concludes Successfully With Key Strategic Agreements

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has concluded successfully, marked by a series of important diplomatic and strategic developments aimed at strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations. The visit began on a grand note, with the Prime Minister receiving a ceremonial welcome that included an aerial escort by fighter jets of the UAE Air Force. The gesture was seen as a symbol of the strong and growing strategic partnership between India and the UAE. During the visit, both sides reportedly advanced discussions on several key areas, including energy security, strategic petroleum reserves, trade, investment, and digital cooperation. Agreements related to strengthening long-term coop-



eration in oil storage and energy supply were among the major highlights. The two countries also explored expanding collaboration in infrastructure development, technology exchange, and renewable energy. These discussions reflect a shared vision of deepening economic and strategic engagement in the coming years. Analysts view the visit as an important

milestone in India-UAE relations, further strengthening cooperation in critical sectors such as energy, economy, and security. The outcomes are expected to enhance long-term stability and partnership between the two nations. Overall, the visit reinforced the growing strategic alignment between India and the UAE, setting the stage for deeper collaboration in the future.



## 37,500 Crore Coal-to-Fuel Project: India's Big Energy Strategy Shift Amid Global Uncertainty

Amid ongoing uncertainty in global energy markets, India is reportedly preparing a major shift in its energy strategy aimed at reducing dependence on imported crude oil and natural gas. As part of this move, the central government has approved a large-scale project worth around 37,500 crore to develop "coal-to-fuel" technology. The plan focuses on converting coal into usable fuels such as petrol, diesel, and LPG using advanced industrial processes. The main objective of this initiative is to boost domestic fuel production and strengthen India's energy security by utilising its abundant coal reserves. This could help reduce reliance on imports and improve resilience against global supply chain disruptions and price volatility. The project comes at a time when global oil and gas markets are facing instability due to geo-

political tensions, supply disruptions, and fluctuating prices. Several countries are now exploring alternative energy sources to ensure long-term energy stability. However, experts note that while the idea supports energy self-reliance, its success will depend on factors such as technological efficiency, production cost, and environmental impact. Large-scale coal-to-fuel conversion requires advanced infrastructure and could involve significant investment and operational challenges. Despite these concerns, the initiative is being seen as a major step toward strengthening India's long-term energy strategy and reducing vulnerability to global oil shocks. If implemented successfully, it could play an important role in improving fuel availability and supporting national energy security goals.

## "Rule of Law vs Ruler's Law": Suwendu Adhikari's Sharp Attack on West Bengal Governance

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has launched a strong political attack on the previous administration, claiming that the state is now moving away from what he called "ruler's law" toward the "rule of law." Speaking on issues related to police functioning and administration, Adhikari said that earlier governance in the state was marked by selective enforcement of law and order, whereas the current government is working to ensure transparency, accountability, and strict legal enforcement across departments. He alleged that during the earlier regime, political influence often impacted police action and administrative decisions, weakening public trust in institutions. In contrast, he claimed the present administration is focusing on restoring credibility in the policing system and strengthening governance mechanisms. Adhikari also highlighted reforms in police administration and welfare structures, stating that steps are being taken to



improve efficiency and ensure better coordination between departments. He emphasized that law enforcement agencies must function independently and strictly within the constitutional framework. The remarks come amid ongoing political debate in West Bengal over law and order, governance practices, and administrative reforms. The ruling party has been projecting its approach as a shift toward stronger institutional discipline, while opposition parties

continue to challenge these claims. Political observers say such statements are part of the broader narrative battle in the state, where governance, policing, and political accountability remain key electoral and administrative issues. The debate around "rule of law" versus "ruler's law" continues to dominate political discourse in West Bengal, reflecting deep divisions over the state's governance model and institutional performance.

## NEET Paper Leak Case: Alleged Mastermind Arrested by CBI in Pune

A major breakthrough has emerged in the NEET-UG question paper leak case that had triggered nationwide outrage. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reportedly arrested a key accused identified as PV Kulkarni in Pune, marking a significant development in the ongoing investigation. According to officials, Kulkarni is believed to be one of the main conspirators behind the alleged leak. He is said to have worked as a chemistry lecturer and was also reportedly associated with a team involved in preparing question papers for the National Testing Agency (NTA), raising serious concerns about internal security lapses in the examination system. Investigators claim that Kulkarni's role is being examined as part of a larger network suspected of manipulating or leaking examination papers for financial gain. The arrest is expected to help authorities trace other individuals involved in the alleged



racket. The NEET-UG paper leak controversy had sparked massive protests and political debate across the country, with demands for a thorough investigation and stricter safeguards in national-level examinations. The issue also raised questions about the integrity of competitive exam systems and the need for stronger monitoring mechanisms. With this arrest, agencies be-

lieve they may be closer to uncovering the full chain of events behind the leak. Further interrogation and forensic analysis are expected to reveal more details about how the paper was accessed and distributed. The investigation is ongoing, and officials have indicated that more arrests could follow as the probe expands into other states and possible linked networks.



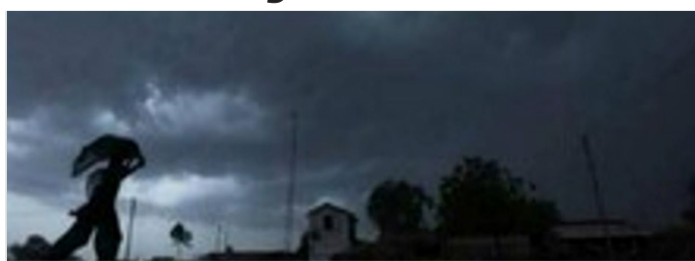
## Supreme Court Moves to Virtual Hearings on Mondays and Fridays

The Supreme Court of India has introduced a series of cost-saving and efficiency measures, including conducting fully virtual hearings on Mondays and Fridays. As part of the new administrative decision, the court will shift to online proceedings on these two days, aiming to reduce operational costs and improve workflow flexibility. The move is also expected to ease congestion in court premises during peak working days. In addition, the Supreme Court has approved a hybrid work model for its registry staff, allowing 50 percent of employees to work from home. This step is intended to streamline administrative operations while maintaining productivity. The court has also introduced measures focused on en-

ergy conservation and reducing traffic congestion. Judges will now follow a carpooling system, traveling together where feasible, as part of broader efforts to promote fuel efficiency and environmental responsibility. Officials say these reforms are designed to balance judicial efficiency with sustainability goals, while also modernizing the functioning of the country's highest court. The adoption of virtual hearings is expected to make proceedings more flexible and reduce the need for physical presence in routine matters. The changes reflect a growing trend in India's judicial system toward digital integration and resource optimization, building on lessons learned during earlier phases of remote court functioning.

## Southwest Monsoon Likely to Enter Andaman Region Soon: IMD Forecast

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that conditions are becoming favourable for the onset of the southwest monsoon over the southern Bay of Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. According to the forecast, the monsoon is expected to reach Kerala by around May 26, marking the official beginning of the seasonal rainfall progression over mainland India. The movement of the mon-



soon is being closely monitored as it signals the start of the crucial agricultural season. With the monsoon system ad-

vancing, several parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema are likely to experience thunderstorms accompanied by strong winds and lightning

until around the 19th of this month. Officials have advised caution, especially in areas prone to sudden weather changes. At the same time, IMD has warned that Telangana may continue to experience intense heatwave conditions until the 18th, even as pre-monsoon activity builds in nearby regions. High temperatures and hot winds are expected to persist, adding to the discomfort in inland areas.

Meteorologists say that the transition period between peak summer and monsoon often brings highly contrasting weather conditions across neighbouring regions, with heatwaves in some areas and thunderstorms in others. Authorities have urged people to stay updated with weather alerts and take necessary precautions during extreme heat and sudden storms, particularly in rural and open areas.



## ISIS Second-In-Command Abu-Bilal al-Minuki Killed In US–Nigeria Joint Operation

Abu-Bilal al-Minuki, identified as the global second-in-command of ISIS, has been killed in a joint military operation carried out by US and Nigerian forces in northeastern Nigeria, according to official statements.

