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Ahmed Babu in Spotlight as Promotion Crisis, Court Orders and Disciplinary Action Deepen CT Department Tensions

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

The Andhra Pradesh Commercial Taxes Department is witnessing a growing escalation of administrative and legal tensions, with Chief Commissioner Ahmed Babu coming under increasing scrutiny amid a continuing dispute over promotions, court directions, and disciplinary actions linked to employee protests.

The core issue arises from long-pending Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) recommendations and their alleged non-implementation. Superintendent K.R. Suryanarayana, working in the Chief Commissioner's office, has filed contempt proceedings before the Andhra Pradesh High Court, alleging that despite clear DPC approvals, his promotion was withheld and the department failed to submit relevant records even after judicial directions. The High Court had earlier ordered submission of complete DPC files by April 29, 2026, to examine compliance and procedural transparency in the matter.

In parallel, the State government intensified its administrative response. On April 30, 2026, the Revenue (Commercial Taxes) Department issued an urgent directive instructing completion of all pending promotions across cadres by May



4, 2026. The order came under mounting judicial pressure in connected cases, including a writ petition and contempt proceedings, reinforcing strict timelines for compliance and administrative action.

At the same time, the General Administration (Services Welfare) Department, through a U.O. note dated April 24, 2026, sought specific remarks from the Revenue Department on representations filed by the Andhra Pradesh Commercial Taxes Services Association (APCTS Association). The association, led by President K.R. Suryanarayana, has been seeking the withdrawal of disciplinary proceedings against 74 employees linked to alleged misconduct during a protest held on December 27, 2022, at

the office of the Additional Commissioner (State Taxes). The department noted that earlier communications seeking remarks had remained pending, delaying further action.

Amid these developments, disciplinary orders were issued on April 30, 2026, by the Chief Commissioner of State Taxes, initiating punishment proceedings against officials in connection with the 2022 protest. The action followed earlier inquiry findings under the CCA Rules, which had examined evidence, including statements, photographs, and video material related to the incident. Notably, the government had earlier, on September 10, 2025, withdrawn the show cause notice issued to APCTSA, effectively closing the recognition dispute after reviewing representations and court-related proceedings before the High Court. With promotion deadlines, contempt petitions, and disciplinary measures now running simultaneously, the Commercial Taxes Department remains under heightened scrutiny. The High Court proceedings and government directives are expected to significantly influence the next course of administrative action. Meanwhile, employees expressed strong dissatisfaction, alleging irreg-

ularities and claiming that senior officials influenced proceedings. Speaking to True Point, APCTO Services Association General Secretary R. Srinivasa Rao questioned the leadership of the department and demanded accountability, warning of intensified protests if grievances remain unaddressed. Reacting to the punishment orders, petitioner K.R. Suryanarayana alleged that Chief Commissioner Ahmed Babu has repeatedly disregarded both court directions and government decisions in the DPC matter, as well as the withdrawal of the show-cause notice issued to APCTSA. He further argued that, despite judicial instructions, there has been a failure to submit records and implement promotions, reflecting non-compliance with due process. He urged Central Government intervention, including strict action against officials if required, in the interest of administrative fairness and to restore employee confidence in the system. Suryanarayana further alleged that despite the government issuing orders for promotions, Ahmed Babu intentionally issued show-cause notices to portray them as irregular or irresponsible and avoid implementing the promotions



Parents Return to School, Pass SSC with Their Children

Palakol/Rentachintala, April 30 | TPN Bureau

In two heartwarming stories from the state, education has become a shared journey between parents and children, proving that learning has no age limit and determination can bridge generations.

In Palakollu of West Godavari district, Bandaru Lakshmilahari and her son Saran Vijay created history by appearing for the 10th-grade examinations together and successfully clearing them. Lakshmilahari, a resident of Poolapalli village in Palakollu mandal, had discontinued her studies midway due to personal circumstances. However, inspired by her son's academic journey, she resumed her education through the Open

School Society and appeared for the SSC examinations alongside him.

While Saran Vijay, studying in a private school, secured an impressive 562 out of 600 marks, his mother Lakshmilahari achieved 360 out of 500 marks. Their achievement celebrations in their home together dancing has been widely appreciated, with their story going viral on social media, drawing emotional responses and praise for their determination and bonding.

In another inspiring case from Mallavaram village in Rentachintalamandal of Palnadu district, a father and daughter duo also cleared their SSC examinations together. Chitti, a young student, secured 448 marks, while her

P5



CM's Busy Tour to Krishna District Today

Amaravati, April 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will participate in the 'PedalaSevalo' programme in Pamidimukkala of Krishna district on Friday, where he will interact with beneficiaries of the NTR Bharosa pension scheme and review welfare delivery at the grassroots level.

During the visit, the Chief Minister will distribute pensions to beneficiaries at NTR Colony and interact directly with them. Officials stated that since the formation of the present coalition government, pensions worth 63,158 crore have been disbursed under the scheme. In Krishna district alone, 2.34 lakh beneficiaries

receive monthly pensions totalling 102 crore.

On the occasion of May Day, the Chief Minister will also interact with construction workers at Veerankilaku village, highlighting government welfare measures for the labour community. Later in the day, he will inaugurate the LV Prasad Eye Institute facility at Gudlavaluru.

The Chief Minister will also hold a review meeting with party leaders and workers from Pamarru constituency during his visit. The programme is part of a day-long tour focusing on welfare outreach, public interaction, and development initiatives across the district.



CM Naidu Calls for Future-Ready Education, Skill Audits and University Reforms

Amaravati, April 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called for a comprehensive overhaul of the education system in Andhra Pradesh, stressing the need for future-ready education aligned with global industry requirements and emerging technologies.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the education sector at the Secretariat on Thursday, the Chief Minister directed officials to forecast course demand based on changing global trends and restructure university curricula accordingly. He emphasised transforming universities into hubs of research, innovation,

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SSC 2026 Results Show 2,161 Schools with 100% Pass

Amaravati, April 30 | TPN Bureau

The SSC Public Examinations March 2026 results have revealed a wide variation in school-wise performance, with 2,161 schools achieving a 100% pass rate while 16 schools recorded zero pass results across the state. According to management-wise data, a total of 12,089 schools participated in the examinations, including government, Zilla Parishad, municipal, model schools, residential institutions, aided, and private schools. Among government-managed schools, 282 institutions were part of the examina-



tion system, with 12 schools achieving 100% pass results. Zilla Parishad schools accounted for the largest share with 4,873 institutions, recording 399 schools with full pass results and one school with zero pass percentage.

P5

SSC Results Improve as 100-Day Action Plan Boosts Pass Percentage to 85.25%

Amaravati, April 30 | TPN Bureau

The state government's 100-Day Action Plan for Class 10 students has resulted in a notable improvement in SSC public examination results, with Education Minister Nara Lokesh attributing the rise in pass percentage to structured planning, continuous monitoring, and targeted academic interventions across schools.

The overall pass percentage increased from 81.1% last year to 85.25% this year. Government-managed schools also recorded a significant jump, with pass rates rising from 72.8% to 78.39%, indicating improved performance in the public education system. Girls continued to outperform boys, securing a



pass percentage of 87.90% compared to 82.68% for boys, a margin of 5.22%.

The 100-day plan, implemented from December 6, 2025, to March 15, 2026, included 46 slip tests conducted across government schools without academic pressure on

P5

Sachin Promotes 'Brand AP' Lokesh's Strategy Goes Beyond National Borders, Gains International Attention

Visakhapatnam, April 30 | TPN Bureau

Former Indian cricket captain Sachin Tendulkar's presence at the Andhra University Centenary celebrations in Visakhapatnam has drawn attention, with the event being seen as a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's visibility on a national and international stage.

Sachin attended the centenary celebrations as the chief guest and participated in the programme without any remuneration, reportedly accepting the invitation as a gesture of goodwill. His participation attracted significant media coverage and brought wider attention to the celebrations, with officials stating that it en-



hanced the visibility of the state and Andhra University at a global level. Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh, who has been actively engag-

ing with industry leaders and public figures at various national and international events, was credited

P5

Girls Outshine Boys in AP SSC 2026 Results, Pass Percentage Rises to 85.25%

Amaravati, April 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh SSC Public Examinations for March 2026 results were declared on Thursday, showing a marked improvement in overall performance across the state. The examinations were conducted from March 16 to April 2, 2026, with spot valuation completed between April 6 and April 15 at 26 evaluation camps.

A total of 6,18,131 regular candidates from 12,089 schools appeared for the examinations. The overall pass percentage stood at 85.25%, reflecting a steady academic recovery and improved outcomes across multiple categories.

Girls once again outperformed boys, registering a pass percentage of 87.90% compared to 82.68% for boys, with a gap of 5.22%. Officials noted this as a consistent trend of higher performance among girl students in recent years.

The results were released simultaneously across multiple



digital platforms, including the Mana Mitra WhatsApp governance system, LEAP mobile application, official results portal www.results.bse.ap.gov.in, and DigiLocker. Education Minister Nara Lokesh announced the results on social media platform X.

As many as 2,161 schools recorded a 100% pass result, while 16 schools reported zero pass percentage. Parvathipuram Manyam district emerged as the top performer with 96.07%, while Alluri Sitharama Raju district recorded the lowest at 57.12%. Andhra Pradesh

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Commission Submits Report on TTD Ghee Scam Case to CM

Amaravati, April 30 | TPN Bureau

The one-member commission appointed by the state government to examine the alleged irregularities in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) adulterated ghee case has reportedly submitted its findings to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Retired IAS officer and former Chief Secretary Dinesh Kumar, who headed the commission, is understood to have met the Chief Minister on Thursday and formally handed over the report prepared based on inputs from the CBI Special Investigation Team (SIT). According to sources, the report also outlines specific recommendations on action to be taken against officials named in the case. It is further reported that a copy of the report was also submitted to Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand and Sai Prasad for administrative processing. However, the contents of the report have not been made public so far,



and official confirmation on the names included remains awaited. Earlier inputs from the CBI SIT had reportedly recommended disciplinary action against former TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal, former In-charge EO Dharma Reddy, and several other officials connected to

the temple administration during the relevant period. With the submission of the commission's report, attention has now shifted to the Chief Minister's Office, as it is expected to decide the future course of action in the high-profile case involving the temple body.



Techie Suicide Case: Wife, Two Others Arrested; Probe Points to Marital Discord

Amaravati, April 30| TPN Bureau

The investigation into the death of a software engineer, Seetharam, who died by suicide in February, has led to the arrest of his wife and two other individuals, the police said. Seetharam, a native of Markapur, was employed in the IT sector and living with his family in Bachupally. He had married Renuka, from Nandyal, in 2018. The couple had two children. According to officials, a detailed suicide note recovered during the course of the investigation indicates that the deceased had been experiencing severe emotional distress linked to marital issues. The note forms part of the evidence being examined by investigators. Seetharam died after

jumping into Hussain Sagar. The incident had drawn considerable public attention at the time. Police said that, based on the contents of the note and supporting digital evidence, Renuka, along with two persons identified as Ramana Reddy and Shravan, has been taken into custody. They have been booked under relevant sections of law, and further investigation is under way to ascertain the sequence of events and any additional culpability. Family members of the deceased expressed grief over the incident, stating that his death has left the household in distress. Officials reiterated that the case remains under investigation and urged restraint in drawing conclusions until the inquiry is completed.



AP Bets Big on Livestock Sector

Vijayawada, April 30| TPN Bureau

Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Thursday launched the Pashusamvardhaka Margadarshini (Livestock Guide) e-magazine, aiming to strengthen the livestock sector and promote rural entrepreneurship. Speaking at his camp office, he said nearly 25 lakh farmers in the state are engaged in dairy, sheep, goat, and backyard poultry farming, with the sector expected to generate a Gross Value Added (GVA) of 1.76 lakh crore by 2025-26. The Minister acknowledged challenges such as traditional practices, labour shortages, fodder scarcity, and rising feed costs, but stressed that scientific and commercial livestock farming offers signifi-

cant income potential. He urged youth to explore opportunities in dairy, small ruminants, poultry, and piggyery. Atchannaidu also announced a three-day entrepreneurship training programme in Visakhapatnam, noting that 1,500 people have been trained so far, with 200 successfully establishing profitable ventures. The e-magazine, available via the SMILE platform and WhatsApp groups, provides guidance on animal health, nutrition, management, marketing, and government schemes. Highlighting the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, he said the goal is to create "one entrepreneur per household," with livestock farming capable of generating 5-6 lakh annual income per acre.



Titan Defense Group Eyes Investment in state

Amaravati, April 30| TPN Bureau

The state continues to attract major investments, with Hyderabad-based Titan Defense Systems Ltd. expressing strong interest in expanding its presence in the state. Minister BC Janardhan Reddy reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting investors, stating that Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a key investment destination under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He emphasized that a stable and reliable governance environment has boosted investor confidence, leading to increased inflow of investments. On Thursday, a delegation from Titan Defense Group, led by Chairman and CEO K. Girikumar, met the Minister at the Secretariat. During the meet-

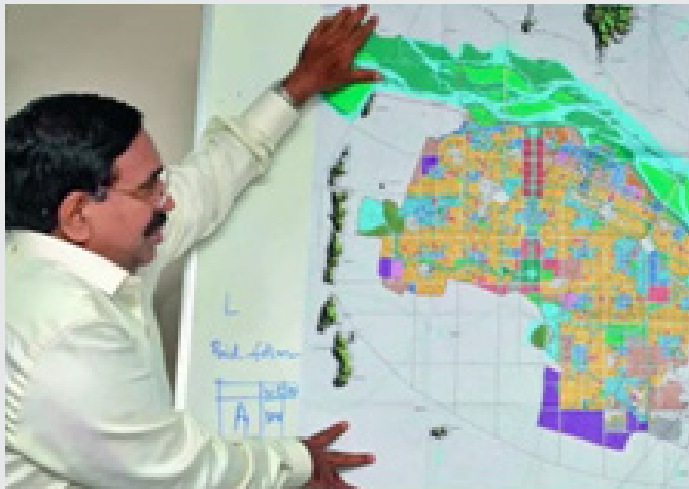
ing, company representatives discussed potential investment plans and explored opportunities within the state. Titan Defense Group has proposed setting up Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) and simulation centers at Kurnool Airport. In addition, the company is considering establishing a defense manufacturing unit in Nandyal district. Highlighting its capabilities, the company noted its extensive experience across sectors such as aviation, aerospace, defense, space, mining, and trading. It also underscored its expertise in developing infrastructure for training, testing, certification, modernization, and production. The proposed investments are expected to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position as a growing hub for defense and aerospace industries.

Amaravati Shifts Strategy: From Swiss Challenge to Skyscraper Development

Amaravati, April 30| TPN Bureau

The state government is moving ahead with plans to develop high-rise buildings in Amaravati's Finance City, replacing the previously proposed Seed Business District project. The 1,694-acre parcel once allocated to a Singapore consortium under the Swiss Challenge method will now be repurposed to host corporate offices and commercial hubs aimed at generating steady revenue.

The earlier agreement was cancelled in 2019 amid allegations of irregularities, leading to the withdrawal of the foreign consortium. Recent efforts to revive the partnership have not materialized, prompting the state to pursue an alternative development model. Officials indicate that consultations are underway with



multiple countries and multinational companies to attract investment. The government is considering various execution models, including leasing, direct sale, and company-led development, to ensure long-term income.

With a target to shape Amaravati into a functional capital by 2028, authorities plan to begin Finance City construction alongside core infrastructure works, expecting significant land value appreciation in the region.

Land Records Tampered, 20 Crore Property Row Triggers Uproar

Kadiri, April 30| TPN Bureau

A major land controversy has erupted in Kadiri of Sri Sathya Sai district, after ownership records of a 96-cent land parcel—estimated to be worth 20 crore—were allegedly altered overnight, sparking widespread concern and public outrage. According to the complainant, Subramanyam Swamy, his ancestral property located on Madanapalli Road under Survey No. 960-6B mysteriously disappeared from official online land records. In its place, names of unknown individuals reportedly surfaced without any prior notice or legal procedure. The victim alleges gross violation of administrative norms and has raised serious doubts about the role of Revenue Department officials. Despite approaching local authorities, including the Village Revenue Officer (VRO) and Mandal Revenue Officer



(MRO), the complainant claims he has received no clear explanation. This lack of response has intensified suspicions of either administrative negligence or deliberate manipulation, with some allegations hinting at possible political interference. Similar complaints have emerged from Saidapuram under Survey No. 90, where residents allege their names were removed from land records. Officials reportedly dismissed these concerns

as "clerical errors," further fueling distrust. Additional irregularities are suspected in Survey Nos. 20-1 and 181, raising fears of a larger systemic issue. With affected parties escalating the matter to higher authorities, residents are demanding a district-level probe. The controversy has heightened public anxiety, with many warning that failure to act decisively could undermine trust in governance and land administration systems.

MJP Gurukula Students Shine in Class 10 Results with 96.02% Pass Rate

Amaravati, April 30| TPN Bureau

Students from the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule BC Gurukula Schools (MJP) have delivered an outstanding performance in the Class 10 public examinations, securing an impressive pass percentage of 96.02% and earning the second position at the state level. The results, announced in Amaravati by Education Minister Nara Lokesh, highlighted the academic excellence of BC welfare institutions across the state. Out of 5,501 students from 100 MJP Gurukula schools who appeared for the exams conducted between March 16 and April 2, a total of 5,274 students passed. Notably, 32 institutions achieved a perfect 100% pass rate, underscoring the consistency and quality of education provided. The Gurukulas also surpassed the overall state pass percentage of 85.25% by more than 10%, a remarkable achievement in itself.

Although AP Residential Schools recorded a marginally higher pass percentage of 96.04%, MJP Gurukulas stood out in terms of scale, with significantly more students participating. Only 3,135 students



from 50 AP Residential Schools appeared for the examinations, placing MJP institutions at the forefront when considering student strength and outreach. The results mark a steady improvement over the previous year, when MJP schools recorded a 95% pass rate. This year's increase of 1.02% reflects sustained academic progress. Top performers included Sri Sai from the Naravada Gurukula in Nandyal district, who secured 596 marks, followed by Rita Sahiti (593) and Yashaswini (589). The strong showing comes on the heels of equally impressive Intermediate results, where BC students achieved 97% in First Year and 94% in Second Year exams, reinforcing a consistent upward trend in academic performance across levels. Students residing in BC hostels also demonstrated significant im-

provement. Of the 8,466 students who appeared, 7,280 passed, achieving a pass percentage of 85.99%, up from 77.22% last year. Among them, over 1,000 students scored above 500 marks, and K. Manasa from Anakapalli district earned a perfect 100 in Mathematics. Celebrations were held in Amaravati as officials and educators marked the achievement. Minister Savitha credited the success to targeted initiatives, including a 100-day action plan and increased funding for BC welfare institutions. She emphasized the government's commitment to empowering students through education and praised both students and teachers for their dedication. The results reaffirm the growing academic strength of BC welfare institutions, positioning MJP Gurukulas as a key pillar in the state's educational progress.

