

BUZZ POINTS



India, Sweden Upgrade Ties to Strategic Partnership During PM Modi's Visit PAGE 07



V. D. Satheesan Takes Oath as Kerala CM, UDF Returns to Power PAGE 07



Government Directs Accelerated Completion Of Three Major Greenfield Maritime Projects By Year End PAGE 02



Opposition Party Stages Massive Statewide Protests Demanding Immediate Rollback Of Fuel Price Hike PAGE 11

'Another Government in Visakhapatnam?' Political Buzz Grows Around MP Sri Bharath's Influence

Ravi Podili

Political circles in Visakhapatnam are abuzz with discussions over the growing influence of Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharath, with local leaders and observers informally describing him as the "unofficial Chief Minister" of the district.

Several local leaders claim that "Visakhapatnam is Sri Bharath, and Sri Bharath is Visakhapatnam," suggesting that almost every major political and administrative development in the district takes place under his close supervision.

Sri Bharath's strong political positioning is often linked to his family connections within the ruling alliance. He is the younger son-in-law of Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna and the co-brother-in-law of HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, who is widely seen as the political heir to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Infographic about MP Sri Bharath's influence, including 'UNOFFICIAL CHIEF MINISTER OF THE DISTRICT?', 'LAND ALLEGATIONS', and 'POWERFUL FAMILY TIES WITH CM CHANDRABABU NAIDU'.

in the Telugu Desam Party-led alliance. After narrowly losing the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Sri Bharath staged a major comeback in 2024 by winning the Visakhapatnam parliamentary seat with a massive majority of nearly five lakh votes.

proven against Sri Bharath so far. However, recent political discussions have centered around allegations that nearly 54.79 acres of land, reportedly worth thousands of crores and allegedly being used for GITAM University, were recently regularised by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation at a comparatively low cost.

directly raised questions over the issue. Nevertheless, no concrete evidence proving wrongdoing has been publicly established so far. Political analysts say the growing perception of centralized influence in Visakhapatnam reflects the evolving power dynamics within the state politics.



Naidu Pushes For Fast-Track Royal Enfield Project Near Tirupati

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday stressed that the proposed Royal Enfield motorcycle manufacturing project in Andhra Pradesh should move ahead at "bullet speed," directing officials to ensure its completion within 18 months.

During a meeting with Royal Enfield CEO Govindarajan at the State Secretariat, the Chief Minister assured full support from the State government for the establishment of the unit near Tirupati. He said the project should be executed on a fast-track basis so that production can commence within the stipulated timeline.

facility. They informed that the company is investing around Rs 2,500 crore to establish the plant in Satyavedu mandal of Tirupati district, near Rallakuppam and Vanalluru villages. The proposed facility will include a state-of-the-art manufacturing unit along with a testing track, research and development centre, and a vendor park ecosystem.

Officials said the project is expected to generate employment for around 15,000 people, both directly and indirectly, providing a major boost to industrial growth in the region. The company also informed the Chief Minister about its plans to introduce an electric variant under the name "Flying Flea C6" in the



Governor Abdul Nazeer Interacts With Maharashtra Students Under Yuva Sangam

Vijayawada, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Governor of Andhra Pradesh S Abdul Nazeer on Monday interacted with students from Maharashtra under the 'Yuva Sangam' initiative, held at the Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan in Vijayawada. The programme is part of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative aimed at strengthening cultural and educational ties among States.

"precious gem" in India's growth story. He noted that the State contributes nearly 40 per cent of the country's marine exports and has emerged as a leading investment destination in 2026, securing over 25 per cent of India's total investment proposals.

Addressing graduate, post-graduate students and research scholars visiting Andhra Pradesh, the Governor said that Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh share centuries-old connections through traditions, rivers, and trade routes that existed long before modern State boundaries were formed.

The Governor also spoke about the development of Amaravati as a futuristic capital city built on sustainability and innovation. He said the upcoming Amaravati Quantum Valley, a 50-acre dedicated technology park, will house India's first open-access Quantum Reference Facilities with IBM technology, along with collaborations involving major firms such as TCS.

Highlighting the State's economic strengths, Abdul Nazeer described Andhra Pradesh as a

State Government Extends Financial Support To Fishermen Families During Seasonal Ban

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

The state government of Andhra Pradesh is reinforcing its commitment to the welfare of the fishing community by releasing the second consecutive year of financial assistance under the dedicated MatsyakaraSevala initiative. This significant move is designed to provide a robust social safety net for families who face a complete loss of income during the mandatory sixty-one-day marine fishing ban.

pees to be disbursed to 130,796 families across the coastal regions of the state. The Chief Minister is scheduled to formally initiate the fund transfer process during a public outreach event, ensuring the amount of 20,000 rupees is deposited directly into the bank accounts of each eligible household. This financial intervention reflects a cornerstone promise made by the ruling alliance to prioritize the socio-economic upliftment of marginalized coastal communities.

landscape, the government has maintained that the welfare of the underprivileged remains a top priority. Over the last two fiscal years, the total support extended to the fishing community has reached 505 crore rupees. This includes the 243 crore rupees distributed to over 1.21 lakh families in the preceding year, alongside the increased coverage and funding allocated for the current season.

were settled with a disbursement of 3.15 crore rupees. This effort has been accelerated in the 2025-26 cycle, where 113 pending claims were cleared with a total payment of 5.65 crore rupees. Furthermore, the administration is actively promoting long-term economic sustainability by encouraging the community to engage in seaweed cultivation. This diversification of income sources is intended to reduce the community's total dependence on seasonal fishing and provide a more stable financial foundation throughout the year.

The itinerary includes a major public address at a designated forum where the executive will discuss the government's vision for the marine sector and the progress of various welfare schemes. Following the ceremonial release of funds, the Chief Minister will spend time interacting personally with fishermen and their families to gather direct feedback on the impact of these policies. Later in the afternoon, a review meeting with local political representatives and administrative officials will be held to discuss regional development goals.

Naidu Orders Strict Adherence To Irrigation Calendar To Fast-Track Projects

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to strictly adhere to the Irrigation Calendar to ensure timely completion of projects and deliver benefits to farmers across the State. Emphasising accountability and efficiency, he instructed departments to treat irrigation works as top priority and avoid any delays.

projects to 36.

Naidu made it clear that there should be no negligence in execution and directed the Finance Department to ensure adequate allocation of funds for land acquisition and civil works. He stressed that both the previously announced projects and the newly added ones must be implemented strictly as per the calendar schedule.