The operation was conducted in the Lake Chad Basin region, a long-standing hotspot for Islamist militant activity. US Africa Command, working alongside Nigerian armed forces, reportedly carried out a coordinated strike that targeted al-Minuki and several of his close associates.

US President Donald Trump announced the development, describing the mission as a “carefully planned and highly complex operation” aimed at eliminating one of ISIS’s most influential operational leaders. Nigerian authorities also confirmed the strike and praised the cooperation between both countries.

Al-Minuki was described by US officials as a senior ISIS figure responsible for coordinating activities across parts of Africa, particularly in the Sahel and Lake Chad region. He had previously been designat-

ed as a global terrorist due to his role in the organisation’s international network.

Military officials stated that the operation was executed with precision, and initial reports indicate that multiple senior ISIS operatives were also eliminated during the strike. The mission is being viewed as a significant blow to ISIS’s leadership structure in Africa.

The Lake Chad Basin has for years remained a focal point of insurgent violence involving ISIS-linked groups and Boko Haram factions, with repeated multinational efforts aimed at weakening their presence.

Authorities in both countries have described the operation as part of a broader counter-terrorism strategy to disrupt extremist networks and reduce the group’s operational capabilities across the region.

The killing of al-Minuki is being seen as one of the most significant recent actions against ISIS leadership outside the Middle East, highlighting continued international cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts in Africa.



## Lazare, Believed To Be World’s Oldest Dog, Dies At 30

A French toy spaniel named Lazare, widely believed to be one of the world’s oldest dogs, has died at the age of 30 in France.

Lazare had gained global attention for his extraordinary lifespan, far exceeding the typical life expectancy of most dogs. Born in December 1995, he lived through three decades and became a rare example of extreme canine longevity.

The dog’s life had already drawn emotional attention because he outlived his original owner. After his owner’s death, Lazare was taken in by a shelter before being adopted by a new caregiver who gave him a loving home in his final days.

Despite his age-related health issues, Lazare reportedly remained gentle and affec-

tionate, spending much of his time resting and being cared for. His condition reflected the typical challenges of very old age in dogs, including reduced mobility and sensory decline.

Lazare’s remarkable story also sparked interest from animal welfare groups and record authorities, as his age placed him among the strongest contenders for the title of the world’s oldest living dog. While verification efforts were still underway, his case had already drawn widespread public fascination.

His death has been described as the end of a rare and touching journey, highlighting both the resilience of long-lived pets and the emotional bond they share with humans across generations.

## Tight Cybersecurity Measures, Air Force One Protocol Highlight Digital Risks

During US President Donald Trump’s recent visit to China for high-level talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, strict cybersecurity protocols were reportedly enforced around Air Force One and the presidential entourage, reflecting heightened concerns over digital surveillance and espionage risks.

The visit, which focused on sensitive issues including trade, geopolitics, artificial intelligence, and regional security, also saw an unusually strong emphasis on protecting communications and digital devices used by US officials and accompanying staff.

Security measures reportedly included restrictions on personal devices, reduced access to normal communication tools, and the use of secure, controlled equipment to prevent potential cyber intrusions while operating in Chinese territory. Officials are said to have treated all electronic communication during the trip as high-risk, given long-standing concerns over cyber-espionage capabilities.

Air Force One itself was treated as a secure operational zone, with staff relying on protected systems and controlled devices to ensure sensitive dis-



cussions and data could not be intercepted. Personal devices were reportedly either restricted or secured separately to avoid any possibility of unauthorized access.

The broader cybersecurity posture reflected long-standing tensions between Washington and Beijing, where both sides have frequently accused each other of cyber operations targeting government and industrial systems. The visit highlighted how modern diplomacy between major powers now involves not only political negotiation but also intensive digital security management.

Alongside official talks, the

trip underscored the increasing complexity of US–China relations, where economic cooperation, technological competition, and national security concerns intersect. Cybersecurity precautions have now become a standard feature of such high-level diplomatic engagements, especially when discussions involve critical technologies and strategic industries.

The strict measures during the visit underline a broader reality: in modern statecraft, cybersecurity is no longer a supporting concern but a central part of international diplomacy.



## Trump Warns Taiwan Against Declaring Independence After Xi Jinping Summit

Following high-level talks in Beijing with Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump has cautioned Taiwan against declaring independence from China, reinforcing Washington’s long-standing position on the sensitive issue. In remarks after the summit, Trump said he does not support any move toward formal Taiwanese independence and emphasized the need to “cool down” tensions between China and Taiwan.

His comments came as the Taiwan issue remained one of the central and most sensitive topics in US–China relations during the visit. During discussions, Xi Jinping reportedly reiterated that Taiwan is the most critical issue in bilateral ties and warned that mishandling it could lead to dangerous consequences for regional stability. Trump, while avoiding any firm new commitments, maintained that he does not want conflict in the region and signaled a preference for maintaining the current status quo

rather than pushing escalation.

The US continues to follow the “One China” policy, under which it acknowledges Beijing’s position that Taiwan is part of China, while still maintaining unofficial ties and supporting Taiwan’s defensive capabilities. However, Trump’s latest comments reflect a cautious approach, avoiding explicit backing for Taiwanese independence.

The issue of Taiwan remains a key flashpoint between Washington and Beijing, with China repeatedly opposing any foreign support for independence movements and the US balancing strategic relations with both sides.

The summit between Trump and Xi also touched on broader issues including trade, regional security, and global stability, but Taiwan emerged as one of the most sensitive sticking points, highlighting ongoing tensions despite diplomatic engagement between the two powers.

## Nepal Supreme Court Stays Balen Shah Government’s Customs Decision On Indian Goods

Nepal’s Supreme Court has put a temporary halt on a key decision taken by the government led by Prime Minister Balendra “Balen” Shah regarding customs duty on goods imported from India.

The court issued an interim order restraining the government from implementing its rule that imposed customs duty on items brought from India worth more than a fixed low-value threshold. The decision means the policy will not be enforced until the final verdict is delivered.

The government’s move had recently tightened border rules, requiring travellers and traders crossing from India into Nepal to pay customs duty on goods exceeding the specified value limit. The policy was aimed at regulating small-scale cross-border imports and increasing revenue compliance, but it quickly triggered public criticism in border regions.

Petitioners challenging the



decision argued that the rule was inconsistent with Nepal’s existing customs law and its exemption provisions. They also claimed that enforcing such a low threshold would disrupt everyday trade and affect people living in border communities who rely heavily on cross-border shopping.

The Supreme Court’s intervention is seen as a significant setback for the administration, which has been pushing several reform-oriented and strict regulatory measures in its early phase in office. The ruling

effectively pauses one of its more controversial economic decisions.

Authorities from the Ministry of Finance and related departments have been directed not to enforce the customs rule until the court completes its final hearing and issues a definitive judgment.

The case has now become part of a broader debate in Nepal over trade regulation, border economics, and the balance between revenue collection and ease of daily commerce with India.



## Five Italian Divers Die In Maldives Underwater Cave Diving Accident

Five Italian tourists have died after a tragic scuba diving incident inside an underwater cave system in the Vaavu Atoll of the Maldives, with authorities describing it as one of the most serious diving accidents in the country’s history.

The group, which included experienced divers and researchers, reportedly went on a deep dive excursion from a liveaboard yacht when they failed to resurface at the expected time. Rescue teams were alerted after the group did not return, triggering an urgent search operation in the area.

According to officials, the divers were exploring underwater caves at depths of around 50–60 metres, a zone considered highly risky and beyond standard recreational diving limits. Weather conditions in the region were also reported to be poor at the time, complicating rescue efforts.

Search and recovery operations have been challenging due to the complex cave struc-

ture and underwater conditions. One body has already been recovered, while the remaining victims are believed to be trapped deeper inside the cave system as teams continue efforts to locate them.

The victims include a university professor, her daughter, and other researchers and experienced divers who were part of a group expedition. Authorities in both the Maldives and Italy are coordinating closely, while investigations have been launched to determine what caused the fatal incident.

Experts have pointed to possible factors such as extreme depth, technical diving risks, and environmental conditions, all of which can quickly become dangerous even for highly trained divers.

The tragedy has sent shockwaves through the international diving community and raised renewed concerns about safety standards in deep cave diving expeditions.