Rs 2,720.67 Crores Released for NTR Bharosa Pensions

Amaravati, April 30| TPN Bureau

The State Government has released Rs 2,720.67 crores for distributing NTR Bharosa pensions to 62.47 lakh beneficiaries on May 1, 2026. The pensions will be delivered directly to beneficiar-

ies' doorsteps across villages, wards, and urban areas. Additionally, Rs 4.15 crores has been allocated for 8,141 beneficiaries under the newly introduced Spouse Pension category. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas stated that the scheme is being implemented effectively to ensure

public welfare. He noted that, with this release, total pension expenditure has reached Rs 63,157.90 crores since the government assumed office, reaffirming its commitment to supporting the poor, elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities.



Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas Ties the Knot

Tirumala, April 30| TPN Bureau

Tollywood actor Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas entered a new phase of life as he tied the knot with Kavya Reddy in a traditional ceremony held at Tirumala on Wednesday night. The wedding took place in the divine presence of Lord Venkateswara Swamy, following Vedic rituals and customs. The intimate ceremony was attended by close family members, friends, and select guests

from the film and political circles. Among the notable attendees was Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who blessed the couple. The bride and groom appeared elegant in traditional attire, adding to the grandeur of the occasion. Wedding photos have since gone viral, with fans pouring in wishes online. Despite this personal milestone, Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas is expected to continue focusing on his upcoming film projects.



Family-Run Investment Scam Unearthed in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam, April 30| TPN Bureau

A major financial fraud involving a single family has been uncovered in Visakhapatnam, where unsuspecting investors were duped of approximately 6.5 crores under the pretense of stock market investments. According to reports, the accused lured victims by promising high returns through stock trading. They claimed they would invest funds on behalf of clients and offer up to 50 percent of the profits. Trusting these assurances, numerous individuals deposited large sums of money with the family. However, once the agreed timelines passed, the accused neither delivered any profits nor returned the in-

vested capital. When confronted, they allegedly evaded repayment and attempted to abscond. Following complaints from the victims, police at PM Palem registered a case and launched an investigation. Authorities have since arrested four members of the family identified as Surya Narayana Murthy, his wife Tripura Sundari, their son N. Bhagavat Venkata Vinod, and daughter-in-law Gayatri. The case has sparked widespread concern among residents, with many hoping that strict action will be taken and justice served to the victims. Police have stated that further investigation is underway to uncover the full extent of the scam and identify any additional accomplices.



Special Schools Achieve 100% Pass Rate in SSC Results

Amaravati, April 30| TPN Bureau

In an inspiring display of determination and academic excellence, government residential schools under the Department for the Welfare of Differently-abled, Transgenders, and Senior Citizens have achieved a remarkable 100 percent pass rate in the SSC (10th Grade) examinations for the 2025-26 academic year. A total of 54 students appeared for the examinations across various special schools in Andhra Pradesh, and every student successfully passed, setting a new benchmark for inclusive education. At Visakhapatnam, all 13 students from the Government Residential School for the Blind secured First Class results, showcasing outstanding academic performance. Similarly, in Sri Sathya Sai district (Hindupur), all 6 students from the Government Residential School for the Blind passed with First Class

distinction. In Prakasam district (Ongole), 16 students from the Government Residential School for the Hearing Impaired appeared for the exams, with 12 achieving First Class and the remaining 4 securing Second Class. Meanwhile, in Bapatla, all 19 students from the Government Residential School for the Hearing Impaired passed, maintaining the perfect success rate. Officials and educators have praised the students for their resilience and dedication, noting that their achievements stand as a powerful testament to perseverance in the face of challenges. Teachers and staff were also commended for their unwavering support and commitment to nurturing the students' potential. The results serve as a source of inspiration, highlighting how inclusive education and strong support systems can empower students to excel and break barriers.



Coalition Government’s Retaliation Against Secretariat Employees

Tadepalli, April 30|TPN Bureau

In a scathing attack on the ruling coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, Nalamaru Chandrasekhar Reddy, President of the YSRCP Employees and Pensioners Wing, has alleged systematic harassment of both government employees and the general public. Addressing a press conference at the party’s central office in Tadepalli, he accused the Chandrababu-led administration of adopting a discriminatory and vindictive approach toward Village and Ward Secretariat employees appointed during the previous Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government. Reddy condemned the reported assignment of menial duties, including bathroom maintenance at pilgrimage centers, to Secretariat staff, calling it a humiliating and unacceptable practice. He further criticized the large-scale deputation of employees to departments unrelated to their original roles, describing it as an attempt to demean and demoralize the workforce. “This treatment reduces trained government staff to the level of daily wage laborers,” he remarked, expressing deep outrage. Taking aim at Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s recent statements, Reddy dismissed claims that 99 percent of the state’s revenue is being spent on employee salaries as

misleading and baseless. He asserted that paying salaries is a fundamental obligation of any government, not an act of generosity. “It is unbecoming of a Chief Minister to portray salary payments as charity,” he said, adding that no other state government governs while publicly lamenting its own employees. Reddy also criticized what he described as the Chief Minister’s “emotional theatrics” over salary disbursements, calling it both inappropriate and disrespectful. He demanded the immediate clearance of pending dues, including notional increments and arrears owed to employees. Warning the government against undermining the Secretariat system—which supports lakhs of families across the state—Reddy urged the coalition to abandon what he termed “vindictive governance” and adopt a more humane and respectful approach toward employees. He emphasized that the administration must prove its claims of being “employee-friendly” through concrete actions rather than rhetoric. Concluding with a stern warning, Reddy stated that failure to address these concerns would invite strong backlash from employees and pensioners across Andhra Pradesh, potentially escalating into a larger political and administrative confrontation.



‘Business Reformer’ Award Belongs to Team AP, Says CM Chandrababu

Amaravati, April 30|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday stated that the ‘Business Reformer of the Year-2025’ award was a collective achievement of Team AP, crediting ministers, officials, and government employees for the recognition. Emphasizing teamwork, he described them as the “real winners” and reiterated the importance of coordinated efforts in driving the state’s development. To celebrate the occasion, the Chief Minister hosted a special event titled “Dinner with the Real Winners,” attended by ministers, senior bureaucrats, department heads, and select district- and mandal-level employees who demonstrated exemplary performance. The gathering followed a high-level review meeting where future governance priorities, development strategies, and policy directions were discussed. During the meeting, Finance Minister PayyavulaKeshav highlighted the state’s journey from the challenges following bifurcation to its current growth trajectory. He noted that reforms have consistently been a hallmark of the Chief Minister’s leadership, recalling earlier initiatives in sectors such as power, telecommunications, IT, and irrigation during the undivided Andhra

Pradesh era. The Chief Minister outlined upcoming goals and stressed the need for sustained focus on innovation, investment attraction, and administrative efficiency. He urged officials to remain committed to achieving targets and adapting policies to meet evolving economic demands. Minister Nara Lokesh, speaking at the event, praised the Chief Minister’s leadership style, particularly his hands-on approach and consistent follow-up on decisions. He highlighted the government’s emphasis on teamwork and its commitment to fostering a results-driven administration for the 2024-2029 term. Lokesh also detailed plans for the education and employment sectors. He said universities would be developed into research hubs, with new courses aligned to future industry needs. Students would receive advanced technological training, and an integrated job portal would be launched to streamline employment opportunities. He added that the government aims to equip youth with world-class skills and modern curricula. The Chief Minister is expected to soon conduct comprehensive review meetings on school education, higher education, and skill development initiatives as part of the state’s broader growth agenda.

YSRCP Slams ‘Artificial Fuel Crisis,’ Accuses TDP of Diversion Politics

Tadepalli, April 30|TPN Bureau

Former Minister Jogi Ramesh on Thursday accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of orchestrating diversionary tactics to deflect public attention from what he described as an “artificial fuel shortage” in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the media at the party’s central office in Tadepalli, Ramesh alleged that the fuel scarcity—unlike anywhere else in the country—was deliberately created by individuals aligned with Naidu for profiteering. He claimed that for over a week, people across the state have been forced to wait in long queues for petrol and diesel, triggering widespread public anger. Ramesh further alleged that, unable to respond to criticism, the ruling establishment used the Telugu daily Eenadu to publish what he called “baseless and exaggerated” reports of corruption in ‘Jagananna Colonies.’ He challenged the publication to question Naidu on why no land had been allocated to the poor during his tenure and why basic infrastructure remains incomplete in housing colonies developed earlier.



Highlighting the achievements of former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Ramesh stated that over 3.1 million women were provided house site pattas, benefiting nearly 12 million people. He noted that more than 17,000 ‘Jagananna Colonies’ were established during the previous government’s tenure. He questioned whether the current administration had developed even a single such colony or provided land to the underprivileged in the past two years. Ramesh also criticized the lack of roads and essential infrastructure in these colo-

nies, alleging neglect by the present government. In a sharp political remark, Ramesh dismissed comments by Nara Lokesh about ending Jagan’s “political movie,” asserting instead that the past five years represented only a “trailer” of development. He emphasized that initiatives such as medical colleges, ports, and housing projects would continue to shape the state’s future for decades. Ramesh concluded that the YSRCP’s development agenda remains ongoing and resilient, regardless of political challenges.

YSRCP Calls for Vigilance in Voter List Revision Process

Tadepalli, April 30|TPN Bureau

A crucial meeting on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list was held at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, with senior party leaders stressing the importance of strict monitoring and coordination during the process. The meeting was attended by State Co-ordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy as the chief guest, along with General Secretary Lella Appireddy, representatives from IT and social media wings, booth committee members, and district-level leaders. Addressing the gathering, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy emphasized that party cadres must remain fully alert throughout the voter list revision exercise. He urged them to act with caution based on past experiences, pointing out that the party has a critical responsibility to prevent any irregularities allegedly carried out under the guise of the revision process. At the same time, he stressed the need to ensure that no genuine votes belonging to party supporters are removed from the electoral rolls. Highlighting the importance of grassroots efforts, he stated that booth committees play a decisive role in safeguarding voter data. He advised members to effectively utilize modern technology while also remaining watchful against its misuse. Continuous monitoring, he said, is essential to prevent both wrongful deletions and the addition of fraudulent entries. Expressing confidence in the



Recalling past incidents, Sajjala noted that large-scale voter deletions had occurred just before earlier elections. Under the leadership of Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the party had then approached the Election Commission to address such concerns. Drawing from those experiences, he cautioned that the current revision—being conducted based on the 2002 voter list—requires even greater care, considering the significant demographic and social changes since then. The meeting also discussed the formation of a special task force to streamline the process. Leaders suggested preparing all necessary data in advance and conducting zone-wise training sessions for party workers. Teams at both Parliamentary and Assembly constituency levels are expected to coordinate closely with the task force to ensure efficiency and accuracy.

party’s organizational strength, Sajjala stated that with strong micro-level management, the party can achieve success under any circumstances, potentially surpassing its 2019 performance. He called on cadres to work with dedication and demonstrate their full potential. Speaking on the occasion, Lella Appireddy underscored that the SIR initiative must be taken seriously. He recommended holding meetings at district and constituency levels and maintaining constant coordination with the party headquarters. He added that the party leadership is closely monitoring the process and expects disciplined execution of responsibilities. The meeting concluded with clear directives to cadres, reinforcing the importance of vigilance, coordination, and accountability in the voter list revision process.

Rs 2,540 Crores for Amaravati Development; AP Cabinet Approves 41 Proposals

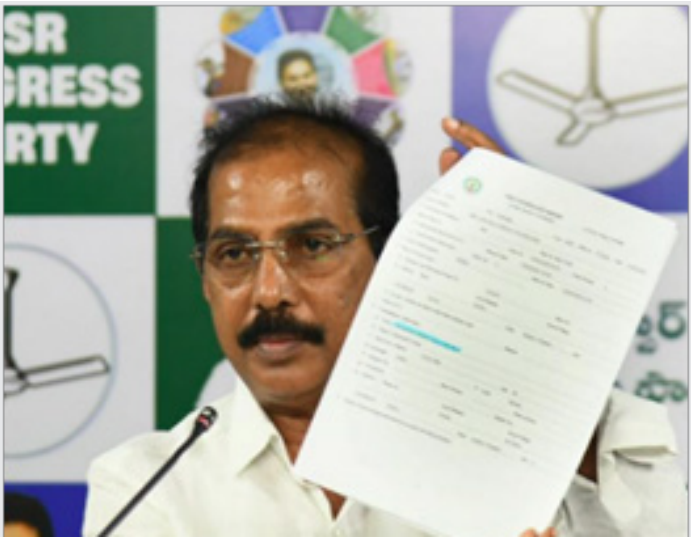
Amaravati, April 30|TPN Bureau

The Cabinet took key decisions regarding various sectors, including employment, infrastructure, agriculture, urban development, and investments. Presided over by Chief Minister Chandrababu, the Cabinet met at the Secretariat for nearly three and a half hours and gave its approval to over 20 agenda items. Subsequently, Minister PayyavulaKeshav briefed the media on the Cabinet’s decisions. He announced that the Cabinet has given the green signal for the construction of a new ‘AP Bhavan’ in Delhi, spanning 11.5 acres, at a cost of Rs 124.50 crores. The Cabinet gave the green signal for amendments to the policies governing the lease renewal and rent fixation of assets belonging to



municipalities. It also approved legislative amendment proposals aimed at ensuring the uniform application of mutation charges across all Urban Local Bodies in the state. Furthermore, the Cabinet approved a proposal to upgrade the post of Office Manager to that of Section Officer within the ‘Advocate-on-Record’ office located at the AP Bhavan in Delhi. It also granted administrative approval for construction works worth Rs 354 crores for the Greenfield Port project currently being built at Ramayapatnam. Finally,

the Cabinet approved a proposal to provide a government guarantee enabling AP MARKFED to secure a loan of Rs 1,800 crores. Approval was granted for the construction of the Quantum Valley Twin Towers in Amaravati at a cost of Rs 1,208 crore. The green signal was given for the promotion of 385 constables belonging to the 2000 batch of the Special Protection Force to the rank of Head Constable. Approval was also accorded for the creation of 21 new posts in the High Court and District Courts.



“Democracy Under Strain? YSRCP Flags Misuse of Police Machinery”

Tadepalli, April 30|TPN Bureau

In a sharp escalation of political rhetoric, YSRCP Legal Cell State President Manohar Reddy has accused the ruling coalition government of orchestrating a series of illegal cases to divert public attention from the deepening fuel crisis in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the media at the party’s central office in Tadepalli, he alleged that the arrest of senior journalist Pudi Srihari was not an isolated incident but part of a calculated political conspiracy. Reddy condemned what he described as “organized crime in governance,” pointing to the registration of identical complaints against Srihari across multiple locations on the same day. He questioned the intent behind such actions, asserting that the duplication of FIRs reflects deliberate misuse of the legal system to target dissenting voices. He further alleged that the government is operating under a repressive framework, dubbing it a “Red Book Constitution,” under which law enforcement agencies are being used to intimidate opposition leaders and activists rather than uphold justice. According to him, public dissatisfaction is growing as citizens grapple with long queues for

essential commodities, including fuel, while the administration remains focused on political vendettas. Highlighting procedural violations, Reddy criticized the manner in which Srihari was detained, claiming police failed to identify themselves and did not adhere to legal protocols, including producing the accused before a court within the stipulated time. He also objected to the invocation of serious legal provisions typically reserved for grave crimes, calling it excessive and unjustified. Reddy questioned the government’s priorities, especially its decision to challenge bail orders in higher courts at significant public expense, while citizens face severe hardships due to fuel shortages. He also alleged selective enforcement of laws, pointing out that no action was taken against provocative content from ruling party platforms. Raising broader concerns, he warned that civil liberties and democratic institutions are under threat, with increasing instances of victims being framed while perpetrators go unpunished. Reaffirming his party’s stance, Reddy declared that YSRCP would continue its fight against what it terms authoritarian governance, undeterred by legal intimidation.

Political Heat Rises: Ambati Rambabu Takes Bold Stand at YSR Ghat

Kadapa, April 30|TPN Bureau

Ambati Rambabu, a senior leader of the YSR Congress Party and former minister, made a strong and emotional declaration at the memorial of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy. During his visit to the YSR Ghat at Idupulapaya in Kadapa district, he paid floral tributes and took a solemn vow to fight tirelessly to bring Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy back to power. Rambabu stated that he is prepared to face any challenges in this political struggle, including conspiracies, attacks, legal cases, and even imprisonment. He emphasized that he and his party members are the true political heirs of YSR and are firmly committed to continuing his legacy under the leadership of Jagan. According to him, their mission is not just political but also ideological, rooted in the welfare-driven governance associated with YSR. During his speech, Rambabu sharply criticized the current alliance government, accusing it of betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh. He vowed to “democratically dismantle” what he described as a deceptive and vindictive

administration. He assured party supporters that their fight would continue relentlessly until Jagan is restored to power. Rambabu also expressed anger over multiple legal cases filed against him. He alleged that 36 cases had been registered on a single issue, calling them “manipulated” and politically motivated. He pointed to a complaint lodged by a Telugu Desam Party leader, Rama Muni Reddy, at Vempalli Police Station as the basis for these cases. Rambabu further accused the police of acting under the influence of Nara Lokesh, claiming that the cases were part of a broader campaign of political harassment. He warned that officials who misuse their authority would be held accountable in the future. Rambabu asserted that the current situation in the state reflects vindictive politics rather than democratic governance. Concluding his remarks, he reiterated his confidence that the YSR Congress Party will return to power and put an end to what he termed as “anarchic rule,” pledging to continue the fight through both political and legal means.

Collectors’ Conference Likely on May 7-8

Amaravati, April 30|TPN Bureau

The State Government is set to conduct the 7th phase of the District Collectors’ Conference under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on May 7 and 8. While the General Administration Department (GAD) is yet to issue an official notification, sources said the dates have al-

ready been communicated to all 28 district collectors. The government is reportedly considering a change in venue this time, with plans to hold the conference at the new CRDA office instead of the Secretariat. The conference hall at the CRDA building is said to be more spacious and equipped with advanced facilities. An official announcement from the GAD is expected shortly.