It may be recalled that the Chief Minister had recently unveiled an Irrigation Calendar covering 25 major projects during the Collectors' Conference. During a review meeting held at the Secretariat on Monday, he asked officials to include 11 more priority projects in addition to the existing list, taking the total number of monitored

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of key projects. They informed that 88 per cent of civil works under the Polavaram Project have been completed, while land acquisition stands at 93 per cent and rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) at

Naidu Stresses Speedy Governance In Teleconference With Officials Across State

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday conducted a massive teleconference with around 40,000 officials, including district collectors, State-level officers and field staff, from the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS), outlining key priorities of the government and stressing the need for efficient service delivery. The Chief Minister focused on implementation of welfare schemes, development programmes and prompt disposal of public grievances. In a first-of-its-kind interaction, several field-level officials directly spoke to the Chief Minister and shared their suggestions. Employees expressed satisfaction over being given an opportunity to interact with him.



top three in delivering satisfactory public services.

Addressing the officials, the Chief Minister said the government is moving forward with the goals of welfare, development and good governance, and added that efforts are being made to put the State back on track. He credited the collective efforts of the administrative machinery for the State receiving the "Best Reformer of the Year" award.

An employee from Kakinada district suggested improvements in housing schemes, which the Chief Minister appreciated and assured implementation. Naidu also lauded the collectors of Nellore, East Godavari and Palnadu districts for ranking among the

core, creating opportunities for 24 lakh jobs. He highlighted major projects such as those by Google, ArcelorMittal and AMCA, adding that BPCL project groundwork would commence soon. He emphasised the need for teamwork, transparency and accountability, stating that corruption should have no place in governance. Officials were directed to closely monitor implementation gaps and ensure 100 per cent resolution of non-financial grievances, while financial issues should be addressed systematically. The Chief Minister underscored that "speed of delivering governance" must be visible at all levels and cited the AMCA project, which received approvals within 36 days, as an example of efficient administration. He also directed officials to remain alert on drinking water supply during summer and respond swiftly to even minor public issues. Naidu said building public trust should be the ultimate goal and urged officials to improve performance with maximum impact at minimal cost.

AP Aims To Be Trusted Partner In Global Nuclear Economy Says Nara Lokesh

New Delhi, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh on Monday said the State aims to position itself as a reliable global partner in the emerging nuclear economy, emphasising the growing importance of nuclear energy in the next phase of global industrial and technological development.

Lokesh noted that India possesses strong engineering talent, a robust manufacturing base and competitive cost advantages. He added that States like Andhra Pradesh offer significant strengths in industrial infrastructure, ports and logistics connectivity, making them well-suited for advanced energy investments.

Speaking at the 'US Executive Nuclear Mission to India' conference in New Delhi, jointly organised by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), Lokesh highlighted the potential of India-US collaboration in shaping the future of clean and sustainable energy.

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's advantages, the Minister said the State has a long coastline, well-developed port infrastructure, expanding industrial corridors and a strong power ecosystem. He underlined that the government is implementing a "speed of doing business" approach to attract global investments.

He said the India-US strategic partnership has already driven transformation across sectors such as technology, defence, semiconductors and clean energy, and expressed confidence that nuclear energy would be the next major area of cooperation between the two nations.

The Minister said Andhra Pradesh is actively building new industrial corridors and expanding its electronics manufacturing capabilities. He also pointed out that the State is making substantial investments in renewable energy and related sectors. Lokesh further stated that Visakhapatnam is being developed as a hub

Government Directs Accelerated Completion Of Three Major Greenfield Maritime Projects By Year End

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

The state government has issued firm directives to accelerate the construction of three major greenfield ports, setting a strict target to make these crucial infrastructure projects fully operational by the end of this year. During a comprehensive review meeting held today at the Secretariat, the Minister for Investments and Infrastructure thoroughly assessed the ongoing progress of these ports and various fishing harbor developments. Engaging with senior departmental officials, the Minister emphasized that the current alliance government, functioning under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is unconditionally committed to providing comprehensive support to ensure the rapid development of these maritime facilities. Officials were urged to

proactively speed up all ongoing works and bring any logistical, technical, or administrative challenges directly to the government's attention for immediate resolution.

While reviewing the individual projects, specific operational areas were highlighted for immediate strategic intervention. Regarding the Mulapeta greenfield port, authorities were instructed to promptly resolve pending issues related to salt lands, as well as essential infrastructure like road and railway connectivity. The Minister explicitly pointed out that expediting the rehabilitation and resettlement process for the displaced residents of the local village is absolutely crucial for the timely execution of dredging activities. Successfully navigating these preliminary hurdles will ensure the port's structural completion by the close of the calendar year.

Shifting the administrative focus to the Machilipatnam greenfield port, engineering teams were directed to significantly speed up the ongoing breakwater construction and dredging operations. Furthermore, the establishment of fundamental utility infrastructure, including dedicated railway linkages, uninterrupted power supply, and reliable drinking water connections, must be fast-tracked to adequately support the upcoming maritime facility.

The detailed review session also covered the Ramayapatnam greenfield port, where officials were strictly mandated to swiftly and amicably resolve any outstanding dredging complications and rehabilitation challenges to maintain the established project timeline. Reaffirming that the government considers these greenfield ports as highly prestigious initiatives designed to transform the state's economy, the Minister called for seamless inter-departmental coordination to meet the stringent completion deadlines. In addition to these massive commercial port projects, binding instructions were issued to ensure the timely completion of the first phase of various fishing harbor developments across the coastal belt. This critical high-level administrative review meeting witnessed the active participation of key bureaucratic figures, including the Special Chief Secretary for Investments and Infrastructure, M.T. Krishna Babu, Maritime Board Chief Executive Officer Abhishek Kumar, Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board Chief Engineer Raghavarao, and various other senior maritime officials who presented detailed technical updates on these transformative initiatives.

proactively speed up all ongoing works and bring any logistical, technical, or administrative challenges directly to the government's attention for immediate resolution.



Government Reaffirms Commitment To Safeguarding Horticulture Farmers From Extreme Water Stress

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

The state government has strongly reiterated its unwavering commitment to protecting horticulture crops and ensuring the welfare of farmers facing severe climatic challenges. Addressing the ongoing agricultural concerns, the administration emphasized that safeguarding these valuable crops remains a top priority, and comprehensive precautionary measures are being actively implemented to prevent any significant hardships for the farming community. Two months prior, agricultural authorities were specifically alerted regarding the alarming water stress conditions affecting extensive sweet orange orchards. Consequently, dedicated teams comprising departmental officials and agricultural scientists have been conducting extensive field visits to continuously monitor and thoroughly review the ground situation. Alongside these critical assessments, massive awareness campaigns and educational programs are being organized to guide cultivators through these challenging times.