## Deadly Ebola Outbreak Sweeps Eastern DR Congo, Death Toll Reaches 80

A new Ebola outbreak in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has killed around 80 people and infected hundreds more, triggering a major public health emergency response in the region.

Health authorities confirmed that the outbreak is centered in the conflict-affected Ituri province, where rapid transmission has been reported across multiple communities. So far, hundreds of suspected cases have been identified, with dozens confirmed through laboratory testing.

Officials say the outbreak appears to involve a less common strain of the Ebola virus, complicating containment efforts as health systems already face pressure from ongoing insecurity and limited infrastructure in the region.

The outbreak is believed to have started from a suspected index case involving a health-



care worker in a local hospital, after which the virus spread quickly through affected districts. Poor access to healthcare, population movement, and regional instability have all contributed to the rapid rise in cases.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has declared the situation a public health emergency, while international health agencies including the World Health Or-

ganization are coordinating response measures such as contact tracing, treatment centers, and emergency medical deployment.

Neighbouring countries, including Uganda, have also reported related infections and deaths linked to cross-border transmission, raising concerns about regional spread.

The DRC has faced repeated Ebola outbreaks over the decades, making this the 17th recorded outbreak in the country since the virus was first identified in 1976. Health experts warn that controlling the current spread will depend heavily on rapid detection, safe burials, community awareness, and improved access to treatment facilities.

Authorities continue to urge the public to follow safety measures and avoid contact with suspected cases as emergency response teams work to contain the outbreak.

## Jindo Miracle: Where the Sea Splits Apart!

In Jindo Island of South Korea, nature displays a rare and fascinating phenomenon that attracts visitors from around the world.

Due to tidal movements, the sea temporarily parts twice a year, revealing a natural gravel pathway

stretching about 2.8 kilometers. During this short window, people can walk from one island to another on foot.

However, this “sea path” is visible only for a very limited time—around 40 to 60 minutes—before the waters return and cover it

again. Because of this, tourists gather in large numbers to witness this magical moment.

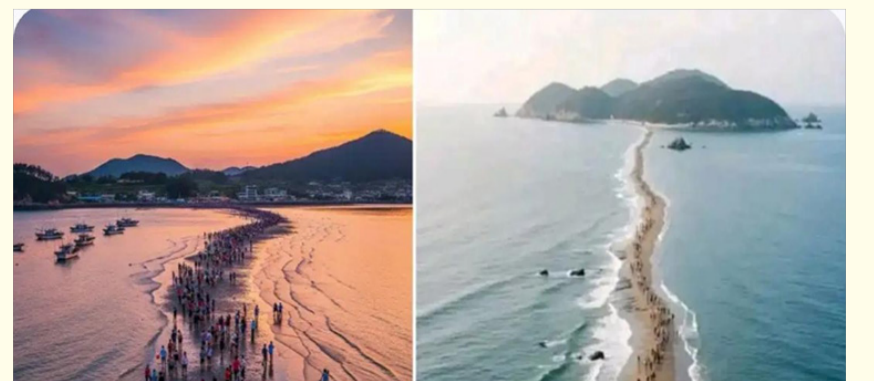
To celebrate this rare natural event, the “Jindo Miracle Festival” is also organized. During the festival, both locals and tourists enjoy cultural pro-

grams and walk across the temporary land bridge when the sea recedes.

Scientists explain that this happens due to tidal recession. When the water level drops significantly, the seabed becomes exposed, forming a temporary natural road made of

gravel and sand.

This incredible natural wonder has made Jindo Island a major global tourist attraction, offering visitors the unforgettable experience of walking between islands on a road that appears to be created by the sea itself.



# Silver Prices Crash After Wild Week Of Massive Swings

Silver prices witnessed dramatic volatility this week, ending with a sharp decline after days of extraordinary gains and intense market fluctuations. The precious metal, which had surged significantly earlier in the week, suddenly reversed direction and slipped sharply in global commodity markets.

According to market reports, silver had rallied nearly 11 percent earlier in the week as investor enthusiasm around artificial intelligence, industrial metals, and global demand pushed prices higher. Growing interest in metals linked to data-center infrastructure, electrical systems, cooling technologies, and industrial applications contributed to the strong rally.

However, the momentum did not last long. By the end of the trading week, silver prices dropped steeply, with the metal falling well below the psychologically important level reached during the rally. Analysts described the movement as one of the most volatile trading periods for silver in recent years.

Market experts believe multiple global factors triggered the sudden correction. Investors reportedly began booking profits after the sharp rally, while broader concerns regarding economic uncertainty and fluctuations in commodity markets added further pressure. Speculation surrounding fuel supply issues in Peru — one of the world's major silver-producing nations

— had earlier boosted prices, but easing concerns later contributed to the reversal.

Silver's dramatic swings also reflected the broader instability seen across global metals markets in recent months. Earlier this year, both gold and silver experienced some of their biggest intraday price swings since the 2008 financial crisis. Analysts say increasing geopolitical tensions, changing interest-rate expectations, and shifting investor sentiment are making commodity markets more unpredictable.

Despite the sharp fall, many analysts remain optimistic about silver's long-term prospects due to growing industrial demand. Silver continues to play a critical role in

sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, electronics, artificial intelligence infrastructure, and solar panel manufacturing. As technology-driven industries expand globally, demand for industrial metals like silver is expected to remain strong.

The recent volatility has also sparked caution among retail investors. Financial experts advise traders to remain careful during periods of extreme price swings, especially in commodities known for rapid fluctuations. Many investors are now closely watching upcoming global economic data, central bank decisions, and geopolitical developments that could further impact precious metal prices in the coming weeks.



## Arohan Financial Services Files IPO Papers, Plans 600 Crore Fresh Issue

Microfinance-focused non-banking financial company Arohan Financial Services has officially filed draft papers for its Initial Public Offering (IPO), aiming to raise funds through a fresh issue of equity shares worth 600 crore.

The company submitted its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), marking another major development in India's active IPO market. Along with the fresh issue, the public offering will also include an Offer for Sale (OFS) component by existing shareholders.

According to reports, proceeds from the fresh issue will primarily be used to strengthen the company's capital base and support future lending activities. As a microfinance institution, Arohan Financial Services focuses mainly on providing loans to underserved and low-income households, particularly women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas.

Founded in 2006, Arohan has emerged as one of India's prominent microfinance lenders. The company operates across multiple states and serves millions of borrowers through an extensive branch network. Over the years, it has expanded its portfolio beyond traditional microfinance products into sectors such as MSME lending and other retail financial services.

The IPO comes at a time



when investor interest in financial services and NBFC companies remains relatively strong despite market volatility. Analysts believe the listing could help Arohan improve visibility, raise growth capital, and strengthen its market position within the highly competitive microfinance sector.

Reports indicate that several existing investors and shareholders may partially dilute their stake through the Offer for Sale portion of the IPO. However, the exact size of the OFS component and valuation details are expected to become clearer closer to the public issue launch.

India's microfinance industry has witnessed rapid growth in recent years as financial inclusion initiatives, digital lending expansion, and increased credit penetration continue to drive demand in rural markets. At the same time, the sector

also faces challenges such as regulatory risks, repayment pressures, and fluctuations in rural economic conditions.

Market experts say investors will closely examine Arohan's asset quality, loan recovery performance, profitability, and growth trajectory before the IPO opens for subscription. Competition within the microfinance and small-ticket lending segment has intensified significantly, with several NBFCs and banks expanding aggressively into the space.

The IPO filing also reflects renewed momentum in India's primary markets, where several companies across sectors are preparing public offerings amid improving market sentiment. If approved by SEBI, Arohan Financial Services is expected to join the growing list of financial sector firms entering the stock market in the coming months.

## Rising Bond Yields Trigger Sharp Selloff In US Markets, Chip Stocks Hit Hard

US stock markets witnessed a sharp selloff as rising Treasury bond yields and inflation concerns rattled investor sentiment, leading traders to dump technology and semiconductor stocks.

The S&P 500 index fell around 1.2 percent, while the Nasdaq 100 dropped nearly 1.5 percent, marking one of the worst trading sessions for Wall Street in recent weeks. Semiconductor companies were among the biggest losers during the market decline, with investors pulling money out of high-growth technology stocks.

