

BUZZ POINTS



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DK Shivakumar Likely to Take Oath as Karnataka Chief Minister on June 3 PAGE 07



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Vanishing Mangroves, Expanding Encroachments

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Vijayawada: Serious allegations of large-scale environmental destruction and land encroachment have emerged from Pedapatnam Gram Panchayat in Bandaru Rural Mandal, where nearly 40 acres of coastal land are reportedly under illegal occupation.



These developments have alarmed residents of nearby coastal villages, who fear increased vulnerability to environmental hazards.

A formal complaint was submitted to District Collector DK Balaji by G.V. Ramana, a lawyer from Machilipatnam.

As part of Yogandhra-2026, a 14-day statewide yoga campaign will be conducted from June 7.

P3



Yogandhra-2026 to Be Held on Grand Scale with One Crore Participation Target

Amaravati, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to organize Yogandhra-2026 in a grand and prestigious manner across the state.

As part of Yogandhra-2026, a 14-day statewide yoga campaign will be conducted from June 7.

Simultaneously, district-level events with 1,000 participants each will be conducted at district headquarters.

To strengthen the initiative, the state plans to train one lakh additional yoga trainers, adding to the existing 1.5 lakh trainers.

The programme will be coordinated by multiple departments, including Health, Human Resources, Municipal Administration, Panchayat Raj, Endowments, and IT.

Yoga sessions will also be conducted in parks, educational institutions, government offices, Swarna Ward offices, and Swarna Gramam offices.

State Government Yoga and Naturopathy Advisor Mantheena Satyanarayana Raju unveiled the promotional initiative and informed that yoga videos and training modules would be widely circulated.

Amaravati Set for Major Leap with Mobility Plan and 547 Crore Infrastructure Boost

Amaravati, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive urban mobility plan for Amaravati, aligning with the vision of developing it as a futuristic and world-class capital city.

During the meeting, the CRDA Authority discussed and approved 18 agenda items, focusing on infrastructure, governance, and economic development.

In a move to boost tourism, the Authority cleared the proposal for constructing a Giant Observation Wheel under a Public-Private Partnership model.



The Authority gave the green signal for setting up a City Gas Distribution Network through PPP or joint venture mode.

The Authority approved the establishment of a Building Tribunal and directed the setting up of a Mediation Center for amicable resolution of issues.

kantham areas to owners of plots unsuitable for development.

To address urban disputes, the Authority approved the establishment of a Building Tribunal and directed the setting up of a Mediation Center for amicable resolution of issues.

On sustainable infrastructure, the Authority approved the cancellation of the existing agreement with Tabreed for a District Cooling System and authorized fresh tenders.

P2

ArcelorMittal Plan Gets First PM-SETU Approval for Vizag ITI Cluster

New Delhi/Visakhapatnam, May 30 | TPN Bureau

In a significant milestone for skill development in India, the National Steering Committee has approved the first-ever Strategic Investment Plan under the Pradhan Mantri Skill and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme.

The approval was granted during the third National Steering Committee meeting held at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.



The meeting was chaired by Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and attended by Dilip Kumar, Director General, Directorate General of Training.

Participants included members from the Capacity Building Commission, National Council for Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries, and

Ministry of Labour and Employment. Industry leaders from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, ITC Limited, and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, along with representatives from New Age Makers Institute of Technology, Asian Development Bank, and World Bank, were also present.

The approval marks the onboarding of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India as the Anchor Industry Partner for the Visakhapatnam cluster, a key step in implementing the Hub-and-Spoke

P2

Telugu-Origin Student Ananya Goli Earns State Honourable Mention at Minnesota Computing Awards

Minnesota, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Young talents of Telugu origin continue to make their mark on the global stage, with Ananya Goli earning a prestigious recognition at the 2026 Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Awards.

The competition is jointly organized by the Minnesota Technology Foundation and the National Center for Women & Information Technology.

Beyond her academic excellence, Ananya Goli has actively contributed to promoting in-

clusivity in the technology sector. At her school, she co-founded a Technovation chapter aimed at encouraging young women to explore careers in technology.

Her achievements extend beyond academics into professional exposure. During the previous summer, she secured three prestigious job shadowing opportunities, enabling her to gain insights into the corporate technology environment.

Ananya has also participated in several prominent technology conferences across the United States, where she interacted with global experts and expanded her knowledge and

professional network.

Alongside Ananya, several other students from Eden Prairie High School were recognized. Thravya Koppurapu received the State Winner award, while Himaja Guntur and Sarayu Kacham also earned State Honourable Mention distinctions.

Jessica Brent, Computer Science teacher at Eden Prairie High School, praised Ananya's accomplishment, noting that the award recognizes not only academic performance but also passion for technology, leadership, and commitment to community development.

As the world advances deeper into the era of artificial intelligence, Ananya Goli's journey stands as an inspiring example of how young minds can use technology as a tool for innovation and societal progress.



Amaravati Set for Major Leap with Mobility Plan and 547 Crore Infrastructure Boost

continued

Further, the Authority approved the preparation of a Request for Proposal for the Amaravati Economic Region, spanning nine districts from Eluru to Prakasam, aiming to create a robust economic ecosystem. The CM emphasized integrated township development with work-from-home fa-

ilities, hospital accommodations for patient attendants, and expedited construction of hotels and convention centers.

The meeting was attended by Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana, Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, Principal Secretary S Suresh Kumar, and officials from ADC and CRDA.

ArcelorMittal Plan Gets First PM-SETU Approval for Vizag ITI Cluster

continued

model envisioned under PM-SETU. The initiative aims to transform government Industrial Training Institutes into industry-managed, outcome-driven institutions aligned with evolving workforce needs.

With an outlay of 60,000 crore, PM-SETU seeks to upgrade 1,000 ITIs across India,

emphasizing modern infrastructure, industry collaboration, and employability. Andhra Pradesh's early success is expected to serve as a model for other States, as the scheme moves towards large-scale implementation, contributing to the vision of a skilled and future-ready workforce under Viksit Bharat 2047.

Case Filed Against Jakkampudi Raja Over Remarks on Police

Ravi Podili

A case has been registered against Jakkampudi Raja, State President of the YSRCP Youth Wing and former MLA, following his controversial remarks against the police. His statements targeting Kurnool Three Town Circle Inspector Seshayya have led to legal action under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act. The police initiated the case after the SC Commission took serious cognizance of videos of his speech that went viral on social media.



The incident dates back to the 14th of this month, when YSRCP leaders staged a protest at the Kurnool Collectorate, alleging police harassment of Balu, YSRCP Youth Wing's Kurnool City President. Addressing the gathering, Jakkampudi Raja strongly criticized the police, accusing them of acting as agents of the TDP despite wearing khaki uniforms. He warned that if the police supported what he termed the "Red Book Constitution" of the coalition government, they would face consequences. During his speech, he specifically targeted CI Seshayya, alleging his involvement

in land disputes and illegal Matka activities. Jakkampudi Raja further escalated his remarks by issuing personal threats and making abusive comments against CI Seshayya. He claimed that once the YCP returns to power, Seshayya would be humiliated and reduced to minor duties. He also alleged that Seshayya had attempted to enter politics using illegal wealth and sought a Badvel Assembly ticket before the 2024 elections, claims that were accompanied by offensive language. The remarks, perceived as casteist and intimidating against a Dalit officer on duty, drew the attention of SC Commission Chairman K.S. Jawahar. Taking serious note of the viral videos, he directed the police to initiate immediate action. Following these instructions, police registered a case against Jakkampudi Raja under Section 351(2) of the BNS along with provisions of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act. The incident has sparked widespread criticism over the conduct of YSRCP leaders toward government officials.

Mega DSC-2025 Conducted with Full Transparency, Says School Education Department

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

The Department of School Education has strongly refuted allegations published in sections of the media regarding the Mega DSC-2025 recruitment process, asserting that the entire exercise was conducted with utmost transparency and efficiency.



Addressing a media conference, Kona Sasidhar, Secretary, School Education Department, provided detailed clarifications and presented a comprehensive overview of the recruitment process. He stated that Mega DSC-2025 was completed in a record 148 days and involved multiple safeguards to ensure fairness at every stage. Kona Sasidhar emphasized that candidates secured their positions purely based on merit and hard work. He noted that after 2018, the DSC notification was issued again only in 2025, and the process faced as many as 241 court cases attempting to halt it. However, courts ultimately granted clearance, endorsing the department's approach.

wise scores, TET scores, and DSC scores, were made available online, and allegations regarding non-disclosure were baseless. The department also ensured implementation of SC categorisation and horizontal reservations for sports persons, women, persons with disabilities, and ex-servicemen.

Responding to concerns raised in recent reports, Kona Sasidhar explained that doubts regarding horizontal reservations stemmed from misunderstandings. He highlighted that no irregularities occurred in the sports quota and that selected candidates under this category earned their positions through merit.

Referring to a specific case, he said Naveen, an outsourced employee at SCERT, secured high ranks but did not attend certificate verification, making him ineligible as per rules. The department presented its case in court, which upheld its

stand. Kona Sasidhar also pointed out that among the lakhs of candidates who appeared for the examination, no widespread complaints were reported regarding its conduct. He added that the department allowed flexibility by permitting certificate submission during physical verification upon candidates' request.

The Secretary urged the public and media to avoid spreading misinformation, stating that false allegations harm candidates who worked hard to secure teaching positions. He reiterated that the department remains open to addressing genuine concerns and learning from any identified shortcomings. He concluded that effective coordination between TET and DSC, along with prior planning and transparency, ensured that Mega DSC-2025 was conducted smoothly and without errors.



AP Extends Summer Vacation for Junior Colleges Till June 6

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Board of Intermediate Education has extended the summer vacation for junior colleges across the state. Secretary of the Board of Intermediate Education, Ranjith Basha, issued official orders announcing the extension on Friday.

As per the schedule announced earlier, junior colleges were set to reopen on June 1 after the summer break. However, the reopening date has now been postponed to June 6.

The decision was taken in view of the ongoing Intermediate Advanced Supplementary Examinations, which are scheduled to continue until June 5. Officials said the extension was necessary to ensure the smooth conduct of examinations and avoid any inconvenience to students and educational institutions.

Secretary Ranjith Basha directed all junior colleges to strictly adhere to the revised

schedule and resume classes from June 6 without fail.

The Board clarified that there will be no changes in the remaining academic activities mentioned in the academic calendar already announced for the current academic year.

The extension is expected to provide relief to students appearing for supplementary examinations, giving them adequate time to complete their exams without the pressure of regular classes resuming simultaneously.

Educational institutions have been advised to make necessary arrangements in accordance with the revised reopening date. Students and parents are requested to take note of the updated schedule and plan accordingly.

The Board reiterated its commitment to ensuring a smooth academic process while maintaining the scheduled timeline for the rest of the academic year.



Grand Arrangements for Chandrababu's Tuni Visit

Kakinada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to visit Tuni constituency on June 1, with elaborate arrangements being made for the high-profile tour at Chamavaram village in Tunimandal. The Chief Minister's visit, scheduled from 10 am to 5 pm, will feature the specially arranged "Prajavedika," which is expected to be the main attraction of the programme. Through this interactive platform, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will directly engage with the public and hear their grievances.

A major highlight of the visit will be the launch of the government's prestigious "NTR Bharosa" pension distribution programme by the Chief Minister. The initiative has generated excitement among beneficiaries, creating a festive atmosphere across Tuni constituency.

Rajya Sabha Member Sana Satish Babu, along with District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad, visited Chamavaram village on Saturday to inspect

the arrangements. They reviewed venue construction and directed officials to ensure all basic facilities, including drinking water, shade, and parking, are arranged on a war footing for the large gathering expected at the public meeting. Sana Satish Babu also instructed officials to ensure foolproof security arrangements and requested police authorities to leave no room for lapses during the Chief Minister's visit.

The review was attended by In-charge SP Rahul Meena, Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat, Peddapuram RDO, DSP Tilak, SB DSP Satyanarayana, Intelligence DSP Eswarudu, and several revenue and police officials.

TDP leaders Motukuri Venkatesh, Mandal PACS President Polishetti Ramalingeswara Rao, and several public representatives also participated in the inspection.

The Chief Minister's visit has infused fresh enthusiasm among TDP cadre, with local leaders and party workers gearing up in large numbers to ensure the programme's grand success.

ASI Gets Nod to Explore Nallamala's Hidden Historical Legacy

Amaravati, May 30 | TPN Bureau

The state government has granted permission to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct surveys in the Nallamala forest region to identify and preserve its hidden historical and cultural heritage. Welcoming the move, Deputy Chief Minister and Forest and Environment Minister Pawan Kalyan said the initiative would help uncover valuable archaeological treasures while

opening new avenues for ecotourism development. Pawan Kalyan stated that forests are not only home to rich biodiversity but also repositories of historical monuments, archaeological remains, and cultural wealth. He stressed the need to identify, protect, and preserve such priceless heritage for future generations. The latest survey will focus on inscriptions written in Telugu and Devanagari scripts, which are expected to offer deeper insights into an-

cient kingdoms, traditions, and the cultural evolution of South India. Officials recalled that an earlier survey conducted in the Lankamala forest region of YSR Kadapa district had yielded nearly 30 inscriptions dating from the 1st century BCE to the 16th century CE. The survey had also led to the discovery of cave paintings believed to be over 10,000 years old. These findings provided significant information about the Satavahana period, Buddhist and Shaivite

traditions, ancient pilgrimage routes, and early human settlements. Reacting to the new survey initiative, Pawan Kalyan conveyed his best wishes to the ASI team and directed forest department officials to extend full cooperation without disturbing wildlife conservation and forest protection objectives. He said historical structures and archaeological remains in forest regions could create unique opportunities for eco-tourism while raising public awareness

about nature and heritage conservation. "Without compromising wildlife protection and forest conservation goals, the state forest department should provide complete support. The Andhra Pradesh government is firmly committed to preserving both natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations," Pawan Kalyan said. The survey is expected to reveal more historical evidence hidden within the dense Nallamala forests.

Centre Boosts Support for Anganwadi Workers

Rajamahendravaram, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari has welcomed the Central Government's initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills, digital capabilities, and welfare of ASHA and Anganwadi workers, who play a crucial role in strengthening India's rural healthcare and nutrition system.

In a statement released on Saturday, Purandeswari said she was pleased that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had responded comprehensively to the issues she raised under Rule 377 in the Lok Sabha on March 13. The Ministry also informed her about several reforms being implemented to improve the efficiency and working conditions of frontline health workers.

Acknowledging the significant contribution of ASHA and Anganwadi workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health challenges, the Central Government has focused on their training, welfare, and digital empowerment. Under the National Health Mission, regular training programmes are being conducted on maternal and child health, nutrition, digital health, and primary health-

care services. The Ministry has planned specialised training through skill labs and refresher courses at district and block levels. These programmes will cover digital health platforms, early disease detection, community participation, Home-Based Young Child Care (HBYC), Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening, and services under Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

Purandeswari said that, with support from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the Government is implementing an ASHA certification programme that provides recognition, financial incentives, e-learning modules, and opportunities for higher education. A grievance redressal system is also being established to address concerns related to payments and workplace conditions.

She expressed confidence that these measures would enhance the status of ASHA and Anganwadi workers while further strengthening the rural health and nutrition system. Purandeswari also thanked Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav for taking positive action on the issues she had raised in Parliament.



Machilipatnam Set for All-Round Development: Minister Kollu Ravindra

Machilipatnam, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra on Saturday reaffirmed his commitment to transforming Machilipatnam into one of Andhra Pradesh's leading development hubs, with special emphasis on tourism, youth empowerment and sports

infrastructure. During a day-long tour of the constituency, the Minister reviewed several developmental initiatives. He began his visit by inspecting ongoing works at Manginapudi Beach and stated that the government is working with a clear vision to develop Machilipatnam into a major tourist des-

ination. He said efforts are underway to beautify the beach and provide better public amenities to attract more visitors.