According to the latest departmental assessments, out of a total thirty-seven thousand hectares of sweet orange cultivation in the affected re-

gion, severe irrigation constraints have been identified across two thousand two hundred and sixty hectares. To mitigate this escalating crisis, agricultural experts have strongly advised cultivators to adopt effective water conservation techniques such as live mulching and the deployment of weed mats. Furthermore, farmers have been encouraged to establish farm ponds and, wherever absolutely necessary, transport water to provide critical life-saving irrigation to the drying plants. The situation is particularly dire in three specific rural settlements, where approximately eight hundred and seventy-five hectares are grappling with an acute water shortage. In these severely affected pockets, cultivators are undertaking desperate measures, incurring massive financial expenditures to transport water through tankers to save their dying orchards. Unfortunately, the exorbitant costs associated with water transportation have forced difficult decisions upon the agricultural community. Due to the overwhelming financial burden and the logistical challenges of managing multiple agricultural plots, instances have emerged where cultivators were compelled to abandon approximately four and a half hectares of their precious orchards. This dis-

stress is primarily attributed to the insufficient water levels in regional supply channels, which failed to replenish the local village tanks. Administrative officials noted that successfully filling these local reservoirs would significantly alleviate the current agricultural distress. The district administration, under the direct supervision of the Collector, is closely monitoring these developments and actively coordinating relief measures. In a similar instance a few months ago, acid lime cultivators faced comparable severe irrigation deficits. Through sheer resilience and by bearing the heavy costs of water transportation, those farmers managed to protect their yields, ultimately reaping substantial financial rewards due to currently favorable market prices for acid lime. Recognizing the tremendous financial strain borne by the farmers in their relentless efforts to save their crops, the government has assured the agricultural community that their grievances will be directly presented to the Chief Minister. The administration is actively considering a proposal to subsidize or fully reimburse the costs incurred for transporting water, thereby ensuring that complete justice and adequate financial support are extended to the distressed horticulture farmers.

Government Mandates Immediate Sanction Of Pending Agricultural Electricity Connections And Uninterrupted Power Supply

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

The state government has issued strict directives to the energy department to immediately sanction and clear all pending agricultural electricity connections across the region. During a comprehensive teleconference held on Monday, Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar reviewed the power supply situation with the Chairmen and Managing Directors of the three regional power distribution companies, Loteti Siva Sankar, PrudhviTejimmadi, and P. Pulla Reddy. The primary focus of the high-level meeting was to formulate a robust action plan guaranteeing a continuous, uninterrupted power supply to all domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers throughout the grueling summer months. The Minister categorically instructed the top executives to implement proactive measures and advance contingency plans to prevent any potential disruptions in the state's power distribution network. He emphasized that the administration must be fully prepared to handle the anticipated surge in electricity demand during the peak summer season without causing any inconvenience to the general public.

Addressing the operational challenges associated with ex-



treme weather conditions, the Minister acknowledged that the escalating summer temperatures significantly increase the risk of technical failures, such as transformer burnouts and grid overloads. To counter these inevitable seasonal challenges, he mandated that all field-level technical staff remain highly vigilant and on high alert. Furthermore, the authorities were directed to maintain an adequate buffer stock of essential electrical equipment and replacement

parts to facilitate immediate repairs. In the event of unavoidable power outages caused by sudden technical glitches, the Minister stressed the importance of transparent communication, ordering officials to promptly inform the affected public about the disruption and the estimated restoration time. He unequivocally stated that any such technical emergencies must be tackled on a war footing to ensure the rapid restoration of services, thereby minimizing public

hardship. In addition to the immediate summer power management strategies, the comprehensive review meeting also heavily focused on the rapid implementation of high-priority central and state government renewable energy and infrastructure schemes. The Minister issued binding instructions to the officials to strictly adhere to the stipulated deadlines for flagship programs, including the Surya Ghar initiative, the PM KUSUM scheme, and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme. Highlighting specific demographic targets, he mandated that the ambitious goal of providing six lakh solar connections exclusively to beneficiaries from the Scheduled Castes under the Surya Ghar scheme must be successfully achieved by July. Alongside this targeted demographic focus, the department was instructed to significantly accelerate the rollout of solar connections to all other eligible consumer categories to swiftly meet the overarching governmental objectives. Reaffirming the administration's core commitment, the Minister concluded the session by declaring that providing high-quality, reliable, and entirely uninterrupted electricity to every citizen remains the utmost priority of the state government.

Significant Improvement Recorded In Performance Of Primary Health Centres Across The State

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Government primary health centers, which remain highly accessible to rural populations, are demonstrating exceptional performance across the state in delivering crucial grassroots healthcare. Demonstrating a significant upward trend, the number of primary health centers securing the top-tier Grade A rating has tripled over a span of just six months. While only one hundred and seven centers achieved this elite classification in October last year, the number surged to three hundred and twelve out of the total one thousand one hundred and forty-four operational centers by March. During the same assessment period, the count of Grade B health facilities also witnessed a substantial increase, rising from three hundred and fifty-four to four hundred and fifty-five. Concurrently, there has been a noticeable and steady decline in the number of centers falling into the lower C, D, and E categories, indicating an overall systemic enhancement in medical services encompassing outpatient care, inpatient admissions, laboratory testing, and institutional deliveries.

These highly encouraging developments are the direct outcome of continuous internal evaluations and rigorous reviews conducted by the medical and health department. The Director of Public Health recently submitted a comprehensive per-

Ranking	Oct '2025	Nov '2025	Dec '2025	Jan '2026	Feb '2026	March '2026
"A" Grade	107	176	203	226	278	312
"B" Grade	354	365	371	408	443	455
"C" Grade	455	429	402	390	342	298
"D" Grade	204	161	157	116	76	72
"E" Grade	24	13	11	4	5	7
Total PHCs:	1144	1144	1144	1144	1144	1144

formance assessment report to the State Medical and Health Minister, detailing these positive shifts based on the Health Management Information System data. The medical centers are rigorously evaluated using a strict five-point grading system that allocates individual points for outpatient turnout, inpatient day-care admissions, laboratory tests, institutional deliveries, and other medical procedures. To achieve optimal grading, each center is scientifically expected to record fifteen hundred outpatients, one hundred inpatients, three thousand laboratory tests, and ten institutional deliveries monthly. Following the Minister's strict instructions to concentrate on underperforming facilities, district-level officials have been consistently reviewing the medical staff, directly resulting in the progressive reduction of lower-graded hospitals. By the end of March, the overall grading distribution stood at three hundred and twelve in Grade A, four hundred and fifty-five in Grade B, two hundred and ninety-eight in

Grade C, seventy-two in Grade D, and merely seven in the lowest Grade E category. Several centers have shown remarkable consistency, with certain facilities in the Annamayya, East Godavari, and Kakinada districts securing the coveted Grade A rating for six consecutive months. A district-wise analysis for March reveals exceptional regional performances, with West Godavari seeing thirty-three out of thirty-four centers achieving Grade A. Similarly, Krishna, YSR Kadapa, and Vizianagaram districts reported a high proportion of top-tier facilities. However, certain areas require further administrative attention. Chittoor district reported the highest number of Grade D facilities with ten centers, followed by districts like Alluri Sitarama Raju and Polavaram. The seven lowest-performing Grade E centers are sparsely distributed across Polavaram, Markapuram, Srikakulam, Nellore, Chittoor, and Visakhapatnam, where authorities are actively expected to implement targeted corrective measures.