Market analysts said the sell-off was largely driven by a sharp rise in US Treasury yields. The 10-year Treasury yield climbed above 4.5 percent, while the 30-year yield crossed the 5 percent mark, levels that increased fears of persistent inflation and tighter monetary policy. Higher bond yields typically reduce the appeal of growth-oriented stocks, especially technology firms whose valuations depend heavily on future earnings expectations.

Chipmakers such as Nvidia, AMD, Intel, and Micron reportedly came under significant pressure as traders booked profits after a massive rally in semiconductor stocks earlier this year. The semiconductor sector had previously surged due to booming demand linked to artificial intelligence infrastructure, data centers, and advanced computing technologies.

Investors were also worried about growing geopolitical tensions and rising oil prices. Concerns surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, tensions involving Iran, and fears of prolonged



global instability added further uncertainty to financial markets. Rising crude oil prices increased worries that inflation could remain elevated for longer than expected.

The sudden rise in Treasury yields also sparked speculation that the US Federal Reserve may delay interest-rate cuts or even consider additional tightening measures if inflation remains stubbornly high. Mar-

ket expectations regarding future rate cuts reportedly shifted significantly over the past week as economic concerns intensified. Despite the sharp decline, analysts believe the long-term outlook for semiconductor companies remains strong because of continued global investment in AI, cloud computing, and next-generation technologies. However, experts also warned that the sec-

tor's rapid rally in recent months may have made valuations vulnerable to sudden corrections during periods of market uncertainty. The market volatility has now increased investor caution across Wall Street, with traders closely monitoring inflation data, Federal Reserve signals, geopolitical developments, and bond market movements in the coming weeks.

## Global Stocks Slip As Inflation Fears Push Bond Yields Higher

Global stock markets came under pressure as rising inflation concerns triggered a sharp increase in government bond yields, unsettling investors across major financial markets.

Wall Street witnessed notable declines, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq, and Dow Jones indices all ending lower amid fears that inflation may remain elevated for longer than expected. Rising bond yields particularly hurt technology and growth-oriented stocks, which are highly sensitive to interest-rate expectations.

The selloff was driven largely by a surge in government bond yields worldwide. In the United States, the 10-year Treasury yield climbed above 4.5 percent, while the 30-year Treasury yield crossed the 5 percent mark, levels that alarmed investors and increased concerns about tighter financial conditions.

Market experts said investors are increasingly worried that rising oil prices and persistent inflationary pressures could force central banks to maintain higher interest rates for a longer period. Expectations of aggressive rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve have weakened significantly over the past week.

Technology and semiconductor stocks were among the biggest losers during the market decline. Companies linked to



artificial intelligence and high-growth sectors faced profit-taking as higher borrowing costs reduced investor appetite for expensive growth stocks.

The bond market turmoil was not limited to the United States. Government bond yields also rose sharply in Japan, the United Kingdom, and Europe, reflecting global concerns over inflation, energy prices, and economic uncertainty. Japan's long-term bond yields climbed to levels not seen in years, while UK borrowing costs continued rising amid investor nervousness.

Rising crude oil prices further added to market anxiety. Ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and concerns over energy supply disruptions fueled fears that inflation could remain stubbornly

high across global economies. Analysts believe investors are now reassessing whether the recent rally in global equities had moved too far ahead of economic fundamentals. The strong enthusiasm surrounding artificial intelligence and technology stocks had pushed markets to record highs earlier, but the sudden rise in yields triggered a sharp correction.

Despite the volatility, some experts argue that long-term growth prospects for sectors such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and advanced technology remain strong. However, markets are expected to remain highly sensitive to inflation data, central bank commentary, oil prices, and geopolitical developments in the coming weeks.

## Global Bond Market Selloff Deepens As Rising Oil Prices Shake Investors

Global bond markets witnessed intense selling pressure as rising crude oil prices and inflation fears triggered fresh concerns among investors worldwide. The selloff pushed government bond yields sharply higher across major economies, increasing volatility in financial markets.

The sharp rise in oil prices came amid growing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and concerns over potential disruptions in global energy supplies. Investors worried that sustained increases in crude prices could fuel inflation again at a time when central banks are already struggling to balance economic growth and price stability.

Government bond yields surged in several major economies, including the United States, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The US 10-year Treasury yield climbed significantly, while long-term bond yields in other countries also reached multi-month highs. Rising yields generally indicate falling bond prices, reflecting heavy selling by investors.

Market analysts said traders are increasingly concerned that higher energy costs may delay expected interest-rate cuts by central banks. Many investors had earlier anticipated that ma-



jeor central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, would begin easing monetary policy more aggressively this year. However, renewed inflation fears linked to oil prices have now complicated those expectations.

The selloff also spread across equity markets, particularly affecting technology and growth-oriented stocks. Higher bond yields tend to reduce the attractiveness of high-growth companies because future earnings become less valuable when borrowing costs rise. As a result, global stock markets experienced heightened volatility alongside the bond market decline. Japan's bond market attracted particular attention after

yields on long-term Japanese government bonds climbed to levels not seen in years. Investors have been closely watching the Bank of Japan's policy stance, especially after gradual shifts away from its ultra-loose monetary policy approach. Meanwhile, European bond markets also faced pressure as inflation concerns resurfaced. Analysts noted that rising energy costs could create additional challenges for economies already dealing with slow growth and weak consumer demand.

Financial experts believe the recent market turbulence highlights how sensitive global investors remain to inflation-related developments. Oil prices contin-

ue to play a critical role in shaping expectations around interest rates, economic growth, and monetary policy decisions worldwide.

Despite the volatility, some analysts argue that bond markets may eventually stabilize if geopolitical tensions ease and energy prices cool down. Others, however, warned that continued uncertainty in global commodity markets could keep financial markets under pressure in the coming weeks.

Investors are now closely monitoring central bank signals, inflation data, oil price movements, and geopolitical developments for clues about the future direction of global markets.

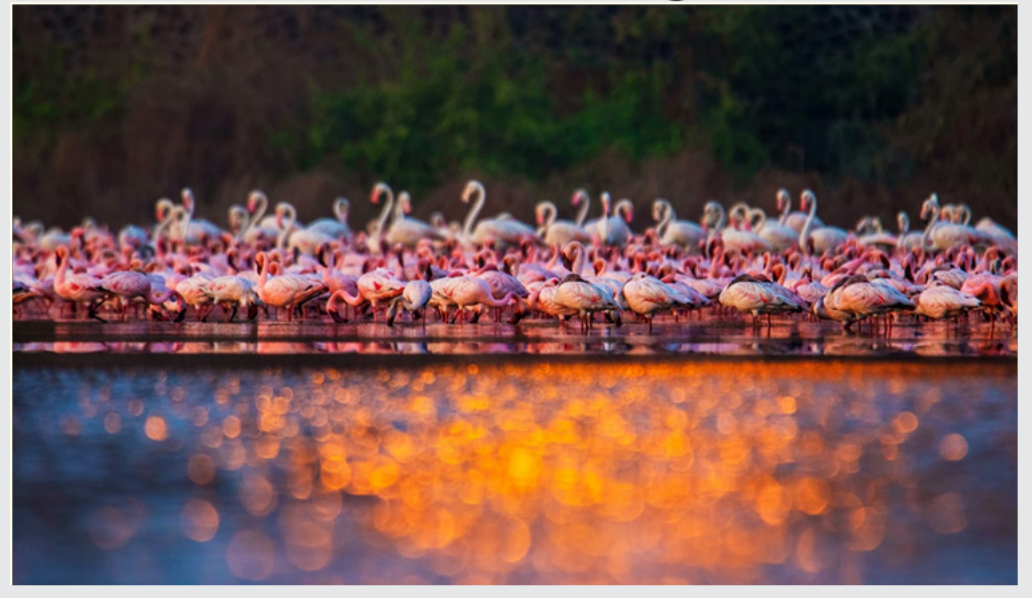
# Navi Mumbai Turns Into a Pink Paradise as Thousands of Flamingos Arrive

A breathtaking natural spectacle has once again unfolded in Navi Mumbai as thousands of migratory flamingos transformed the city's wetlands into a stunning "sea of pink." Vast stretches of mudflats and shallow waters near the Nerul creek region recently came alive with the vibrant presence of these elegant birds, captivating residents, photographers, and nature enthusiasts alike.