Ravindra directed officials to focus on sanitation, roads, drinking water facilities and lighting to ensure a comfortable experience for tourists. He noted that the growth of

the tourism sector would create significant employment opportunities for local youth.

The Minister also personally supervised the removal of fallen trees on the beach road that were damaged during recent heavy rains and strong winds. He instructed officials to take preventive measures to avoid inconvenience to visitors and stressed that public safety would remain a top priority.

Later, Ravindra inspected the Bharat Scouts and Guides



premises in the Fourth Division of Machilipatnam. He held discussions with retired DYE officer Vijayalakshmi and Krishna District Bharat Scouts and Guides Commis-

sioner Madduri Prasad regarding the proposed Youth Club aimed at nurturing leadership qualities and a spirit of service among young people.

He suggested preparing a dedicated action plan to encourage youth participation in sports, social service and personality development activities. He emphasized the importance of instilling discipline and social responsibility among future generations. Ravindra also visited the

swimming pool in the Fourth Division and reviewed facilities available for athletes and young sportspersons. He said the government is giving high priority to sports development and will introduce more initiatives to identify and nurture talent from rural areas.

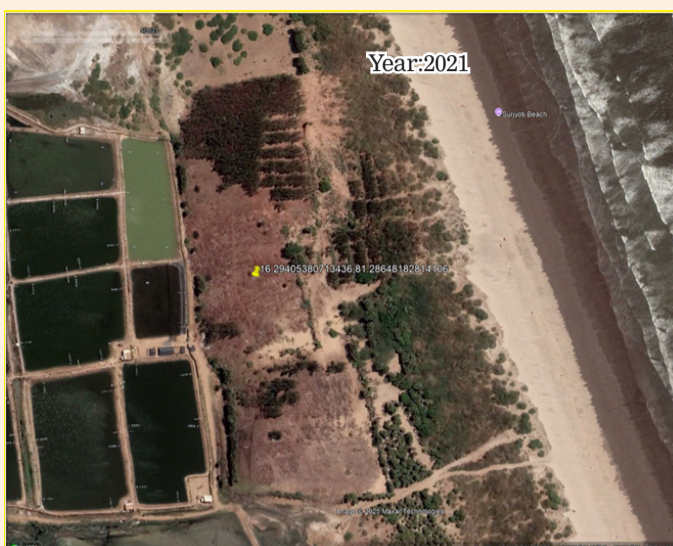
He reiterated that the government's goal is the comprehensive development of Machilipatnam through focused growth in tourism, youth engagement and sports.

# Vanishing Mangroves, Expanding Encroachments

continued

from local officials. "This is not just a case of land grabbing; it is a direct assault on the environment and a violation of Supreme Court orders," G.V. Ramana told True Point, urging immediate action. Responding to the allegations, Angara Ranganath told True Point: "All allegations against my family are false. The lands shown are 'Dibbalu' belonging to farmers with valid pattas and are not even in my name. Out of 4.43 acres, only 16 cents were legally transferred to us. There has been no encroachment. These claims are driven by personal motives, and I will pursue legal action for defamation."

The complaint seeks criminal proceedings against the accused, action against officials involved, and restoration of the damaged land. The issue has intensified calls from environmentalists and locals for urgent intervention to protect the fragile coastal ecosystem.



## Angara Ranganath Denies Charges, Calls Allegations Baseless

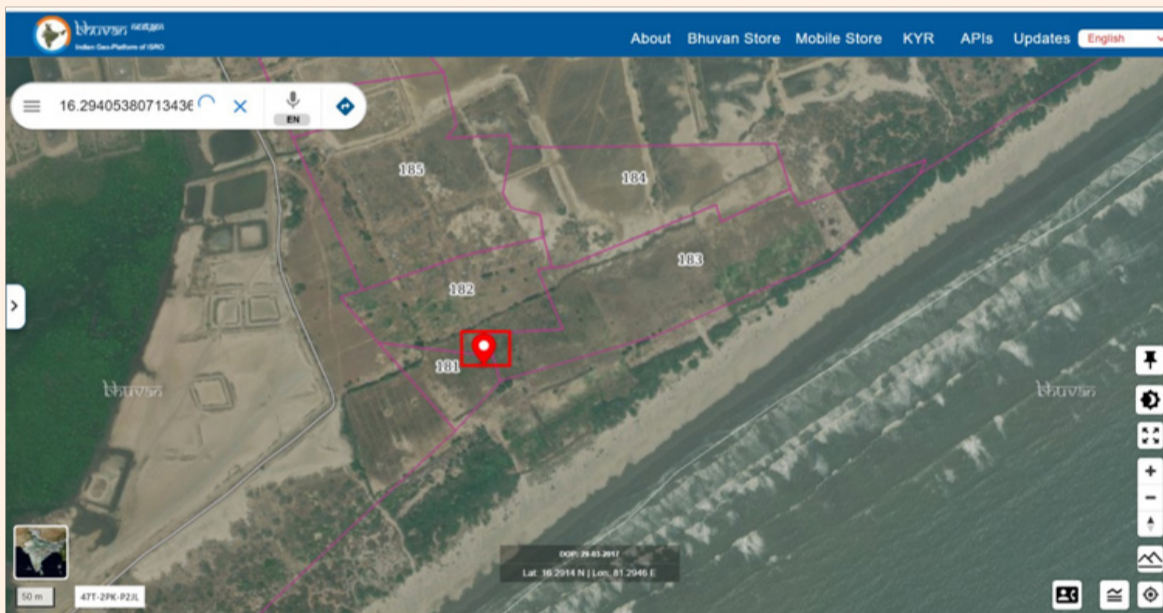
"All the allegations made by G.V. Ramana against my family, claiming that we encroached upon mangrove lands, are completely false. The areas shown in the photographs are locally known as 'Dibbalu' (mounds), which belong to farmers who possess valid pattas. These lands are not even registered in my name. Out of more than 4.43 acres, a portion was purchased in the name of a friend, while the remaining land was taken on lease. In 2020, he transferred 16 cents of land to us through a registered deed. There has been no encroachment, and if there had been, local residents would not have remained silent. G.V. Ramana, who is making these allegations, is my childhood friend and later became my sister's husband. He subjected his wife and children to severe mental and physical harassment while maintaining illicit relationships with other women. Due to his behavior, they are now living separately, and legal proceedings are ongoing. I have obtained video evidence of his conduct, which has been submitted in court at Bantumilli. Holding a grudge against me because of this, he is making baseless allegations against my family. I will file a defamation case against



## G.V. Ramana Alleges Illegal Mangrove Encroachment, Plans PIL

"I did not file this complaint out of political motives or due to any family disputes. It came to my attention that an injustice was being done to wildlife; after gathering evidence, the illegal activities of those involved were exposed. With complete evidence, I met District Collector Balaji and submitted a complaint stating that Advocate Angara Ranganath had misused his professional position to encroach upon mangrove forests. I am also preparing to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in court soon with further evidence."

The encroached area is located less than 20 meters from the shoreline, and there is only a 60-meter distance between the aqua tanks and the sea. This area falls under CRZ-I, a sensitive zone where no construction is permitted within 500 meters. Such activities increase the risk of tidal and storm surges, deprive wildlife of nesting grounds, and may lead to species extinction. Strict action must be taken against the encroachers, and efforts should be made to restore and expand mangrove forests. The area is inhabited by a large community of shepherds who have opposed these activities, but they allege that false cases have been filed against them. When I visited the site to gather information, dogs were even unleashed on me," G.V. Ramana, lawyer from Machilipatnam explained to True Point.



## Kotamreddy Speech Steals Spotlight at TDP Mahanadu

Ravi Podili  
Amaravati : The Telugu Desam Party's Mahanadu concluded on a grand note, showcasing a unique hybrid format that drew global participation. Leaders and party workers from 1,875 clusters across 12 countries joined the event virtually, with the party stating that nearly 2.4 million people took part online. TDP Working President and Minister Nara Lokesh announced 33 percent reservation for women, while party chief Chandrababu dedicated the event as "Stree Shakti Mahanadu," underlining the party's focus on women empowerment.

The two-day event witnessed several speeches, with leaders praising Chandrababu and Nara Lokesh. However, the speech of MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy emerged as the highlight. His candid remarks, which were unexpected, struck a chord with party workers. He raised concerns over the neglect of grassroots cadres and emphasized that long-time loyal workers should be given due recognition and priority.

Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy pointed out that many leaders,

including himself, had joined the TDP from the YCP shortly before the elections and went on to secure positions as MLAs and Ministers. He noted that such leaders were supported by dedicated party workers who had been with the TDP for years and had worked tirelessly to ensure electoral victories.

He asserted that these loyal workers must be rewarded and assured that in his constituency, only those who had served the party from the beginning would be considered for the upcoming local body elections. He also stated that while the party leadership would make decisions on candidate selection, he would take full responsibility for ensuring their victory.

Kotamreddy's remarks come amid growing criticism that party cadres are being overlooked after the coalition government assumed power. Allegations have surfaced that some positions are being given to newcomers, while long-serving workers remain ignored. In this context, his speech has resonated strongly with TDP activists, sparking discussions within the party.

## YSRCP Demands 1.50 Power Tariff for Aqua Farmers

Tadepalli, May 30 | TPN Bureau

The YSRCP has demanded that the State government immediately implement subsidised electricity at 1.50 per unit for all aqua farmers across Andhra Pradesh before June 10, irrespective of whether they fall under aqua or non-aqua zones.

YSRCP Tadepalligudem constituency coordinator and former APSADA Vice Chairman VaddiRaghuram made the demand while addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli on Friday.

He also urged the government to reimburse electricity bills paid by farmers in non-aqua zones over the past two years, alleging that the coalition government had failed to implement promises made during the election campaign. He warned that if immediate action was not taken, the YSRCP, in coordination with aqua farmers, would launch large-scale protests and lay siege to Collectorates across the State.

VaddiRaghuram further



stated that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy would soon hold a meeting with aqua farmers to discuss the crisis in the aquaculture sector and prepare an action plan to protect farmers' interests. He alleged that the sector had been pushed into severe distress under the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government due to policy neglect and administrative failure.

He also claimed that while the previous YSRCP government strengthened APSADA

## YSRCP Seeks SC Status for Dalit Christians Before Justice Balakrishnan Commission

New Delhi, May 30 | TPN Bureau

A YSRCP delegation on Friday submitted a representation to the Justice Balakrishnan Commission, demanding Scheduled Caste (SC) status for Dalit Christians and urging the Centre to extend equal constitutional safeguards. Later, addressing the media at Andhra Bhavan in New Delhi, YSRCP MPs, former ministers and senior leaders stated that Dalit Christians continue to face social and economic discrimination despite religious conversion and must be brought under SC protections.

MP Dr. M. Gurumoorthy said Dalit Christians deserve all rights and safeguards available to Scheduled Castes, pointing out that SC status is already extended to Sikhs and Buddhists. He said the same principle should apply to Dalit Christians and noted that multiple commissions have recognised that conversion does not change their socio-economic conditions. He also recalled that the YSRCP government passed a unanimous resolution

in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly in 2023 and forwarded it to the Centre.

MP Golla Baburao said a Dalit remains a Dalit irrespective of religion and called for an end to discrimination based on faith. YSRCP State General Secretary JupudiPrabhakar Rao alleged that Dalit Christians are being denied constitutional protections by categorising them as Backward Classes. Former Minister MeruguNagarjuna said three commissions had already recognised their backwardness and demanded SC status on par with Sikhs and Buddhists. MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhar said caste identity cannot be erased through conversion, while MLC Arun Kumar termed the denial of SC status discriminatory.

Former MP Nandigam Suresh called the withdrawal of SC status after conversion a grave injustice and urged unity among Dalit Christians. The YSRCP leaders appealed to the Justice Balakrishnan Commission to submit a favourable report and ensure justice.

## BJP WG District Training Camp Begins

Bhimavaram, May 30 | TPN Bureau

BJP State president P.V.N. Madhav said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has turned the vision of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" into reality through his leadership and governance. He said the BJP was not formed merely for power but is dedicated to serving the na-

tion's interests.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the two-day PanditDeendayalUpadhyayaPrashikshanAbhiyan organised by West Godavari district BJP in Bhimavaram on Saturday. Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries BhupathirajuSrinivasa Varma and P.V.N. Madhav jointly inaugurated a

photo exhibition showcasing BJP's history and district-level activities.

Addressing party workers, BhupathirajuSrinivasa Varma said BJP is a disciplined cadre-based party where continuous training is essential for every worker. He said the party provides opportunities for even booth-level workers to rise to national leadership.

P.V.N. Madhav urged party workers to work with the spirit of national unity and put "Nation First." He explained PanditDeendayalUpadhyaya's philosophy of Integral Humanism and Antyodaya. The programme was attended by district BJP president AyanampudiSridevi, state general secretary Lakshmi Prasanna, spokesperson vMullapudiRenuka, state vice-president GarapatiTapanachowary, KoduriLakshminarayana, NarniTataji and other leaders. Party representatives and workers from across the district participated in large numbers.



# Young Professionals Forum Inspires Youth Leadership

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

A “Young Professionals Roundtable” was organized with enthusiasm at the auditorium of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) on Friday under the joint aegis of My Bharat NTR and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The event brought together young participants, industry experts, and government officials to discuss leadership, innovation, and opportunities for youth development.



NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and SPA Director Prof. Ramesh Sirikonda attended as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, the Collector praised the initiative, stating that such platforms provide an excellent opportunity for young people to share their ideas, aspirations, and perspectives on social change with policymakers and administrators.

Dr. Anvesh Dasari spoke on the vital role of youth in strengthening democratic institutions, while expert Sahithi explained the significance of the concept “Local is the New Global.” Kilaru Nagasravan delivered

an insightful session on career opportunities, skill development, and professional growth. Around 200 young people participated in the programme. My Bharat officials Ujjwal and Kiranmayi, District Youth Officer B. Pradeep Kumar, STEP CEO Dr. Kolleti Ramesh, and several representatives from youth and industry organizations were also present. The event served as a valuable platform for dialogue, learning, and inspiring future leaders.

The MP said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu envisions creating “Andhrapreneurs” to drive economic growth. He noted that the government’s “One Family, One Entrepreneur” policy aims to ensure at least one entrepreneur from every household. He urged universities to update curricula to match industry needs and introduce courses in artificial intelligence, robotics, communication skills, and quantum computing. He also announced that a Sports University would soon be set up in the state and said Visakhapatnam is emerging as a hub for AI investments and data centres.

# Vijayawada a Hub of Education, Says MP Chinni

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Member of Parliament KesineniShivnath on Friday said the city has established a distinct identity as an educational hub and stressed the need to equip students for emerging opportunities in technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

He was speaking after inaugurating an Educational Expo jointly organised by TV9 and CAB at SS Convention Hall in Labbipeta. The MP visited various stalls set up by participating universities and interacted with students and representatives.

Addressing the gathering, Shivnath, popularly known as Chinni, recalled his background as a Mechanical Engineering student and encouraged youth to pursue higher education with confidence. He said both the government and educational institutions are

committed to supporting students in achieving success.

Referring to a KL University student securing a placement package of 88 lakh, he termed it a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh and an inspiration for aspiring engineers.

The MP said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu envisions creating “Andhrapreneurs” to drive economic growth. He noted that the government’s “One Family, One Entrepreneur” policy aims to ensure at least one entrepreneur from every household.

He urged universities to update curricula to match industry needs and introduce courses in artificial intelligence, robotics, communication skills, and quantum computing. He also announced that a Sports University would soon be set up in the state and said Visakhapatnam is emerging as a hub for AI investments and data centres.