Government Mandates Completion Of Pending Infrastructure And Railway Projects By December Target

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

The state government has directed officials to expedite the resolution of pending administrative issues concerning national highways and railway projects to ensure their timely completion. During the fourth Task Force Committee review meeting held at the Secretariat today, the Minister for Roads and Buildings, Investments, and Infrastructure thoroughly reviewed the progress of these vital development projects. The administrative machinery was instructed to systematically address critical infrastructural bottlenecks, particularly focusing on land acquisition and pending forest clearances, to successfully meet the strict operational deadline set for December 2026. Emphasizing the continuous financial and administrative support provided by the central government for state infrastructure development, authorities were strongly urged to work in seamless inter-departmental coordination to maximize the benefits of central assistance and accelerate the overall economic growth of the region.

Reviewing the national highway initiatives currently



spearheaded by the central transport ministry and the highway authority, officials presented the detailed progress achieved since the third committee meeting held last August. It was officially reported that out of twenty-one previously identified land acquisition challenges, nine have been completely resolved, while twelve have witnessed partial resolution. The current review highlighted the immediate need to rapidly address an additional ten land acquisition matters and specific forest clearance issues pertaining to the highway networks. Furthermore, out of the total targeted six hundred and two kilometers of new road

development, land acquisition has already been successfully completed for three hundred and ninety-seven kilometers. The concerned departments were mandated to expedite the remaining acquisitions and fast-track all civil construction activities. With the majority of forest clearances already secured, the forest department was explicitly directed to process and clear the remaining statutory approvals without any further delay. Shifting the administrative focus to regional railway infrastructure, the government set a firm and ambitious target to complete all ongoing railway projects by December 2026. Revenue officials were in-

structed to promptly finalize land acquisitions for all sanctioned railway lines by conducting dedicated monthly review meetings with Joint Collectors at the district level. Additionally, engineering teams were directed to significantly speed up the ongoing construction of road overbridges and underbridges across the state. Crucial decisions regarding cost-sharing mechanisms for major railway corridors will soon be finalized following high-level consultations with the Union Railway Ministry. The concerned authorities were also advised to coordinate closely with the capital region development officials to hasten land acquisition for the new capital railway line. Furthermore, clear instructions were issued to expedite water pipeline shifting works around major coastal industrial zones and initiate the construction of vital railway subways in specific regional towns to ensure unimpeded civic movement. The comprehensive review meeting witnessed the active participation of senior bureaucratic figures, special secretaries, and chief engineers representing both the state and central railway departments.

Naidu Pushes For Fast-Track Royal Enfield Project Near Tirupati

continued

near future. Responding to this, Naidu highlighted the State's initiatives in renewable energy, including solar and wind power projects, pumped storage schemes, and battery energy storage systems, positioning Andhra Pradesh as a favourable destination for elec-

tric mobility investments. During the meeting, the company representatives presented a miniature model of the Bullet 350 motorcycle to the Chief Minister. Naidu also examined various Bullet 350 models and briefly interacted with them, even donning a helmet and sitting on one of themotorcycles.

Governor Abdul Nazeer Interacts With Maharashtra Students Under Yuva Sangam

continued

with three Central Universities, 19 Central autonomous institutions, 28 State universities, seven deemed universities, and 13 private universities. Premier institutions such as AIIMS Mangalagiri, IIT Tirupati, IISER Tirupati, IIIT Sri City, IIM Visakhapatnam, IIPe, NIT Tadepalligudem, NID, and SPA Vijayawada are contributing to this growth.

He added that the vision of Swarna Andhra@2047 aligns with the Centre's Viksit Bharat mission, focusing on infrastructure, industrial growth, and sustainable development.

Earlier, the Governor interacted with the students and responded to their queries. The programme was coordinated by IISER Pune and IIT Tirupati. Senior officials from Lok Bhavan were also present.

AP Aims To Be Trusted Partner In Global Nuclear Economy Says Nara Lokesh

continued

for artificial intelligence and data centres, with plans to establish facilities with a capacity of up to 6 gigawatts. He said a manufacturing ecosystem would be created around these data centres to boost industrial growth.

He added that under the State's Integrated Clean Ener-

gy Policy, Andhra Pradesh is targeting investments worth around Rs 10 lakh crore across renewable energy, storage, green hydrogen, transmission infrastructure, manufacturing ecosystems and grid modernisation, reinforcing its ambition to emerge as a key player in the global clean and nuclear energy landscape.

Opposition Party Escalates Agitation Demanding Completion Of Crucial Water Project

Tadepalli, May 18 | TPN Bureau

The state's main opposition party has significantly escalated its political movement to demand the immediate completion of a vital lift irrigation project. During a high-level digital conference, the party's state coordinator reviewed the ongoing agitation with regional party presidents and senior organizational leaders from the affected southern and coastal regions. Prominent party stalwarts, including former cabinet members, actively participated in the session to formulate a robust strategy aimed at pressuring the ruling administration to prioritize regional water security. Opposition leaders strongly criticized the ruling coalition government for completely abandoning the prestigious lift irrigation project, which remains absolutely critical to fulfilling both the agricultural irrigation and basic drinking water requirements of multiple parched regions. The party leadership alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is deeply compromising the state's legitimate water rights and interests. They further claimed that the head of the government has remained conspicuously silent regarding upstream projects initiated by the neighboring state of Telangana, which directly and adversely impact the water availability of Andhra

Pradesh. Highlighting the success of their campaign so far, the state coordinator noted that recent regional round-table conferences organized by the party had garnered an overwhelming public response. This growing public pressure, he asserted, has successfully forced the ruling party to react to the growing discontent. To further systematize and strengthen the ongoing agitation, the coordinator instructed leaders to quickly establish specialized state and regional task forces. These specialized panels will actively integrate senior political figures, irrigation specialists, prominent intellectuals, and retired water department officials to provide expert guidance to the movement. Concluding the strategic review, the opposition party resolved to launch a highly intensified public outreach campaign to build a sustained mass movement. This comprehensive grassroots strategy will feature widespread awareness campaigns, digital webinars, public protest programs, and extensive community-level outreach across various constituencies. The leadership affirmed that the party will continue its relentless public struggle until the ruling administration allocates the necessary funds and successfully completes the lift irrigation project to secure the livelihoods of millions of dependent families.