Every year, Navi Mumbai's wetlands become a temporary home for migratory flamingos, particularly Greater and Lesser Flamingos. These birds travel from regions such as the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat and other wetland ecosystems in search of food and safe breeding grounds. The nutrient-rich mudflats and mangrove ecosystems

around Thane Creek provide an ideal habitat filled with algae, crustaceans, and other organisms that form a major part of the flamingos' diet. The Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary has emerged as one of the most important ecological hotspots supporting these migratory birds. Conservationists and environmentalists often highlight the sanctuary's significance in preserving biodiversity amid rapid urban development. Experts say the arrival of flamingos is not just a visual delight but also an indicator of the ecological health of the wetlands.

Such as Nerul, Seawoods, Airoli, and the wetlands surrounding Thane Creek to witness the extraordinary phenomenon. Early mornings and evenings are considered the best times to observe the birds as they feed and move in synchronized groups across the wetlands. The annual arrival of flamingos has now become one of Navi Mumbai's most celebrated natural events, reminding people of the delicate balance between urban growth and environmental conservation. As the pink-hued flocks continue to soar over the wetlands, they offer a rare and unforgettable glimpse of nature thriving beside a bustling metropolis.



# Recruiter Rejects Candidate Over 600-Metre Commute, Sparks Online Debate

A recruiter's unusual reason for rejecting a job candidate has triggered widespread discussion on social media after screenshots of the conversation went viral online. The recruiter reportedly declined the applicant because their previous office was located just 600 metres away from their home, raising doubts about the candidate's willingness to handle longer commutes in the future.



According to the viral exchange, the recruiter questioned whether the candidate would be comfortable traveling greater distances for work since their earlier workplace was extremely close to home. The recruiter allegedly felt that such a short commute suggested the applicant may not be adaptable to jobs requiring significant travel time. The unexpected reasoning quickly caught the attention of internet users, many of whom criticized the decision as unfair and illogical.

Several people pointing out that a shorter commute should ideally be seen as an advantage rather than a negative factor. Many argued that employees working closer to home often experience better work-life balance, reduced stress, and improved productivity. Others questioned why a candidate's professional skills and experience were overlooked in favor of assumptions based on commuting distance.

The debate also opened a broader conversation about modern workplace expectations and recruitment practices. Several users highlighted how companies increasingly emphasize employee well-being, flexible work arrangements, and reduced travel fatigue. In that context, rejecting someone because they previously worked near home appeared unreasonable to many online commentators.

Some professionals shared their own experiences, claiming that recruiters occasionally make hiring decisions based on arbitrary assumptions unrelated to job performance. Others defended the recruiter, suggesting employers may worry about candidates struggling with long-distance travel if they are accustomed to shorter commutes. However, the majority opinion online leaned toward supporting the candidate. The incident has once again highlighted the growing scrutiny surrounding hiring practices in the corporate sector. In today's competitive job market, candidates often expect recruitment decisions to focus on qualifications, skills, adaptability, and performance rather than personal lifestyle factors such as commuting history. As the screenshots continue circulating online, the story has become another example of how workplace culture and hiring decisions can quickly spark nationwide debate in the age of social media.

# Viral Clip Of Trump And Xi Sparks Speculation

A viral video featuring former US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping has triggered intense discussion online after social media users claimed Trump was secretly peeking at Xi Jinping's personal notes during a high-level diplomatic meeting.

major international attention as the United States and China discussed several sensitive geopolitical and economic issues, including trade relations, Taiwan, and ongoing global conflicts. The meeting was closely watched by world leaders and political analysts due to the growing strategic rivalry between the two nations.

The short clip, widely circulated across platforms, appeared to show Trump glancing toward a folder or notebook placed near Xi during their recent summit in Beijing. The footage quickly fueled speculation, with many users accusing Trump of trying to read confidential material during the meeting. The incident became a major talking point online, especially amid heightened global attention surrounding US-China relations.

Despite the viral controversy surrounding the clip, official footage from the summit presented a largely formal and diplomatic atmosphere between the two leaders. The episode has now become another example of how viral moments involving public figures can sometimes misrepresent reality when viewed without proper context.

However, the controversy soon took a different turn after longer and unedited versions of the meeting footage surfaced online. According to reports and fact-checks shared by multiple media outlets, the

The full footage released from the event showed Trump merely checking documents placed in front of him during the bilateral discussions. As a result, claims suggesting inappropriate behavior or snooping were widely debunked. The clarification helped calm speculation that had rapidly spread across social media platforms.

As online debates continue to intensify in the era of viral content, the Trump-Xi video serves as a reminder of the importance of verifying information before drawing conclusions based on short social media clips.

# Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's Son Completes Gruelling Ironman Vietnam Challenge

Nandil Sarma, son of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has successfully completed the prestigious Ironman Vietnam triathlon, one of the toughest endurance sporting events in the world. His remarkable achievement has drawn widespread appreciation across social media and sporting circles.



The demanding event took place in Vietnam on May 10, where Nandil completed the full Ironman course in nearly 16 hours. The competition tested participants through a grueling sequence of challenges that included a 3.8-kilometre open-water swim, a 180-kilometre cycling race, and a full 42.2-kilometre marathon — all completed consecutively in a single day without breaks.



Currently a fifth-year law student at the National Law School of India University in Bengaluru, Nandil reportedly prepared for the challenge over a period of seven to eight months. Despite balancing in-

tense academic commitments, he managed to complete one of the world's most physically and mentally demanding endurance events.

Earlier, he had also completed the Ironman 70.3 event in Bahrain, which includes a 1.9-kilometre swim, 90-kilometre cycling segment, and a 21.1-kilometre run. Completing the full Ironman event in Vietnam marked a significant milestone in his athletic journey.

Sharing the proud moment on social media, Himanta Biswa Sarma praised his son's discipline, determination, and perseverance. The Assam

This is not Nandil's first major endurance achievement.

The Ironman triathlon is widely regarded as one of the most difficult single-day sporting competitions globally. Athletes participating in the event are required to display extraordinary stamina, physical fitness, mental toughness, and endurance throughout the race. Nandil's achievement has inspired many young people, particularly students balancing academics alongside personal ambitions. Many social media users praised his commitment and consistency, noting that completing such a challenging race while pursuing a demanding law degree reflects exceptional dedication and resilience.

# Texas Teen Survives Lightning Strike That Exploded Tree, Family Calls It A Miracle

A 19-year-old teenager from Texas narrowly escaped death after being struck by lightning while fishing near a river during a sudden thunderstorm. The shocking incident, which has now gone viral online, left the young man injured after a massive lightning bolt hit a nearby tree and sent electricity through his body.



The teenager, identified as Hunter Wyche, was fishing with friends along the Angeli River in Jasper County, East Texas, when the weather suddenly changed. As heavy rain and thunderstorms moved into the area, Wyche reportedly leaned against a pine tree near the riverbank. Moments later, lightning struck the tree directly with tremendous force. According to reports, the impact was so powerful that the tree partially exploded, sending wood splinters and debris flying in every direction. The electrical current traveled through Wyche's body and threw him several feet away from the spot. Despite the terrifying incident,

he remarkably remained conscious after the strike.

tragedy. The teenager's mother described his survival as nothing short of a miracle. She said the family was deeply emotional and grateful to see him return home safely after such a horrifying accident.

Emergency crews rushed to the scene after receiving distress calls. Wyche suffered burns, cuts, and injuries caused by flying fragments from the shattered tree. He was later shifted to a nearby hospital, where doctors confirmed that his condition was stable. Describing the terrifying experience later, Wyche reportedly called himself "the unluckiest lucky man alive." He revealed that he temporarily lost sensation in parts of his legs after the lightning strike and realized how narrowly he had escaped a fatal

In an unexpected twist, Wyche returned to the same fishing location less than 24 hours after the incident. His decision surprised many people online and further increased attention around the story. Following the incident, local fire officials issued fresh warnings about lightning safety during storms. Authorities advised people to avoid standing under trees, staying near open water, or remaining outdoors during severe weather conditions, as lightning can strike suddenly and travel through nearby objects.