# Sujana Chowdary’s PrajaDarbar Focuses on Welfare

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada West MLA SujanaChowdary on Saturday conducted a PrajaDarbar at the NDA office in Bhavanipuram to address public grievances and enhance citizen engagement. Coalition leaders and residents from various parts of the constituency attended the programme and submitted petitions seeking solutions to local issues. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that despite financial constraints, the coalition government has been implementing welfare schemes effectively. He noted that pensions are being distributed on the first day of every month without interruption and funds are being released

on schedule for welfare programmes. He highlighted efforts to complete pending TIDCO housing units, stating that significant funds have been invested in infrastructure and the remaining houses would be handed over in phases. Chowdary also underscored the role of the Sujana Foundation in public welfare, including free weekend medical check-ups and mega health camps for early disease detection among the poor. During the event, CMRF cheques worth 29.70 lakh were distributed to 56 beneficiaries. The MLA said development works are being carried out with support from NGOs and assured that all petitions would be addressed promptly.

# Gannavaram Murder Case Cracked; Gold, Cash Worth 56 Lakh Recovered

Gannavaram, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Police have solved a sensational murder-for-gain case in Gannavaram, arresting two accused and recovering gold, cash, and property worth around 56 lakh.

Addressing a press conference, District SP V. Vidyasagar Naidu said the victim, KajaRajithaKumari (55), was living alone in an apartment at GKR Paradise in Gannavaram after her husband’s death. She managed a flour mill in Srinagar Colony, while her daughters are settled in the United States.

On the night of May 24, RajithaKumari was speaking to her daughter over the phone when she mentioned someone ringing the doorbell before disconnecting. When she could not be contacted later, her domestic helper found her dead

under suspicious circumstances the next morning and alerted police.

Initially registered as a suspicious death, the case took a turn after CCTV footage revealed that PolavarapuSushma and her son Ajay Kumar had entered the flat late at night and left after about an hour. Police then treated it as a murder-for-gain case.

Special teams led by Gannavaram In-charge DSP Pala Srinivas and CI L. Ramesh traced and arrested the accused near KonayyaCheruvu. During interrogation, they reportedly confessed to the crime. Police recovered about 390 grams of gold, 1.6 lakh in cash, and a scooter used in the offence. The SP said the motive was financial distress and commended the team for swiftly solving the case.

# Drive Intensified for Drug-Free District

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and Police Commissioner SV RajasekharaBabu have called for a united effort to eliminate narcotics and make the district drug-free. They urged educational institutions, voluntary organisations, and the public to actively support awareness campaigns and anti-drug initiatives.

The appeal was made during a district-level coordination meeting of the NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyan and the Narcotics Coordination Centre held at the Sri PingaliVen-

kayya Conference Hall in the Collectorate on Saturday. Officials reviewed the progress of anti-drug campaigns, Operation Eagle, de-addiction services, hotspot inspections, and awareness programmes. Addressing the meeting, the Collector said drug abuse harms physical and mental health and leads to social and economic issues. He noted that addiction can cause serious diseases and mental health problems, often resulting in family disputes and financial stress. He said “Operation Drugs” has shown positive results through coordinated efforts of various de-

partments. Around 150 identified hotspots are under strict surveillance using advanced technology, including night-vision drones. He also stressed promoting the anti-drug helpline 1972. The Police Commissioner said strict action is being taken against drug suppliers and users, with intensified monitoring at public places. Awareness programmes targeting youth are also being conducted.

The officials also unveiled anti-drug awareness posters prepared by the Forum for Child Rights.

# Police Counsel Auto Drivers on Passenger Safety

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

In a bid to improve passenger safety and ensure smooth traffic flow around the railway station, city traffic police on Saturday conducted a special awareness programme for auto-rickshaw drivers operating in the area.

The programme was held under the direction of Traffic Circle Inspector Sudhakar and led by Three Town Traffic ASI MeherBabu. A large number of auto drivers participated, with officials highlighting the importance of following traffic rules and maintaining profes-

sional conduct while dealing with passengers.

Addressing the gathering, ASI MeherBabu said special surveillance measures have been put in place around the railway station to enhance security and regulate traffic movement. He emphasized that auto drivers are often the first point of contact for visitors and should behave courteously.

Drivers were instructed to strictly adhere to traffic regulations and police guidelines. Wearing the prescribed khaki uniform was made mandatory, and drivers were urged to maintain discipline at all

times. As part of safety measures, auto drivers were directed to register their details at the police-operated auto booth near the station and display QR code stickers issued by the police on their vehicles for easy identification.

Officials also warned against indiscriminate parking around the station, stating it causes congestion and inconvenience. Drivers were asked to use designated parking areas.

Police cautioned that violations would attract strict legal action and urged drivers to cooperate in ensuring a safe and computer-friendly environment.



# LG Unveils Next Gen OLED TV in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, May 30 | TPN Bureau

LG Electronics India Ltd. on Friday launched its much-awaited 2026 home entertainment range, introducing the OLED65C6 television at Bajaj Electronics, Ring Road branch in Vijayawada. The unveiling ceremony was led by LG Regional Business Head K V Krishnaji and Branch Manager P Kishore Babu.

Positioned as “The Next Gen OLED TV,” the new model comes equipped with the advanced alpha11 AI Processor Gen3 Dual AI Engine, delivering enhanced picture quality and performance. A key highlight is the Hyper Radiant RGB Colour Technology, which offers 3.2 times higher brightness along with a brightness booster pro, ensuring deeper blacks and more vibrant colours.

The television integrates what the company calls the world’s first multi-AI solution, featuring MicroAI Copilot and Google Gemini, enabling a

more personalised and intelligent user experience. It also runs on WebOS 26, backed by the Re Program that guarantees operating system upgrades for the next five years.

Designed for gaming enthusiasts, the OLED65C6 supports 4K gaming with a 165Hz refresh rate and includes cloud gaming capabilities with built-in NVIDIA G-Sync and AMD FreeSync technologies. It is compatible with Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos, enhancing both visual and audio experiences across OTT platforms.

The TV also introduces several AI-powered features such as AI Voice ID, My Page personalisation, AI Chatbot, AI Agent, AI Sound Wizard, AI Picture Wizard, and an AI Magic Remote for seamless navigation.

LG stated that the new OLED lineup will be available in multiple screen sizes ranging from 42 inches to 83 inches, catering to diverse consumer needs. The company aims to redefine home entertainment with this next-generation offering.



# Alliance Government Will Stand by Farmers: Janasena Leaders

Mopidevi, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Janasena Party leaders on Saturday visited several villages in Mopidevi Mandal to assess damage caused to horticultural crops by recent gusty winds and assured affected farmers of government support.

Acting on the directions of Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad, a team comprising Janasena District Vice-President Mathi Venkateswara Rao, AMC Chairperson Thota Kanaka Durga, Mandal Janasena President and Society Chairman Pushadapu Ratnagopal, and BJP Mandal President Sanaka Prashanth conducted a field inspection of damaged plantations.

The leaders visited K. Kothapalem village and inspected a banana plantation belonging to farmer Mathi Ramprasad, where they reviewed the extent of crop losses caused by strong winds. They later toured Kosuruvaripalem village and examined a mango orchard owned by farmer Kagithala Nuthana Prasad, which also suffered significant damage.

Interacting with farmers, the leaders said the alliance government is committed to supporting

cultivators affected by natural calamities. They informed farmers that MLA Buddha Prasad had already directed officials to conduct a detailed survey and collect information on crop losses across the mandal.

The team assured growers that the government would take appropriate steps to provide relief and assistance after assessing the extent of the damage. They emphasized that protecting farmers’ interests remains a priority and that efforts would be made to ensure timely support reaches those affected.

Farmers explained the difficulties they are facing due to the unexpected weather conditions and appealed for speedy compensation. The visiting leaders assured them that their concerns would be conveyed to the concerned authorities.

AMC Director MeraKanapalli Naresh and several Janasena leaders, including Kosuru Shivaji, Badarla Lolakshu Naidu, Yakkati Ramanjaneyulu, Yadlapalli Bujji, Mathi Someswara Rao, Padamata Komati, and Kosuru Munindra, also participated in the inspection programme and interacted with local farmers.



## Collector's Ground-Level Inspections Bring Governance Closer to People

Ongole, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Prakasam District Collector P. Raja Babu has launched an innovative field-level monitoring initiative, conducting surprise inspections and directly addressing public grievances at the village level.

As part of the programme, the Collector visited P. Gudi padu village and carried out a detailed inspection of government services and development activities. Instead of limiting reviews to official meetings, he interacted directly with residents and reviewed issues on the spot, ensuring that grievances were resolved promptly through the local secretariat system. A special focus was placed on sanitation and public health, particularly in the SC Colony, where the Collector personally inspected cleanliness conditions and interacted with residents. Setting aside formal administrative protocols, he engaged with local people to understand their concerns and assess the effectiveness of civic services.

During the visit, officials and sanitation workers were instructed to intensify awareness on waste management. Residents were educated on the

importance of segregating wet and dry waste at the household level as part of the Swachh Bharat mission. The administration emphasized that community participation is essential for maintaining clean and healthy surroundings.

The Collector's surprise inspections were also aimed at evaluating the performance of officials and identifying gaps in implementation. By conducting field visits without prior notice, the district administration seeks to ensure accountability and improve the quality of public services.

Officials said the initiative marks a new approach to governance in the district, with greater emphasis on transparency, responsiveness, and direct public engagement. The Collector reiterated that government services must reach every citizen efficiently and that field inspections would continue regularly to monitor progress and address issues at the grassroots level.

The initiative has been widely appreciated by local residents, who welcomed the administration's efforts to bring governance closer to the people and ensure faster resolution of civic concerns.



## MLA Malakondaiah Leads Clean Sweep Drive in Chirala

Chirala, May 30 | TPN Bureau

The "Operation Clean Sweep" sanitation campaign is gaining momentum across the Chirala constituency as part of the State Government's flagship Swarnadhara-Swachandhra initiative aimed at improving cleanliness and public hygiene. On Saturday, a major sanitation drive was conducted in Ward 31 of Chirala Municipality, with Chirala MLA Maduluri Malakondaiah personally participating in the programme.

Demonstrating his commitment to the campaign, the MLA joined sanitation workers in cleaning roads and public areas. He also operated a JCB machine to assist in desilting drainage canals, highlighting the importance of maintaining proper sanitation infrastructure ahead of the monsoon season.

Addressing residents and municipal staff during the programme, Malakondaiah said the objective of "Operation Clean Sweep" is to transform Chirala into a cleaner, healthier, and more hygienic town. He noted that the initiative is being implemented across Bapatla district for four weeks, from May 22 to June 20, under the coalition government's efforts to strengthen public sanitation and environmental awareness.

The MLA stated that sanitation has remained a priority in

Chirala even before the launch of the state-wide campaign. For the past two years, special localized cleanliness drives have been conducted regularly across the constituency to improve civic conditions and address public health concerns. He emphasized that sustained cleanliness efforts are essential to prevent waterlogging, mosquito breeding, and disease outbreaks, particularly during the rainy season.

Municipal Commissioner Joseph Daniel reviewed the sanitation works and instructed staff to ensure that every street in the ward is cleaned thoroughly. He also directed officials to complete drainage desilting works within the stipulated timeframe and maintain regular monitoring of sanitation activities.

Residents welcomed the initiative and appreciated the direct involvement of public representatives in civic improvement programmes. Officials said the campaign would continue in other wards of the municipality in the coming weeks, focusing on road cleaning, waste management, drainage maintenance, and public awareness.

The "Operation Clean Sweep" campaign is expected to play a key role in enhancing urban sanitation standards and promoting community participation in keeping Chirala clean and environmentally sustainable.

## Nallamilli Slams Irrigation Officials

Rajamahendravaram, May 30 | TPN Bureau

MLA Nallamilli on Saturday strongly criticized irrigation officials for what he described as administrative negligence during the East Godavari District Irrigation Advisory Board meeting held ahead of the Kharif season. Questioning the relevance of the meeting, he pointed out that the government had already decided to release water from the Dowleswaram Barrage the very next day.

Addressing the media after the meeting, the MLA said it was difficult to understand why officials convened a meeting to discuss and finalize dates after the government had already taken a decision. He noted that public representatives had received invitations for the water release ceremony even before receiving notices for the advisory board meeting, calling it a clear example of official negligence.

Emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the Godavari Delta, Nallamilli said the future of the region depended on preserving the historic Cotton Barrage. He recalled the contribution of Sir Arthur Cotton,



whose vision transformed the Godavari Delta into one of the most fertile regions in the country. According to the MLA, the barrage has reached a critical stage, with 117 of its 195 gates reported to be in a deteriorated condition.

He alleged that the previous government failed to act despite warnings from the Central Water Commission and World Bank representatives regarding the urgent need for repairs. Nallamilli said he raised the issue during the first budget session of the Coalition Government, following

which the matter was taken up with the Chief Minister. As a result, 148 crore was sanctioned from the State Budget for restoration works.

MLA also expressed concern over pollution in the Godavari River and welcomed the efforts of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to address the issue. He urged that pollution-control measures be extended beyond Rajamahendravaram to branch canals across the Godavari basin and called for greater public awareness to protect the river from contamination.

## Collector Warns of Action over Jaladhara Irregularities

Eluru, May 30 | TPN Bureau

District Collector K. Vetrivelvi has issued a stern warning to officials involved in the implementation of the Jaladhara-Jalaharati programme, stating that any irregularities or negligence in execution would invite strict disciplinary action, including suspension.

Reviewing the progress of the programme at a meeting held in the Gautami Conference Hall of the Collectorate on Saturday, the Collector expressed concern over reports that desilting works in canals and tanks were being certified as completed despite not meeting prescribed standards. The review covered nine mandals, including seven under the Polavaram Assembly constituency and Chintalapudi and T. Narasapuram mandals.

Vetrivelvi said that desilting carried out to only a few inches would not achieve the objective of increasing water storage capacity. She directed officials to ensure that desilting works are undertaken to a minimum depth of two feet, enabling canals and tanks to store more rainwater during the upcoming monsoon season.

The Collector criticized instances where works were reportedly certified without



proper field verification and instructed MPDOs, DWMA officials, and Irrigation Department staff to conduct thorough inspections before approving completion reports. She warned that officials found responsible for poor-quality work would be held personally accountable.

Directing officials to maintain quality standards in every project, the Collector said vigilance inspections would be conducted wherever necessary. She also instructed that all sanctioned works that are yet to begin should be started immediately and that proposals for all eligible works in villages under the programme should

be submitted without delay.

Vetrivelvi set June 15 as the deadline for completing 100 percent of the Jaladhara-Jalaharati works across the district. With monsoon rains expected from the second week of June, she stressed the need to expedite works to maximize rainwater conservation.

Earlier in the day, the Collector participated in a video conference chaired by State Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad on preparations for International Yoga Day celebrations scheduled from June 7 to June 20 across the state. The meeting reviewed district-level activities and awareness programmes leading up to June 21.

## MLA Moves to Resolve Srirangapatnam Canal Issue

East Godavari, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna has initiated measures to permanently address the silt canal issue in Srirangapatnam village of Korukonda Mandal, aiming to protect farmers from crop loss during the upcoming monsoon season.

During a review meeting with farmers at his Korukonda office on Saturday, the MLA listened to complaints regarding

silt accumulation, water hyacinths, and poor drainage conditions affecting agricultural lands. Farmers explained that the canal's condition was causing difficulties in cultivation and irrigation.

Responding promptly, Balaramakrishna met District Joint Collector Megha Swaroop and submitted a memorandum seeking immediate action. He directed officials to undertake desilting works, remove obstructions from the canal,

and strengthen embankments to prevent overflow during heavy rains.