Andhra Pradesh Positioned for Global Investments in Clean Energy and Technology Sectors

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha Member Sana Satish Babu stated that the initiatives being taken by the state government to position Andhra Pradesh as a reliable global partner in the nuclear economy are highly commendable. He noted that it is a proud moment for the state that Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh attended the "US Executive Nuclear Mission to India" conference as a guest. The high-profile event was jointly organized by

the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). Satish Babu remarked that the statements made by Minister Nara Lokesh on this occasion serve as a definitive roadmap for the state's future development. He highlighted the significance of the Minister's assertion that the state is fully prepared to collaborate with global nuclear energy partners and intends to develop Andhra Pradesh into a pivotal stakeholder in the emerging nuclear economy.

Opposition Party Stages Massive Statewide Protests Demanding Immediate Rollback Of Fuel Price Hike

Vijayawada, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Following the directive of their party president, leaders, cadre, and supporters of the primary opposition party organized extensive and peaceful protests across the state on Monday to strongly condemn the steep escalation in petrol and diesel prices. Massive rallies, sit-in demonstrations, foot marches, and highly innovative protest campaigns were staged across almost every legislative constituency. Concluding these widespread public demonstrations, the political representatives officially submitted detailed memorandums to district collectors, revenue divisional officers, and local administrative heads, forcefully demanding an immediate and complete rollback of the inflated fuel rates.

The agitating political leaders launched a scathing attack on the ruling coalition government, accusing it of blatantly betraying the general public by completely abandoning its prominent pre-election promises to drastically reduce fuel prices. They highlighted that the sudden and sharp increase in the cost of petrol and diesel is imposing an unbearable financial burden on the agrarian community, middle-class households, transport sector workers, and daily wage earners. Furthermore, the opposition cautioned that these exorbitant transportation costs are inevitably triggering a cascading inflationary effect, making daily essential commodities utterly unaffordable for the common man, and warned of significantly intensifying the agitation if immediate financial relief is not provided to the masses. Throughout the state,



former legislators and senior party functionaries adopted highly creative methods to express their dissent and visually highlight the ongoing plight of the common citizens. In various regions, prominent political figures were seen pulling heavy auto-rickshaws and commercial utility vehicles with thick ropes, while others organized massive rallies where motorcycles were deliberately loaded onto traditional bullock carts and cycle rickshaws to symbolize the growing unaffordability of operating motor vehicles under the current pricing regime. Some local leaders even tied commercial transport vehicles to domestic cattle to dramatically showcase the severe economic regression caused by the administration's taxation policies. Addressing the massive gatherings, senior opposition figures heavily criticized the current administration for imposing the highest fuel taxes in the entire country, pointing out that excessive state-level value-added tax and additional administrative cesses have pushed petrol prices past one

hundred and thirteen rupees per liter and diesel beyond one hundred and one rupees per liter. Senior political stalwarts addressing these massive public gatherings continuously reminded the current political leadership of their hypocritical stance, recalling how key figures in the ruling coalition actively posed for photographs at fueling stations to protest high prices before assuming power, only to remain completely silent now. Accusing the current regime of massive public deception and administrative failure, the opposition leaders reiterated their unwavering commitment to fighting relentlessly for public welfare. From the coastal regions to the deeply interior constituencies, the opposition ranks displayed a strongly united front, ensuring that formal grievance memorandums were systematically submitted to the local administrative machinery at every single protest site, demanding utmost accountability and an immediate reversal of these allegedly anti-people economic policies.

Opposition Party Organizes Unique Protest Against Steep Fuel Price Hike

Vijayawada, May 18 | TPN Bureau

In a strong display of dissent against the escalating cost of living, the primary opposition party organized a peaceful protest rally to condemn the recent hike in petrol and diesel prices. Led by the district party president, the political cadre adopted a symbolic method to register their frustration with the current economic policies. Demonstrating the financial burden placed on citizens, the protesting leaders hoisted motorcycles onto a traditional bullock cart and manually pulled it through the streets. This striking visual served as a powerful testament to the growing unaffordability of operating motorized vehicles for the common man due to the soaring fuel rates imposed by the administration.

Addressing the gathering during the agitation, the district party president launched a blistering attack on the ruling coalition government, accusing it of paralyzing the financial stability of the public since assuming power. He vehemently criticized the administration for imposing an additional burden of three rupees on petrol and diesel, a move that has unfortunately pushed the state to the very top of the national list for having the highest fuel prices in the country. The opposition leader sharply questioned the blatant failure to fulfill prominent pre-



election promises, specifically recalling the vocal assurances made by key coalition leaders during their extensive statewide walkathons, where they had firmly pledged to reduce fuel costs. Taking a sarcastic dig at the current political leadership, the opposition highlighted the hypocrisy of the ruling party's recent advice urging citizens to spend money cautiously and switch to riding bicycles. He mocked the local elected representatives for transforming a genuine public crisis into a mere publicity stunt, pointing out how they are now staging bicycle rides heavily surrounded by cameras instead of offering concrete economic relief. Asserting that the ruling coalition has failed to deliver any meaningful governance over the past two years, he challenged the state leadership to prove their genuine commitment to public welfare by ex-

erting intense political pressure on the central government to roll back the exorbitant fuel prices. Drawing a sharp contrast between the current and former administrations, the leader stated that the present leadership should learn valuable lessons from the previous government. He reminded the public that even during unprecedented crises like the pandemic, the former administration never halted essential welfare schemes. Expressing deep concern over the current state of affairs, he highlighted the severe distress faced by the public due to an acute shortage of cooking gas and uncontrolled inflation. He concluded by asserting that poor and middle-class families are suffocating under this disastrous governance, leading to a widespread public consensus demanding the return of the previous administration.