Lightning strikes are relatively rare but can cause severe injuries, long-term nerve damage, or death. Experts say survival in such incidents is often considered extraordinary, making Wyche's recovery all the more remarkable.

# Ankur Warikoo To Shut Down 100-Crore Courses Business, Sparks Massive Online Debate

Entrepreneur, author, and content creator Ankur Warikoo has announced that he is shutting down his highly successful online courses business despite generating over 100 crore in sales and 25 crore in profits over the past few years.

platforms, with followers expressing shock and curiosity over the sudden decision. Many users questioned why someone would voluntarily close a profitable venture that had become one of India's most recognized creator-led education businesses.

The surprising announcement was made through a social media post in which Warikoo revealed that his upskilling and educational platform, launched in 2020, had reached nearly five lakh students. However, despite the impressive growth and profitability, he stated that continuing the business "makes no sense" anymore.

Several people online speculated that the rapid rise of artificial intelligence may have influenced the decision. When one user directly asked whether AI played a role, Warikoo reportedly replied with a single word: "Huge." That response further fueled debates about the future of the online education and creator-course industry.

through motivational content, career advice, productivity lessons, and finance-related educational videos. He currently has millions of followers across platforms including YouTube, Instagram, and X, making him one of India's most prominent digital educators. The announcement also sparked mixed reactions online. While many praised Warikoo for choosing purpose and long-term vision over profits, critics argued that the online courses market has become increasingly saturated. Some social media users claimed that AI tools and free educational platforms are rapidly reducing demand for expensive recorded courses. Others suspected the move

could be part of a larger business strategy or a transition toward a new venture. Warikoo has hinted that he will soon reveal more details regarding his decision and future plans in a follow-up video.

The development has reignited broader conversations about the sustainability of India's booming creator economy and online learning ecosystem. Experts believe the rise of AI-powered personalized learning tools could significantly reshape the edtech sector in the coming years.



For now, Warikoo's decision remains one of the most talked-about developments in India's creator and startup space, leaving followers eagerly waiting to see what he plans next.

# KKR Crush Gujarat Titans by 29 Runs in High-Scoring IPL Thriller

Kolkata Knight Riders produced a dominant display to defeat Gujarat Titans by 29 runs in a high-octane Indian Premier League encounter on Saturday. The match witnessed a total of 465 runs, underlining the batting-friendly conditions at Eden Gardens and the explosive nature of T20 cricket.

Electing to bat first after winning the toss, KKR posted a massive 247 for 2 in 20 overs. Finn Allen set the tone with a sensational 93 off just 35 balls, smashing 4 fours and 10 sixes in a breathtaking knock. He fell just short of a century but left the opposition bowlers reeling. Angkrish Raghuvanshi played a

superb supporting role, remaining unbeaten on 82 off 44 deliveries with 4 fours and 7 sixes. All-rounder Cameron Green contributed an unbeaten 52 off 28 balls, studded with 3 fours and 4 sixes. Skipper Ajinkya Rahane added a quick 14 before departing.

The Gujarat bowling attack struggled to stem the flow of runs. Mohammed Siraj and Sai Kishore picked up one wicket each but were expensive as KKR unleashed 22 sixes in the innings, turning the game into a boundary-hitting spectacle early on.

Chasing a challenging target of 248, Gujarat Titans fought bravely but finished at 218 for 4. Captain Shubman

Gill top-scored with a fluent 85 off 49 balls, including 5 fours and 7 sixes. Jos Buttler provided a solid 57 off 35 deliveries, while Sai Sudharsan remained not out on 53 off 28 balls. Despite these contributions, the asking rate proved too steep in the later stages. Nishant Sindhu and Rahul Tewatia tried to accelerate but could not bridge the gap.

KKR's bowlers executed their plans well under pressure. Sunil Narine was the standout performer with two wickets, using his variations effectively. Cameron Green and Saurabh Dubey picked up one wicket apiece and bowled tight spells in the death overs, restricting Guja-

rat's big hitters with clever yorkers and slower deliveries.

This victory strengthens KKR's position in the playoff race, highlighting their batting depth and bowling discipline. For Gujarat Titans, the defeat comes as a setback despite strong individual performances from their top-order batters. The team will need to tighten their death bowling and find ways to restrict power-hitters on flat tracks. The contest was a perfect advertisement for IPL cricket, full of big hits, athletic fielding, and dramatic momentum shifts. Fans were treated to non-stop entertainment as both teams traded

blows throughout the evening. With this win, KKR momentum builds at a crucial stage of the season. Gujarat, on the other hand, will look to bounce back quickly and correct their mistakes as the league enters its business end. Every match now carries added significance with teams jostling for crucial points.

The 29-run margin perfectly reflected KKR's superiority on the day, particularly their explosive start and clinical finishing. As IPL 2026 continues to deliver thrills, this encounter will be remembered as one of the season's most entertaining high-scoring affairs.



## Virat Kohli's ODI World Cup Condition Puts BCCI In A Difficult Position

Indian cricket superstar Virat Kohli has reportedly made his stance clear regarding the 2027 ODI World Cup, and his comments have now sparked intense debate within Indian cricket circles.

According to recent reports, Kohli has left the final decision about his ODI World Cup participation to the Board of Control for Cricket in India, but with a significant condition attached. The batting legend reportedly wants clarity, honesty, and a clearly defined role before committing to another World Cup campaign.

At 37, Kohli has already retired from T20 internationals after India's World Cup triumph and stepped away from Test cricket earlier, leaving ODIs as his only active international format. Despite speculation surrounding retirement, Kohli continues to deliver strong performances in white-ball cricket and remains one of India's most dependable ODI batters.

Reports suggest Kohli does not want to remain in an envi-



ronment where he constantly feels the need to "prove" himself. He reportedly emphasized that if the team management and selectors believe in him, they should communicate openly rather than creating uncertainty around his future.

The situation places the BCCI in a delicate position. On one hand, Kohli's experience,

fitness, and record in ICC tournaments make him extremely valuable for India's 2027 World Cup plans. On the other hand, selectors are also believed to be focusing on building a younger core for the future.

Kohli's recent form continues to strengthen his case. During IPL 2026, he recently smashed an unbeaten century for Royal Challengers Bengaluru

against Kolkata Knight Riders, reminding critics that he still remains among the world's elite batters.

Statistically, Kohli remains one of the greatest ODI players in cricket history. He has scored nearly 15,000 ODI runs with more than 50 centuries and continues to rank among the top ODI batters globally. His consistency in ICC tournaments has been a major factor behind India's success over the years. The 2027 ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, could potentially become Kohli's final ICC event if he chooses to continue until then. However, reports indicate he will only participate if he genuinely believes he can still contribute meaningfully to the team's success.

For now, Kohli's future remains uncertain, but his comments have ensured that discussions around India's World Cup plans and the transition toward the next generation of players will continue dominating cricket conversations.

## India Squad for Afghanistan Series: Bumrah's Workload Plan, IPL Stars in Selection Mix

The BCCI is expected to announce India's squad for the upcoming Test and ODI series against Afghanistan soon, and discussions around player workload and IPL performances are shaping the selection picture.

A key talking point is Jasprit Bumrah's workload management. Reports suggest that the star fast bowler is likely to be used in only one format during the Afghanistan assignment, as the selectors aim to carefully manage his fitness ahead of a packed international calendar. With India playing multiple series in quick succession, the team management is cautious about overloading its premier pacer (CREX).

The Afghanistan tour includes a one-off Test match followed by a three-match ODI series. Given the tight scheduling and the short gap after IPL 2026, the selectors are reportedly prioritizing long-term fitness planning over short-term availability, especially for senior fast bowlers.

Alongside workload management, IPL performances are also expected to play a big role



in selection decisions. A couple of standout domestic and IPL performers are likely to be rewarded with call-ups, especially in the ODI squad, as selectors look to balance experience with fresh talent.

There is also discussion around giving opportunities to emerging players who have impressed in the IPL season. The idea is to build depth in the squad while managing the workload of established stars like Bumrah, who remains central to India's pace attack but cannot be overused across formats.