Chinni, Uma Lead 13 Cr Development Push; 1,500 KL Water Tank Inaugurated in Vijayawada Central

Vijayawada ,April 30|TPN Bureau:

Member of Parliament KesineniChinni and MLA Bonda Uma on Thursday inaugurated a 1,500 kilolitre capacity LSR water tank at Nandamuri Nagar (Y.V. Rao Estates) in the 58th Division of Vijayawada Central constituency, marking a significant step toward resolving long-standing drinking water issues in the area.

The inauguration was conducted with traditional rituals, followed by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. As part of the ceremony, the MP symbolically distributed water drawn from the new facility to local women, highlighting the project's immediate benefit to residents.

Addressing the gathering, Chinni emphasized that under the current Alliance government, development is being carried out with equal priority across all regions, irrespective of their location. He stated that eliminating drinking water scarcity remains a key objective, with coordinated efforts and full administrative support being extended to achieve this goal.

He attributed the existing water crisis to the neglect of previous administrations, while assuring residents that the government is committed to delivering a permanent solution. He also noted that directives from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu have ensured that peripheral areas receive the same focus as core urban zones.

According to the MP, the project is part of a broader development initiative worth approximately 13 crores undertaken through the General Fund under the 15th Finance Commission's AMRUT scheme. He added that discussions with the Chief Minister have paved the way for addressing key civic challenges and accelerating infrastructure development in Vijayawada, with the aim of transforming it into a modern, well-planned city on par with Amaravati.

MLA Bonda Uma, along with former corporators, division leaders, and Alliance party representatives, attended the event.

4.20 Crore Sanctioned for Tank Modernisation

Kondapalli (NTR District), April 30|TPN Bureau

In a step towards the development of the historic town of Kondapalli, Mylavaram MLA VasanthaVenkata Krishna Prasad on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the modernisation of GajarajuCheruvu at an estimated cost of 4.20 crore.

The project, funded by the Andhra Pradesh Greening and Beautification Corporation (APG&BC), aims to enhance the infrastructure and ecological value of the tank, which holds local significance. The sanctioning of funds has been welcomed by residents, who expressed optimism about improved amenities and environmental conditions.

Addressing the gathering,



the MLA said his primary objective is to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Kondapalli and ensure the overall development of the municipality. He added that efforts are being made to effectively utilise every available opportunity to secure funds and implement development works.

AkkalaRammohan Rao (Gandhi), Janasena Party in-charge for the Mylavaram constituency, along with leaders of the ruling alliance and other dignitaries, attended the event.



Illegal Gravel Mining Sparks Tension: VRO Attacked in NTR District

Chandarlapadu, April 30|TPN Bureau:

In a disturbing incident highlighting the growing menace of illegal mining, a Village Revenue Officer (VRO) was allegedly threatened and nearly assaulted by gravel transporters in NTR district on Thursday.

The incident occurred within the Muppalla revenue limits of Chandarlapadumandal, where unauthorized excavation and transportation of gravel have reportedly been taking place. Acting on information about illegal gravel movement from fields along the Kethaveerunipadu road, VRO Baburao, accompanied by a Village Revenue Assistant (VRA), rushed to the spot to intervene.

Upon confronting the transporters and instructing them to halt operations due to lack of permits, the VRO was met

with hostility. The transporters allegedly surrounded him, used abusive language, and engaged in a heated argument. The situation quickly escalated, creating a tense atmosphere at the site.

Sources indicate that such illegal activities are being carried out with little fear of enforcement, allegedly due to the indifference of higher officials and the backing of influential political elements. Field-level staff, including VROs and VRAs, are increasingly finding themselves vulnerable while attempting to discharge their duties.

The incident has raised serious concerns over the safety of government officials and the unchecked rise of illegal mining operations in the region. It remains to be seen what action the higher authorities will take in response to the attack and the ongoing illegal excavation activities.



Minister KolusuParthasarathy Performs RajashyamalaYagam for State Prosperity

Amaravati,Aprii30|TPN Bureau:

Minister KolusuParthasarathy conducted a RajashyamalaYagam in his native village Karakampadu, located in Pamarru constituency of Krishna district, with prayers for the prosperity of the Andhra Pradesh government and its people.

The ritual was performed in the names of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh. A

large homakund (sacred fire altar) was specially constructed, and the yagam was conducted by priests following traditional Vedic procedures.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister expressed his wish that the state should achieve prosperity and well-being under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and Minister Lokesh. The event witnessed participation from a large number of devotees, along with significant attendance

from coalition party workers, creating a festive atmosphere in the village. According to Hindu traditions, the RajashyamalaYagam is performed to seek political success, victory over adversaries, immense knowledge, and fame. Devotees conduct this ritual to appease Goddess Rajashyamala, considered a form of Goddess Saraswati, the deity of wisdom. Scholars often state that the yagam is believed to yield results comparable to the ancient Rajasuya Yaga.

Journalists Key to Public Welfare: Punnam Raju



Vijayawada, 01 May 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Emphasising the crucial role of the media in a democratic society, Journalists Association of Andhra Pradesh (JAP) State President M.D.V.S.R. Punnam Raju stated that journalists serve as a vital bridge between the government and the public by highlighting people's issues and explaining welfare schemes. He was speaking at the unveiling of the JAP Journalists' Diary at the association's office in Vijayawada. The event was attended by several union representatives and members. Punnam Raju noted that JAP has been working for the welfare of

journalists for over three decades and continues to respond to their concerns while striving for solutions. He called upon journalists to remain united and uphold professional integrity, especially at a time when attacks on media personnel are reportedly increasing. He demanded stringent action against those responsible for such incidents and urged the government to fulfil its promises made to journalists, ensuring better working conditions and security. Union leaders including D. Venkat Reddy, K. Anil Kumar Reddy, S. Suryanarayana Babu, Prabhakar, Lokesh, and Shivakumar were present on the occasion.



In a separate event, JAP leaders also honoured three retiring officials from the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department for their dedicated service. Those felicitated included Additional Director L. Swarnalatha, Deputy Director B. Poornachandra Rao, and Junior Assistant V. Haribabu. Punnam Raju lauded the retirees for their commitment, discipline, and integrity throughout their careers, stating that their

service stands as an inspiration to others. The officials were felicitated with shawls and bouquets amid applause from colleagues and well-wishers.

The retiring employees shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to colleagues and seniors for their support during their tenure. The event concluded on an emotional note, with attendees wishing them a healthy and fulfilling life post-retirement.

Cabinet Sub-Committee Meeting Urged to Address AP Government Employees' Issues

Amaravati, April 30|TPN Bureau:

Leaders of APJAAC Amaravati have urged the State government to convene a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting at the earliest to address pending financial and service-related issues of government employees.

APJAAC Chairman BopparajuVenkateswarlu and Secretary General PalisetiDamodara Rao said they met Finance Minister PayyavulaKeshav at the Secretariat on

Thursday and submitted a memorandum highlighting key demands.

They sought implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) under Act 57 for employees recruited through pre-2004 notifications, stating that similar benefits have been extended to certain Central government staff in the state. They also demanded raising the retirement age to 62 years for employees in PSUs, Gurukulas, and societies, and immediate regularisation of contract employees.

The leaders urged extension

of welfare schemes to outsourcing staff as promised in the manifesto. Recalling the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held on October 18, 2025, they noted that while some decisions were implemented, several key issues remain unresolved.

Expressing concern over growing dissatisfaction among employees and pensioners, they called for urgent government action. Association leaders and union representatives were present.

Vijayawada, April 30|TPN Bureau:

YarlagaddaVenkatrao, Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA, has called on citizens to actively cooperate with the upcoming Census 2027 process, emphasizing its importance for national development. Participating in a self-registration event at his office in Vijayawada, the MLA registered his family details on the official census portal under the supervision of Tahsildar Sivayya.

Addressing the gathering,

Venkatrao stated that the census goes beyond population counting and serves as a crucial foundation for economic and social planning. He informed that the process will run from May 1 to May 31, during which enumerators will visit every household.

He urged citizens to provide accurate information without hesitation and appealed to residents across the state, especially in Gannavaram constituency, to ensure the success of this nationwide initiative.



MLA Prashanthi Reddy Attends Temple Kumbhabhishekam

Krishnapuram, April 30|TPN Bureau
Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy, MLA of Kovur and TDP Politburo member, attended the Kumbhabhishekam of Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Krishnapuram village near Mypadu, Indukurupeta Mandal, as chief guest. Addressing the gathering, she reaffirmed the Alliance government's commitment to supporting the fishing community. She expressed gratitude to N. Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for inducting her into the TDP Politburo. She highlighted that welfare and devel-

opment are progressing simultaneously under the coalition government, even amid economic challenges. Prashanthi Reddy noted that the MatsyakaraBharosa relief has been increased from 10,000 to 20,000. She also announced subsidized distribution of boats and nets for fishermen. Additionally, 1 crore has been sanctioned for a road between Koruturu and Krishnapuram. She assured completion of new school classrooms before summer and promised infrastructure upgrades, including roads and drainage, for Krishnapuram village

Collector Reviews Welfare Schemes Under PalleVeekshana

Dagadarthi , April 30|TPN Bureau
Nellore District Collector Himanshu Shukla conducted the PalleVeekshana (Village Inspection) program in Ananthavaram village of Dagadarthi mandal, Nellore district, to ensure effective implementation of government welfare and development schemes. The Collector toured the village, inspecting works under the Employment Guarantee Scheme and reviewing an Aadhaar enrollment camp for Scheduled Tribes at the Gram Panchayat office. He visited dragon fruit and mango orchards developed through natural farming and drip irrigation, and also examined the

Mini Gokulam dairy unit and Anganwadi centre, interacting with children to assess learning levels. During his visit to the tribal colony, he listened to residents' grievances and assured provision of house sites, housing, and welfare benefits. He facilitated school admissions for tribal children and encouraged education. In an interaction with villagers, he received petitions and directed officials to resolve issues promptly. He announced Aadhaar enrollment for 70 tribals, ration cards, AAY benefits, and livelihood support like goats, bicycles, and ice boxes. He said the program will cover over 700 villages.



TDP Shifts 44th Mahanadu Venue from Srikakulam to Nellore After Strategic Review

Amaravati, April 30 | TPN Bureau
The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has decided to shift the venue of its 44th annual Mahanadu from Chapuram in Srikakulam district to Nellore district, marking a significant organisational change ahead of the party's flagship political conclave. Initially, preparations had begun in Chapuram, with local leaders making preliminary arrangements for hosting the large-scale event. However, the party leadership has now revised the decision following a series of consultations involving elected representatives from both Srikakulam and Nellore districts. TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh is understood to have taken the final call after reviewing logistical, strategic, and political considerations. He has directed party leaders in Nellore to immediately begin arrangements to host the Mahanadu on a grand scale, with expectations of nearly five lakh participants attending the event. Sources within the party indicated that the decision also factors in crowd management challenges and infrastructure requirements, given the scale of the proposed gathering. Lokesh has reportedly instructed organisers to ensure smooth traffic management and adequate facilities for participants to avoid congestion-related issues. Party insiders further suggest that broader political developments at the national level also influenced the shift. Reports indicate the possibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a

public meeting in North Andhra in June or July. In this context, holding two major mass political events in the same region within a short time span was assessed as potentially challenging from an organisational and security perspective. Political observers view the relocation of Mahanadu to Nellore as a calculated strategic move aimed at balancing regional outreach while avoiding overlap with high-profile national-level events. The decision is also being interpreted as part of the TDP's larger political planning ahead of future electoral and organisational goals. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had recently announced during the Google Data Centerground-breaking ceremony in Visakhapatnam that Prime Minister Modi is expected to inaugurate the Bhogapuram International Greenfield Airport by July 15 this year. Against this backdrop, party leaders reportedly felt that hosting another major event involving the Prime Minister in close proximity to such engagements required careful scheduling. The Mahanadu, considered the TDP's most important annual policy and organisational gathering, is expected to showcase the party's future roadmap, mobilisation strength, and leadership strategy. With the venue now shifted to Nellore, preparations are expected to intensify in the coming days, with senior leaders coordinating logistics, security, and outreach programmes for the mega event.

CM Naidu Calls for Future-Ready Education, Skill Audits and University Reforms

continued
and industry collaboration. Highlighting emerging sectors such as logistics, green energy, artificial intelligence, and quantum technology, the Chief Minister said academic institutions must evolve in line with market needs. He appreciated Andhra University for introducing a course in quantum technology, calling it a positive step towards innovation-driven education. Naidu stressed the importance of international collaboration, directing universities in the state to establish partnerships with at least one of the world's top 200 universities. He also suggested setting up foreign language departments, including German, to enhance the global employability of students. Each university, he said, should be linked with industrial partners to bridge the gap between education and employment. The Chief Minister further instructed that curricula from primary to postgraduate levels should focus on both career development and character building. He called for inte-



grating best practices from premier institutions like IIT Madras and ensuring the complete digitisation of university records. He also proposed conducting random skill audits to assess whether students possess industry-relevant competencies. Skill Gap Advisors, he said, should be appointed to continuously monitor and guide skill development initiatives. The state, he added, aims to equip 20 lakh youth with employable skills to boost economic activity. Naidu suggested strengthening ITIs through a hub-and-spoke model under initiatives such as PM SETU and expanding skill training in sectors like energy, aviation, logistics, and emerging technologies through polytechnics and engineering colleges. He also directed officials

to improve mid-day meal quality with nutritious menus, promote kitchen gardens in hostels, and strengthen sanitation facilities in educational institutions. Parents, he said, should be able to track student attendance and progress through digital platforms like the LEAP app. HRD Minister Nara Lokesh informed the Chief Minister that reforms are underway to align courses with industrial needs, strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy, and improve teaching standards. He also said teachers are being sent to countries like Finland for exposure to advanced pedagogical practices, with the education system being restructured under a Teacher-Student-Outcome framework.

Minor Boy Rescued in Tirumala, Reunification Process Initiated

Tirupati, April 30|TPN Bureau
Tirumala police rescued a 13-year-old boy found wandering alone near Lepakshi Circle on Thursday morning and ensured his safety through due legal procedures. Police from Tirumala II Town Station noticed the boy at around 9 am and took him into protective custody. He was

later identified as C.H. Dhanush, son of the late Veerababu, a native of Jagannadhapuram Bridge in Kakina. During questioning, the boy said he left home three days earlier after being scolded by his parents and had been roaming in Tirumala since then. Police immediately informed his parents and, as per SP L. Subbarayudu's instruc-

tions, produced the child before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Tirupati. He has been temporarily shifted to a shelter home and will be handed over after verification procedures. The SP appreciated the timely response of police personnel and urged parents to handle children with care and emotional support.

SSC 2026 Results Show 2,161 Schools with 100% Pass

continued
Private schools, which form the largest category with 5,044 institutions, recorded both the highest number of 100% pass schools at 1,542 and the highest number of zero-pass schools at 11. This reflects significant performance variation within the private education sector. Residential education systems also showed strong results. AP Model Schools re-

corded 13 schools with full pass results, while AP Residential Educational Institutions Society (APREIS), APSWREIS, APTWREIS, and BC Welfare schools collectively contributed to a steady number of high-performing institutions. KGBV schools recorded 54 schools with 100% pass results. Aided institutions and Ashram schools reported limited cases of zero pass results, with

2 schools each in the category. Officials noted that the results highlight both excellence and disparities across different management systems, with private and residential schools showing higher concentration at both extremes of performance. The data is expected to guide future academic interventions and quality improvement measures across school categories.

SSC Results Improve as 100-Day Action Plan Boosts Pass Percentage to 85.25%

continued
students. Performance data was recorded through the LEAP mobile application and analysed daily using multiple dashboards, enabling teachers to identify "Shining Stars" and "Rising Stars" and adjust teaching methods accordingly. Special attention was given to weak performers through focused remedial classes and a 30-day residential programme for students identified as lagging. Model papers, bilingual question banks, and subject-wise practice materials were distributed free of cost, while 15 action-plan booklets were supplied to all government schools to guide structured preparation. To support holistic development, the government also provided midday meals, uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, shoes, bags, and other learning materials under welfare schemes, alongside financial assistance to mothers under the Thalli Vandanam initiative. Officials stated that these measures, combined with academic moni-



toring, contributed to the improved outcomes. Out of 12,089 schools in the state, including government, aided, and private institutions, only 16 schools recorded zero pass results, of which 11 were private schools, and 5 were government-managed institutions. Minister Nara Lokesh said the results reflected collective effort and systematic execution of the education reform

strategy. He added that while the improvement is encouraging, further focus will be placed on strengthening infrastructure, enhancing learning outcomes, and ensuring the holistic development of students. He also congratulated successful candidates and encouraged those who did not pass to continue their efforts without discouragement. Parents Return to School, Pass SSC with Their Children

Parents Return to School, Pass SSC with Their Children

continued
father Baburao, who pursued his studies through the Open School system, passed with 257 marks. Baburao's decision to study alongside his daughter turned their home into a shared classroom, where both academic lessons and life values were exchanged. His effort was widely appreciated as an example of leading by action and breaking the belief that education is limited by age. Both families have become symbols of inspiration

across the state, with villagers, teachers, and social media users celebrating their success. Their journeys highlight the importance of perseverance, mutual encouragement, and the belief that education can be pursued at any stage of life. These stories stand as powerful reminders that when families learn together, they not only achieve academic success but also strengthen emotional bonds, creating victories that go beyond marks and examinations.