The MLA also instructed officials to continuously monitor the works and ensure that farmers face no difficulties related to irrigation or drainage. Farmers appreciated the MLA's swift intervention and thanked him for taking up the issue with district authorities and initiating preventive measures ahead of the agricultural season.



## Sri Bharat Reviews Development Works under DISHA

Visakhapatnam, May 30 | TPN Bureau

A review meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was held in Visakhapatnam on Saturday under the chairmanship of Visakhapatnam MP M. Sri Bharat to assess the progress of various development projects and centrally sponsored schemes being implemented across the district.

The meeting was attended by public representatives, district officials, and department heads, who reviewed the status of ongoing infrastructure and welfare initiatives. Discussions focused on the effective implementation of central government schemes and measures required to accelerate pending works.

Addressing officials, MP Sri Bharat stressed that there should be no compromise on transparency in the utilization of public funds or on the quality of development works. He directed departments to ensure that projects are executed efficiently and that benefits reach the intended beneficiaries without delay. The MP emphasized the importance of accountability and regular monitoring to achieve the objectives of various government programmes.

Public representatives participating in the meeting also offered suggestions and issued

directives regarding the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes. They called for improved coordination among departments and timely resolution of issues affecting project execution.

District Collector M. Abhisikh Kishore reviewed the progress of pending works and set specific timelines for their completion. He instructed officials to closely monitor ongoing projects and remove bottlenecks that could delay their execution. The Collector emphasized that development activities must be completed within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining prescribed quality standards.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of welfare programmes aimed at supporting rural and urban communities. Officials were directed to strengthen outreach efforts and ensure that every eligible beneficiary receives assistance under various schemes.

Concluding the review, the MP and Collector reiterated their commitment to transparent governance, efficient implementation of development projects, and inclusive growth. They urged all departments to work in coordination so that the benefits of government programmes reach every section of society and contribute to the overall development of the district.



## Zero Tolerance for Crimes against Women: SP Umamaheswar

Chirala, May 30 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District SP Umamaheswar has reiterated the police department's commitment to ensuring the safety of women, declaring that strict action will be taken against anyone involved in crimes against women, irrespective of their status or influence.

The SP was addressing a large-scale awareness programme on "Women's Safety and Empowerment" organized by the Police Department at Ravi Jayalakshmi Subbarayudu Kalyana Mandapam in Kothapeta, Vetapalem Mandal, on Saturday. During the event, he unveiled the poster for "Operation Dandayana," a special initiative launched by the Andhra Pradesh Police to curb crimes against women.

Speaking on the occasion, Umamaheswar said women-related cases are being investigated on priority and that investigations are required to be completed within 60 days, with charge sheets filed within the stipulated period. He added that cases are being transferred to fast-track courts to ensure speedy justice and effective punishment for offenders.

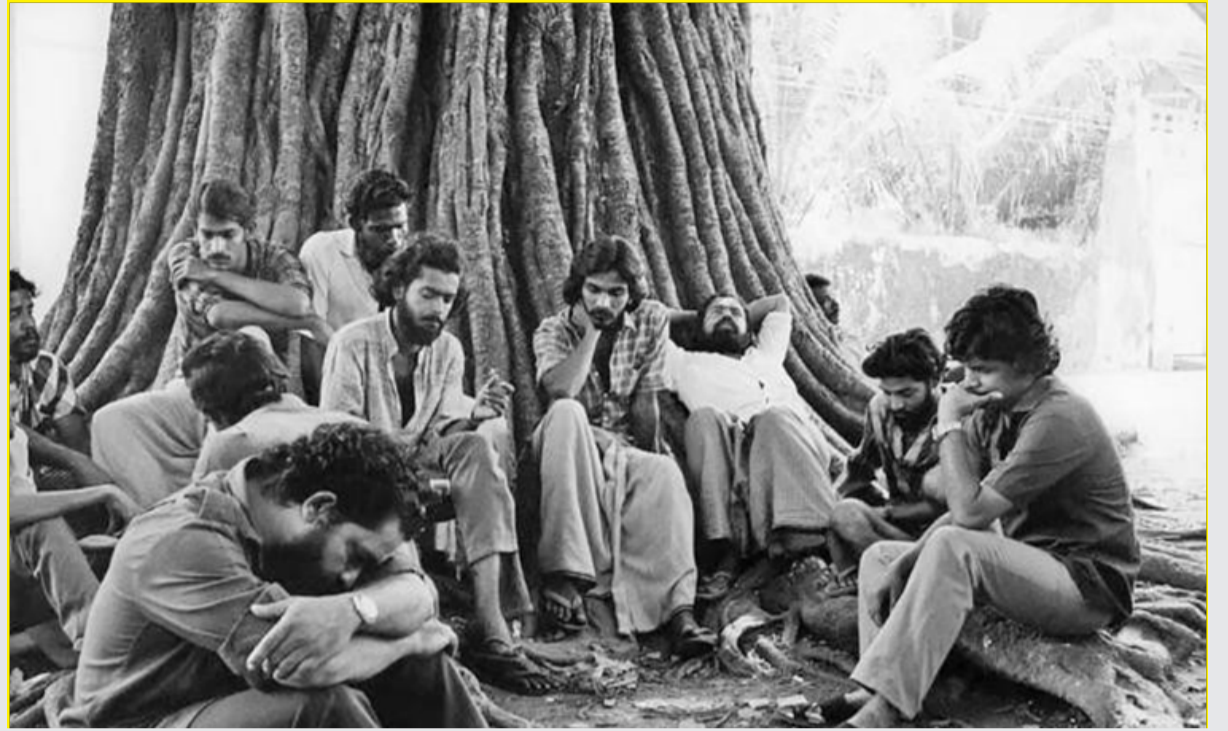
The SP revealed that courts have so far convicted and sen-

tenced 37 individuals in women-related cases in the district. Of them, six received life imprisonment, five were sentenced to 20 years in prison, and 26 were awarded 10-year jail terms. He attributed these outcomes to effective investigations and the implementation of the Speed Trial Monitoring system.

Highlighting preventive measures, the SP said Shakti Teams regularly conduct awareness programmes in schools, colleges, and workplaces. He encouraged women and girl students to download the Shakti App for emergency assistance, noting that more than 80,000 people in the district have already installed the application.

He also cautioned the public against cybercrime and digital frauds, advising them never to share OTPs or personal banking details. Stressing that police never conduct arrests through WhatsApp calls, he urged citizens to remain vigilant against "digital arrest" scams. He advised victims of cyber fraud to call 1930, while emergency assistance can be sought through helpline numbers 112, 181, and 1098.

More than 1,000 women and students attended the programme.

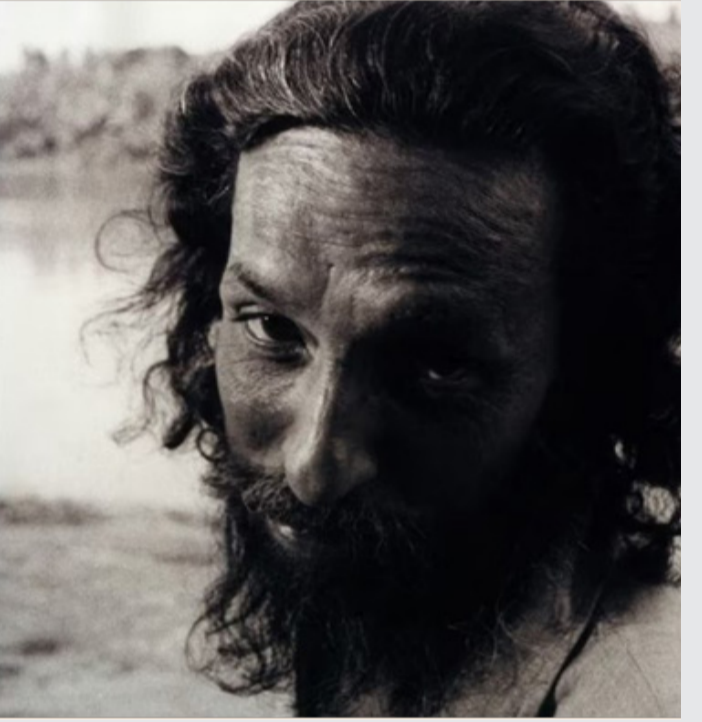


# Amma Ariyan – The Eternal Political Poem of Cinema

**A**mma Ariyan (Report to Mother) directed by John Abraham, was released in 1986. It remains one of the most revolutionary works in the history of Indian parallel cinema. More than a film, it is a tragic chronicle of a generation whose dreams were shattered. Political idealism, failed revolutions, the confusion of youth, death, and motherhood all these are woven together through a deeply poetic visual language, making Amma Ariyan a rare cinematic experience. The film opens with a corpse. In the Wayanad region, a young man named Purushan discovers the body of a youth hanging from a tree and suspects that it may be Hari, a tabla artist. Along with his friends, he sets out to inform Hari's mother about the death. Yet the journey gradually transcends the act of delivering tragic news. It becomes an inward exploration of an era, a revolutionary generation, and the collapse of its dreams. In this film, the journey matters more than the story itself. Students, workers, political activists, and artists encountered along the way echo the history of an entire period through their conversations. The despair, exhaustion, and directionless experienced by Indian youth after

the intense Left movements of the 1970s resonate profoundly throughout the film. John Abraham pushed cinematic language into an entirely new dimension in Amma Ariyan. Documentary realism merges seamlessly with poetic imagery and political commentary. Rather than merely watching a film, the viewer feels as though they are walking through a collective pilgrimage under the shadow of memories. What makes the film truly extraordinary is also the manner in which it was made. Born in Kerala in 1937, John Abraham studied at the Film and Television Institute in Pune, where he came deeply under the influence of great filmmakers like Ritwik Ghatak. Like Ghatak, Abraham viewed cinema as a social and political intervention. Though he directed only a handful of films, each one was a radical experiment. Films such as Vidarthikale Ithile Ithile, Agraharathil Kazhuthai, Cheriyaachante Kroorakrithyangal, and Amma Ariyan introduced a new language to Indian parallel cinema. Among them, Amma Ariyan stands as his artistic summit. One of the most remarkable ideas in John Abraham's life was the "Odessa Collective," a people's film movement he founded. Through this collective, Amma Ariyan was pro-

duced by traveling through villages and collecting small contributions from ordinary people. As a result, it became one of India's earliest truly "people-funded" films. Abraham believed cinema belonged to the people, and that conviction is reflected in every frame of the film. The black-and-white cinematography creates an atmosphere of immense political intensity. The camera does not merely portray the landscapes of Kerala as beautiful scenery; it reveals the buried histories, struggles, and silences embedded within the land itself. More than dialogue, it is the faces, walks, pauses, and silences that speak. Ultimately, Amma Ariyan remains as a haunting question: when young people who dedicated their lives to revolution die, what do we tell their mothers? Who is responsible for the failure of those dreams? How does society lose its children? In the history of Indian political cinema, Amma Ariyan stands as an unparalleled milestone. It is not merely a film but a visual embodiment of a generation's anguish. Even today, watching it does not simply evoke the past, it interrogates our contemporary society as well. But with time, film reels decay. Images fade, sound deteriorates, and some films dis-



appear altogether. Film restoration grants such masterpieces a digital rebirth through modern technology. Because of restoration, today's audiences can once again experience classics like Pather Panchali and Maya Bazaar. This revival of old cinema is what we call film restoration. Film restoration reconnects newer generations with their artistic heritage. The visual language, music, performance, and narrative styles of classic cinema deepen and en-

rich cinematic consciousness. Like many great films lost to time, Amma Ariyan too had deteriorated over the years. Film prints were damaged, negatives decayed, and visual quality faded. A film that carried the political anguish of an entire generation faced the danger of vanishing into obscurity. The Film Heritage Foundation undertook a 4K restoration project for the film under the leadership of renowned film preservationist Shivendra Singh



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

# When Love Becomes a Marketplace: Rethinking Art, Desire, and Human Dignity

**I**n recent times, public discourse around controversial songs has often been reduced to a simplistic binary—either defending or condemning a lyricist. Yet, this narrow framing misses the larger, more pressing question: what is the line between romance and vulgarity, and how should art represent human beings? Art has always drawn from mythology, literature, and lived experience. References to Shringara—romantic and sensual expression—are deeply embedded in classical traditions. From ancient poetry to devotional compositions, expressions of love, longing, and desire have been celebrated as integral to human experience. However, to invoke mythology as a blanket justification for all modern representations is both intellectually lazy and culturally misleading. The past must be understood in its context, not blindly replicated in the present. Classical expressions of Shringara were never merely about the body; they were about emotion, connection, and the complexity of human relationships. Desire was portrayed with sensitivity, often intertwined with longing, separation, and emotional depth. In contrast, much of today's controversial content appears to strip away this depth, reducing individuals—especially women—to objects of consumption. This is where the real concern lies. The issue is not the presence of sensuality, nor the mention of the human body. The problem arises when a person is reduced to mere utility—when relationships are depicted as transactions rather than emotional bonds. Romance seeks connection;



vulgarity seeks consumption. The distinction is subtle yet profound. Critics of such content are often dismissed as regressive or overly sensitive. However, their objections are not merely about offensive words. They point to a deeper ideological shift—one that normalizes the commodification of human beings. When songs portray relationships as casual exchanges, akin to a marketplace, they subtly reshape so-

cial perceptions. A striking example from the current controversy is the lyric: "Idikudaa antero.. prati vaaram santero," which loosely evokes the idea of something becoming as routine and transactional as a weekly market. Such expressions risk reducing intimacy and human connection to repetitive, commercial activity. It is also important to recognize that a song is not the product of a single individual. Lyricists, composers, directors, producers, and performers collectively shape the final output. Responsibility, therefore, is shared. While creative freedom is essential, it cannot exist in isolation from social accountability. Art does not operate in a vacuum; it influences thought, behavior, and cultural norms. Another critical dimension of this debate is the evolving consciousness of women in contemporary society. As conversations around equality, agency, and respect gain momentum, representations that reduce women to objects become increasingly discordant. The question is not about restricting artistic expression but about aligning it with a more humane and respectful worldview. Defenders of controversial content often argue that "it's just a song." While a single piece of art may not transform society, culture is shaped cumulatively. What we repeatedly see and hear becomes normalized. Over time, the extraordinary becomes ordinary, and the unacceptable becomes acceptable. Perhaps the most troubling aspect of this trend is the portrayal of deeply complex and often painful realities—such as prostitution—as casual or entertainment. Such representa-

tions risk trivializing issues like exploitation and human trafficking, obscuring the harsh truths behind them. When human experiences are reduced to price tags and transactions, empathy is replaced by indifference. This debate, therefore, is not about censorship or moral policing. It is about introspection. It is about asking whether our art elevates human dignity or diminishes it—whether it fosters understanding or encourages objectification. Romance, in its truest sense, celebrates the entirety of a human being—their emotions, vulnerabilities, and individuality. When art loses sight of this, it risks becoming hollow, driven not by expression but by exploitation. Eventually, the question is simple yet urgent: Are we creating a culture that sees people as individuals, or one that sees them as commodities? The answer will define not just our art, but the society we become.



**Sudha Murali**  
Poet, Writer & Critic

# Political Turmoil in West Bengal: Is TMC Facing a Major Internal Crisis?

Ravi Podili  
West Bengal politics has been stirred by a series of developments that have fueled speculation about growing unrest within the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC). The controversy began after BJP MP Soumitra Khan claimed that nearly 50 TMC MLAs and 20 MPs are unhappy with the party leadership and are prepared to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) if the party's central leadership gives its approval.