The selectors are also be-

lieved to be considering rotation options in the bowling unit, especially given India's packed schedule leading into future international assignments. This includes managing fast bowlers who have had heavy IPL workloads or recent injury concerns.

Overall, the Afghanistan series is being treated as an important balancing act for India's selection committee—fielding a competitive squad while also protecting key players and testing bench strength ahead of bigger challenges later in the year.



## "It's Wrong": R Ashwin Exposes Punjab Kings Owners' Call That Could Hurt Playoff Chances

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has openly criticised Punjab Kings' management decision-making, claiming that a key call linked to team planning and structure could seriously damage their IPL 2026 playoff hopes.

Ashwin, who has been vocal about tactical issues throughout the season, pointed to what he described as an "incorrect approach" in how the franchise has handled certain strategic decisions this year. His comments come at a time when Punjab Kings' campaign has already hit turbulence after a strong start.

According to Ashwin, inconsistencies in planning—especially around squad usage, conditions, and match-day execution—are now catching up with the team. He suggested that such decisions have contributed to Punjab Kings losing momentum at a crucial stage of the tournament.

The former spinner also indicated that repeated strategic missteps could cost the team a playoff spot if not addressed

quickly. His remarks have sparked debate among fans, with some agreeing that Punjab Kings have struggled with clarity in decision-making, while others argue that on-field execution has been the bigger issue.

Punjab Kings had begun IPL 2026 in dominant fashion, winning a majority of their early matches and looking like strong playoff contenders. However, a sudden dip in form in the second half of the season has put them under pressure, forcing them into a tight race for qualification.

Ashwin's criticism adds to growing scrutiny around the franchise's management this season, especially as questions continue to be raised about team balance, tactical flexibility, and leadership decisions during key matches.

With the league entering its decisive phase, Punjab Kings will now need a strong turnaround to stay in the playoff hunt, while discussions around their internal strategy continue to intensify off the field.

## "Zero Sense": Ruturaj Gaikwad Criticised For Tactical Blunder Before LSG Clash

Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has come under sharp criticism following his team's defeat against Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2026, with attention now turning to a key tactical decision made even before the match began.

Former CSK batter Subramaniam Badrinath strongly questioned Gaikwad's team selection, claiming that a major error in the playing XI setup set the tone for the game. The main point of contention was the omission of specialist left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein, which Badrinath argued made "zero sense" given the conditions.

According to critics, the pitch offered assistance to spin and required better balance in CSK's bowling attack. Howev-



er, CSK opted for a combination that left their spin department comparatively weak, which later proved costly dur-

ing LSG's successful chase. Badrinath further suggested that CSK's selection mistakes have been becoming a recur-

ring issue this season, indicating a pattern rather than an isolated decision. He argued that such tactical calls have di-

rectly impacted match outcomes and questioned the team management's approach in reading conditions.

The criticism comes at a crucial stage of the tournament, with CSK's playoff hopes under pressure after the defeat. The loss not only hurt their position on the points table but also raised questions about decision-making under pressure in important matches.

While Gaikwad himself has not directly responded to the criticism in detail, CSK's focus will now be on correcting mistakes quickly as they head into the final stretch of the league stage. With playoff qualification still possible but increasingly difficult, the team will need sharper tactical execution in upcoming matches to stay in contention.

## Virat Kohli Praises WPL Impact, Says Women Cricketers Now Emerge As "Ready Products"

Virat Kohli has strongly highlighted the transformation of Indian women's cricket, crediting the Women's Premier League (WPL) for accelerating both skill development and the overall ecosystem around the sport.

Speaking about the rapid rise of women's cricket in India, Kohli said the WPL has played a key role in producing players who are more prepared for international-level competition from the very beginning of their careers. He described this new generation as "ready products," pointing to how structured competition, exposure, and high-pressure matches have improved overall standards.

Kohli also praised the growing fan engagement around women's cricket, noting that



stadiums are now regularly filled during WPL matches in cities like Baroda, Navi Mumbai, and Bengaluru. He said

this reflects a shift where audiences are no longer attending out of curiosity alone but because of the quality and com-

petitiveness of the games.

He emphasized that the skill level in women's cricket has risen significantly, especially among younger players who are entering the system with greater confidence, fitness, and power-hitting ability. According to him, the game has become faster and more competitive, with players executing skills at a much higher level than before.

Kohli also acknowledged standout performers such as Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh, noting that their fearless approach and ability to dominate bowling attacks reflect the broader evolution of women's cricket in India.

Beyond individual talent, Kohli highlighted how the WPL has strengthened the overall structure of the wom-

en's game, giving players exposure to high-pressure situations similar to international tournaments. This, he said, has helped bridge the gap between domestic and international cricket more quickly than in earlier years.

He added that the increasing popularity of women's cricket is also a reflection of a broader cultural shift, where fans are actively supporting the women's game for its entertainment value and competitiveness rather than treating it as a secondary product.

Overall, Kohli's remarks underline the WPL's growing influence in shaping a stronger pipeline for Indian women cricketers and transforming the sport into a more professional and widely followed ecosystem.

# Chiranjeevi Leaks Powerful Dialogue From Ram Charan's 'Peddi', Fans Go Wild

The hype surrounding Ram Charan's upcoming film Peddi has reached another level after Megastar Chiranjeevi shared his excitement about the film's trailer and unintentionally leaked one of the movie's powerful dialogues.

After reportedly watching the trailer of Peddi, Chiranjeevi took to social media to praise the film and its team. He described the trailer as packed with "madness, emotion, and elevations," saying the promotional cut had exceeded expectations. His comments immediately created massive buzz among Mega fans and movie lovers.

What grabbed even more attention, however, was the dialogue he revealed from the trailer. The line delivered by Ram Charan reportedly says: "Meerandharu nenu aadanani anukuntunnaaru, nenu poradaanu saaru."

The dialogue roughly translates to: "All of you think I only played, but I fought, sir." The emotionally charged line instantly went viral across social media platforms, with fans celebrating it as a classic "mass" moment.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is being promoted as a rural sports action drama featuring Ram

Charan in a rugged and intense avatar. The film reportedly blends cricket, wrestling, action, and emotional storytelling against a rural backdrop.

The makers are set to unveil the official trailer at a grand launch event in Mumbai on May 18. Even before its release, industry insiders and fans have been praising the scale, visuals, and emotional intensity shown in promotional material. Cinematographer Rathnavelu recently hinted that the film contains multiple large-scale action sequences along with powerful emotional moments.

The movie also stars

Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, while Kannada star Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Boman Irani play key roles. Music for the film is composed by A. R. Rahman.

Social media reactions have been explosive ever since Chiranjeevi's post surfaced online. While fans loved the unexpected "dialogue leak," some jokingly called the veteran actor "ChiruLeaks" for revealing details before the official trailer launch.

With expectations skyrocketing ahead of the trailer release, Peddi is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu films of the year.



# Fans Demand Bigger Promotional Push For Janhvi Kapoor In Ram Charan's 'Peddi'

As the release of Ram Charan's much-awaited pan-India film Peddi draws closer, fans have now started demanding more promotional content featuring Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor, who plays the female lead in the movie.

The discussion gained momentum on social media after fans noticed that most promotional material released so far has been heavily centered around Ram Charan's character and the film's large-scale action elements. While posters, teaser visuals, and updates showcasing Charan have generated massive excitement, many fans feel Janhvi Kapoor's role is yet to receive enough spotlight.

Several fan pages and online movie communities have been urging the makers to release more content featuring Janhvi, including posters, songs, interviews, and scenes involving her character Achyyamma. Many viewers believe her presence could further increase the film's appeal, especially among Hindi-speaking audiences and younger moviegoers.

Janhvi Kapoor's look in Peddi had earlier received a positive response after the makers introduced her character in a rustic rural avatar. Unlike her glamorous Bollywood appearances, Janhvi appears in a more traditional and earthy role in the film, which generated curiosity among fans. Her pairing with Ram Charan has also become one of the talking points surrounding the movie. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is being promoted as an intense rural sports action drama packed with emotion, action, and large-

scale visuals. The film reportedly combines cricket, wrestling, politics, and village-based storytelling, with Ram Charan undergoing a major transformation for his role.