Sachin Promotes 'Brand AP'

continued
with playing a key role in facilitating the cricketer's participation. According to officials, Lokesh has been using such platforms to build connections with prominent personalities in sports, industry, and governance, to promote Andhra Pradesh as an investment and cultural destination. It is also noted that Lokesh's earlier interactions with industry leaders during visits outside the country have coincided with progress in key infrastructure projects in the state. One such example cited by officials is the ArcelorMittal-Nippon Steel project in Anakapalli district, where discussions held during an overseas visit were followed by advancements leading to the foundation of the steel plant within months. At the Andhra University event, Sachin's presence drew large public attention and extensive media

coverage, which government representatives described as beneficial for strengthening the "Brand Andhra Pradesh" image. The participation of a globally recognised sports personality was seen as adding prestige to the centenary celebrations. Supporters of the initiative argue that such engagements help improve the state's cultural outreach and investment profile, while critics have raised questions over the blending of public roles with promotional activities. However, officials maintain that such interactions are aimed at creating wider visibility and fostering relationships that benefit the state's development agenda. The centenary celebrations thus became both a cultural milestone and a platform for showcasing Andhra Pradesh on a broader stage, with Sachin Tendulkar's presence emerging as a highlight of the event

Girls Outshine Boys in AP SSC 2026 Results, Pass Percentage Rises to 85.25%

continued
Residential Schools performed strongly with a 96.04% pass rate. Out of the 5,26,954 successful candidates, 4,40,995 students (83.69%) secured First Division, 62,572 (11.87%) secured Second Division, and 23,387 (4.44%) secured Third Division. Officials highlighted that the year-wise trend reflects a sharp recovery from 67.26% in 2022 to

85.25% in 2026, indicating sustained academic improvement after earlier fluctuations. The SSC Advanced Supplementary Examinations will be held from May 25 to June 4, 2026. Fee payments can be made from May 1 to May 9 without late fee and up to May 25 with a 50 late fee. Applications for recounting and reevaluation will be accepted online from May 1 to May 7, with fees set at 500 and 1,000 per subject respectively.

Large-Scale Health Initiative under Minister Narayana

Nellore, April 30|TPN Bureau:
A large-scale health initiative led under the guidance of Ponguru Narayana is making significant impact in Nellore, with over 5,000 people screened so far. The free medical camps—"Netrajyothi" (eye care) and 'Danta Suraksha' (dental care)—were successfully conducted on Thursday in Yalamavaridinne of the 13th Division, drawing massive public participation. Over the past 39 days, 5,142 individuals underwent eye screenings, with 3,000 identified for specta-

cles and 2,846 already receiving them. Additionally, 74 patients with serious eye conditions underwent free surgeries at Narayana Hospital. The dental initiative has benefited more than 2,300 people. Organizers stated that the program aims to deliver corporate-level healthcare services free to underprivileged communities. Local leaders and residents appreciated the effort, highlighting the provision of doorstep services and free transportation. Medical experts and party representatives actively participated in the camp, ensuring smooth execution.

RP Attacked at Chittoor Municipal Office

Chittoor, April 30|TPN Bureau
An attack on a Resource Person (RP) at the Chittoor Municipal Corporation office has come to light, raising concerns over staff safety at the workplace. The incident reportedly occurred at the district headquarters office. Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao sought a detailed report from

District SP Tushar Dudi and Municipal Commissioner Narasimha Prasad. He directed officials to ensure strict legal action against those involved and extend full support to the victim. Condemning the assault on a woman RP on duty as "unfortunate and inhuman," the MP also urged SHG members to resolve grievances through official channels instead of resorting to violence.

PM-RAVATH Scheme Key to Saving Accident Victims During Golden Hour: MLA Prabhakar

Duggirala, April 30|TPN Bureau:

Denduluru MLA ChintamaneniPrabhakar on Thursday highlighted the importance of the Centre’s PM-RAVATH (Road Accident Victims Assistance Through Health Support) scheme, describing it as a life-saving initiative that ensures timely medical care for accident victims.

Speaking at a review meeting at his camp office in Duggirala, he said the scheme provides immediate, cashless treatment up to 1.5 lakh or for the first 48 hours of hospitalization at both government and private hospitals, irrespective of eligibility under other welfare programmes.

Gannavaram Gender Determination Racket Busted; AIYF Seeks SIT Probe

Gannavaram, April 30|TPN Bureau

The All India Youth Federation (AIYF) has exposed an alleged inter-district medical racket operating from Gannavaram, accusing a network of government doctors, former lab technicians, and RMPs of illegally conducting gender determination and defrauding pregnant women.

According to AIYF State Vice President Lanka Govindarajulu, the syndicate charged between 1lakh and 5 lakh, issuing fake ultrasound reports promising male children. A government gynecologist posted in Tirupati and a former technician from Gannavaram Government Hospital were identified as key accused.

Kurnool Plans Coordinated Crackdown on Traffic Woes

Kurnool, April 30|TPN Bureau

Municipal Commissioner ChallaObulesu on Thursday announced a series of special measures to address rising traffic congestion in the city, calling for coordinated action among civic bodies, traffic police, and the transport department.

At a review meeting held at the Municipal Corporation office in Venkataramana Colony, officials discussed practical steps to improve traffic flow. The Commissioner proposed setting up bus stops at key locations to enhance commuter convenience and directed transport officials to identify

Assistant Collector Meets SP to Initiate Pushkaram Preparations

East Godavari, April 30|TPN Bureau

In a proactive move ahead of the Godavari Pushkarams-2027, Assistant Collector Kshitij Aditya Sharma paid a courtesy visit to District Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore at the District Police Office. The meeting marked the beginning of coordinated efforts among departments to ensure smooth conduct of the mega religious event. Anticipating the arrival of lakhs of devotees to the Godavari riverbanks, officials held preliminary discussions on crucial aspects such as security arrangements,

Basic Amenities Must Be Ensured in Rythu Bazars, Says Collector Dr. A. Siri

Kurnool, April 30|TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri has directed Market Yard officials to ensure strict provision of basic amenities in all Rythu Bazars across the district, stressing improved sanitation and infrastructure for the benefit of farmers and the public.

At a review meeting held on Thursday at the Mini Conference Hall in the Collectorate, along with Joint Collector NurulQamar, she instructed officials to upgrade facilities and resolve pending issues immediately.The Collector emphasized

Emphasising the significance of the “Golden Hour,” the MLA noted that delays in medical attention often lead to loss of lives. He said the scheme addresses this gap by enabling victims to access emergency care without upfront payment.

Prabhakar added that beneficiaries can continue treatment under schemes like NTR Vaidya Seva or private insurance, depending on eligibility. He directed officials to create awareness, especially in rural areas, to ensure maximum utilisation.

The MLA also reviewed development works, urged prompt redressal of public grievances, and assured that all eligible citizens would benefit from welfare schemes.

varam Government Hospital were identified as key accused.

In one case from Vijayawada, a pregnant woman was allegedly given unsafe medication despite having diabetes, leading to uterine damage. After delivering a baby girl, she was reportedly assaulted when confronting the accused.

The AIYF has demanded a Special Investigation Team, seizure of Guru Dattatreya Clinic, suspension of the involved doctor, and compensation for victims. The organization termed the racket a serious violation of the PCPNDT Act and a grave social crime.

congestion-prone areas.

A focused drive has been launched in “Red Zones” to remove unauthorized street vending on roads, which has been identified as a major cause of traffic bottlenecks. Officials from Town Planning, MEPMA, and Traffic Police were instructed to take strict action against encroachments.

He also suggested dynamic traffic signal adjustments based on real-time vehicle movement. Emphasizing coordination, he urged all departments to work together to ensure smoother traffic, improved road safety, and better urban management.

traffic regulation, and emergency response systems. Key focus areas included crowd management at ghats, deployment of police personnel, and the use of modern surveillance tools like drones and CCTV cameras.Both officials stressed the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination and early planning to avoid inconvenience to the public. The SP highlighted that robust security planning would be vital for the event’s success, while the Assistant Collector assured meticulous execution through collective efforts of all departments involved.

sized that Rythu Bazars exist primarily to support farmers and directed that toilets, RO drinking water plants, and CCTV cameras must be maintained in proper working condition.She expressed concern over the entry of middlemen and wholesale traders, instructing that stalls be allotted only to farmers. She warned that strict enforcement should be ensured, if necessary with police support.Dr. Siri also reviewed space constraints and ongoing expansion works, asking officials to expedite pending improvements.

Vasanthotsavams Begin in Grandeur at Tiruchanur

Tirupati, April 30|TPN Bureau

The annual Vasanthotsavams of Goddess Sri Padmavathi Ammavaru commenced with grandeur at Tiruchanur Temple on Thursday, drawing large numbers of devotees. The highlight of the celebrations, the SwarnaRathotsavam (Golden Chariot Festival), is scheduled for May 1 at 9:30 AM, promising a spectacular visual experience.Observed during the spring season when the Sun transits through Mesha Rasi (Aries), the festival holds spiritual significance, with devotees believing that participation in the rituals brings relief from physical and mental distress caused by the intense summer heat.The festivities began early in the morning with the Suprabhatam ritual, followed by Sahasranamarchana. In the afternoon, the processional deities (UtsavaMurthies) were taken in a grand procession to the ShukravaramThota, where the sacred Snapana-Thirumanjanam was performed. The deities were ceremonially bathed with tur-



meric, vermilion, milk, curd, honey, sandalwood paste, and coconut water. Later in the evening, the Goddess was taken in a procession along the four Mada streets surrounding the temple.The ShukravaramThota has been artistically transformed to resemble the lush Seshachalam Hills, featuring rich greenery, vibrant floral arrangements, and decorative sculptures of animals such as cows, monkeys, peacocks, swans, and parrots. The elaborate

setup incorporated large quantities of traditional flowers, vetiver roots, fruits, and thousands of cut flowers, crafted by expert decorators from multiple cities along with temple staff.Cultural programs, including spiritual music under the Annamacharya Project, added to the festive atmosphere. Several dignitaries and officials, along with a large gathering of devotees, participated in the inaugural celebrations.

Ethics Central to Medical Practice, Say Experts at AIMSRS Workshop

Chittoor, April 30|TPN Bureau

A one-day workshop on Medical Ethics and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines was conducted at the Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR), Murukumbattu, on Wednesday, bringing together postgraduate students and faculty from AIMSRS and Apollo Medical College, Chennai.Held at the Dr. Prathap C. Reddy Knowledge Centre Auditorium, the programme highlighted the importance of ethical values in modern healthcare. AIMSRS Dean Dr. Alfred J. Augustine said ethics form the backbone of medical services and such initiatives enrich academic learning.

Government General Hospi-



tal, Chittoor Medical Superintendent Dr. Ranganath B.G. stressed that patient care, dignity, and clinical responsibility are paramount, adding that honesty and ethical conduct are essential in medical practice.Expert sessions were delivered by Dr. Ashok Shenoy and Dr. Animesh Jain, covering

medical ethics, GCP guidelines, clinical trial regulations, informed consent, and patient confidentiality.

Faculty members including Dr. RamyaRamakrishnan, Dr. UshaAdiga, Dr. Sachidananda-Adiga, and Dr. SravanaDeepti participated along with postgraduate students.

Tirupati police felicitate April retirees

Tirupati, April 30|TPN Bureau

The Tirupati District Police on Thursday organised a felicitation ceremony to honour personnel retiring in April, recognising their long and dedicated service. Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu, IPS, felicitated the retiring officers and staff and presented them with mementos. Family members of the retirees also attended, adding a personal touch to the event.Those who retired include Sub-Inspector M. Nazeer Beg, Assistant Sub-Inspector P. Bharat Kumar, Head Constables G. Raghavulu and D. Kanaka Raj, and AR Head Constable A. Nanda Kumar.

MLA Arani Srinivasulu Receives Public Petitions During ‘Janavani’ Programme

Tirupati, April 30|TPN Bureau

Continuing his engagement with the public, Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu on Thursday received petitions from citizens as part of the ‘Janavani’ initiative organized by the Jana Sena Party at its central headquarters in Mangalagiri.The programme, conducted from Monday

through Thursday, mandates the participation of the party’s elected representatives to directly address public grievances. Srinivasulu took part in the sessions on both Wednesday and Thursday, interacting with citizens and accepting their petitions.Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that ‘Janavani’ was initiated under the leadership of party president Pawan

Kalyan with the primary objective of resolving people’s issues, irrespective of whether the party is in power or in opposition. He called upon officials to respond promptly to public concerns and avoid delays or excuses in addressing grievances. Several party leaders, including Parvathi Naidu, Ganti Pawan, and Nagendra, were also present during the programme.

Hope and Support Extended to Differently-Abled

Chittoor, April 30|TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumit Kumar on Thursday urged officials to work in coordination to improve the quality of life and instill confidence among differently-abled persons in the district.Speaking at a service programme held at the PGRS Conference Hall in the Collectorate, he highlighted a collaborative initiative by

Palamaneru Helping Hands Charitable Society and Joining the Dots Foundation, supported by Uday Hotels.Under the programme, 115 assistive devices were sanctioned, of which 84 have already been distributed, while the remaining are being arranged for beneficiaries. Nine persons, including eight children, underwent corrective surgeries at SSIMS, Bengaluru, and

are receiving physiotherapy support. Five have been fitted with prosthetic devices so far. The initiative involved an expenditure of around 1.5 crore. The Collector appreciated volunteers and staff for their service to the underprivileged. He also announced support contact number 7799506500 for prosthetic assistance and felicitated contributors to the programme.



Government School Shines with 90.47% Pass Rate in SSC Results

Karamchedu, April 30|TPN Bureau:

Demonstrating that excellence in education thrives in government institutions, the Zilla Parishad High School at Kodavalivaripalem in Karamchedu Mandal has achieved an impressive 90.47% pass rate in the SSC (10th grade) examinations this year.

Out of 21 students who appeared for the exams, 19 passed successfully. Among them, 14 students secured First Class honors, four achieved Second Class, and one student passed in Third Class, reflecting the school’s strong academic performance.

Inampudi Sushma emerged as the school topper with an

outstanding score of 545 marks. She was followed by Kumari Varshitha Raj, who secured the second position with 524 marks, while ChirumalaSrivallika stood third with 500 marks.Expressing his delight over the results, Headmaster Umamaheswara Rao congratulated the students and appreciated their hard work and dedication. He credited the success to the combined efforts of students and the consistent support and guidance provided by the teaching staff.

Parents also expressed immense pride in their children’s achievements and extended their gratitude to the school for its commitment to quality education.

Police Launch ‘Helmet Saves Lives’ Campaign in Karamchedu

Karamchedu, April 30|TPN Bureau:

Karamchedu police on Thursday conducted a road safety awareness programme titled “A Helmet Saves Lives” (Shiroraksha-Pranaraksha) along National Highway 167(A), stressing that strict adherence to traffic rules is essential to protect lives.

Organised under the directions of District SP Umamaheshwar, the initiative aimed to promote behavioural change among motorists amid rising road accidents. SI KhaderBa-

sha and his team stopped two-wheeler riders and explained the importance of wearing helmets in preventing fatal head injuries.Motorists found without helmets were counselled on traffic rules and safety practices. The police also warned against overspeeding and driving on the wrong side, highlighting their serious consequences.The SI cautioned that negligence in following road safety norms would invite legal action and said such awareness drives would continue regularly across the Kara-



DSP MalluriVenkateswara Rao Steps Down After Decades of Service

Eluru, April 30|TPN Bureau

Malluri Venkateswara Rao, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (DSP) of Polavaram, retired on Thursday after an illustrious career spanning over 34 years. A grand farewell was held at the Eluru District Police Headquarters, where District SP K. Pratap Siva Kishore honored him with a shawl, garlands, and memento.The SP praised Rao’s exemplary service, highlighting his rise from Sub-Inspector to DSP as a mark of dedication and integrity. He commended Rao’s role in maintaining law and order during floods, tackling illicit traffick-

ing in agency areas, and organizing medical camps for tribal welfare.

Born in T. Gudipadu village, Rao excelled academically, securing a Gold Medal from Osmania University in 1991. He began his police career the same year and served in multiple key postings before promotions to Inspector in 2010 and DSP in 2020.

Expressing gratitude, Rao described policing as his life’s passion and thanked colleagues for their support. Senior officers and staff attended, extending heartfelt wishes for his retirement.

RTI Awareness Pamphlets Unveiled in Palnadu

Narasaraopeta, April 30|TPN Bureau:

In a step towards promoting transparency and public awareness, the District Collector of Palnadu released special awareness pamphlets on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 at the Collectorate in Narasaraopeta on Monday. The pamphlets were prepared by the RTI Activists Association (AP & TS).

The Collector described the RTI Act as a strong democratic tool ensuring transparent governance and urged citizens to understand its provisions and

procedures for seeking information from government offices. He appreciated the Association’s efforts in spreading awareness through the initiative.District Convener Swarna Siva, SwarnaSwamelu, and other members of the association attended the programme.

The pamphlets explain key aspects of the Act, including objectives, application process, fee structure, appeal mechanism, and voluntary disclosure norms under Section 4(1)(b). Officials expressed hope that the initiative will strengthen citizen awareness and improve accountability in governance.

UAE’s Exit from OPEC, A Strategic Shift That Could Redraw Global Power Lines

The United Arab Emirates’ decision to leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) marks a pivotal moment in global energy politics. Far from being a routine policy change, the move reflects a deeper transformation underway in the Middle East—one shaped by war, shifting alliances, and the evolving economics of oil. The question now is not just why the UAE left, but whether this could trigger a broader unravelling of OPEC and re-shape global geopolitics.

At its core, the UAE’s departure underscores growing tensions within OPEC, particularly between Abu Dhabi and Riyadh, the cartel’s dominant force. For years, the UAE had expressed frustration over production quotas that limited its ability to fully exploit its expanding oil capacity. With ambitions to significantly increase output in the coming years, these restrictions increasingly appeared misaligned with its national interests.

But economics alone does not explain the timing. The exit comes amid a volatile geopolitical backdrop, including an ongoing conflict involving Iran that has disrupted oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz—a critical artery for global energy

supplies. This crisis has exposed cracks in regional alliances, particularly within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), where the UAE reportedly felt a lack of political and military solidarity.

In this context, the UAE’s decision can be seen as an assertion of “strategic autonomy.” Rather than operating within a collective framework dominated by Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi appears determined to chart its own course—both economically and politically. By stepping outside OPEC, it gains the flexibility to adjust production levels independently, potentially increasing output to capitalize on high oil prices driven by geopolitical tensions.

This shift also aligns with the UAE’s broader foreign policy recalibration. In recent years, the country has strengthened ties with the United States and Israel, particularly following the Abraham Accords. These relationships offer both security assurances and economic opportunities, reinforcing the UAE’s pivot away from traditional regional blocs.

The implications for OPEC are significant. As one of its largest and most technologically advanced producers, the UAE’s exit weakens the cartel’s ability to coordinate sup-

ply and influence global oil prices. Analysts warn that this could reduce OPEC’s overall cohesion and make it harder to manage market stability. In the long term, it may even lead to a more fragmented oil market, where individual producers pursue independent strategies rather than collective discipline.