According to Khan, if the BJP decides to induct these leaders, the Trinamool Congress could face a severe setback and may even struggle to retain its position as a major political force in the state. His remarks have intensified political discussions ahead of crucial electoral battles in West Bengal.

However, senior TMC leader and MP Saugata Roy strongly rejected

these claims, describing them as completely false and politically motivated. He accused the BJP of deliberately spreading misinformation to create confusion and project an image of instability within the ruling party.

Soumitra Khan also launched a sharp attack on TMC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee. Referring to him as a "sinner," Khan alleged that those involved in wrongdoing would eventually face legal consequences. He further claimed that a "bulldozer is waiting" outside Banerjee's residence, suggesting that action would be taken against those responsible for targeting BJP workers in the past.

Meanwhile, signs of internal friction within the TMC have continued to attract attention. The recent appearance of Barasat MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar at an official review meeting led by Leader

of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari sparked widespread speculation. The development gained significance because Kakoli was recently removed from her position as the TMC's Chief Whip in the Lok Sabha. Reports that the Centre has provided her with Y-category security have further fueled political rumors.

Adding to the party's concerns, a wave of resignations by municipal councillors has raised questions about TMC's grassroots strength. Nearly 100 councillors from various municipalities across the state have reportedly stepped down in recent weeks. In Bhatpara Municipality, 30 of the 35 councillors, including Chairperson Reba Raha, resigned from the party. Similar resignations have been reported from Halisahar and Kancharapara municipalities.

Reports suggesting that Kolkata

Mayor Firhad Hakim may also consider stepping down from his position have further intensified speculation. In response, Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul has indicated that administrators may be appointed in municipalities where councillor positions remain vacant.

The TMC is also facing pressure from corruption investigations. The arrest of former minister Sujit Bose in a municipal recruitment scam and ongoing scrutiny of several party leaders by central investigative agencies have added to the challenges confronting the ruling party.

While TMC leaders insist that the party remains united and strong, the recent developments have given the opposition an opportunity to question the party's stability and future political prospects in West Bengal.



## DK Shivakumar Likely to Take Oath as Karnataka Chief Minister on June 3



Karnataka is likely to witness a significant political transition, with senior Congress leader and current Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar expected to take oath as the state's next Chief Minister on June 3, according to sources.

The swearing-in ceremony is expected to be held in Bengaluru and is likely to be a relatively simple affair. Preparations are reportedly underway, while the Congress Legislature Party is expected to formally approve Shivakumar's elevation to the top post.

The anticipated leadership change comes after extensive discussions within the Congress high command regarding the future leadership of the state. Party leaders are reportedly focused on ensuring a smooth transfer of power and maintaining unity within the

Karnataka Congress unit.

D.K. Shivakumar has been one of the most influential Congress leaders in Karnataka over the past several years. Widely recognized for his organizational abilities and political strategy, he played a crucial role in strengthening the party ahead of the Assembly elections and has been instrumental in managing key political challenges.

His elevation to the Chief Minister's post is being viewed as a major milestone in his long political career. Having served as a legislator multiple times and held several important ministerial portfolios, Shivakumar has built a reputation as one of the Congress party's strongest leaders in southern India.

Political observers believe the leadership transition is

part of the party's broader strategy to balance internal interests and ensure stability in the state government. The move is also expected to strengthen the Congress ahead of future electoral contests.

Attention is now turning to the formation of the new Cabinet. Discussions are reportedly underway regarding ministerial appointments, with the party leadership considering factors such as regional representation, social balance, administrative experience, and generational leadership.

Sources suggest that only a limited number of ministers may be sworn in initially, while a larger Cabinet expansion could take place at a later stage. The final composition of the Cabinet is expected to reflect the party's effort to maintain political equilibrium across various regions and communities in Karnataka.

Shivakumar's expected appointment has generated considerable interest among party workers and political observers, many of whom see him as a leader capable of consolidating the Congress government and steering it through the next phase of governance.

With an official announcement anticipated soon, all eyes are now on Bengaluru as the state prepares for a new chapter in its political journey under D.K. Shivakumar's leadership.

## Tiffany Trump, Husband Michael Boulos Visit Delhi's Akshardham Temple During India Tour

Tiffany Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump, and her husband Michael Boulos recently visited the iconic Akshardham Temple in New Delhi as part of their private trip to India. The visit attracted considerable attention after photographs and videos from the temple complex surfaced online.

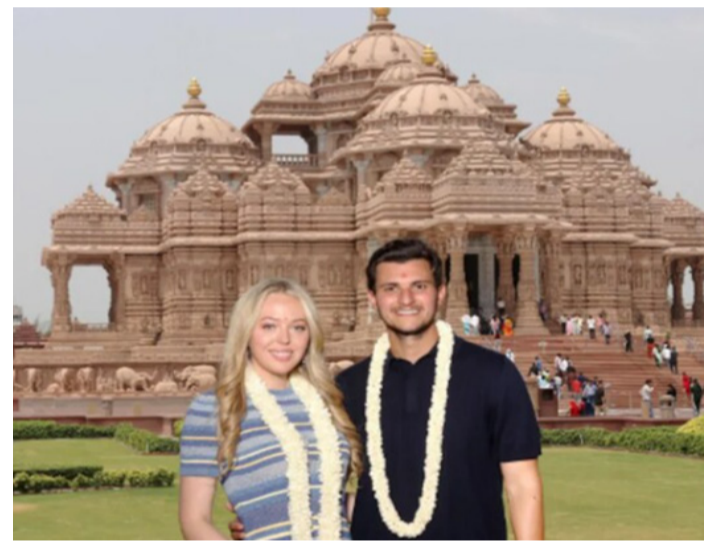
Tiffany described the experience as "incredible" and expressed admiration for India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. Accompanied by friends, the couple spent time exploring the sprawling temple complex, which is renowned for its magnificent architecture, intricate stone carvings, and exhibitions that showcase Indian history, traditions, and values.

The Akshardham Temple administration also welcomed the visitors and highlighted their interest in learning about Indian culture and spirituality. During their visit, Tiffany and Michael toured various sections of the temple and interacted with officials associated with the complex.

Their India tour is understood to be entirely private, with no official diplomatic engagements. Following their visit to New Delhi, the couple traveled to Agra to see the Taj Mahal, one of India's most celebrated monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Reports suggest that they are also expected to visit Rajasthan, including popular tourist destinations such as Jaisalmer.

The visit has generated significant public interest because of Tiffany Trump's association with one of America's most prominent political families. Security arrangements were reportedly heightened during the trip, although officials emphasized that the visit was personal in nature.

Tiffany Trump is the daughter of Donald Trump and his former wife Marla Maples. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, she has maintained a relatively low public profile compared to some other members of the Trump family. She married businessman Michael Boulos



in 2022, and the couple has frequently attended major family and public events together.

Their visit to Akshardham Temple highlights the growing appeal of India's cultural, spiritual, and historical landmarks among international visitors. Over the years, the temple has welcomed numerous global dignitaries, celebrities, and public figures who have come

to experience its architectural grandeur and learn about India's rich heritage.

As Tiffany Trump and Michael Boulos continue their India tour, their visits to some of the country's most iconic destinations have drawn attention both in India and abroad, further showcasing the nation's cultural and tourism appeal on the global stage.

## Rabri Devi Asked to Vacate Iconic Patna Bungalow, Political Storm Brews in Bihar

A fresh political controversy has erupted in Bihar after former Chief Minister and RJD leader Rabri Devi was issued a notice to vacate the government bungalow at 10 Circular Road in Patna, a residence closely associated with the Lalu Prasad Yadav family for nearly two decades.

The Bihar government has reportedly allotted the bungalow to state minister Nand Kishore Ram, prompting strong opposition from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). The development has quickly turned into a political flashpoint, with both sides accusing each other of playing politics over the issue.

According to the notice issued by the state's Building Construction Department, Rabri Devi has been asked to move to another government residence at 39 Harding Road, which was previously allotted to her in her capacity as the Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council. Officials claim that despite having an alternative accommodation, she continued to occupy the Circular Road residence.

Reacting sharply to the eviction notice, Rabri Devi made it clear that she has no intention of vacating the bungalow voluntarily. She stated that authorities could take whatever action they deemed necessary, but she would not leave the residence on her own. Her remarks have further escalated the po-



litical confrontation between the ruling NDA government and the opposition RJD.

The bungalow at 10 Circular Road holds significant political importance in Bihar. It served as Rabri Devi's official residence during her tenure as Chief Minister and later became a key political hub for the Lalu Prasad Yadav family. Over the years, several important political meetings, discussions, and party strategies have been associated with the property.

The RJD has strongly criticized the government's move, alleging that the decision is politically motivated. Party leaders argue that the timing of the notice raises questions and claim that the government is attempting to target a senior opposition leader. They have described the action as an effort to politically harass Rabri Devi and the Yadav family.

Meanwhile, government

officials insist that the decision is purely administrative and in accordance with established rules governing government accommodation. They maintain that once an alternative residence has been allotted, occupants are expected to vacate properties assigned for official use.

The dispute has added fresh tension to Bihar's political landscape at a time when political parties are already gearing up for future electoral battles. With Rabri Devi refusing to leave the bungalow and the government standing by its decision, the issue is likely to remain at the center of political debate in the state.

As the standoff continues, the fate of one of Bihar's most prominent political addresses remains uncertain, ensuring that the controversy will stay in the headlines for the foreseeable future.

## 9 Terror Suspects Linked to Pakistan's ISI, Dawood Network Arrested; Delhi Attacks Allegedly Planned

In a major counter-terror operation, security agencies have arrested nine suspected terrorists with alleged links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's network. Investigators believe the group was planning a series of terror attacks in Delhi and other parts of northern India.

According to officials, the arrests were made following a coordinated operation carried out by multiple intelligence and law enforcement agencies after receiving specific inputs about suspicious activities and possible terror plots. The accused were reportedly operating as part of a larger network with cross-border connections.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the suspects were in touch with handlers based in Pakistan and were allegedly receiving instructions, logistical support, and funding

through various channels. Security agencies believe the group was attempting to establish sleeper-cell operations and recruit local operatives for future attacks.

Officials stated that the arrested individuals were allegedly planning to target crowded public places, important government installations, and sensitive locations in the national capital. Investigators are examining whether reconnaissance activities had already been conducted at potential targets.

During the operation, agencies reportedly recovered a significant quantity of incriminating material, including communication devices, documents, digital evidence, and items suspected to be linked to terror activities. The seized material is currently being examined by forensic and intelligence experts.

Authorities have also alleged

that the network had connections to individuals associated with Dawood Ibrahim's criminal syndicate. Investigators believe these links may have been used to facilitate financial transactions, logistical arrangements, and movement of operatives across different locations.

Security officials say the operation prevented what could have been a serious threat to public safety. They emphasized that the arrests highlight continued efforts by hostile elements to destabilize the country through coordinated terror activities.

The accused are currently being interrogated, and agencies are working to identify additional members of the network. Investigators are also trying to determine the full extent of the alleged conspiracy, including possible international connections and funding sources.

The arrests come amid heightened security concerns and increased vigilance by intelligence agencies across the country. Authorities have intensified surveillance and monitoring of suspected terror modules following recent intelligence inputs regarding potential threats.

Officials stated that the investigation remains ongoing and that further arrests cannot be ruled out. Security agencies are also coordinating with other state police units and central intelligence organizations to trace possible links to broader terror networks operating across the region.

The operation is being viewed as a significant breakthrough in India's counter-terror efforts, with agencies claiming that timely intelligence and coordinated action helped thwart a potentially dangerous plot before it could be executed.



## Trump's Doctor Advises Weight Loss and More Exercise Despite 'Excellent Health' Report

US President Donald Trump has been declared to be in "excellent health" following a comprehensive medical examination, though his physician has recommended that he lose weight and increase physical activity to maintain his long-term well-being.

The health assessment was conducted at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and involved a series of detailed evaluations, including cardiovascular, neurological, and general health screenings. According to the report, the 79-year-old president remains fully capable of carrying out the demanding responsibilities of his office.

Doctors found that Trump's heart, lungs, and neurological functions were all in good condition. The report also noted that he performed exceptionally well in cognitive testing, reinforcing the conclusion that he remains mentally fit and capable of handling the pressures associated with the presidency.

Despite the largely positive findings, medical experts advised the president to focus on lifestyle improvements, particularly in relation to weight management and physical fitness. Trump currently weighs approximately 238 pounds (108 kilograms), placing him close to the obesity threshold based on body mass index measurements. Physicians suggested that regular exercise and a healthier lifestyle could further improve his overall health profile and reduce future risks.



The examination also identified a few minor health issues. Doctors noted slight swelling in his lower legs, which was linked to chronic venous insufficiency, a condition that affects blood circulation in the veins. However, they reported that the condition has improved compared to previous evaluations and is being effectively managed.

In addition, the report mentioned minor bruising on Trump's hands, which doctors attributed to frequent handshakes and the use of aspirin. Medical professionals described the bruising as harmless and not a cause for concern.

The release of the health report comes as public interest in the president's physical condition remains high. With

Trump approaching his 80th birthday, questions about age, fitness, and stamina continue to attract attention from both supporters and critics.

Throughout his political career, Trump has frequently emphasized his energy levels and active lifestyle. He has often pointed to his busy work schedule and regular participation in golf as evidence of his physical fitness.

While the latest medical evaluation includes recommendations for weight loss and increased exercise, the overall conclusion was overwhelmingly positive. Doctors stated that Trump remains in strong physical and mental condition and is fully capable of continuing to perform his duties as President of the United States.

## US Defence Secretary Calls India 'Powerful', Praises Military Modernisation at Shangri-La Dialogue

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has praised India's growing military strength and modernization efforts, describing the country as a "powerful" nation that is rapidly enhancing its defence capabilities. His remarks came during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, one of Asia's most influential security and defence forums.

Addressing delegates at the event, Hegseth highlighted India's expanding military infrastructure, defence manufacturing capabilities, and strategic logistics network. He noted that India is steadily building the capacity required to support advanced military operations while strengthening its role as a key security player in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US defence chief also emphasized the deepening strategic partnership between India and the United States. He pointed to ongoing collaboration in defence technology, military training, and co-production initiatives, describing the relationship as an important pillar of regional security and stability.

Hegseth's comments came amid broader discussions on

the evolving security landscape in Asia and growing concerns over China's expanding military influence. While discussing regional challenges, he stressed the importance of maintaining a free, open, and stable Indo-Pacific and warned against any attempts to establish dominance over the region.

He also urged countries across Asia to increase their defence spending and strengthen their military preparedness. According to Hegseth, regional security requires a collective effort, with nations taking greater responsibility for safeguarding their interests in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment.

The Shangri-La Dialogue this year has focused extensively on defence cooperation, military readiness, and shifting power dynamics across the Indo-Pacific. Against this backdrop, Hegseth's remarks underscored the growing importance Washington places on India as a strategic partner.

India has significantly accelerated its military modernization efforts in recent years, investing in advanced defence



technologies, indigenous weapons systems, and enhanced operational capabilities across its armed forces. These initiatives have strengthened the country's ability to respond to emerging security challenges while expanding its influence in the region.

The praise from the US defence secretary reflects the increasingly close ties between New Delhi and Washington, particularly in areas such as defence cooperation, maritime security, intelligence

sharing, and joint military exercises.

As geopolitical competition intensifies across the Indo-Pacific, India's growing military capabilities and strategic importance are expected to play an increasingly significant role in shaping the region's security architecture. Hegseth's comments serve as another indication of the expanding partnership between the two democracies and their shared interest in maintaining stability and security in the region.

## Ukraine Uses AI-Powered Drones to Disrupt Russian Supply Networks

Ukraine is increasingly deploying artificial intelligence-powered drones to target Russian supply routes, logistics hubs, ammunition depots, and military infrastructure, highlighting the growing role of advanced technology in modern warfare.