The makers recently announced a massive promotional campaign titled the "Peddi Powerplay Tour," which includes events across several cities including Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai, and Vizianagaram. Fans are now hoping Janhvi Kapoor will actively participate in these events and promotions alongside Ram Charan.



Meanwhile, speculation regarding Janhvi's screen presence in the film has also become a topic of debate online. Some social media discussions suggested that her role may be relatively limited compared to Ram Charan's character, though the makers have not officially commented on such reports. Apart from Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor, the film also stars Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyendu Sharma, Rao Ramesh, and Boman Irani in key roles. Music for the movie is composed by Academy Award winner A. R. Rahman. With expectations rising rapidly ahead of the trailer launch and theatrical release, fans are eager to see more glimpses of Janhvi Kapoor's character and chemistry with Ram Charan in what is shaping up to be one of the biggest Telugu releases of the year.

# Vijay Deverakonda Extends Support To Suriya's 'Veera Bhadrudu'

Tollywood actor Vijay Deverakonda has openly expressed his support for Suriya's latest film Veera Bhadrudu, the Telugu dubbed version of the Tamil movie Karuppu. His appreciation for the film has now become a major talking point among movie fans on social media.

After the film's release, Vijay reportedly shared an emotional message praising the response the movie has been receiving in theatres. He mentioned that he had been hearing positive feedback from audiences and celebrated the return of energetic theatrical experiences, saying theatres were becoming "loud and noisy again."

Vijay's supportive gesture toward Suriya was widely appreciated by fans of both actors. Many social media users praised the camaraderie between stars from different film industries and called it a positive sign for South Indian cinema. Fans also highlighted how Telugu audiences have



consistently supported Suriya's films over the years.

Directed by RJ Balaji, Veera Bhadrudu is a rural action entertainer featuring Suriya in a powerful mass avatar. The film stars Trisha as the female lead and combines action, fantasy, emotion, and courtroom drama elements. The movie released simultaneously in Tamil as Karuppu and in Telugu as Veera Bhadrudu.

The film has generated

strong buzz in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with Annapurna Studios handling its distribution in the Telugu states. Industry observers believe the movie's mass appeal and Suriya's popularity among Telugu audiences contributed significantly to the excitement surrounding the release.

Movie lovers online also reacted positively to Vijay Deverakonda's comments, with many calling it a classy ges-

ture. Fans noted that support among actors helps create a healthier atmosphere within the film industry rather than unnecessary rivalry.

Suriya, meanwhile, has been receiving praise for his energetic performance in the film. Several viewers described Veera Bhadrudu as a strong theatrical entertainer packed with elevations, action moments, and commercial appeal designed for big-screen audiences.

The positive word-of-mouth surrounding the movie has also sparked discussions about Suriya's strong fan base in Telugu cinema. Over the years, the actor has built a loyal audience through dubbed hits and successful releases across South India.

With celebrities like Vijay Deverakonda publicly cheering for the film, Veera Bhadrudu continues to gain momentum among audiences, strengthening the growing trend of cross-industry support within Indian cinema.

# Ravi Mohan Breaks Down, Says He Cannot Return To Acting Until Divorce Is Finalised

Tamil actor Ravi Mohan, popularly known as Jayam Ravi, turned emotional during a recent press interaction and announced that he would step away from acting until his divorce proceedings are officially completed.

The actor broke his silence amid ongoing controversy surrounding his personal life, separation from wife Aarti Ravi, and online discussions linked to singer and spiritual therapist Keneesha Francis. Ravi appeared visibly emotional while addressing the media and spoke about the mental strain caused by public scrutiny and cyberbullying.

During the press meet, Ravi Mohan stated that he is currently not in the mental state required to continue acting or release films. He reportedly said that the continuous humiliation and criticism had



deeply affected him emotionally. The actor added that he would only return to cinema once his personal life stabilizes and the divorce process concludes.

Ravi also spoke about the emotional pain surrounding his family situation and ex-

pressed distress over not being able to spend enough time with his children. His emotional statements quickly went viral online, triggering massive reactions from fans and social media users. The controversy intensified after Keneesha Francis recently announced her exit from social media and reportedly distanced herself from Chennai following severe online trolling. Ravi strongly criticized cyberbullying during his interaction and blamed toxic online attacks for worsening the situation around those connected to him.

At one point, Ravi Mohan became visibly emotional while speaking about the pressure he had endured for years. He quoted a Tamil proverb meaning that even a patient person has limits when pushed continuously. The actor's remarks generated sympathy from several

fans, while others continued debating the controversy online. Social media platforms were flooded with mixed reactions following the press conference. While many fans expressed support and concern for Ravi Mohan's mental well-being, others questioned various aspects of the ongoing controversy involving his marriage and relationship rumours. Discussions across online forums and fan communities continued throughout the day.

Ravi Mohan has been a prominent figure in Tamil cinema for over two decades, delivering several commercial hits and family entertainers. His sudden announcement about stepping away from films has now become one of the most talked-about developments in the South Indian film industry.

# Nargis Fakhri Set For Her First Telugu Appearance In 'Nenu Ready'

Bollywood actress Nargis Fakhri is finally stepping into Telugu cinema with the upcoming entertainer Nenu Ready. The glamorous star will appear in a special dance number in the film, marking her first-ever appearance on the Telugu screen.

The makers officially unveiled Nargis Fakhri's first-look poster from the song, instantly grabbing attention across social media. Dressed in a glittering outfit and surrounded by a lavish backdrop, Nargis appeared in a stylish and glamorous avatar that has already created strong buzz among movie lovers.

Nenu Ready stars Havish in the lead role, with Kavya Thapar playing the female lead. The film is directed by commercial entertainer specialist Trinadha Rao Nakkina, known for his energetic storytelling and mass comedy enter-

tainers. The project is being produced under the Harniks India LLP banner by Nikhila Koneru and Koneru Satyanarayana.

According to reports, Nargis Fakhri's special song is designed as a high-energy glamorous number aimed at adding extra commercial appeal to the movie. The makers described her entry into the film as an "ultimate glam blast," further increasing curiosity surrounding the song announcement.

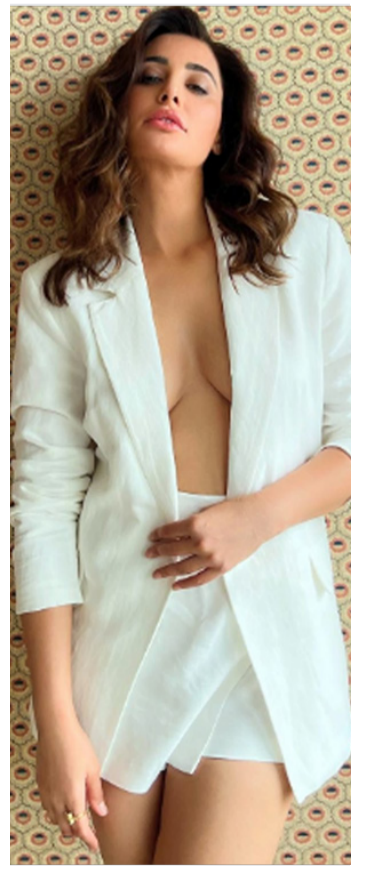
Over the years, several Telugu filmmakers reportedly tried bringing Nargis into Tollywood, but the collaborations never materialized. With Nenu Ready, the actress has finally made her long-awaited Telugu debut, something fans have been discussing widely online.

The film also features a supporting cast including Srilakshmi, Goparaju Ramana,

Hariteja, Mahathi, Roopa Lakshmi, Jayavani, Manik Reddy, and others. Story and screenplay for the film are provided by Vikranth Srinivas, while music is composed by Mickey J Meyer.

Industry circles believe the addition of Nargis Fakhri could help the movie gain wider attention, especially among younger audiences and Bollywood followers. Social media reactions to the poster have largely been positive, with fans praising the actress's glamorous look and expressing excitement about seeing her in a Telugu film for the first time.

Meanwhile, Nenu Ready has already generated decent buzz through its teaser and promotional content. The movie is expected to hit theatres soon, with the audio launch and further promotional events likely to be announced in the coming days.



Debanjali Mukherjee

RISING STAR