However, fears of an immediate domino effect may be overstated. Early indications suggest that other OPEC members are not rushing to follow suit, despite underlying tensions. That said, the UAE’s move could embolden countries that have long been dissatisfied with the cartel’s structure, particularly those with excess production capacity constrained by quotas.

Another dimension of this development is its potential impact on global oil prices. In the short term, prices are likely to remain influenced more by geopolitical disruptions—such as the Hormuz blockade—than by OPEC’s internal dynamics. But over time, the erosion of coordinated production could lead to greater volatility, with periods of oversupply driving prices down and geopolitical shocks pushing them sharply higher.

For oil-importing countries like India, the UAE’s exit

could present opportunities. Freed from OPEC constraints, the UAE may offer more flexible pricing and supply arrangements, potentially benefiting major buyers seeking to diversify their energy sources. This could also accelerate shifts toward alternative trading arrangements, including transactions in non-dollar currencies.

Beyond economics, the move carries broader geopolitical implications. It highlights a growing divergence among Gulf states, particularly between the UAE and Saudi Arabia. While Riyadh continues to emphasize collective action and market stability, Abu Dhabi appears more focused on maximizing its own strategic and economic advantages. This divergence could reshape regional power dynamics, especially if it extends into other areas such as security cooperation and diplomatic alignment.

The UAE’s exit also reflects a larger global trend: the gradual decline of traditional multilateral institutions in favor of more flexible, interest-driven partnerships. As countries increasingly prioritize national interests over collective commitments, organizations like OPEC may find it harder to maintain relevance in a rapidly changing world.



At the same time, the decision raises questions about the future of the global energy transition. On one hand, increased oil production from non-OPEC countries could lower prices, potentially slowing the shift toward renewable energy. On the other hand, the instability and unpredictability of fossil fuel markets may reinforce the case for investing in cleaner, more sustainable alternatives.

Ultimately, the UAE’s departure from OPEC is not just about oil—it is about power, strategy, and the changing nature of global alliances. While it may not immediately trigger a wave of exits, it has undoubtedly altered the calculus for both producers and consumers.

Whether this marks the beginning of the end for OPEC or simply a period of adjustment remains to be seen.

What is clear, however, is that the era of unquestioned cohesion within the cartel is over. In its place emerges a more complex, fragmented landscape—one where individual nations are increasingly willing to go it alone in pursuit of their own interests.

In that sense, the UAE’s move may be less an anomaly and more a sign of things to come.

Why Iran No Longer Trusts Brother Pakistanas a Mediator

The idea of Pakistan acting as a bridge between Iran and the United States once seemed plausible, even promising. Islamabad had positioned itself as a rare player capable of engaging both Washington and Tehran, leveraging its strategic location, military influence, and ties across competing blocs. For a brief moment, it appeared Pakistan might transform itself into a credible peacemaker in one of the world’s most volatile conflicts.

That moment has now passed. Iran’s growing distrust of Pakistan is no longer subtle, it is explicit, public, and rooted in a series of political, strategic, and historical grievances. What was once framed as ‘brotherly’ cooperation has steadily given way to suspicion, frustration, and disillusionment.

At the heart of the breakdown lies a simple but critical issue: credibility.

Iranian officials have increasingly questioned whether Pakistan can act as a neutral intermediary. A senior Iranian lawmaker recently described Pakistan as “partial” and lacking credibility, accusing it of tilting toward American interests rather than maintaining a balanced stance. This perception of bias strikes at the very foundation of mediation. For any mediator to succeed, both sides must believe it is impartial. In Iran’s view, Pakistan no longer meets that standard.

The roots of this mistrust can be traced to the collapse of U.S.-Iran talks held in Islamabad. These negotiations, which lasted over 20 hours, ended without agreement, exposing deep divisions over key issues such as Iran’s nuclear program. For Tehran, the failure was not just about differences with Washington, it also reflected Pakistan’s inability to effectively manage or bridge those differences.

More damaging, however, were perceptions that Pakistan may have overstepped its role. Reports suggested that Pakistani officials shared details of a U.S. ceasefire proposal publicly, even as Iran was still evaluating it. Such actions risk undermining trust, especially in sensitive negotiations where confidentiality is paramount. From Iran’s standpoint, this raised uncomfortable ques-



tions: Was Pakistan acting as a facilitator—or as a conduit for American messaging? **Geopolitics has only deepened these doubts.**

Pakistan’s close ties with the United States, particularly in security and military cooperation, have long been a source of unease for Iran. While Islamabad has tried to present itself as an independent actor, Tehran sees a country that remains deeply embedded in Washington’s strategic orbit. Iranian critics argue that Pakistan has consistently avoided criticizing the U.S., even when American actions directly conflict with Iranian interests.

Recent developments have reinforced this perception. Iran has openly accused Pakistan of favoring U.S. positions and even reneging on earlier commitments, further eroding confidence in its neutrality. In diplomacy, perception often matters as much as reality—and right now, the perception in Tehran is that Pakistan cannot be trusted to act independently.

There is also the broader context of shifting regional alliances. Pakistan’s growing closeness to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, many of which are aligned against Iran, has complicated its diplomatic positioning. While Islamabad maintains relations with Tehran, it must balance those ties against its economic and strategic partnerships elsewhere. This balancing act, while pragmatic from Pakistan’s perspective, appears inconsistent and unreliable from Iran’s.

Beyond high politics, longstanding bilateral tensions have further strained trust.

Iran and Pakistan share a border that has frequently been a source of friction.

Cross-border militancy, security incidents, and mutual accusations have created an undercurrent of mistrust that predates the current crisis. These issues may not dominate headlines during diplomatic engagements, but they shape perceptions and influence decision-making behind the scenes.

Economic disputes have also played a role. The long-delayed Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline remains a symbol of unfulfilled commitments. For years, the project has been stalled due to sanctions and political hesitation, reinforcing Iran’s view that Pakistan is unwilling—or unable—to follow through when faced with external pressure.

Taken together, these factors paint a picture of a relationship weighed down by contradictions. Pakistan presents itself as a partner and mediator, but Iran sees a country constrained by competing loyalties and external influences.

The consequences of this trust deficit are significant.

For one, it limits Pakistan’s ability to play a meaningful role in resolving the ongoing conflict between Iran and the United States. Mediation requires not just access, but influence, and influence depends on trust. Without it, Pakistan risks being side-lined in favour of other actors such as Oman or Russia, which Iran may perceive as more neutral or reliable.

It also reflects a broader shift in how Iran approaches diplomacy. Faced with what it sees as unreliable intermediaries, Tehran appears increasingly inclined to either negotiate directly or rely on partners it views as strategically aligned. This shift could reshape the diplomatic landscape of the

Middle East, reducing the space for middle powers like Pakistan to act as go-betweens. For Pakistan, the stakes are equally high. Its attempt to position itself as a global mediator was not just about diplomacy—it was about redefining its international image. Successfully brokering peace between the U.S. and Iran would have elevated its standing and demonstrated its relevance on the world stage. Instead, the failure of the talks and the erosion of Iranian trust risk undermining that ambition.

Yet, it would be premature to declare the relationship irreparably broken. Diplomacy is rarely linear, and interests can change quickly. Pakistan still retains certain advantages: geographic proximity, historical ties, and channels of communication with both sides. If it can address concerns about neutrality and rebuild confidence, there may still be a role for it to play.

But that will require more than rhetoric. It will demand consistent actions that demonstrate independence, discretion, and reliability, qualities that Iran currently finds lacking.

Ultimately, the story of Iran’s distrust of Pakistan is not just about one failed mediation effort. It is about the complexities of modern geopolitics, where alliances are fluid, interests are overlapping, and trust is hard to earn but easy to lose.

In a region defined by conflict and competition, even “brotherly” ties are not immune to strain. And for Pakistan, the lesson is clear: in diplomacy, credibility is everything—and once it is questioned, regaining it is far more difficult than losing it.

Stree Shakti Utsav Marks ISTS Graduation with 100% Placement Success

East Godavari, April 30, | TPN Bureau

Grand Celebrations at ISTS

The International School of Technology and Sciences (ISTS) celebrated its Graduation Day and Achievers’ Day with great enthusiasm under the banner of ‘Stree Shakti Utsav’. The campus wore a festive look as students, faculty, and dignitaries gathered to mark the occasion, celebrating academic achievements and outstanding placement records.

The ceremony began on a traditional note with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by distinguished guests. G.S.N. Raju, Chancellor of Centurion University, attended as the Chief Guest. He was joined by ISTS Chairman KallemUpende Reddy, Anusha Madam, and Principal Rajashri Rao.

Message of Perseverance

Addressing the graduates, Dr. Raju delivered a motivational speech, emphasizing resilience and determination as key drivers of success. He highlighted that failures often pave the way for greater achievements. Drawing inspiration from Abraham Lincoln, he explained how perseverance can help individuals overcome setbacks and reach great



heights.

100% Placement Achievement

A major highlight of the event was the announcement by Chairman KallemUpende Reddy, who revealed that the institution achieved a remarkable 100% placement record for the 2022–2026 B.Tech batch. He credited this success to the college’s proactive approach in equipping students with technical and programming skills from the first year itself.

Building Industry-Ready Graduates

The Chairman noted that ISTS focuses on preparing students to meet industry demands well before graduation. With continuous training and skill development initiatives, the institution ensures that

students are job-ready and capable of excelling in competitive environments.

Honouring Excellence

The event concluded with a grand felicitation ceremony where students who secured placements in leading multinational companies were honoured. Graduating students were presented with their scrolls, marking the successful completion of their academic journey. Principal Dr. Rajashri Rao congratulated the students and reaffirmed the institution’s commitment to empowering women through quality technical education. The ‘Stree Shakti Utsav’ stood as a proud moment for ISTS, reflecting the dedication of its faculty and the bright future of its students.



IPPB Launches SHG Savings Account to Boost Financial Inclusion for Rural Women

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a wholly government-owned entity under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, has introduced a dedicated Self Help Group (SHG) Savings Account aimed at strengthening financial inclusion and empowering women-led groups across rural India.

The new offering is designed to provide SHGs with a simple, reliable, and cost-effective banking solution, enabling them to better manage their finances and integrate into the formal financial system. By focusing on accessibility and ease of use, IPPB is targeting grassroots-level economic participation, particularly among women in rural communities.

Speaking on the initiative, IPPB Managing Director and CEO Shri R Viswesvaran emphasized the bank's commitment to inclusive banking. He stated that the SHG Savings Account reflects IPPB's mission to make financial services accessible to every Indian. He highlighted that empowering women-led SHGs with dependable banking tools would help them actively participate in



the formal economy and contribute to long-term, sustainable growth.

Self Help Groups play a crucial role in India's rural development landscape. These groups, often composed of

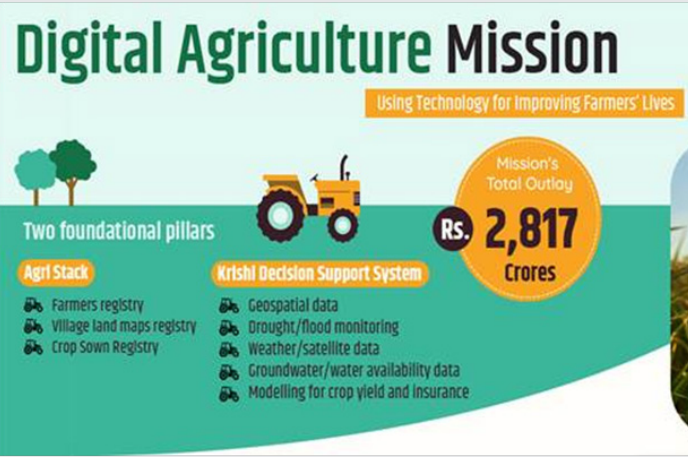
women, have been instrumental in promoting savings habits, enabling access to credit, and supporting small-scale entrepreneurship. Their impact is closely aligned with major government initiatives such as

the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development and programs supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

IPPB's latest initiative builds on this foundation by combining its strong physical and digital infrastructure. Leveraging the vast network of the Department of Posts, the bank aims to reach even the most remote areas of the country. Its doorstep banking model, supported by postmen and GraminDakSevaks (GDS), ensures that SHG members can access banking services without needing to travel long distances.

Additionally, IPPB's digital onboarding process simplifies account creation and management, making it easier for SHGs to adopt formal banking practices. This blend of technology and last-mile connectivity is expected to significantly enhance financial access and convenience for rural users.

Overall, the launch of the SHG Savings Account marks another step forward in India's journey toward inclusive growth. By empowering women-led groups with better financial tools and access, IPPB is not only strengthening rural economies but also reinforcing the role of women as key drivers of economic progress.



Government Strengthens Digital Agriculture Push with New Initiatives for Farmers

The Government of India has reaffirmed its commitment to transforming the agricultural sector through digital innovation, unveiling a series of initiatives aimed at empowering farmers and improving service delivery. These efforts are part of the broader push to modernize agriculture, enhance productivity, and ensure better access to resources for farmers across the country.

At the core of this initiative is the development of a robust digital public infrastructure for agriculture, designed to create a unified platform that integrates data, services, and stakeholders. This system is expected to streamline access to information related to crops, weather, soil health, credit, and insurance, enabling farmers to make informed decisions.

A key focus is the creation of farmer-centric digital databases, which will help in delivering targeted benefits and services. By leveraging technology, the government aims to ensure that subsidies, financial aid, and agricultural schemes reach the right beneficiaries efficiently and transparently.

The initiative also emphasizes the use of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), remote sensing, and geospatial tools. These technologies will assist in crop monitoring, yield estimation, and risk assessment, helping farmers manage uncertainties and improve productivity.

In addition, efforts are being made to strengthen digital advisory services, providing farmers with real-time guidance on best practices, pest control, irrigation, and market trends. This is expected to reduce dependency on traditional methods and improve overall farm outcomes.

The government is also working to enhance market linkages through digital platforms, enabling farmers to access better price discovery and connect directly with buyers. This move is aimed at reducing intermediaries and increasing farmers' income.

Collaboration with states, private sector players, and technology partners is a crucial component of this strategy. By fostering a collaborative ecosystem, the government seeks to accelerate the adoption of digital tools and ensure scalability across regions.

These initiatives align with the broader vision of making Indian agriculture more resilient, efficient, and sustainable. By integrating technology into every stage of the agricultural value chain, the government aims to empower farmers, improve livelihoods, and strengthen food security.

Overall, the push toward digital agriculture represents a significant step forward in transforming one of India's most vital sectors, ensuring that farmers are better equipped to meet future challenges and opportunities.



Iran FM Araghchi Calls Jaishankar, Ceasefire and West Asia Crisis in Focus

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi held a fresh round of talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, as diplomatic efforts continue amid the ongoing West Asia conflict and fragile ceasefire situation.

The conversation, which took place over a phone call, marked the seventh interaction between the two leaders in just two months since the conflict began on February 28. This highlights the increasing frequency of India-Iran engagement as tensions in the region remain high.

During the discussion, both sides exchanged views on the latest developments related to the ceasefire, along with broader regional and international issues. Jaishankar later confirmed the call, stating that they had a "detailed conversation" and agreed to remain in close contact.

The timing of the call is significant. It came shortly after Araghchi's diplomatic visits to countries like Pakistan and Russia, and at a point when talks between the United States and Iran have hit a deadlock. Despite a ceasefire agreement reached in late March, there has been little visible progress toward a long-term resolution.

India's role in the situation has also been crucial, particularly in ensuring the safety of its citizens and trade interests. New Delhi has been actively coordinating with Tehran on the evacuation of Indian nationals and securing the movement of Indian ships through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. So far, over 2,400 Indians have been evacuated, and several Indian vessels have safely transited the region.

The Strait of Hormuz remains a key concern, given its importance to global oil supply and shipping routes. Any disruption there has wide-ranging economic and geopolitical consequences, making continued dialogue between countries like India and Iran essential.

The interaction also gains importance in the context of upcoming diplomatic engagements. India is set to host the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in mid-May, and Iran has been invited. However, it remains unclear whether Araghchi will attend in person. Overall, the latest conversation underscores India's steady diplomatic outreach and its attempt to maintain balanced ties while navigating a complex and evolving geopolitical crisis.

Operation Sindoor Halted on India's Terms, Says Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stated that Operation Sindoor was halted on India's own terms, underlining the country's strategic control and decisive approach during the mission. His remarks come amid growing discussion around the operation and its objectives, signaling India's firm stance on national security matters.

Speaking on the development, Singh emphasized that the decision to pause the operation was not due to external pressure but was a calculated move by India after achieving its intended goals. He highlighted that the armed forces carried out the mission with precision and professionalism, reinforcing India's military capabilities.

While specific operational details remain limited, the Defence Minister made it clear

that India acted with a clear strategy and withdrew at an appropriate stage. This, he said, reflects the country's ability to conduct operations effectively while maintaining control over escalation.

Singh also praised the armed forces for their execution, noting that their preparedness and coordination played a crucial role in the success of the operation. He reiterated that India's approach is guided by national interest, and decisions are taken keeping long-term security considerations in mind.

The statement comes at a time when regional tensions and security concerns remain sensitive. By asserting that the operation was halted on India's terms, the government aims to project confidence and reinforce the message that India retains full autonomy in matters of defence and strategy.

Observers believe that such messaging is intended to underline India's position as a strong and responsible power, capable of taking decisive action while avoiding unnecessary escalation. It also reflects a broader policy approach of balancing firmness with restraint.

Although details about Operation Sindoor have not been fully disclosed, Singh's remarks suggest that the mission met its objectives before being concluded. The emphasis on strategic control indicates that India remains prepared to respond to evolving security challenges when necessary.

Overall, the Defence Minister's statement reinforces the narrative of a self-assured and strategically driven India, capable of executing military operations effectively and choosing the timing of both action and restraint.



Tragic Road Accident in Madhya Pradesh Claims Lives of Labourers

A devastating road accident in Madhya Pradesh has resulted in the death of several labourers after a pickup van they were travelling in collided with an SUV. The incident has once again highlighted concerns over road safety and the vulnerability of daily wage workers who often travel in unsafe conditions.

According to reports, the accident occurred when the pickup vehicle, carrying a group of labourers, crashed into an SUV on a highway. The impact of the collision was severe, leading to multiple fatalities on the spot, while several others sustained injuries. Emergency services rushed to the scene and the injured were immediately taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Initial information suggests that the labourers were on their way for work when the accident took place. Such journeys, often undertaken in overcrowded or poorly equipped vehicles, expose workers to significant risks. Authorities are investigating the exact cause of the crash, including the possibility of overspeeding or negligence. Local police have registered a case and begun an inquiry to determine the circumstances that led to the collision. Officials are also working to identify the victims and inform their families. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examinations as part of the standard procedure.