Military analysts say these next-generation drones are being used not only to destroy strategic assets but also to disrupt Russia's ability to move troops, fuel, weapons, and supplies to the front lines. By attacking critical logistical networks, Ukraine aims to weaken operational efficiency and create challenges for Russian military planning.

The drones are capable of operating deep behind the battlefield, striking targets located far from active combat zones. Their enhanced capabilities allow them to identify targets more effectively, navigate complex environments, and carry out missions with greater precision than many traditional unmanned systems.

A key objective of Ukraine's strategy is to make Russian supply chains increasingly vulnerable. Repeated attacks on transport corridors, storage facilities, fuel depots, and command centers force military planners to relocate assets and adjust logistics routes, often resulting in longer delivery times and increased operational costs.

Ukrainian authorities have reportedly expanded investment in drone technology over the past



year, recognizing its growing importance on the battlefield. The use of artificial intelligence has improved the effectiveness of these systems by enabling faster data processing, improved target recognition, and more coordinated operations.

Experts note that AI-assisted drones can help operators make quicker decisions and, in some cases, allow groups of drones to work together more efficiently. This capability has become particularly valuable in an environment where speed and adaptability are critical to battlefield success.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has increasingly become a testing ground for drone warfare. Both sides have integrated unmanned systems into their military operations on an unprecedented scale, using them for surveillance, reconnaissance, precision strikes, and tactical support.

At the same time, Russia has also accelerated the development

and deployment of its own drone technologies, creating a rapidly evolving technological competition. As each side seeks to gain an advantage, innovation in unmanned systems has become a defining feature of the conflict.

Military observers believe the growing use of AI-powered drones marks a significant shift in how wars are fought. Rather than relying solely on conventional weapons and large-scale troop movements, modern militaries are increasingly using intelligent autonomous systems to gather information, strike targets, and disrupt enemy operations.

Ukraine's expanding drone campaign demonstrates how emerging technologies are reshaping the battlefield, with logistics and supply networks becoming as important a target as frontline military positions. The trend is expected to influence military strategies worldwide as nations study the lessons emerging from the conflict.

The United States and Iran appear to be edging closer to a potential diplomatic breakthrough, with President Donald Trump reportedly reviewing a draft agreement that could extend the current ceasefire and pave the way for broader negotiations between the two countries.

According to reports, negotiators from both sides have reached a preliminary understanding on a proposed 60-day extension of the ceasefire. However, the agreement is yet to receive final approval from Trump, whose decision is expected to determine the next phase of relations between Washington and Tehran.

The US president recently convened a high-level meeting at the White House to assess the proposed framework. Trump has repeatedly emphasized that any agreement must ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons and that international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains uninterrupted.

The Strait of Hormuz continues to be one of the most sensitive issues in the negotiations. As a vital global energy corridor through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply passes, any disruption in the region has immediate implications for international energy markets. Negotiators have reportedly focused on restoring maritime stability, reducing military tensions, and creating conditions for wider discussions on security and nuclear-related concerns.

Despite progress in talks, several differences remain



unresolved. Iranian officials have reportedly expressed reservations about certain aspects of the proposed arrangement and have rejected some claims made by US officials regarding the terms of the agreement. Tehran continues to maintain that its nuclear programme is intended for peaceful purposes and insists on protecting its national interests during negotiations.

The conflict between the two nations has witnessed periods of heightened tension over recent months, including military confrontations, naval incidents, and accusa-

tions of ceasefire violations. These developments have complicated efforts to establish lasting peace and have underscored the fragile nature of the current truce.

At the same time, US officials have made it clear that while diplomacy remains their preferred option, military measures remain on the table if negotiations fail. This dual-track approach reflects Washington's effort to maintain pressure while pursuing a political solution.

Global financial markets have responded positively to signs of progress. Oil prices have eased from recent highs,

and investors have welcomed indications that stability could return to one of the world's most strategically important regions.

As discussions continue, international attention remains focused on whether the proposed ceasefire extension can evolve into a broader agreement addressing longstanding disputes over regional security and Iran's nuclear programme. Trump's final decision is expected to play a crucial role in determining whether the current momentum leads to lasting diplomatic progress or renewed tensions.

## Satellite Images Show China Expanding Infrastructure Near Nuclear Missile Silos

New satellite images have revealed that China is constructing extensive military infrastructure near several of its nuclear missile silo fields, highlighting the country's ongoing efforts to modernize and strengthen its strategic nuclear capabilities.

According to analysts who reviewed the images, the construction includes launch pads, fortified bunkers, command-and-control facilities, communications centers, and support infrastructure located near key missile sites in remote desert regions. The developments are seen as part of a broader effort to enhance the effectiveness and survivability of China's nuclear forces.

The satellite photographs

reportedly show more than 80 launch pads spread across the area. Experts believe these sites could support a range of military operations, including the deployment of mobile missile launchers, air-defense systems, surveillance equipment, and electronic warfare assets. The facilities are connected through a growing network of roads and logistical infrastructure designed to support rapid military operations.

One of the most notable findings is the presence of several large octagon-shaped military complexes near the missile fields. These installations appear to contain reinforced bunkers, operational headquarters, weapons storage facilities, and accommodation

for personnel. Analysts suggest that these complexes may serve as critical command hubs responsible for coordinating strategic missile activities.

The scale and pace of construction have attracted international attention because they indicate a significant expansion of China's nuclear-related infrastructure. While China has traditionally maintained a relatively smaller nuclear arsenal compared to some other major powers, recent developments suggest an increasing focus on strengthening its strategic deterrence capabilities.

Defence experts believe the new infrastructure is designed to improve the sur-

vivability of China's missile forces and ensure that they remain operational even during a potential conflict. By dispersing assets and building protected facilities, the military can reduce vulnerability to enemy attacks and maintain a credible retaliatory capability.

China has consistently maintained that its nuclear policy is defensive in nature and that it adheres to a "no first use" doctrine, meaning it would not initiate a nuclear strike. However, the rapid expansion of missile silos, launch facilities, and supporting infrastructure has led to growing scrutiny from security analysts and governments around the world.

The construction activity comes at a time of increasing geopolitical competition, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. Issues involving regional security, military modernization, and strategic deterrence have become central topics in global defence discussions.

As satellite technology continues to provide detailed insights into military developments, China's expanding nuclear infrastructure is likely to remain a key focus for international observers. The latest images suggest that Beijing is investing heavily in strengthening its long-term strategic capabilities, potentially reshaping the balance of power in the years ahead.



## NSE Extends F&O Trading Hours: Market Closing Time Revised from August 3



The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has announced a change in trading hours for the equity derivatives (Futures & Options or F&O) segment, extending the market closing time by 10 minutes. From August 3, 2026, the F&O segment will now close at 3:40 pm instead of the current 3:30 pm. The move slightly lengthens the regular trading session and is aimed at improving trading efficiency and price discovery in the derivatives market.

According to the revised structure, while the main trading hours will continue as usual for most of the day, the final phase of trading will now extend into a 10-minute additional window. This change will apply specifically to the F&O segment and will not significantly alter the broader market schedule. The pre-open session, regular trading hours, and post-market operations will remain largely unchanged. The adjustment only affects the

closing time of the derivatives segment, ensuring that traders get a slightly longer window for executing end-of-day positions.

Market experts note that even small timing adjustments in the derivatives segment can influence trading strategies, particularly for high-frequency traders and institutional participants who rely on last-hour price movements. The extension is expected to provide better alignment with end-session price discovery mechanisms.

The NSE has implemented several structural changes in recent years to improve market efficiency, transparency, and liquidity. This latest adjustment continues that trend by refining trading timelines without disrupting overall market functioning.

With the new timing, the final half-hour of trading—often considered crucial for volatility and price settlement—will now extend a little further, potentially allowing smoother order flow and better closing price formation.

The revised schedule will come into effect from August 3, 2026, marking a minor but notable change for India's derivatives trading ecosystem.

## Markets End Weak Amid FII Selling; Rupee Extends Weekly Gains



Indian equity markets ended the week on a subdued note, with benchmarks closing lower amid sustained foreign institutional investor (FII) selling and profit-booking in heavyweight stocks. Investor sentiment remained cautious due to global uncertainties, including ongoing geopolitical concerns and fluctuating crude oil prices.

During the holiday-shortened trading week, both the Sensex and Nifty remained under pressure as selling by foreign investors

continued to weigh on market momentum. Despite intermittent buying support from domestic institutional investors, overall sentiment stayed fragile, leading to a weak close for the major indices.

Broader markets showed mixed performance. While benchmark indices declined, midcap stocks managed to outperform slightly, even touching fresh highs during the week. Smallcap indices also saw selective buying interest, indicating

that participation was not entirely absent but remained stock-specific rather than broad-based.

Sectorally, the week witnessed a mixed trend. Certain segments such as capital goods, power, and telecom saw gains, while sectors like FMCG, healthcare, and energy came under pressure. This rotation reflected cautious positioning by investors amid uncertainty over global cues and domestic earnings visibility.

A key highlight of the week

was continued FII outflows, which added to market volatility. Foreign investors remained net sellers, booking profits in Indian equities, while domestic institutional investors continued to provide partial support through sustained buying activity. However, the imbalance between foreign selling and domestic buying kept overall indices under pressure.

In contrast to the equity market weakness, the Indian rupee continued to show relative strength, extending its gains for the second consecutive week. The currency appreciated against the US dollar, supported by easing crude oil prices, softer global dollar strength, and improved risk sentiment. This divergence between equity weakness and currency strength highlighted the mixed signals in the broader financial markets.

Overall, the week reflected a cautious trading environment driven by external pressures and selective sector participation. While equities struggled under FII selling and profit-taking, the rupee's resilience offered a positive counterbalance, suggesting that macroeconomic sentiment remained stable even as short-term market volatility persisted.

## Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund Enters SIF Space with "MPOWER SIF" Platform

Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund has announced its entry into the newly introduced Specialized Investment Fund (SIF) category with the launch of its "MPOWER SIF" platform, marking a strategic expansion beyond traditional mutual fund offerings.

The move places the fund house among early participants in India's evolving SIF ecosystem, which has been designed to bridge the gap between conventional mutual funds and more advanced investment structures such as portfolio management services. The SIF framework allows fund managers greater flexibility to use a wider range of strategies, including derivatives-based and hybrid approaches, while still operating under SEBI regulation.

With the MPOWER SIF platform, Mahindra Manulife aims to introduce a suite of differentiated investment strategies across equity, debt, and hybrid segments. These strategies are expected to go



beyond standard long-only mutual fund structures and may include long-short positions, sector-focused allocations, and dynamic asset management approaches depending on market conditions.

According to the fund house, the launch is intended to meet the needs of investors seeking more tailored and outcome-

oriented investment solutions. The idea is to offer products that can adapt more actively to changing market cycles while maintaining a structured risk management framework.

Industry observers note that the SIF category itself is positioned as a middle layer between mutual funds and high-net-worth investment products, offering relatively

higher flexibility but also carrying higher risk compared to traditional funds. The minimum investment threshold for SIFs is significantly higher than regular mutual funds, targeting more experienced and financially aware investors.

Mahindra Manulife's move reflects a broader trend in the asset management industry, where fund houses are increasingly looking to diversify their product offerings in response to evolving investor expectations and regulatory innovation. The MPOWER SIF platform is expected to roll out multiple strategies over time, covering a mix of equity-driven and debt-oriented approaches.

With this launch, the company strengthens its presence in India's actively evolving investment landscape, signaling a shift toward more sophisticated and strategy-driven fund offerings aimed at investors seeking beyond-vanilla market exposure.

## Companies Can Now Use Part of CSR Funds via Social Stock Exchange

The Indian government has introduced a new reform allowing companies to deploy a portion of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds through the Social Stock Exchange (SSE), marking a significant shift in how corporate philanthropy can be channelled.

Under the revised framework, companies will now be permitted to allocate up to 10% of their annual CSR expenditure into instruments issued by non-profit organisations that are listed on recognised Social Stock Exchanges. These instruments are typically structured as zero-coupon, zero-principal securities designed to support social impact projects rather than generate financial returns.

The move is aimed at strengthening the Social Stock Exchange ecosystem, which was created to connect social enterprises and non-profits with funding sources in a more structured and transparent manner. By allowing CSR participation through SSE-listed instruments, the government hopes to improve funding access for organi-

sations working in areas such as education, healthcare, rural development, environmental protection, and livelihood generation. Officials believe this change will help formalise and scale up philanthropic capital flows in India. Instead of CSR spending being limited to direct donations or standalone projects, companies will now have an additional regulated channel that links their mandatory CSR obligations with measurable social impact investments.

The reform is also expected to bring greater accountability and traceability to CSR spending. Since Social Stock Exchange listings require disclosure and compliance standards, funds routed through this mechanism are likely to be monitored more closely compared to traditional CSR allocations. Experts view this development as an important step toward integrating capital markets with social impact financing.

It may encourage more non-profit organisations to formalise their operations and seek listing on the SSE, thereby expanding the overall ecosys-



tem of impact-driven investing in the country.

At the same time, the policy introduces a new layer of responsibility for companies, which will need to evaluate both compliance requirements and the effectiveness of social instruments before allocating CSR funds through this route. Overall, the initiative reflects a broader effort to make CSR spending more structured, transparent, and outcome-oriented, while also giving the Social Stock Exchange a stronger role in India's development finance landscape.

## Dr. Reddy's Marks 25 Years on NYSE with Closing Bell Ceremony

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has been invited to ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) to commemorate 25 years since its listing on the exchange, marking a major milestone in the company's global journey.

The Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company first listed on the NYSE in April 2001, becoming the first Asian pharmaceutical firm (outside Japan) to be listed on the prestigious US exchange. Since then, the company has expanded its presence across major global markets, including the United States, Europe, and emerging regions, building a strong international footprint in generics, biosimilars, and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The symbolic closing bell ceremony, scheduled at the NYSE headquarters in New York, is a recognition of the company's long-standing performance, governance standards, and sustained global growth over a quarter century. Senior leadership from Dr. Reddy's, including top executives and board members, is expected to attend the event.

The company has stated that



the milestone reflects not only its successful listing history but also its continued commitment to delivering affordable medicines and expanding access to healthcare worldwide. Over the years, Dr. Reddy's has evolved from a domestic pharmaceutical player into a globally integrated healthcare company with operations spanning multiple continents.

The NYSE closing bell is often used to honor major corporate achievements, anniversaries, and market milestones. For Dr. Reddy's, the event underscores its position as one of India's prominent multina-

tional pharmaceutical companies with a long-standing presence in global capital markets.

The celebration comes at a time when the company continues to focus on growth in complex generics, specialty medicines, and expansion in regulated markets, reinforcing its strategy of innovation-led international growth.

Overall, the ceremony highlights Dr. Reddy's 25-year journey on Wall Street and its evolution into a globally recognized pharmaceutical brand with sustained investor trust and operational reach across the world.

## Wall Street Dumps Crash Hedges as Most-Shorted Stocks Surge 30%

Wall Street witnessed a sharp and unusual market shift as investors rapidly unwound protective positions against a potential market crash, while heavily shorted stocks rallied strongly, in some cases jumping as much as 30%.

According to market reports, the cost of protecting portfolios against a routine market decline has fallen to its lowest level since early 2025. At the same time, insurance against a sudden market crash has also dropped to its lowest point this year, signaling growing confidence among traders that extreme downside risks have eased in the near term.

As investors rushed to exit so-called "crash hedges," volatility-linked strategies and protective derivatives saw reduced demand. This unwinding of defensive positions contributed to unusual price movements across certain segments of the market.