Naidu Orders Strict Adherence To Irrigation Calendar To Fast-Track Projects

continued

45 per cent. The twin tunnels connecting the Polavaram Right Canal are 85 per cent complete, while works on the left canal approach channel, head regulator and irrigation tunnel are ongoing. Reviewing other projects, officials said canal widening under Handri-Neeva Phase-I has reached 92 per cent completion, while lining work for the Kuppam-Punganur canals under Phase-II

stands at 85 per cent. They also highlighted that 52 TMC of water was diverted from the Malyala Lift Scheme to Rayalaseema for the first time, filling 432 tanks. The Chief Minister directed that ECRF Dam Gap-I and Gap-2 works be completed within deadlines and instructed officials to ensure water supply through the left canal via the Purushothapatnam Lift Scheme from July. He also called for studies on linking

Meghadrigedda with Champa-vathi and further connecting rivers in north coastal Andhra. Naidu reiterated that compensation under Polavaram R&R must be implemented as per law and completed by April 2027. He also proposed construction of an iconic bridge downstream of the Polavaram spillway as a tourism landmark and directed timely completion of Veligonda Phase-I.

Andhra Pradesh Positioned for Global Investments in Clean Energy and Technology Sectors

Amaravati, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha Member Sana Satish Babu stated that the initiatives being taken by the state government to position Andhra Pradesh as a reliable global partner in the nuclear economy are highly commendable. He noted that it is a proud moment for the state that Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh attended the "US Executive Nuclear Mission to India" conference as a guest. The high-profile event was jointly organized by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). Satish Babu remarked that the statements made by Minister Nara Lokesh on this occasion serve as a definitive roadmap for the state's future development. He highlighted the significance of the Minister's assertion that the state is fully prepared to collaborate with global nuclear energy partners and intends to develop Andhra Pradesh into a

pivotal stakeholder in the emerging nuclear economy. He further emphasized that the state possesses a robust foundation, including rich natural resources, excellent port infrastructure, strategic industrial corridors, and a thriving technology ecosystem, all of which create a highly favorable environment for attracting international investments. According to Satish Babu, targeting approximately Rs 10 lakh crore in investments within the renewable energy sector will bring about revolutionary advancements in the energy domain. Additionally, the government's commitment to building a manufacturing ecosystem centered around data centers will unlock fresh opportunities for industrial growth. He concluded by affirming his complete support for the government's ongoing efforts to transform Andhra Pradesh into a global hub for the energy, technology, and manufacturing sectors.

Opposition Party Demands Utmost Vigilance During Upcoming Electoral Roll Revision Process

Tadepalli, May 18 | TPN Bureau

The main opposition party has directed its leadership and ground-level workers to maintain total vigilance throughout the upcoming Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. During a high-level meeting held at the party's central office, State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy briefed parliamentary observers on the crucial timeline of the revision process, which is scheduled to commence on June 15 and conclude in September. This comprehensive exercise will involve a month-long door-to-door enumeration ending on July 14, followed by the publication of the draft electoral rolls on July 21, and the release of the final voter list on September 22. Emphasizing the strategic importance of the exercise, the party leadership instructed all designated committees to work with absolute alertness to prevent any administrative negligence. Booth Level Agents were identified as key players

who must maintain strong coordination with Booth Level Officers. The party coordinator warned that the votes of genuine party supporters should not be removed under any circumstances, stressing that careful scrutiny during the initial draft stage is vital since restoring deleted names becomes extremely difficult after a Special Intensive Revision is finalized. To safeguard voting rights, agents have been directed to create widespread awareness among citizens about keeping their enumeration forms and identity documents ready in advance. Constituency in-charges and senior leaders will continuously monitor the ground situation until September to ensure booth-level teams remain active throughout the entire process. The party concluded by promising suitable recognition for efficient ground-level agents and announced that another review meeting will be convened before mid-June to finalize the operational blueprint.

Opposition Alleges Massive Corruption And Suppression Of Criticism Over Capital Regional Development Works

Tadepalli, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Senior opposition leader Perni Venkatramaiah has accused the state government of actively suppressing social media voices to conceal large-scale corruption, land manipulation, and the misuse of public funds in the capital development region. Speaking at the party's central office, the leader criticized the administration for utilizing law enforcement machinery to issue restrictive notices to global social media platforms like Meta and X. He alleged that these actions were a desperate attempt to remove videos and posts questioning the irregularities and stalled progress of capital works, demonstrating that the government is currently unable to tolerate legitimate public criticism. The opposition leader further alleged profound discrepancies in the allocation of returnable plots within the capital city zone. He claimed that while influential individuals close to the ruling establishment were being rewarded with prime real estate near the Secretariat, Assembly, and major bypass roads, ordinary farmers who sacrificed their lands were being pushed to marginalized, waterlogged areas or plots near burial grounds. He questioned why

the promised infrastructure for these farmers remains completely undeveloped after several years, pointing out that apart from repainting previously completed structures and launching promotional campaigns through supportive media outlets, no substantial new construction has actually taken place since 2019. The critique also extended to illegal commercial activities and financial mismanagement allegedly occurring under political patronage. The opposition asserted that ruling party leaders are operating a massive illicit soil trade, transporting nearly one thousand tipper loads of fertile black soil out of the region daily. Furthermore, the leader questioned the moral justification behind allocating two thousand five hundred and forty crore rupees for glass facades on new administrative buildings while failing to resolve basic public grievances or establish foundational amenities like drainage and roads. Concluding his statement, he highlighted the stark contrast in compensation models compared to other local infrastructure projects like the airport expansion, warning that public resentment against the administration's favoritism and fiscal irresponsibility is growing rapidly across the state.



International look for government schools - Minister Narayana..

Minister Narayana satisfied with the performance of Mist Mission

Nellore city, May 18, TPN Bureau: A 'Mist Mission' with cutting-edge technology has been launched in the Nellore Municipal Corporation for greenery and environmental protection.

plants, but will also be very useful for cleaning city roads and reducing the heat in the air during summer.



Pink Bus Free Cancer Screening in Indira Nagar-1 under the auspices of SWIMS

Tirupati May 18, TPN Bureau: A free cancer screening medical camp was held at the Indira Nagar-1 Secretariat, Tirupati, under the auspices of Sri Venkateswara Medical Science Institute SWIMS on Monday through a pink bus.

smear tests for cervical cancer diagnosis were conducted in the pink bus. The medical camp was organized under the guidance of Dr. Anju D'Ade, Professor of Community Medicine and Principal Investigator of the Pink Bus Project.



Chief Minister to arrive in Kuppam on May 20 - District Collector

Chittoor, May 20, TPN Bureau:

State Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will arrive in Kuppam on Wednesday, May 20, as part of a one-day district tour.

at 11.30 am and reach his home. He will then reach PrasannaTirupatiGangammaDevasathanam in Kuppam at 12.00 pm and participate in the fair.

Nellore city, May 18, TPN Bureau: Development works are on the rise in Nellore City constituency. Various development works have started at a huge cost of 761 crores across the corporation.