The tragic incident has drawn attention to the broader issue of road safety, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where enforcement of traffic regulations can be inconsistent. Labourers and daily wage workers frequently rely on informal transport arrangements, which may not meet safety standards.

State authorities have expressed grief over the loss of lives and assured that necessary action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. Compensation for the victims' families is also expected to be announced as per government norms.

Accidents involving pickup vans carrying passengers are not uncommon in India, raising serious concerns about the misuse of goods vehicles for human transport. Experts have repeatedly called for stricter enforcement of traffic laws and greater awareness to prevent such tragedies.

This incident serves as a grim reminder of the need for improved road safety measures and responsible driving practices. Ensuring safer transportation options for vulnerable sections of society remains a critical challenge that requires urgent attention.

As investigations continue, the focus remains on providing medical care to the injured and support to the families of those who lost their lives in this unfortunate accident.

Jammu to Srinagar in Under 5 Hours,Vande Bharat Express Creates Rail History

In a landmark moment for Indian Railways and connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir, the Vande Bharat Express has successfully completed a direct journey from Jammu to Srinagar in under five hours, marking a major milestone in the region's infrastructure development.

This historic run significantly reduces travel time between the two key cities, offering a faster, more comfortable, and reliable mode of transport. Traditionally, the journey between Jammu and Srinagar has been time-consuming and often affected by weather conditions and road disruptions. The introduction of a high-speed train service is expected to transform travel in the region.

The Vande Bharat Express,



known for its advanced features and semi-high-speed capabilities, is designed to provide a modern travel experience. With improved safety systems, comfortable seating, and efficient operations, the train represents a new era in Indian rail transport.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this achievement is the challenging terrain through which the train operates. The route includes complex engineering structures such as tunnels and bridges, built to navigate the Himalayan landscape. This reflects the scale of effort and innovation

involved in connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India through a reliable rail network.

The project has long been seen as a strategic and developmental priority, aimed at boosting tourism, trade, and economic growth in the region. Faster connectivity is expected to enhance mobility for residents, facilitate the movement of goods, and open up new opportunities for businesses.

Officials have highlighted that the successful run demonstrates the readiness of the rail infrastructure and signals a major step toward full operationalization of the service. Once regular services begin, passengers will benefit from significantly reduced travel time and improved convenience.

Beyond transportation, the development holds symbolic importance as well. It represents deeper integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the national rail network and showcases India's engineering capabilities in overcoming geographical challenges.

The Vande Bharat Express continues to be a flagship initiative for Indian Railways, reflecting the country's push toward modernization and high-speed travel. With this historic Jammu-Srinagar run, it has once again demonstrated its potential to reshape connectivity across diverse terrains.

Overall, the achievement is not just about speed, it is about connecting regions, enhancing accessibility, and driving progress in one of India's most strategically important areas.

Iran’s Mojtaba Khamenei Targets Trump, Slams US Policy

Tensions in the Middle East have once again come into focus after Mojtaba Khamenei, a senior Iranian figure and son of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made sharp remarks criticizing former US President Donald Trump and American policy in the region. His comments, referring to a “new chapter in Hormuz,” signal a continued hardening of Iran’s stance amid ongoing geopolitical strains.

In his statement, Mojtaba Khamenei described the US approach as a “shameful failure,” directly targeting Trump-era policies that had intensified pressure on Iran through sanctions and diplomatic isolation. The remarks

appear to frame recent developments in the Strait of Hormuz as evidence of shifting regional dynamics, where Iran believes it holds a stronger strategic position.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world’s most critical maritime chokepoints, with a significant portion of global oil supply passing through it. Any escalation in this region has immediate implications for global energy markets and international security. By invoking Hormuz, Khamenei underscored Iran’s influence over this vital corridor and its ability to shape regional outcomes.

The criticism of the US also reflects broader tensions that have persisted since

Washington withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018 under Trump’s administration. The subsequent reimposition of sanctions strained Iran’s economy and triggered a cycle of retaliation and countermeasures in the region. While diplomatic efforts have continued intermittently, mistrust between the two sides remains deep.

Khamenei’s remarks are also seen as a signal to both domestic and international audiences. Domestically, they reinforce a narrative of resistance and resilience in the face of external pressure. Internationally, they serve as a reminder that Iran remains a key player in regional geopolitics, capable of influencing

critical global trade routes.

Analysts suggest that such rhetoric could further complicate already fragile relations in the Middle East. With ongoing conflicts and shifting alliances, any escalation involving Iran and the US risks broader instability. The reference to a “new chapter” may indicate a willingness to adopt a more assertive approach in the region.

At the same time, the comments come amid evolving global dynamics, including changes in energy markets and geopolitical alignments. Countries in the Gulf region, along with global powers, are closely monitoring developments in Hormuz, given its strategic importance.

While no immediate escalation has been reported, the strong language used by Mojtaba Khamenei highlights the persistent tensions and underlying friction between Iran and the United States. It also underscores how past policies continue to shape present-day geopolitics.

As the situation unfolds, the focus will remain on whether such statements translate into concrete actions or remain part of ongoing rhetorical exchanges. Either way, the Strait of Hormuz continues to be a focal point in global strategic discussions, with far-reaching implications for energy security and regional stability



Pakistan Opens 6 Land Routes to Iran Amid Hormuz Blockade

In a major geopolitical development, Pakistan has opened six overland trade routes to Iran, providing Tehran with a crucial lifeline as the Strait of Hormuz remains disrupted due to the ongoing US-Iran conflict. The move is being seen as a significant shift in regional dynamics—and has sparked criticism that Islamabad may be undermining US efforts to isolate Iran.

The decision comes in response to the US naval blockade imposed on Iran, which has severely restricted maritime trade and left thousands of containers stranded at Pakistani ports, especially in Karachi. To ease the situation, Pakistan issued a formal order allowing goods to be transported into Iran via road through designated corridors. These routes connect major Pakistani ports like Karachi, Gwadar, and Port Qasim to border crossings such as Taftan and Gabd, enabling direct land access into Iran. The move effectively creates an alternative trade channel at a time when traditional sea routes through Hormuz have become highly risky or inaccessible. The primary trigger behind this decision is the severe

disruption in the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world’s most critical oil and trade routes. The blockade has halted a large portion of shipping activity, affecting not only Iran but also regional economies.

With over 3,000 containers reportedly stuck at Pakistani ports due to the crisis, Islamabad faced mounting pressure to find a workaround. Opening land routes was seen as the most practical solution to keep trade flowing and avoid economic losses. However, the move has drawn sharp criticism, particularly from US analysts. Some experts have accused Pakistan of “double-dealing,” arguing that by enabling Iran to bypass the blockade, Islamabad is weakening Washington’s “maximum pressure” strategy against Tehran. This has also raised broader questions about Pakistan’s role as a mediator between the US and Iran. While Islamabad has been involved in facilitating diplomatic talks, actions like this have led to doubts about its neutrality. For Iran, the new land corridors offer a much-needed economic lifeline. With maritime routes choked, these overland paths allow

goods—and potentially trade with countries like China and Russia—to continue despite sanctions and blockades. Experts say the move has effectively “punched a hole” in the US blockade, giving Iran a way to sustain its supply chains and reduce economic pressure. The development highlights the complex balancing act in the region. Pakistan is trying to manage its ties with both the US and Iran while also safeguarding its own economic interests.

At the same time, it underscores a broader reality: even in the face of strict maritime blockades, countries can find alternative routes—reshaping how economic pressure tactics play out in modern geopolitics. While the land routes provide temporary relief, they are not a complete substitute for large-scale maritime trade. Still, the move could complicate US strategy and influence future negotiations in the ongoing crisis. In essence, Pakistan’s decision has added a new dimension to the US-Iran conflict—one that goes beyond military tension and highlights the strategic importance of trade routes in global power politics.

Putin Offers Help on Iran Uranium Issue, Trump Says “End Ukraine War First”

In a significant geopolitical development, Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered to assist the United States in resolving the ongoing dispute over Iran’s enriched uranium. However, US President Donald Trump has reportedly declined the offer—for now—urging Putin instead to focus on ending the war in Ukraine.

The exchange took place during a recent phone call between the two leaders, which lasted over 90 minutes and covered multiple global flashpoints, including the Iran conflict and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.



Putin proposed that Russia could play a mediating role in addressing concerns over Iran’s nuclear programme. One key idea reportedly involved removing or securing Iran’s stockpile of enriched uranium, which is seen as a critical component in preventing nuclear weapon development.

Russia has previously expressed willingness to act as a custodian for Iran’s uranium, positioning itself as a diplomatic intermediary capable of easing tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Despite the offer, Trump chose to prioritise the Ukraine conflict. He told Putin that ending the war with Ukraine would be more helpful than assisting with Iran at this stage.

This response highlights the US administration’s current focus on resolving the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war, which has remained a major international concern. Trump reportedly indicated that progress on Ukraine could take

precedence before expanding cooperation on other global issues.

Iran’s nuclear programme remains at the centre of tensions with the US and its allies. Reports indicate that Iran has accumulated large quantities of enriched uranium, raising fears about potential weaponisation.

Controlling or relocating this uranium is considered a key step in any future nuclear agreement. Putin’s offer suggests a possible pathway for de-escalation, though it would re-

quire trust and coordination among multiple global powers.

The conversation reflects how deeply interconnected today’s geopolitical crises have become. The US, Russia, and Iran are all involved in overlapping conflicts and negotiations, from Ukraine to the Middle East.

While Putin’s proposal could open the door to diplomatic cooperation, Trump’s response underscores the competing priorities shaping global strategy. The Ukraine war, ongoing tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, and Iran’s nuclear ambitions are all part of a larger, complex geopolitical puzzle.

At this stage, there is no confirmation that the US will accept Russia’s involvement in the Iran issue. However, the discussion itself signals ongoing backchannel diplomacy and the possibility of future negotiations. Whether this leads to meaningful progress will depend on developments in both Ukraine and Iran—two crises that continue to dominate the global stage.

“Next Stop \$140”, Iran’s Speaker Ghalibaf Warns of Oil Price Surge Amid US Standoff



Trump Weighs 3 Military Options Against Iran Amid Rising Tensions

Amid escalating tensions and stalled negotiations with Iran, former US President Donald Trump is set to be briefed on three major military options prepared by the US Central Command (CENTCOM). These options reflect a potential shift from diplomatic pressure to more direct military action if talks fail to progress.

One of the primary options involves launching a rapid and intense wave of strikes targeting Iranian infrastructure. The aim would be to pressure Tehran into returning to negotiations, particularly over its nuclear programme. However, such strikes could be controversial, as targeting civilian-linked infrastructure may raise concerns under international law.

Another strategy focuses on taking control of sections of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil route. This move would aim to restore commercial shipping disrupted by the conflict and increase pressure on Iran. However, this option could require ground forces and a prolonged military presence, making it more complex and risky.

The third option reportedly involves deploying elite US special forces to secure Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium. This would directly address US concerns about Iran’s nuclear capabilities but would also be a high-risk operation deep within Iranian territory.

These options come at a time when the US and Iran remain locked in a tense standoff despite an “indefinite” ceasefire. The conflict has already disrupted global oil supplies and heightened instability in the Middle East.

While Trump has previously indicated that economic measures like a naval blockade are effective, the existence of these military plans suggests that Washington is keeping all options open. Analysts warn that any of these actions could significantly escalate the conflict, with far-reaching global consequences.

In summary, the three options—targeted strikes, control of Hormuz, and a special forces nuclear mission—highlight the seriousness of the situation and the difficult choices facing US leadership.

Iran’s Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has issued a sharp warning over soaring global oil prices, claiming they could soon hit \$140 per barrel, as tensions between Iran and the United States continue to escalate.

In a strongly worded message, Ghalibaf mocked the US strategy of imposing a naval blockade on Iran’s oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz. He dismissed claims made by former US President Donald Trump that the pressure campaign would cripple Iran’s oil industry, pointing out that no such damage had occurred even after the announced deadlines passed.

Taking aim at US policymakers, Ghalibaf blamed what he called “junk advice” within the American administration for worsening the situation. According to him, these strategies have not weakened Iran



but instead triggered a sharp rise in global oil prices, which have already crossed \$120 per barrel. He warned that \$140 could be the “next stop” if the standoff continues.

The warning comes at a time when global energy markets are already under strain due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world’s

most critical oil transit routes. The ongoing conflict and blockades have significantly reduced the flow of oil, pushing prices to multi-year highs and increasing fears of inflation and economic slowdown worldwide.

The strait typically handles a substantial portion of global oil supply, and any disruption

Japan’s L0 Maglev, The World’s Fastest Train Set to Redefine the Future of Travel



ready set a staggering world record, reaching speeds of 375

miles per hour (603 km/h) during testing. Such velocity plac-

es it far ahead of even the fastest high-speed trains currently in operation. At the heart of this technology are superconducting magnets, cooled to extremely low temperatures of -452°F (-269°C). These magnets create powerful magnetic forces that lift, guide, and propel the train forward. The absence of friction not only enables incredible speeds but also ensures a smoother and quieter ride. What makes the L0 Maglev even more fascinating is how it appears to glide effortlessly through the air, almost like something out of science fiction. It doesn’t “run” on tracks in the traditional sense, instead, it floats and moves with precision and stability.

The project is expected to become operational around 2034-2035, and its impact will be significant. Once launched, it will reduce travel time between Tokyo and Nagoya to just 40 minutes, drastically cutting down what currently takes much longer by conventional means.

Japan hasn’t just built a faster train; it has engineered a glimpse into the future of transportation. The L0 Maglev stands as a testament to human ingenuity, combining physics, engineering, and innovation to create a system that could redefine mobility worldwide.

In essence, this is more than a train, it’s a symbol of what’s possible when technology and vision come together.

Market Recovers Partially, But Nifty Slips Below 24,000 as Sensex Drops 583 Points

Indian equity markets showed signs of recovery during the trading session but ultimately closed in the red on April 30, reflecting continued investor caution amid global and domestic uncertainties. The Sensex ended lower by about 583 points, while the Nifty fell by over 180 points, slipping below the crucial 24,000 mark.

The day began on a weak note, with markets under pressure due to rising geopolitical tensions and a sharp surge in global crude oil prices. Although there was some intraday recovery, selling pressure intensified in the latter half, dragging indices down by the close.

A major factor weighing on sentiment was the spike in Brent crude prices, which touched elevated levels amid ongoing global conflicts. Higher oil prices are a concern for India, as they can fuel inflation, widen the current account deficit, and strain the economy.

Currency weakness added to the pressure. The Indian rupee hit a record low of around 95.33 per dollar during the session before settling slightly higher. A weakening rupee typically dampens investor confidence, especially among foreign institutional investors, and increases import costs.

The market decline was broad-based, with almost all sectoral indices closing in

the red. Banking, auto, FMCG, and metal stocks were among the major losers. The only exception was the IT sector, which managed to end the session with modest gains, offering some support to the market.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued to remain cautious, contributing to the selling pressure. Global cues also remained weak, as geopolitical uncertainties and concerns over tightening financial conditions kept investors on edge. Despite the negative close, the intraday recovery indicates that there is still some buying interest at lower levels. Analysts believe that the market is currently in a volatile phase, driven large-

ly by external factors such as oil prices, currency movements, and geopolitical developments.

Going ahead, much will depend on how these global risks evolve. If crude prices stabilize and geopolitical tensions ease, markets could see a more sustained recovery. However, continued uncertainty may keep volatility elevated in the near term. In summary, while the market attempted a rebound during the session, persistent global concerns and macroeconomic pressures ensured that the day ended on a weak note, with the Nifty slipping below a key psychological level and the Sensex posting significant losses.



Bajaj Finance Ends FY26 Strong, Sets Optimistic Growth Outlook for FY27

Bajaj Finance has delivered a strong finish to FY26, reinforcing its position as one of India's most consistent performers in the non-banking financial sector. The company's latest performance highlights robust growth across key metrics, while its guidance for FY27 reflects confidence in sustaining momentum despite global uncertainties.

The NBFC reported solid earnings growth in the final quarter of FY26, with net profit rising around 22% year-on-year, supported by healthy loan growth and stable asset quality. Net interest income also saw strong expansion, driven by continued demand for credit across consumer and business segments. This performance capped a year marked by steady operational execution and disciplined risk management.



A key highlight of Bajaj Finance's long-term story is its remarkable growth track record. Over nearly two decades (FY08–FY26), the company has delivered a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 34% in assets under management (AUM) and 46% in profits. This consistency has helped it build scale, diversify

its portfolio, and strengthen its leadership in retail lending.

Looking ahead, management has struck an optimistic tone for FY27. One of the most important expectations is a moderation in credit costs, which are projected to decline to around 145–160 basis points. This indicates improving asset quality and better control over

loan losses—both crucial for sustaining profitability in a lending business.

The company is also guiding for a stable and healthy return on assets (RoA) in the range of 4.3% to 4.7%, driven largely by operational efficiency rather than aggressive margin expansion. This reflects a more balanced growth strategy, where cost control and productivity gains play a bigger role in profitability. Another structural shift is visible in its loan mix. Bajaj Finance has been recalibrating its MSME portfolio, reducing its share slightly to manage risk, while expecting gradual growth going forward. This indicates a cautious yet forward-looking approach in navigating changing credit conditions. Brokerages remain broadly positive on the stock, citing strong AUM growth, improving asset quality, and a fa-

vorable credit cycle. Many analysts expect continued earnings growth over the next few years, supported by declining credit costs and rising fee income. However, some caution persists around external risks, including macroeconomic pressures and geopolitical uncertainties, which could impact credit demand and repayment behavior. Overall, Bajaj Finance's FY26 performance underscores its ability to deliver consistent growth even in a challenging environment. Its upbeat guidance for FY27 suggests that the company is well-positioned to benefit from ongoing credit demand while maintaining strong financial discipline. In essence, Bajaj Finance continues to balance growth with prudence—leveraging scale, efficiency, and risk management to sustain its long-term trajectory.

Meesho Shares Surge 12% After JP Morgan's Overweight Call, Sees Over 24% Upside



Shares of e-commerce company Meesho jumped sharply, rising around 12%, after global brokerage JP Morgan initiated coverage with an "Overweight" rating, signalling strong confidence in the company's future growth prospects. The rally was driven by JP Morgan's optimistic outlook, which includes a price target of about 215 per share. This suggests a potential upside of over 24% from current levels, making the stock attractive to investors looking for growth opportunities in India's digital commerce space.