In contrast, stocks that are heavily shorted—those that traders had bet would fall in value—experienced a strong



upward move, with gains reaching up to 30% in some cases. This rally suggests a short squeeze-like environment, where rising prices force short sellers to buy back shares to cover their positions, further amplifying the upward momentum.

Market analysts note that such sharp moves often occur when positioning becomes crowded on one side of the trade. When too many investors are betting on downside protection or falling stock

prices, even a modest shift in sentiment can trigger rapid reversals.

The broader backdrop includes ongoing volatility in global markets, where investors have been balancing concerns about economic growth, interest rates, and geopolitical risks against strong corporate earnings and resilient liquidity conditions. However, the latest moves suggest that near-term fear has eased, prompting traders to reduce hedges and take on more risk.

At the same time, the surge in shorted stocks highlights the risks of over-concentrated bearish bets. When sentiment shifts unexpectedly, short positions can become costly, forcing rapid covering that accelerates price spikes.

Overall, the episode reflects a market in transition—moving away from defensive positioning and toward increased risk appetite, even as underlying uncertainties remain in the global financial landscape.

# American Couple's 10 Lakh, 30-Day Indian Odyssey Across 13 Cities Wins Hearts Online

An American couple's month-long journey through India has recently drawn attention online for its scale, planning, and the cultural depth they experienced along the way. Spending nearly 10 lakh, the duo travelled across 13 cities in 30 days, capturing the diversity of India's landscapes, traditions, food, and heritage in a single continuous trip.

The couple reportedly planned the journey as an immersive cultural experience rather than a typical holiday. Instead of limiting themselves to a single region, they designed an extensive itinerary that allowed them to explore India from north to south and east to

west, covering both metropolitan hubs and culturally rich smaller towns.

Their travel route included a mix of popular tourist destinations as well as lesser-explored cities. Each stop added a different layer to their understanding of the country—ranging from historic monuments and spiritual centers to bustling markets and modern urban landscapes. This blend of experiences gave them a broad perspective on India's contrasts and unity.

One of the highlights of their journey was the variety of regional cuisines they sampled along the way. From street food in busy city lanes to traditional meals in local households and

restaurants, the couple embraced India's culinary diversity. They also interacted with locals frequently, often sharing that these conversations became some of the most memorable parts of their trip.

Traveling across such a wide geographic range in a short span of time came with its challenges. Constant movement, long travel hours, and adjusting to different climates and environments tested their endurance. However, they reportedly viewed these challenges as part of the adventure rather than obstacles. The estimated cost of around 10 lakh covered transportation, accommodation, food, guided experiences, and

internal travel between cities. Despite the budget, the couple emphasized that the richness of experiences far outweighed the expenses involved. Their journey has since gained attention on social media, where many users praised their curiosity and willingness to explore India beyond conventional tourist routes. Others highlighted how such trips help showcase the country's diversity to a global audience. Ultimately, their 30-day expedition stands out as an example of experiential travel—where the focus is not just on destinations, but on the stories, people, and cultures encountered along the way.



## “January Took My Job, May Gave Me My Confidence Back”: Techie Celebrates First Salary After Layoff



A tech professional's emotional post about receiving his first salary after being laid off in January has gone viral on social media, striking a chord with many users who have faced similar career setbacks.

The developer shared his experience on Reddit, revealing that the last few months had been extremely challenging after he unexpectedly lost his job. What followed, he said, was a difficult phase filled with intense interview preparation, repeated rejections, and constant self-doubt. Despite the setbacks, he continued preparing through

coding practice, system design learning, and technical interview rounds. According to his post, the breakthrough came when he finally secured a role at a product-based company. The opportunity not only ended his months of uncertainty but also came with a salary hike higher than what he had expected earlier in his career journey.

The most emotional moment for him, however, was not just getting the job offer—but seeing his first salary credited after months of unemployment. He described the moment as more than financial relief, calling it

proof that persistence and consistency eventually pay off.

“Today, this salary isn't just money. It's proof that consistency pays off,” he wrote, reflecting on how the difficult period ultimately helped him grow both professionally and personally. He also credited the online developer community for supporting him during the toughest phase of his job search. Since he had not shared his layoff openly with friends or extended family, he relied heavily on anonymous online discussions for advice, motivation, and emotional support. The post quickly gained traction, with many users congratulating him and sharing similar stories of layoffs, recovery, and career comebacks. Several commenters highlighted how common job insecurity has become in the tech industry and how resilience plays a key role in bouncing back.

Ending his post on a hopeful note, the techie summed up his journey with a powerful line: “January took away my job. May gave me my confidence back.” The story continues to resonate online as an example of how setbacks—though painful—can sometimes lead to stronger opportunities and renewed self-belief.

## “Senior Adobe Director Seeks Job Referrals for Son After Campus Offer Is Revoked”

A senior executive at Adobe has drawn widespread attention online after seeking job referrals for his son, whose campus placement offer was recently revoked by a tech company. According to a social media post that went viral, the Adobe director explained that his son, a computer engineering graduate, had initially secured a job through campus recruitment at a leading technology firm. However, the offer was later withdrawn as part of broader cancellations affecting multiple students. Following the setback, the father turned to his professional network for support, requesting referrals and job opportunities for his son. He mentioned that his son is actively looking for a full-time software engineering role in India and is open to opportunities across companies. He also offered to share his son's resume and connect directly with po-

tential recruiters.

The post highlighted the uncertainty currently faced by fresh engineering graduates, many of whom rely heavily on campus placements to begin their careers. With several companies reportedly revoking or delaying offers due to restructuring and changing business conditions, job security for new entrants has become increasingly fragile. The director's appeal struck a chord on social media, where users expressed a mix of empathy and concern. Many professionals acknowledged the difficulty of the current job market, especially in the tech sector, where hiring cycles have become unpredictable. Some users also offered to help or connect the candidate with available opportunities.

At the same time, the post sparked a broader discussion about the challenges of campus placements in India. While cam-

pus recruitment has traditionally been seen as a reliable entry point into the tech industry, recent trends show increasing volatility, with companies revising hiring plans even after issuing offers. The situation has also raised questions about how students and families cope when expected job opportunities suddenly disappear, especially after years of academic preparation aimed at securing such roles. Despite the disappointment, the post reflects a growing reality in the tech ecosystem—where adaptability, networking, and continuous skill development are becoming as important as formal campus placements in building a career. The story continues to resonate widely, highlighting both the pressures faced by fresh graduates and the lengths to which families and professionals go to support them in an uncertain job landscape.

## From IT Desk to Auto Driver: Woman Earns 60,000 a Month After Quitting Corporate Job



In a story that is resonating widely on social media, a woman's bold career switch from a high-pressure IT job to driving an auto-rickshaw has sparked conversations about success, happiness, and work-life balance.

According to reports, the woman had worked in the IT sector for around nine years, holding a managerial position in a corporate environment. Despite the stability and prestige that came with the role, she reportedly experienced constant stress and mental pressure due to work demands and corporate expectations. Over time, this dissatisfaction led her to rethink her career path.

Eventually, she made the unconventional decision to leave her IT job and start driving an auto-rickshaw. What makes her story particularly striking is not just the career shift itself, but the financial independence she has maintained after the change. She now reportedly earns around 60,000 per month through her work as an auto driver. Her journey came into the spotlight after a Dubai-based entrepreneur shared a chance encounter with her during a ride. The entrepreneur described the woman as confident, well-dressed, and content with her life choices. During their conversation, the driver spoke

about her past experience in IT and the reasons behind her decision to quit. She explained that while her corporate job offered good pay and status, it also came with long hours, constant pressure, and stress that affected her overall well-being. In contrast, driving an auto has given her a sense of independence, flexibility, and peace of mind. She emphasized that her current life, though unconventional by societal standards, feels

far more satisfying. The story quickly went viral on social media, with users sharing mixed reactions. Many praised her courage to step away from a secure job in pursuit of mental peace, while others viewed her journey as an example of how definitions of success are changing in modern times. Her experience has also reignited discussions about burnout in corporate jobs, especially in high-pressure sectors like IT, where

long working hours and mental strain are common concerns. Many users related to her story, saying it reflects a growing desire among professionals to prioritize mental health over traditional career ambitions. Ultimately, her journey highlights a powerful message: success is not defined solely by job titles or salaries, but also by personal happiness, peace of mind, and the freedom to choose a life that feels right.

## “America Taught Us Time Management”: Expat Compares Work Culture in US and India



An Indian professional living in the United States has sparked online discussion after sharing his observations on the differences between work culture in America and India, particularly in relation to discipline, productivity, and time management.

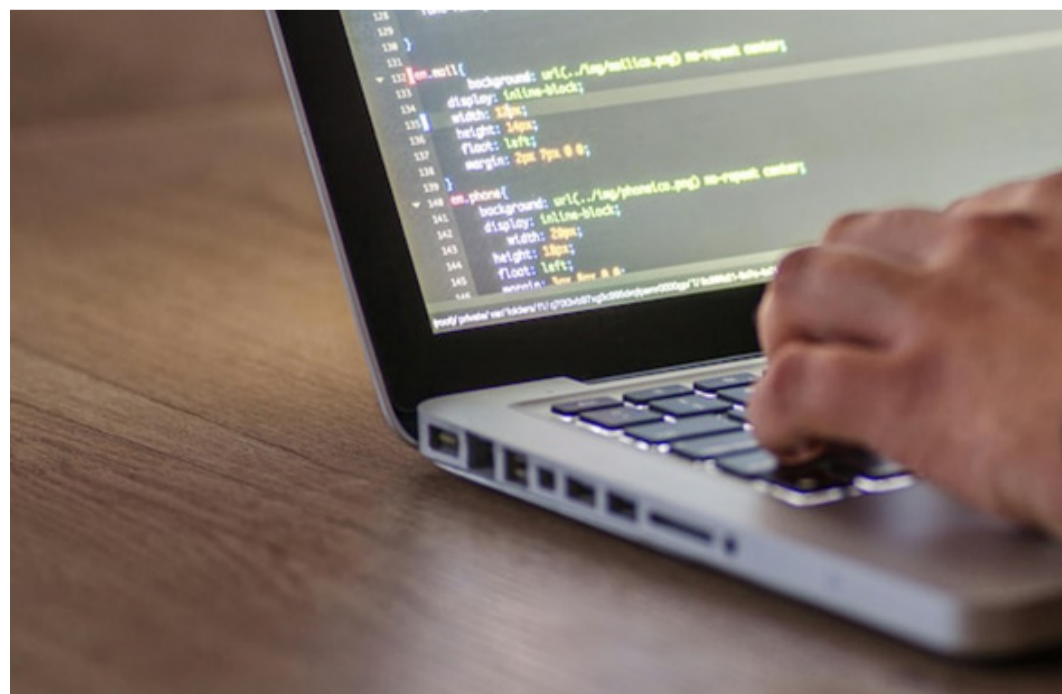
In a social media post, the expat explained that working in the US significantly changed how he views effi-

ciency at the workplace. He described how American offices often begin very early in the morning, with many employees starting work around 6:30 am. By the middle of the day, a large portion of scheduled tasks is usually completed, allowing for an early wrap-up in many cases.

He contrasted this with India's work environment, where the day typically starts

later and gradually picks up pace. According to him, while US employees are often nearing the end of their workday, many Indian offices are still actively engaged in meetings, discussions, and ongoing tasks well into the later hours. The professional clarified that his comparison was not meant as criticism of either country, but rather as an observation of different

working styles. He said that while the US helped him develop a strong sense of discipline and structured time management, India contributed to his understanding of flexibility, adaptability, and interpersonal relationships at work. His comments quickly went viral, drawing mixed reactions from social media users. Some agreed that the American work culture promotes better productivity through fixed schedules and early starts, while others defended the Indian system, pointing out that its flexibility and informal work environment also have their own advantages. The post has also reignited a broader conversation about global workplace cultures, especially among professionals who have worked in multiple countries. Many users noted that experiences vary widely depending on the industry, company, and role, making it difficult to generalize any one system as superior. Ultimately, the discussion highlights how exposure to different cultures shapes professional outlooks. Rather than ranking one system above another, the comparison reflects how both India and the United States offer distinct lessons in balancing productivity, structure, and human connection at work.



## “Best Batting Pair in IPL History”: Ex-India Star Hails Gill–Sudharsan Partnership

Gujarat Titans' opening duo Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan are once again in the spotlight after receiving high praise from former India cricketer Irfan Pathan, who described them as the “best batting pair in IPL history.”

Pathan's remarks come amid an outstanding IPL 2026 season for the Gujarat Titans pair, who have consistently delivered strong starts at the top of the order. Their ability to build long partnerships, rotate strike efficiently, and accelerate when needed has made them one of the most reliable opening combinations in the tournament.

The duo's latest performance in the playoffs further strengthened their reputation, as they stitched together another impactful partnership while guiding Gujarat Titans into the final. Their understanding between the wickets and complementary playing styles—Gill's controlled stroke play alongside Sudharsan's steady accumulation—has been a key factor in GT's batting dominance.

According to Pathan, what sets them apart is their consistency across multiple seasons and their ability to convert starts into match-defining partnerships. He highlighted that the pair has repeatedly delivered 50-plus and 100-run



stands, often laying the foundation for big team totals under pressure situations.

Their record has placed them alongside some of the most celebrated batting combinations in IPL history. However, Pathan emphasized that Gill and Sudharsan stand out due to the frequency and reliability of their partnerships rather than just isolated performances.

The discussion around their greatness has intensified as Gujarat Titans continue their strong run in IPL 2026. The franchise has benefited significantly from their stability at the top, allowing the middle order to play with freedom and the bowling attack to defend competitive totals.

Cricket analysts have also noted that the pair's success is built on balance rather than aggression alone. Gill often anchors the innings while Sudharsan provides controlled aggression, making them effective across different match situations and conditions.

As Gujarat Titans prepare for the final, expectations remain high on the opening pair to once again provide a solid foundation. Their form will be crucial if GT are to secure another IPL title.

With praise pouring in from former players and consistent performances on the field, the Gill–Sudharsan partnership continues to be one of the defining stories of IPL 2026.

## RCB vs GT IPL 2026 Final: Aggressive RCB Aim to Tame Strong Gujarat Titans in Title Clash

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) are set to face Gujarat Titans (GT) in the IPL 2026 final in what promises to be a high-intensity battle between two of the tournament's most consistent teams this season.

RCB enter the final with an aggressive and dominant approach, riding high on confidence after a commanding performance in the playoffs. Their explosive batting lineup and improved bowling attack have played a key role in their journey to the summit clash. Under captain Rajat Patidar, the team has shown a fearless mindset, especially in the powerplay and death overs, making them one of the most dangerous sides in the competition.

A standout feature of RCB's campaign has been their ability to post and chase big totals. Their top order, featuring experienced match-winners and in-form batters, has consistently provided strong starts, allowing the middle order to accelerate without pressure. Their bowling unit has also stepped up at crucial moments, delivering breakthroughs in high-pressure situations.

On the other hand, Gujarat Titans have once again proven their consistency and resilience. Led by Shubman Gill, GT have combined solid top-



order batting with a disciplined bowling attack. Their ability to recover from setbacks and dominate in key matches has helped them reach yet another IPL final in a short span of time since their introduction into the league.

GT's strength lies in their balanced squad composition. Their batting unit has been anchored by consistent performers from their top-order

players, while their bowling attack has been effective in controlling runs during the middle overs. The Titans have also shown the ability to chase down challenging targets, making them a formidable opponent in any conditions.

The final is expected to be a tactical battle between RCB's aggressive style and GT's structured, all-round stability. While RCB will rely on momentum and explosive batting,

GT will look to counter with disciplined bowling and calculated batting partnerships.