However, believing that poverty eradication is possible only through educational development, they are moving forward with the goal of providing free corporate-level education to every poor student.

Sharani is overseeing the responsibilities of upgrading government schools like Moolapet and RSR Schools to international standards. In addition, Minister Narayana will soon distribute free 'Hero' company bicycles to 7,000 students.



Collector and District Tourism Council Chairman O. Anand

Anantapur, May 18 TPN Bureau: Collector and District Tourism Council Chairman O. Anand has instructed the concerned officials to take all steps for the development of tourism in the district.

connection with Kundurpi Fort. He wanted to take appropriate steps to set up a walking track in the National Park for the Giri exhibition around the Rayudu hill on the hill.

Modern Police Station Inaugurated in Srikalahasti

Srikalahasti, May 18 | TPN Bureau

State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha said the government is committed to making police services more accessible to the poor as part of ease of governance.



The Home Minister said the police station, constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.75 crore, reflects the government's focus on modern infrastructure, transparency and accountability.

Police remain at the forefront in addressing public issues and appreciated the District SP for efforts in completing the project.

Highlighting Srikalahasti's importance as a major spiritual centre, she said the government is prioritising the safety of thousands of devotees visiting daily by strengthening security and improving facilities.

new systems will help resolve grievances of people, especially from rural areas, more efficiently. He added that digital monitoring and dedicated systems are speeding up case resolution.

He said surveillance through CCTV cameras and temple security systems is being strengthened, particularly during major festivals like Shivaratri, to prevent untoward incidents. He thanked the public for cooperating with the police and expressed confidence in maintaining peace and safety.

MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy said the new building's inauguration was a matter of pride. He noted that although the po-



Collector Stresses Timely Disposal of Public Grievances

Nellore City, May 18, TPN Bureau:

A public grievance resolution forum program was organized at the Collector's office as part of the public grievance resolution forum program organized every Monday.

that every complaint received in PGRS should be thoroughly examined and appropriate resolution should be completed within the specified time frame. He advised the officers not to be lax in resolving complaints. He said that the EPTS should be uploaded as soon as possible and disciplinary action will be taken against the officers who do not upload it.

Suggestions and suggestions on the draft for re-division of wards will be received till 24th of this month.

Tirupati, May 18, TPN Bureau: The state government has issued G.O. No. 570 dated March 24th and CDMA orders dated 25-04-2026 ROC No. 13032/2/2026/H1-1. The proposed draft for the re-division of the existing 50 electoral wards into 66 wards under the Tirupati Municipal Corporation has been published from Monday, said Tirupati Municipal Corporation Commissioner FAC Sharada Devi in a statement on Monday.

boards of the Municipal Corporation headquarters and government offices. It was stated that the draft has been prepared based on the 2011 census and taking into account all factors. The Commissioner FAC in the statement requested that the public, public representatives, political parties, and representatives of public associations, if they have any opinions, suggestions, or recommendations on the draft, submit them in writing to the Urban Planning Department of the Municipal Administration Office by 5 pm on the 24th of this month.



Jagan Credited for RTC Revival, YSRCP Alleges Privatisation Push by TDP

Kadapa, May 18 | TPN Bureau:
Former APSRTC Zonal Chairman and YSRCP State Secretary Redyam Venkata Subbareddy said the merger of RTC with the Andhra Pradesh government under the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy administration marked a historic phase, prioritising employee welfare and institutional development.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP district office in Kadapa on Monday, he said that despite the merger not being part of the election manifesto, the government implemented it on January 1, 2020, keeping in mind the long-pending demands of RTC employees. He noted that the government has been allocating about Rs. 360 crore every month towards salaries, easing the financial burden on the corporation.

He said the previous government under Jagan had cleared nearly Rs. 5,000 crore out of the total Rs. 8,000 crore debt and modernised around 1,500 buses, fulfilling a long-cherished goal of RTC staff. Even after two years of the current government, he claimed, people continue to recall the previous regime's initiatives.

Criticising the present administration, he alleged that moves towards privatisation of

RTC began under the leadership of RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana, calling it a "black day" in the organisation's history. He took exception to remarks blaming free bus schemes for financial losses, questioning whether welfare measures could be cited as reasons for economic distress.

He further alleged that RTC assets, including bus stations and depots in Kadapa and Kurnool districts, valued at around Rs. 6,000 crore, were tied up with private entities in February 2026. According to him, this reflects a deliberate attempt to weaken the public transport body and hand it over to corporate players.

Subbareddy said the government has stopped procuring new diesel buses, removed 264 old buses from service in the past six months, and failed to fill around 8,000 vacant posts. He claimed these steps indicate a systematic effort to privatise RTC. He reiterated that YSRCP strongly opposes any move towards privatisation and assured that the party would stand by RTC employees. He warned that the government would face serious consequences if such policies continue.

YSRCP leaders Battala Rambarayudu Yadav, Somala Ramakrishna Reddy, and Maddika

State ministers and district officials congratulated the students for their efforts

Srikalahasti, May 18 TPN Bureau: State Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha, State Revenue Minister Anagani Satyaprasad, local legislator Bojjala Sudhir Reddy, District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar, and District SP L. Subbarayudu felicitated the police personnel children who excelled in their academic excellence and achieved excellent results in the recently conducted Class 10 and Intermediate examinations. As part of this program, merit certificates and cash prizes were presented to the students who excelled in the Class 10 and Intermediate examinations and their efforts were appreciated. He praised the police personnel for working hard for the future of their children despite the busy schedule. Speaking on the occasion, the ministers said that the best educational teaching methods have been introduced in government schools and colleges with the initiative of State Education Minister Nara



Lokesh, due to which students in government educational institutions are achieving good results. He said that the achievements of the students are a matter of pride for their parents. He advised the students to achieve higher goals with discipline and perseverance and become role models for the society. The District Collector and District SP congrat-

ulated the students and wished them to reach higher levels in the future. He said that they would always provide the necessary encouragement to the students from police families, wishing them to excel in all fields. A large number of police officers, public representatives, family members and students participated in the program.



Arrangements Ready for CM Naidu Visit to Tummalapenta

Kavali, Nellore District, May 18 TPN Bureau: Arrangements have been completed for Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Tummalapenta. On the 19th of this month, the CM will participate in a fisheries service program in Tummalapenta and deposit financial assistance into the accounts of fishermen. To this end, the district administration has made strong arrangements under the leadership of District Collector Himanshu Shukla and SP Dr. Ajitha Vendi. On Monday, the Collec-

tor and SP reviewed the final arrangements along with MLA Dagumati Venkatakrishna Reddy. After coordinating security in advance, all the arrangements were thoroughly inspected and various suggestions were made to the officials. The Collector and SP, along with the officials, inspected the helipad, public meeting, the fishing family where the CM will interact, and the party cadre meeting place where the CM will participate. District officials participated in this program.