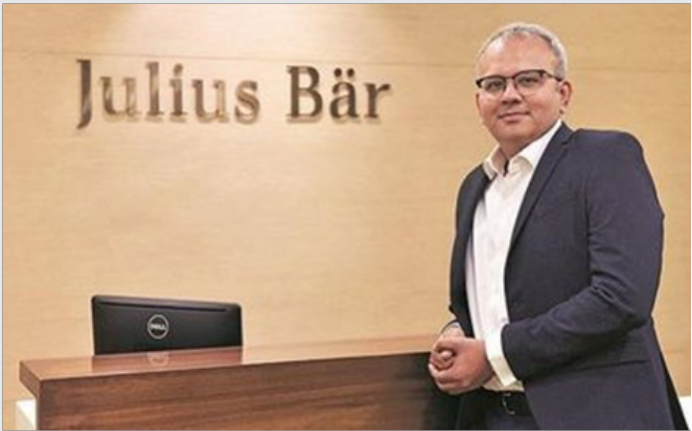
The brokerage highlighted Meesho's unique business model as a key strength. Unlike traditional e-commerce platforms, Meesho operates a discovery-led marketplace that focuses on affordability and caters strongly to users in smaller cities and towns. It also functions as a long-tail advertising network, combining commerce with embedded logistics capabilities—an approach that JP Morgan believes can unlock significant value over time. Another major factor behind the positive rating is the company's potential for margin expansion. Analysts expect Meesho to improve profitability as it scales operations, optimises logistics, and increases monetisation through advertising. Growth in net merchandise value (NMV) and improved cost efficiencies are also expected to support earnings in

the coming years. JP Morgan also pointed to multiple drivers for future revenue growth. Advertising is expected to play a larger role, as sellers on the platform increasingly spend to gain visibility. Additionally, Meesho's strong position in the value segment of India's e-commerce market gives it a competitive edge, particularly in price-sensitive regions.

Despite the upbeat outlook, the brokerage acknowledged some near-term challenges. Logistics-related issues have been flagged as a temporary concern, though not a structural weakness. Analysts expect these challenges to ease over time, allowing the company to improve free cash flow and operational efficiency.

The sharp rise in Meesho's stock also comes at a time when broader markets remain volatile due to global uncertainties. In contrast to the overall cautious sentiment, the stock's rally reflects strong investor confidence driven by positive analyst coverage and long-term growth expectations. Overall, JP Morgan's endorsement has reinforced bullish sentiment around Meesho, positioning it as a key player in India's fast-growing e-commerce sector. While risks remain, the combination of scalable business model, expanding user base, and improving monetisation strategies has made the stock stand out in an otherwise uncertain market environment.

Ex-Julius Baer India CEO Ashish Gumashta Launches New Wealth Firm with Star Fund Manager Roshni Jain



wealth management firm and joining the new platform. This indicates a broader shift in the competitive landscape, where experienced professionals are moving toward boutique, more agile firms.

Ashish Gumashta brings decades of experience in wealth and asset management to the table. He previously led Julius Baer's India operations and played a key role in build-

ing large-scale private banking platforms. His track record and industry relationships are expected to provide a strong foundation for the new venture.

Roshni Jain, who joins as a key investment figure, adds further credibility. Known for her expertise in fund management, her presence signals that the firm will not just focus on advisory services but also

build a strong asset management capability.

The formation of Verique reflects a broader trend in India's financial services sector. As wealth grows and becomes more sophisticated, clients are increasingly seeking personalized, high-touch advisory services rather than standardized offerings from large institutions. Boutique firms, led by seasoned professionals, are well-positioned to tap into this demand. Additionally, the backing of private equity suggests that the venture is not merely a small-scale boutique but has ambitions to scale quickly and compete with established players. The firm is expected to combine traditional wealth advisory with modern investment strategies, possibly integrating alternative assets, global diversification, and technology-driven solutions.

The timing of the launch is also noteworthy. India's wealth management industry is un-

dergoing rapid transformation, driven by rising incomes, financialization of savings, and increasing participation in capital markets. This has created opportunities for new entrants who can offer differentiated services.

However, the road ahead will not be without challenges. The wealth management space is highly competitive, with global firms, domestic banks, and independent advisors all vying for the same client base. Building trust, delivering consistent returns, and scaling operations will be critical for success. Overall, the entry of Gumashta and Jain into a new venture marks a significant moment for the industry. It highlights both the growing attractiveness of India's wealth market and the shifting dynamics within it. If executed well, Verique could emerge as a strong contender in the evolving landscape of wealth management.

Adani Enterprises Swings to 221 Crore Loss in Q4 Despite Strong Revenue Growth

Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the Adani Group, reported a consolidated net loss of around 221 crore for the fourth quarter of FY26, marking a sharp reversal from a profit of 3,845 crore in the same period last year.

The decline in profitability comes despite a strong rise in revenue. The company's revenue from operations increased by over 20% year-on-year, reaching approximately 32,439 crore in Q4, highlighting robust business activity across segments.

A key reason behind the swing into losses lies in the high base of the previous year. The corresponding quarter in FY25 had benefited significantly from one-time gains, including proceeds from stake sales.

Without such exceptional income this year, the comparison appears much weaker.

Additionally, higher depreciation and costs associated with newly commissioned infrastructure projects weighed on the bottom line. Investments in areas such as airports, data centers, and the copper business have increased expenses, impacting short-term profitability even as they are expected to contribute to long-term growth.

Operationally, however, the company showed resilience. EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation) recorded modest growth, indicating that core operations remain stable despite the reported loss.

The results reflect a broader pattern seen in infrastructure-heavy conglomerates,

where aggressive expansion often leads to higher upfront costs and delayed returns. Adani Enterprises has been actively investing in emerging sectors, including green energy, airports, mining services, and digital infrastructure, areas that require significant capital expenditure.

Another factor contributing to the earnings pressure is the rise in input and operational costs as the company scales its businesses. While revenue growth remains strong, increased expenses have offset gains at the net profit level. Despite the quarterly loss, the company's growth trajectory remains intact. The strong top-line performance suggests continued demand across its business verticals, and management remains focused on

long-term value creation through strategic investments. Market participants are likely to view the results in context, distinguishing between temporary pressures and structural performance. The absence of one-off gains, combined with higher depreciation, has distorted the year-on-year comparison, but underlying operations continue to show steady progress. In summary, Adani Enterprises' Q4 FY26 results present a mixed picture: a sharp drop in net profit due to accounting and cost factors, but solid revenue growth and stable operational performance. The company's ongoing investments may weigh on short-term earnings, but they are expected to drive future growth as projects mature.



Canadian Tourist’s Scam-FilledDelhi Trip Sparks Online Debate

A Canadian travel vlogger has stirred controversy online after sharing a critical account of his visit to Delhi, claiming that his experience was dominated by repeated attempts to scam him. His video, which quickly went viral, has triggered a wider conversation about tourist experiences in India, drawing both support and criticism.

In his account, the tourist said he felt deceived in multiple everyday situations involving money. From transport to small purchases, he alleged that he was frequently overcharged or misled. According to him, the issue was not limited to one or two incidents but appeared to be a recurring pattern throughout

his stay. He remarked that almost every time he reached for his wallet, he felt like someone was trying to take advantage of him.

What troubled him most was not just the financial aspect, but the sense that dishonesty seemed normalized in some interactions. He claimed that in certain cases, people openly admitted to misleading him, which left him frustrated and distrustful. As a result, even simple transactions became stressful, overshadowing his ability to enjoy the city.

The tourist also highlighted the challenges of bargaining, a common practice in many Indian markets. While negotiation is often seen as part of the cultural experi-

ence, he said he found it exhausting and confusing, especially when he felt prices were deliberately inflated for foreigners. This constant need to question prices and intentions, he explained, made his trip mentally draining.

Despite his negative experience, the vlogger clarified that he was not entirely dismissing India as a destination. He acknowledged that his experience might not represent the whole country and expressed openness to visiting again under different circumstances. However, he emphasized that his time in Delhi had been particularly difficult.

The video has sparked mixed reactions on social me-

dia. Some viewers agreed with his concerns, noting that scams targeting tourists do exist and can harm the country’s reputation. Others, however, argued that such experiences are not unique to India and that travellers should be prepared for cultural differences, including bargaining and varying pricing practices.

Many users also pointed out that millions of tourists visit India each year and have positive experiences, often praising the country’s hospitality, culture, and diversity. They cautioned against generalizing an entire nation based on individual encounters.

The incident highlights a broader issue in global tour-



ism: the gap between expectations and reality. For first-time visitors, unfamiliar systems and practices can sometimes feel overwhelming or unfair. At the same time, it underscores the importance of awareness, preparation, and understanding local customs.

Ultimately, the Canadian tourist’s story reflects both the challenges and complexities of travel. While his experience raises valid concerns about transparency and trust, it also serves as a reminder that every journey is shaped by personal interactions—and no single story can define an entire place.



Bengaluru’s Beloved Bookstore Devastated by Sudden Rains

A sudden spell of heavy rain in Bengaluru has left one of the city’s most cherished bookstores reeling, after thousands of books were destroyed in a matter of minutes. The iconic independent bookstore, located on Church Street, suffered massive losses when rainwater flooded the premises, damaging between 4,000 and 5,000 books. The incident occurred following an intense downpour accompanied by hail, which quickly overwhelmed the city’s drainage systems. Water began gushing into the shop, submerging shelves and soaking books before staff could respond. Images shared by the store on social media showed books floating in muddy water, while hailstones were seen piled up outside the shop.

The timing of the disaster made the situation even worse. The bookstore had recently stocked up on additional inventory in preparation for the busy summer season, when demand for books typically rises. Unfortunately, much of this newly acquired stock was

among the items destroyed in the flooding, compounding the financial and emotional impact on the store’s owners.

While the owners are attempting to salvage whatever they can, the damage is extensive. Some books are being dried in the hope that they can still be sold at discounted prices. However, many titles are beyond recovery and will have to be discarded entirely. The nature of modern publishing has also added to the losses—books printed on recycled or lower-quality paper were particularly vulnerable to water damage, leaving little chance of restoration. Beyond the financial setback, which is estimated to run into lakhs of rupees, the loss is deeply emotional. The bookstore was not just a retail space but a cultural hub for readers, students, and literary enthusiasts. Over the years, it had carefully curated a diverse collection of titles, making it a beloved destination in the city’s reading community.

The incident has sparked an outpouring of support online.

Readers and well-wishers have expressed heartbreak over the loss, with many offering to help the store recover. Some have even suggested buying damaged books as a gesture of solidarity, echoing similar community-driven efforts seen in other cities after such disasters.

The tragedy also highlights the broader impact of extreme weather events on small businesses. Bengaluru has witnessed increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns, often leading to waterlogging and infrastructure strain. In this case, the consequences extended beyond inconvenience, striking at the heart of the city’s literary culture.

Ultimately, the loss of 5,000 books is more than just a numerical figure—it represents years of effort, stories, and knowledge washed away overnight. Yet, the strong response from the reading community offers a glimmer of hope that the bookstore can rebuild, with support from the very people it has served for years.

Want to See Your Younger Self? These AI Prompts Can Recreate You Across Decades

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how people create and interact with images, and one of the latest viral trends taps into nostalgia: using AI prompts to recreate yourself across different decades. From the 1920s to the 1990s, users are now generating hyper-realistic portraits of how they might have looked in another era—with just a few lines of text.

The trend is powered by advanced image-generation tools such as Google’s Nano Banana and other AI platforms, which have become increasingly sophisticated in understanding detailed instructions. These tools can generate highly realistic visuals with improved textures, lighting, and accuracy, making it easier than ever to create lifelike portraits from simple prompts.

At the heart of this trend are carefully crafted prompts. Instead of simply uploading a photo and applying filters, users describe themselves and the era they want to appear in. For example, a prompt might



include details like clothing style, background, lighting, and even camera type from a specific decade. The more detailed the description, the more realistic and convincing the result. Some popular prompt styles include imagining yourself in the roaring 1920s wearing vintage suits or flapper dresses, or stepping into the 1950s with classic Hollywood glamour. Others experiment with the 1970s disco era, complete with bold fashion and retro lighting, or the 1990s with grainy film textures and casual

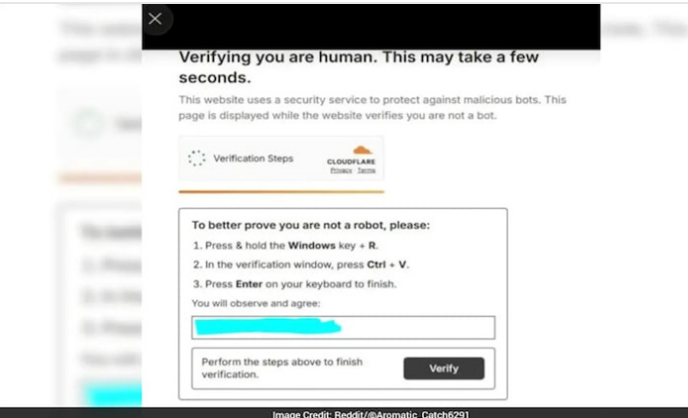
people use AI. What was once a complex technology reserved for experts has now become accessible to everyday users. In recent years, AI tools have evolved into intuitive platforms that can generate images, write content, and assist with creative projects using simple text inputs. However, as with any AI-driven trend, there are considerations to keep in mind. The accuracy of these images depends heavily on the quality of prompts and the data used to train the models. There are also ongoing discussions about bias, authenticity, and the ethical use of AI-generated content. Despite these concerns, the “younger self” trend continues to gain popularity across social media. It combines nostalgia, technology, and creativity in a way that resonates with users around the world. By blending personal identity with historical aesthetics, AI is offering a new kind of digital time travel—one that is limited only by imagination and the power of a well-written prompt.

Fake Job Interview Turns into Malware Trap

A tech professional’s alarming experience with a fake job interview has gone viral, shedding light on a new and dangerous form of online recruitment scam. The incident, involving a deceptive Cloud flare verification page, highlights how cybercriminals are using increasingly sophisticated tactics to target job seekers.

According to the viral post, the techie had applied for a remote data analyst position at a company called Crip Toro. The job listing appeared completely legitimate, offering an attractive salary, clear requirements, and a professional-looking description. The hiring process also seemed normal at first—there was a response from recruiters, followed by an interview schedule, which helped build trust.

However, things took a suspicious turn during the later stages of the process. The applicant was sent a link via WeChat, supposedly as part of the interview procedure. This link led to what looked like a Cloud flare verification page, a commonly used security check on websites. But this page was fake and designed to trick the



user.

The page instructed the applicant to press a sequence of keyboard shortcuts: “Windows + R,” followed by “Ctrl + V,” and then “Enter.” Unbeknownst to the victim, the page had already copied a malicious command onto the system’s clipboard. By following the instructions, the user unintentionally executed the command, allowing malware to run on the computer.

This technique is particularly dangerous because it does not rely on traditional downloads or suspicious files. Instead, it manipulates users

scams targeting professionals, especially in the remote work space. As more hiring processes move online, scammers are exploiting the format to create convincing but fraudulent opportunities. Well-designed job postings, fake company websites, and realistic communication make it increasingly difficult for applicants to distinguish genuine offers from scams.

Experts advise job seekers to remain cautious during online recruitment processes. Warning signs include requests to install software, execute commands, share sensitive information, or communicate through unofficial platforms. Verifying the company’s authenticity through official websites and avoiding unfamiliar links can help reduce risks.

Ultimately, this case serves as a reminder that even tech-savvy individuals can fall victim to cleverly designed scams. As cybercriminals continue to evolve their methods, awareness and vigilance remain the best defence for job seekers navigating the digital hiring landscape.

Indian Founder’s Unique Workplace Rule Wins Hearts

An Indian entrepreneur has gone viral for introducing an unusual yet heartwarming workplace practice, a mandatory one-hour “office picnic” every day for her entire team. The initiative, aimed at strengthening team bonding and reducing workplace stress, has received widespread praise on social media.

Kavya Karnatak, founder of KK Create, shared the idea on LinkedIn, explaining how her 40-member team pauses work daily at 2 PM to come together for a shared meal. What makes this ritual stand out is its non-negotiable nature, no matter how busy the day gets, every-

one steps away from their desks to participate.

According to her, the goal is simple, create a space where employees can connect beyond deadlines and job roles. During this hour, hierarchies disappear. Managers, freshers, and team leads all sit together, often squeezing into whatever space is available, ensuring no one eats alone.

The atmosphere, she describes, feels less like a corporate setting and more like a casual gathering. Employees share homemade food, crack jokes, and sometimes even play games during the break. What begins as a lunch hour often

turns into a lively social interaction that strengthens relationships within the team?

Karnatak also pointed out that leaders in the company actively encourage this culture. Managers make it a point to remind their teams to take the break, reinforcing the idea that productivity is not just about constant work but also about meaningful connections.

The concept has resonated widely online, with many praising it as a refreshing take on work culture. Social media users highlighted how such practices can build trust, improve collaboration, and create a more positive work environ-

ment. Some commented that genuine team bonding cannot be achieved through formal meetings alone but through shared, everyday experiences like these. At the same time, a few responses offered a more balanced perspective. Some users noted that while the idea is appealing, it may not suit every workplace or individual. For instance, employees who prefer quiet breaks or need uninterrupted time for focused work might find it challenging. Others emphasized that flexibility is key in ensuring such initiatives work for everyone.

Still, the overwhelming reaction has been positive, with

many calling it an example of how small cultural changes can make a big difference. In a time when conversations around burnout and work-life balance are becoming more prominent, this initiative stands out as a simple yet effective way to humanize the workplace. Ultimately, the daily “office picnic” reflects a broader shift in how companies are rethinking productivity and employee well-being. By prioritizing connection and community, the founder has shown that building a strong team doesn’t always require complex policies—sometimes, it just takes an hour of shared time.



Gujarat Titans Outclass Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Commanding Display

Gujarat Titans continued their dominant run in IPL 2026, defeating Royal Challengers Bengaluru by four wickets in a one-sided contest at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Chasing 158, Gujarat completed the target in just 15.5 overs, with 25 balls to spare. After opting to bowl first, Gujarat restricted RCB to a modest total, setting up the game for their in-form batting unit. In reply, skipper Shubman Gill led from the front with a blistering 43 off just 18 balls, smashing four boundaries and three sixes. Though Sai Sudharsan departed early, Gill's aggressive approach ensured a flying start.