Both teams have already faced each other in high-stakes matches this season, adding further intensity to the final showdown. With form, strategy, and temperament all playing crucial roles, the IPL 2026 final sets the stage for a thrilling contest as RCB aim for glory and GT look to reclaim the title.

## “IPL Bias” Row Around Ajit Agarkar After India Squad Selection for Afghanistan Series



A fresh controversy has erupted around the Indian cricket selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar, with allegations of “IPL bias” surfacing after the announcement of India's squad for the upcoming series against Afghanistan. The debate has been triggered by former cricketers and analysts who have questioned some of the key inclusions and exclusions in the team.

The criticism mainly revolves around the omission of several in-form domestic performers and the continued backing of players with strong IPL reputations. One former India player expressed frustration over the selection calls, suggesting that the committee is placing too much weight on IPL performances while over-

looking consistent performers from domestic cricket.

The discussion intensified after India named a squad featuring senior players such as Rohit Sharma alongside younger names like Shubman Gill, while leaving out several promising youngsters and domestic standouts. Critics argue that this approach sends mixed signals about selection priorities, especially when players performing well in the IPL or domestic circuit are left out without clear explanation.

The former cricketer also questioned whether the selection process is being influenced by IPL visibility, suggesting that consistent domestic performers are not being rewarded equally. This sentiment has been echoed in

broader cricket circles, where debates over “IPL vs domestic cricket weightage” have persisted for years.

Supporters of the selection committee, however, argue that team selection is based on a combination of form, experience, fitness, and long-term planning rather than IPL performance alone. They also point out that India's squad for the Afghanistan series includes a mix of established players and new faces, indicating an attempt to balance stability with transition.

The controversy comes at a time when Ajit Agarkar, as chief selector, has already faced scrutiny for several bold calls in recent months. These include the omission of certain experienced players and the inclusion of relatively new names based on recent form and team strategy.

Despite the criticism, the selection committee has maintained that decisions are made collectively with the coaching staff and are aligned with India's long-term cricketing roadmap. As debates continue to grow on social media and among former players, the “IPL bias” discussion has once again highlighted the ongoing tension in Indian cricket between domestic consistency and IPL-driven reputation, with no clear consensus on the ideal selection balance.

## Sangakkara's Blunt Reply to Riyan Parag's Post-Match Comment Sparks Buzz

Kumar Sangakkara's sharp and straightforward response to Riyan Parag's post-match remark has become a talking point in IPL 2026, after a moment of on-field candour led to an unexpected reaction from the Rajasthan Royals' head coach.

The incident reportedly took place after Rajasthan Royals' recent playoff match, where emotions were running high following a hard-fought contest. Riyan Parag, speaking in the post-match interaction, made a remark that caught attention in the dressing room and among viewers for its unusual tone and timing.

When the comment reached team management, Sangakkara responded in his characteristic calm but firm manner. His “unfiltered” reply, as described by those familiar with the exchange, left players and support staff momentarily surprised, with many interpreting it as a direct reminder about discipline and communication standards within the team environment.

Known for his composed leadership style, Sangakkara did not escalate the situation publicly but addressed the matter internally, reinforcing the importance of measured



statements after matches—especially during high-pressure knockout games where emotions often run high.

The exchange has since gone viral among fans, with social media users debating both Parag's comment and Sangakkara's response. While some viewed it as a light-hearted misunderstanding born out of competitive intensity, others felt it reflected the pressure cooker atmosphere of IPL playoffs, where every word is closely scrutinized.

This is not the first time Sang-

gakkara has been in the spotlight this season for his candid views on team matters. The former Sri Lanka captain has previously addressed issues related to player discipline, communication, and professionalism, often emphasizing accountability within the Rajasthan Royals setup.

Riyan Parag, who has had a notable season as captain, continues to be a central figure for the franchise, both for his on-field performances and leadership role. Moments like these, while controversial, highlight

the growing responsibilities on younger captains navigating high-stakes tournaments.

As Rajasthan Royals progress through the season, the focus is expected to remain firmly on team performance, with management likely keen to ensure that internal discussions remain private and do not distract from on-field goals.

The exchange, while brief, has added another layer of drama to IPL 2026—where even post-match comments are now capable of sparking widespread debate.

## Zee Nears Cut-Price Deal With FIFA for 2026 World Cup Broadcast Rights in India

Zee Entertainment is reportedly close to finalising a deal with FIFA to acquire the media rights for broadcasting the 2026 FIFA World Cup in India, marking a major development in the long-pending negotiations over one of the world's biggest sporting events.

According to sources, the agreement is now in its final stages and is expected to be announced soon. The deal is believed to be valued at around USD 30–35 million, significantly lower than earlier expectations, reflecting the muted bidding environment in the Indian market for global football rights.

If finalised, Zee will broadcast and stream all World Cup matches in India through its television sports network as well as its digital platform, with multi-language coverage expected to cater to a wide audience across the country. The arrangement would ensure that Indian football fans fi-

nally have a confirmed platform to watch the tournament, after months of uncertainty regarding broadcast availability.

The development comes after other major players, including Reliance-Disney's JioStar and Sony Pictures Networks India, either withdrew from the bidding process or chose not to submit final offers. This left Zee as the frontrunner in the race for India's World Cup media rights.

Industry reports suggest that FIFA initially sought much higher valuations for the Indian market, but declining broadcaster interest, cost concerns, and weaker advertising projections led to revised expectations. As a result, the final deal value is far below historical benchmarks for such a marquee global tournament.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, scheduled to be held across the United States, Canada,

and Mexico, will feature an expanded format with 48 teams and 104 matches, making it one of the largest editions in the tournament's history. For broadcasters, securing rights to such an event is considered strategically important despite the financial challenges.

If the agreement is officially confirmed, it will mark Zee's return to major global sports broadcasting and strengthen its push into sports content in India. The company has already been expanding its sports portfolio, and the World Cup rights would significantly boost its visibility in the competitive Indian media landscape.

With the announcement expected soon, the deal could end months of speculation and ensure a clear viewing path for millions of football fans across India for the 2026 World Cup.





## AP Government Approves Temporary Ticket Hike for Ram Charan's 'Peddi' Ahead of Release

The Andhra Pradesh government has officially approved a temporary increase in cinema ticket prices for Ram Charan's upcoming film Peddi, along with permission for paid premiere shows ahead of its release. The decision has been welcomed by the film's team and exhibitors, as it is expected to boost early box office collections for one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of the year.

As per the government order, Peddi will have special paid premiere shows scheduled on June 3 at 8 PM, a day before its worldwide theatrical release on June 4. The ticket price for these premiere shows has been fixed at 600, inclusive of GST. These early screenings are expected to generate strong pre-release buzz and help gauge audience response before the official release.

In addition to the premiere shows, the government has also granted permission for an increased ticket pricing structure during the initial release period. This revised pricing



will remain in effect for the first 10 days of the film's theatrical run.

Under the new structure, single-screen theatres are allowed to increase ticket prices by 100 per ticket, while multiplexes can raise prices by 125 per ticket, both inclusive of GST. The temporary hike is aimed at helping producers and distributors maximize revenue during the crucial opening phase, which is often con-

sidered vital for big-budget films with high expectations.

The order further allows theatres to conduct up to five shows per day during the promotional pricing period. This additional flexibility is expected to help exhibitors accommodate higher demand, especially during weekends and peak viewing hours when audience turnout is typically stronger.

Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, is a sports action dra-

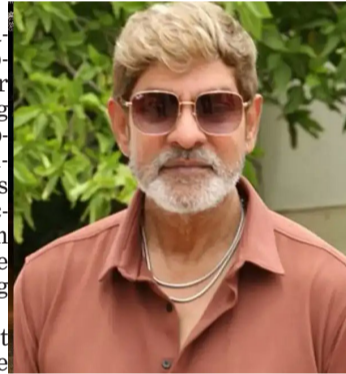
ma featuring Ram Charan in the lead role, with Janhvi Kapoor playing the female lead. The film also includes a notable supporting cast and is being produced on a large scale with significant investment in production values, action sequences, and technical quality. Industry analysts point out that such temporary ticket hikes are commonly approved for major star-led films in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, particularly when there is strong anticipation and advance booking demand. However, these hikes are strictly time-bound and revert to standard pricing after the initial release window.

With the government's approval now in place, the makers are expected to intensify promotional activities and open advance bookings shortly. The announcement has further heightened expectations around the film, which is already generating considerable attention in the Telugu film industry and among fans of Ram Charan.

## JagapathiBabu Confirms Return in 'Pushpa 3', Reveals Sukumar's Promise

Veteran actor JagapathiBabu has given an exciting update about the blockbuster Pushpa franchise, confirming that he will be seen in the upcoming Pushpa 3: The Rampage. The actor revealed this during recent media interactions while promoting his film Peddi, where he also spoke about his experience working with director Sukumar.

JagapathiBabu shared that his role in Pushpa 2: The Rule was reduced due to runtime constraints, which limited his screen presence despite being part of the high-profile project. However, he said director Sukumar personally assured him that his character would be given greater importance in the next installment of the franchise.



According to the actor, Sukumar had promised to "make it up" to him in the third part, which led to his confirmation that he will continue his role in Pushpa 3. This statement has effectively confirmed his return to the franchise, which stars Allu Arjun in the lead role as Pushpa Raj.

The Pushpa series, directed by Sukumar, has become one of the biggest pan-India film franchises in recent years. The first film, Pushpa: The Rise, released in 2021 and became a massive success, followed by Pushpa 2: The Rule in 2024, which continued the story of PushpaRaj's rise in the red sandalwood smuggling world. The third installment, titled Pushpa 3: The Rampage, is already in development and is expected to conclude the planned trilogy.

Industry reports and earlier confirmations from the film's team suggest that Pushpa 3 will further expand the storyline, focusing on the continuation of PushpaRaj's journey after the events of the second film. The franchise has consist-

ently featured a strong ensemble cast, with JagapathiBabu playing a significant supporting role in the second part.

JagapathiBabu's confirmation has further increased anticipation around the film, especially among fans who are eager to see how Sukumar plans to conclude the high-octane action saga. While production timelines are yet to be officially announced, expectations for Pushpa 3 remain extremely high following the record-breaking success of the earlier films.

With this update, the Pushpa universe continues to expand, strengthening its position as one of the most popular and commercially successful franchises in Indian cinema.

## Sree Vishnu-Ram Abbaraju's Second Film Racing Ahead

After the successful collaboration on Samajavaragana, actor Sree Vishnu and director Ram Abbaraju have reunited for their second project, which is now progressing at a fast pace. The duo, known for delivering entertaining comedy-driven content, is once again aiming to recreate the same magic with this new venture.

The film's shoot is currently moving forward briskly, with two major schedules already completed. The production team is said to be working on an efficient timeline, ensuring that filming continues without major delays. The cast and crew are reportedly enjoying the process, and the on-set atmosphere is described as lively, with the team confident about the film's entertainment value. The project has been written by BhanuBhogavarapu and NanduSavirigana, who also contributed to the writing of Samajavaragana. Their involvement has further raised expectations, as the earlier collaboration between the writers, director Ram Abbaraju, and Sree Vishnu re-



sulted in a well-received comedy entertainer. The film is being produced under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, one of the leading production houses in Telugu cinema, known for backing big-budget and content-driven films. Producers Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar are overseeing the project. Apart from Sree Vishnu, the film also features Vennela Kishore and Sudarshan in key roles, both of whom are popular for their comic timing and supporting performances in Telugu films. Their inclusion suggests that the film will lean heavily into the comedy genre, aiming for a fun-filled theatrical experience.

While the makers have not yet



revealed the title or full cast details, they have confirmed that more updates will be shared soon. The production team is expected to continue filming in the coming months, with additional schedules planned to complete the shoot on time. Given the success of Sree Vishnu and Ram Abbaraju's previous collaboration, there is considerable anticipation surrounding this project. Fans are expecting another light-hearted entertainer packed with humor and engaging storytelling. With the shoot progressing steadily and key schedules already wrapped up, the film is shaping up to be one of the more anticipated comedy entertainers in Telugu cinema's upcoming lineup.

## SS Rajamouli's Silence on 'Varanasi' Leak Sparks Buzz Among Fans

Reports surrounding SS Rajamouli's upcoming big-budget film Varanasi have once again grabbed attention after new visuals and set details from the film allegedly surfaced online, triggering widespread discussion on social media. Amid the growing chatter, fans have noticed that the filmmaker has maintained complete silence, choosing not to react publicly to the latest round of leaks.

Varanasi, starring Mahesh Babu in the lead along with Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran, has been one of the most closely guarded Indian film productions in recent times. Despite strict security measures, several behind-the-scenes images and set glimpses have repeatedly made their way online in recent months, revealing portions of massive set pieces and high-end visual effects work.



The latest leak reportedly showcases parts of a large-scale sequence being shot for the film, adding to the curiosity around its storyline and production design. Earlier leaks have already hinted at elabo-

rate cave sequences, mythological references, and extensive use of VFX-heavy environments, which have fueled speculation about the film's time-travel and myth-inspired narrative structure.

What has further intensified fan discussions is Rajamouli's noticeable silence on the matter. Known for expressing strong reactions in the past when major leaks occurred during his projects, the director has not issued any public statement this time, leading to debates about whether the production team is deliberately choosing to ignore the leaks or handling them internally.

Industry observers believe that maintaining silence could be a strategic decision to avoid amplifying the leaked content and to keep focus on official promotional material. Rajamouli, who is known for care-

fully controlling the marketing of his films, may prefer to address the situation only when the team is ready with an official update. Meanwhile, anticipation around Varanasi continues to grow, with the film already being positioned as one of the most ambitious Indian cinematic projects ever made.

The combination of a high-profile cast, large-scale international production values, and Rajamouli's track record with epics like Baahubali and RRR has kept audience expectations extremely high. As leaks continue to surface, fans remain divided between excitement over the glimpses and concern about spoilers. However, the filmmaker's silence has only added another layer of mystery around the project, keeping Varanasi firmly in the spotlight ahead of its much-awaited release.

## Big Stars Reportedly Reject Cameo in 'Jailer 2'; Hrithik Roshan Now in Talks

Buzz around Rajinikanth's upcoming film Jailer 2 has intensified after reports suggested that several top Bollywood and South Indian stars have turned down a high-profile cameo role in the film, originally planned as a major surprise element.

According to industry chatter, the makers of the Nelson Dilipkumar directorial were aiming to include a powerful special appearance by a major star to elevate key moments in the sequel, similar to the impactful cameos seen in the first Jailer film. However, initial choices did not materialize due to scheduling conflicts and other commitments.

Reports indicate that some of the biggest names in Indian cinema were approached for the role, but declined the offer for various reasons, including packed shooting schedules and prior film commitments. This has reportedly led the team to explore alternative options to fill the cameo slot.

The latest speculation suggests that Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan is now being considered for the role. Discussions are said to be underway, though there has been no official confirmation from either the actor or the production team so far. If finalized, the cameo would mark a ma-

major on-screen collaboration between Hrithik Roshan and Rajinikanth, creating significant excitement among fans across industries.

Interestingly, Jailer 2 has already been in the spotlight for its rumored lineup of multiple cameo appearances, a signature element of the franchise. The original Jailer was widely praised for its surprise star moments, which contributed heavily to its box office success and audience appeal.

The sequel, directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, continues to generate strong anticipation as it builds on the universe established in the first film. With Rajinikanth reprising

his iconic role, expectations are high for a larger, more ambitious cinematic experience. While the makers have remained tight-lipped about casting updates, the ongoing speculation around rejected cameos and potential replacements has only added to the film's hype. Fans are actively debating possible combinations of stars who could appear alongside Rajinikanth in key sequences. For now, the involvement of Hrithik Roshan remains unconfirmed, but the possibility alone has amplified interest in Jailer 2, which is already one of the most awaited Indian films in production.