He was well supported by Jos Buttler, who hammered 39 off 19 deliveries, including four sixes. The duo powered Gujarat to 69/1 in the powerplay, putting RCB under immense pressure.

However, Bhuvneshwar Kumar brought RCB back into the contest with a su-

perb spell, picking up three crucial wickets, including Gill and Buttler. At one stage, Gujarat slipped to 92/3, raising hopes for a comeback. Romario Shephard added to the pressure by removing Shahrulkh Khan and Washington Sundar, but Gujarat's lower order held firm.

Finisher Rahul Tewatia once again delivered under pressure, scoring an unbeaten 27 off 17 balls to guide his team home. He received support from Jason Holder and Rashid Khan as Gujarat sealed the win comfortably. For RCB, Bhuvneshwar was the standout bowler with figures of 3/28, while Shephard claimed two wickets. However, Josh Hazlewood proved expensive, conceding 56 runs in his four overs. The victory strengthens Gujarat Titans' position on the points table as they continue their impressive campaign.



ShreyasIyer Named Brand Ambassador for F1-Backed Sim Racing Programme in India

Indian cricketer ShreyasIyer has been announced as the brand ambassador for a Formula 1-backed sim racing programme in India, marking an exciting crossover between cricket and motorsports. The initiative aims to identify and nurture young racing talent through virtual racing platforms, bringing global motorsport opportunities closer to aspiring Indian drivers.

The programme, supported by Formula 1, focuses on sim racing—an increasingly popular and accessible format that allows participants to compete in realistic racing environments using advanced simulators. By leveraging technology, the initiative seeks to bridge the gap between grassroots talent and professional motorsport, which has traditionally been difficult to access due to high costs and limited infrastructure.

ShreyasIyer's association with the programme is expected to significantly boost its visibility and appeal, particularly among young audiences. Known for his dynamic personality and strong fan base, Iyer brings mainstream attention to a niche but rapidly growing sport in India. His involvement highlights



the growing intersection of sports and digital innovation.

Speaking about the initiative, Iyer expressed enthusiasm for being part of a platform that empowers young talent and provides them with new opportunities. He emphasized the importance of innovation in sports and how sim racing can open doors for aspiring racers who may not have access to traditional training routes.

The programme is designed to identify top performers through competitions and structured training modules. Participants will have the chance to showcase their skills in a competitive environment, with the best talents potentially progressing to higher levels, including real-world racing opportunities.

Sim racing has gained global traction in recent years, with many professional drivers using it as a training tool. It replicates real racing conditions with im-

pressive accuracy, allowing drivers to develop skills such as precision, reflexes, and race strategy. In countries with limited motorsport infrastructure, it serves as an effective entry point into the sport.

In India, motorsports have often remained on the fringes compared to cricket and other mainstream sports. However, initiatives like this aim to change that narrative by making racing more inclusive and accessible. By combining global expertise with local talent, the programme could play a key role in developing the next generation of Indian racers.

Iyer's appointment also reflects a broader trend of athletes endorsing initiatives beyond their primary sport. As sports ecosystems evolve, collaborations like these help expand reach and create new opportunities for talent development. Overall, the F1-backed sim racing programme represents a significant step forward for motorsports in India. With ShreyasIyer as its ambassador, the initiative is well-positioned to attract attention and inspire young enthusiasts to explore racing in a whole new way.

Mumbai Indians Face Heat as Another Disappointing IPL Season Looms

Mumbai Indians' underwhelming run in IPL 2026 has sparked intense criticism, with fans and experts questioning the team's leadership and strategy. At the center of the storm is captain Hardik Pandya, who is facing growing calls for his release after a series of poor performances.

The five-time champions have struggled to find consistency this season, slipping down the points table and failing to live up to expectations. With another disappointing campaign seemingly on the horizon, frustration among supporters has reached a boiling point. Many fans have taken to social media demanding drastic changes, including replacing Pandya as captain or even releasing him from the squad.

Hardik Pandya's return to Mumbai Indians ahead of the 2024 season was initially seen as a bold and promising move. However, the transition of leadership from Rohit Sharma to Pandya did not sit well with a section of fans, and the team has since struggled to deliver strong results. The lack of success over consecutive seasons has only intensified scrutiny on his captaincy.



Critics argue that Pandya has not been able to inspire the team or make effective tactical decisions on the field. Questions have been raised about bowling changes, team combinations, and overall game management. While Pandya re-

mains a talented all-rounder, his leadership credentials are now under serious debate.

Adding to the pressure is the team's inability to perform as a unit. Mumbai Indians, known for their strong core and winning culture, have looked dis-

jointed this season. Key players have failed to deliver consistently, and the team has struggled in both batting and bowling departments.

The criticism is not limited to fans alone. Former players and analysts have also weighed

in, suggesting that the franchise may need to rethink its approach if it wants to return to its dominant best. Some believe that leadership stability is crucial, while others feel a change at the top could help reset the team's direction.

Despite the backlash, it is important to note that Pandya's individual performances have not been entirely poor. However, in a high-pressure tournament like the IPL, results often define perception—and Mumbai Indians' lack of success has put the spotlight firmly on their captain.

For the franchise, the situation presents a tough challenge. Mumbai Indians have built a legacy of success over the years, and prolonged struggles are unfamiliar territory. Whether they choose to back Pandya or make significant changes in the upcoming season remains to be seen.

Ultimately, the calls to "release Hardik Pandya" reflect deeper concerns about the team's current trajectory. As the season progresses, all eyes will be on Mumbai Indians to see if they can turn things around, or if bigger decisions lie ahead.



Riyan Parag in Trouble, BCCI Set to Fine Star Cricketer Over Vaping Controversy

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has landed in controversy after being found guilty of breaching the IPL Code of Conduct following a vaping incident. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is now set to impose a heavy fine on the young cricketer, bringing unwanted attention during an already intense IPL 2026 season. The issue stems from visuals that surfaced online, showing Parag allegedly vaping in public. The incident quickly went viral, drawing criticism from fans and cricket observers. Given the high standards expected from professional athletes, especially those in leadership roles, the act was viewed as inappropriate and against the spirit of the game. After reviewing the matter, the BCCI reportedly concluded that Parag's actions amounted to "bringing the game into disrepute," a serious charge under the IPL's disciplinary framework. While vaping itself is not illegal, the concern lies in the image it projects, particularly for a prominent player representing a major franchise. As a result, Parag is expected to face a significant financial penalty, though there has been no confirmation of further disciplinary action such as suspension. The board appears to be treating the matter as a breach of conduct rather than a criminal violation, focusing on maintaining the league's reputation.

This controversy comes at a time when Parag has been enjoying a strong run in the IPL, both as a player and a leader. His performances this season have been notable, and he has played a key role for Rajasthan Royals. However, the incident threatens to overshadow his on-field contributions.

The situation also highlights the growing scrutiny athletes face in the age of social media. Even off-field behavior can quickly become public and impact a player's image. For young stars like Parag, who are seen as role models, such incidents can carry wider implications. Fans have reacted with mixed opinions. While some have criticized the player for poor judgment, others believe the punishment should not be too harsh, arguing that it was a personal choice rather than a serious offense. Nevertheless, most agree that professional cricketers must be mindful of their public conduct.

The BCCI's firm stance sends a clear message about discipline and accountability in the IPL. Maintaining the league's image is a top priority, and any behavior perceived as damaging to that image is likely to be dealt with strictly.

For Riyan Parag, the focus will now shift to how he responds to the controversy. With the tournament still ongoing, he has an opportunity to move past the incident and let his performances on the field do the talking.

Rishabh Pant Faces ODI Uncertainty as Selectors Eye New Wicketkeeping Options

India's dynamic wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant may be on the verge of losing his place in the ODI setup, according to recent reports. With the team management, led by chief selector AjitAgarkar and head coach GautamGambhir, reportedly reassessing the squad composition, Pant's position in the 50-over format appears increasingly uncertain.

The move is said to be part of a broader strategy to refine India's ODI squad ahead of upcoming international assignments. While Pant remains a key figure in Test cricket and continues to be valued for his aggressive batting, his role in ODIs has come under scrutiny due to inconsistent performances and evolving team requirements.

Reports suggest that the selectors are considering alternative wicketkeeping options who can offer greater stability and consistency in the middle order. Among the names being discussed is Sanju Samson, who has been in strong form and is seen as a viable replacement. His ability to balance aggressive stroke play with composure has reportedly impressed the team



management.

Another factor influencing this potential shift is the growing competition within the squad. With multiple players vying for limited spots, the management is keen on building a balanced lineup that suits

different match situations. This has led to tough calls, even involving established players like Pant.

It is important to note that Pant's possible exclusion from ODIs does not diminish his importance to Indian cricket

overall. He continues to be a match-winner in the Test format and remains a valuable asset in T20 cricket as well. However, modern team strategies often demand format-specific specialization, and this appears to be one such case.

RISING STAR



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Prabhas's Fauzi Nears Completion, October Release Still on Track

Prabhas' much-anticipated film Fauzi, directed by Hanu-Raghavapudi, is progressing steadily toward completion, with the makers reaffirming their commitment to an October theatrical release. The latest update from the production team reveals that a significant portion of the shoot has already been wrapped up, bringing the project closer to its final stages.

As per reports, nearly 80% of the filming has been completed, leaving only a few crucial portions to be shot. The remaining schedule primarily consists of three major action sequences featuring Prabhas, which are expected to be filmed soon. These sequences are said to be important to the narrative and are likely to add scale and intensity to the film.

Despite these pending portions, the team remains confident about meeting deadlines.

The makers have reiterated that the film is still on track for an October release, suggesting that post-production work is being planned efficiently alongside the remaining shoot. If achieved, the release will place Fauzi among the key festive season offerings, raising expectations among fans and industry watchers alike.

Fauzi is set in the 1940s during the British era, and is described as a period action drama with strong emotional undertones. The film aims to blend historical context with a compelling storyline, exploring themes of conflict, identity, and human relationships. This backdrop gives the film a distinct visual and narrative appeal, setting it apart from contemporary action entertainers.



The film features a notable ensemble cast. Alongside Prabhas, Imanvi plays the female lead, while veteran actors such as Jayapradha, Mithun Chakraborty, AnupamKher, and Chaitra J Achar play important roles. Their presence is expected to add depth and gravitas to the story.

Music for the film is composed by Vishal Chandrasekhar, known for his ability to create emotionally resonant soundtracks. Given the film's period setting and dramatic tone, the music is expected to play a key role in enhancing the overall cinematic experience. With the majority of the shoot already complete and only high-intensity sequences left to film, Fauzi is now entering a crucial phase of production. The coming weeks will be vital in ensuring that both shooting and post-production stay on schedule. Overall, the latest update offers reassurance to fans eagerly awaiting the film. If everything proceeds as planned, Fauzi could emerge as a major release in Prabhas' lineup, combining scale, storytelling, and star power in a grand cinematic package.

Maa Inti Bangaaram Needs a Creative Push as Buzz Remains Low

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaaram is nearing its release, but the film is currently facing a noticeable lack of buzz, raising concerns within industry circles. Despite the actress putting in consistent efforts to promote the movie, the response so far has been underwhelming.

According to recent reports, the promotional campaign for the film has not been impactful enough to capture audience attention. While Samantha has been actively involved in marketing, the strategies used so far appear to lack engaging and innovative elements. As a result, the film has struggled to create the kind of excitement typically expected from a star-led project.

One of the major concerns is that a section of the target audience, particularly family viewers—remains unaware of the film's release. This is a significant issue, especially with just about two weeks left before the movie hits theatres. A strong pre-release buzz is crucial for films in this genre, and the current situation suggests that the campaign hasn't



reached its full potential.

What makes this situation more striking is the contrast with Samantha's previous produc-

tion venture, Subham. That film managed to generate strong attention and went on to become a success, largely due to effective promotions and word-of-mouth. This comparison highlights what Maa Inti Bangaaram might be missing, an engaging and memorable promotional approach.

Industry observers believe that the film now requires a fresh and unconventional promotional strategy to turn things around. With limited time remaining, only out-of-the-box ideas—such as unique marketing campaigns, viral content, or strong media engagement—can help the film reach a wider audience and build momentum before release.

The film itself has decent expectations, given Samantha's popularity and the film's family-oriented narrative blended with action elements. However, in today's competitive entertainment landscape, even star power alone is not enough to guarantee visibility. Audience attention is heavily influenced by how effectively a film is marketed across platforms.

Ultimately, Maa Inti Bangaaram finds itself at a crucial juncture. With the release date fast approaching, the makers, and Samantha as both actor and producer—need to rethink their promotional strategy. A more creative and aggressive campaign could still generate the required buzz and ensure the film reaches its intended audience.

All Eyes on Peddi as Makers Gear Up for Big Release Date Decision

Ram Charan's much-awaited film Peddi has become one of the hottest topics in Tollywood, with growing buzz around a crucial announcement regarding its release date. As anticipation builds, fans and industry watchers are eagerly waiting for clarity on when the film will finally hit theatres.

The excitement has intensified following the postponement of Yash's Toxic, which was earlier scheduled to release on June 4, 2026. This unexpected delay has opened up a prime box office window, and Peddi is now being widely seen as the strongest contender to take advantage of this slot.

Currently, Peddi is slated for release on June 25, 2026, which puts it in direct competition with another film releasing around the same time. However, shifting the release to June 4 could give it a clear solo run, potentially maximizing its box office performance. Adding to the momentum, the film's shoot is reportedly set to be completed, placing it in a strong position to make a strategic decision regarding its release. With production nearing its end and sufficient time available for post-production and promotions, the makers have the flexibility to consider a change in plans. This possibility has sparked intense discussions on social media, where fans are actively urging the team to prepone the release. Many believe that arriving earlier—especially in an unoccupied release window—could give Peddi a massive advantage at the box office. The



sentiment among fans is clear: a smart release strategy could significantly boost the film's commercial prospects.

Despite the growing speculation, there has been no official confirmation yet from the makers. This uncertainty has only added to the curiosity, with all eyes now on the team for a formal announcement.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is a high-budget pan-Indian sports action drama starring Ram Charan in a powerful role. The film has already generated significant hype due to Charan's transformation and the scale of the project. At this stage, the film stands at a crucial crossroads. Whether the makers stick to the planned June 25 release or make a bold move to capitalize on the June 4 window remains to be seen.

One thing, however, is certain—Peddi is poised for a major release, and the upcoming announcement could play a decisive role in shaping its box office journey.

Pujita Ponnada Bags Key Role in Venkatesh-Trivikram's Aadarsha Kutumbam

An interesting update has emerged from Tollywood regarding Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas' upcoming film Aadarsha Kutumbam, which is already carrying strong expectations. Actress Pujita Ponnada, known for her role in Rangasthalam, is reportedly set to play an important character in the film.

According to reports, Pujita will not just appear in a minor supporting role but will have a significant presence in the story, adding weight to the narrative. This has sparked curiosity among fans, as Trivikram is known for giving meaningful arcs to supporting characters in his films.

One of the most talked-about aspects of this update is that Pujita is likely to be paired opposite actor Nara Rohith, who is also said to be playing a key role in the movie. Their track is expected to be an integral part of the storyline rather than a side subplot, which could make it a strong highlight in the film.

Aadarsha Kutumbam marks a highly anticipated collaboration between Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas. While the duo previously worked together on successful films like NuvvuNaaku Nachav and Malli Iswari, Trivikram was only the writer in those projects. This film will be their first full-fledged collaboration as actor-director, increasing expectations significantly.

The film is said to be a family entertainer with emotional depth, a genre both Venkatesh and Trivikram are known to excel in. At the same time, re-



ports suggest that the movie may also include action elements, presenting Venkatesh in a slightly different avatar.

Leading actress Srinidhi Shetty plays the female lead, while the supporting cast includes several notable actors. The project is being produced by Haarika&Hassine Creations and is currently progressing with its shoot in a planned and low-profile manner.

Despite some speculation about changes in the music department, reports indicate that the team is focused on maintaining quality and is not rushing the production. The makers are said to be prioritizing

output over deadlines, which further raises expectations about the film's final result.

For Pujita Ponnada, this role could prove to be a significant boost to her career. Being part of a high-profile project led by Venkatesh and Trivikram offers her an opportunity to gain wider recognition, especially if her character leaves a strong impact.

Overall, with a strong cast, a proven director, and an intriguing mix of family drama and emotions, Aadarsha Kutumbam is shaping up to be a promising project—and Pujita's role is now one of the key talking points.

Anupama Parameswaran's 'Bhogi' First Look Unveiled, Actress Stuns in a Bold New Avatar

The makers of Bhogi, starring Anupama Parameswaran, have unveiled the film's first look, creating a strong buzz among fans and film circles. The poster introduces Anupama in a completely different and intense avatar, hinting at a role that is both layered and performance-driven.

In the first-look poster, Anupama is seen portraying a character named Kandula Sulochana Rani, a role that appears rooted in a rustic and emotionally charged setting. Her look is raw and grounded, reflecting a shift away from her usual soft and bubbly on-screen image. This transformation has immediately caught attention, with many praising her willingness to experiment with diverse roles.

Bhogi is directed by Sampath Nandi and is expected to be a content-driven drama with strong emotional elements. The film is reportedly set in a rural backdrop, and the first look suggests a story that revolves around intense human relationships and possibly social themes.

The title Bhogi itself evokes cultural significance, often associated with transformation and new beginnings, and the poster seems to align with that tone. Anupama's character appears serious and determined, hinting that the film may explore deeper emotional or societal conflicts rather than being a conventional commercial entertainer. This project marks another important step in Anupama's career, as she continues to move toward more challenging and unconventional



roles. Over the years, she has built a reputation for balancing commercial films with performance-oriented projects, and Bhogi seems to fall firmly in the latter category.

The film is expected to release in 2026, and with the first look generating positive reactions, expectations are gradually building. Fans are particularly excited to see how Anupama carries this intense role, as it offers her a chance to showcase a different side of her acting abilities.

Overall, the first look of Bhogi sets the tone for a serious and potentially impactful film. With a strong character, a rooted setting, and a director known for delivering engaging narratives, the movie is shaping up to be one of the more intriguing projects in Anupama Parameswaran's lineup.

If the film lives up to the promise shown in the first look, Bhogi could stand out as a defining moment in her career—one that reinforces her versatility and commitment to meaningful storytelling.