Byreddy Siddharth Reddy Slams TDP Over Allegations in Kurnool

Kurnool, May 18 | TPN Bureau:

YSRCP Youth State Working President Byreddy Siddharth Reddy on Monday criticised TDP leaders for allegedly targeting YSRCP workers and misrepresenting facts for political gain, demanding justice for those affected.

Addressing a media conference at his residence in Kurnool, he questioned the basis of allegations made by TDP leaders and accused them of resorting to false propaganda. He alleged that Minister T.G. Bharath's political ambitions were driving such criticism and maintained that he had no intention of engaging in the acts being attributed to him.

Referring to past allegations, Siddharth Reddy said that during Nara Lokesh's padyatra, accusations of large-scale corruption were levelled against former MLA Hafiz Khan, but no recovery was made. He also questioned whether similar allegations against leaders like Katasani Ramireddy and Shilpa Chakrapani Reddy were substantiated.

He said he would take up all issues concerning Kurnool



with former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and work towards resolving them. He further alleged that cases were being filed and arrests made against those posting criticism on social media against Minister Bharath.

Siddharth Reddy said that since a recent dharna in Kurnool, TDP leaders at various levels have been holding press conferences and targeting him with criticism. He also dismissed remarks made by Nandyal MP Byreddy Sabari, terming them unwarranted.

Responding to challenges from T.G. Bharath, he said he

had held several key positions at a young age and did not need validation. While stating that he earlier had respect for senior leader T.G. Venkatesh, he said recent comments had diminished that regard.

He further alleged that in the past, corruption charges worth Rs. 600 crore were levelled during his tenure as chairman of a state body, and vigilance inquiries had pointed to irregularities of around Rs. 40 crore.

The YSRCP leader reiterated that TDP leaders were making baseless allegations and warned against continued political targeting.

YSRCP Stages Protest Over Fuel Price Hike in Kadapa

Kadapa, May 18 | TPN Bureau:

YSRCP leaders and cadres staged a large-scale protest in front of the Kadapa RDO office on Monday against the coalition government's hike in petrol and diesel prices, demanding an immediate rollback.

Despite the scorching heat, party workers participated in the dharna and raised slogans against the government, alleging that the increase has imposed an additional annual burden of Rs. 3,391 crore on the public.

Addressing the gathering, former Deputy Chief Minister and Kadapa constituency coordinator S.B. Amjad Basha, CEC member K. Suresh Babu, and MLC M.V. Ramachandra Reddy criticised the government, stating that the fuel price hike reflects "anti-people policies." They alleged that petrol and diesel prices in the state are among the highest in the country, placing a severe financial strain on citizens.

The leaders said the TDP had promised to reduce fuel prices before coming to power but failed to fulfil the assurance. They accused the government

of discontinuing several welfare schemes introduced by the previous YSRCP regime while burdening people with rising fuel costs.

They pointed out that petrol is now priced at Rs. 113.62 per litre and diesel at Rs. 101.24, adding that the hike has resulted in an additional daily burden of Rs. 3.29 crore on petrol and Rs. 6 crore on diesel. This translates to Rs. 98.7 crore and Rs. 180 crore per month respectively, amounting to Rs. 3,391 crore annually.

The speakers also took exception to remarks advising people to reduce fuel consumption through measures such as cycling, carpooling and work-from-home, terming them insensitive.

Calling for public support, the YSRCP leaders urged people to oppose what they described as unjust policies and warned that the party would intensify its agitation until fuel prices are reduced. They demanded that the government honour its election promise and provide immediate relief.

Former Mayor Paka Suresh and a large number of party cadres participated in the protest.

Collector Launches Tribal Development Initiative in Kurnool

Kurnool, May 18 | TPN Bureau:

District Collector Dr. A. Siri said the Centre's Jan Jatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan aims at the comprehensive development of tribal areas through improved infrastructure, healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities.

At a programme held at the Sunayana Auditorium in the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector, along with Joint Collector Nurul Qamar and officials, unveiled a poster on the scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Collector said seven villages across three mandals in Kurnool district have been selected under the initiative. These include Paraman Doddi in Mantralayam mandal; Neraniki Thanda and Kogilathota in Holagunda mandal; and Peravali, Maddikera and Basinepally in Maddikera mandal. Focused interventions are being carried out in these villages to improve living standards. She directed officials to ensure effective implementation of housing and electrification under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), along with off-grid solar power solutions. Healthcare services are to be strengthened through the National Health Mission and Pradhan Mantri Jan Aro-

gya Yojana, while awareness on sickle cell disease will be promoted under the National Sickle Cell Mission. The Collector also emphasised agricultural development through schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, including support for sustainable practices and benefits for beneficiaries under the Forest Rights Act. Road connectivity is to be enhanced under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, while safe drinking water will be ensured through Jal Jeevan Mission. She further instructed officials to strengthen Anganwadi centres, promote education through Samagra Shiksha, and improve digital connectivity through the Telecom Technology Development Fund. Skill development programmes under Skill India Mission will be implemented to enhance employment opportunities among tribal youth. Stating that the objective is to develop the selected villages into model habitations, the Collector called for coordination among all departments for effective execution of the programme. District Revenue Officer Venkata Narayanamma, Special Deputy Collector Anuradha, Housing Project Director Chiranjeevi, District Tribal Welfare Officer Suresh and other officials attended the

Traffic Police Clear Encroachments And Implement Measures To Ensure Smooth Vehicular Movement

Vijayawada, May 18 | TPN Bureau:

Under the strict directives of Traffic Deputy Commissioner of Police Shareen Begum, law enforcement officials have initiated comprehensive measures to regulate vehicular movement and alleviate congestion near the Singh Nagar flyover. Starting early this morning, Assistant Commissioner of Police Veda, along with the regional traffic personnel, conducted a specialized drive to successfully remove illegal encroachments along the crucial entry and exit points of the flyover. During this extensive operation, police officials also actively counselled the local street vendors and shop owners against occupying the carriageway, ensuring the roads remain fully accessible for uninterrupted traffic flow. To further streamline the transit system and prioritize

commuter safety, designated boarding zones equipped with sturdy barricades have been strategically established on both sides of the flyover, specifically near the Dabakotlu and RK Puram junctions. Transport authorities and local police have firmly instructed all road transport corporation drivers to halt their city buses exclusively within these newly barricaded limits to safely pick up and drop off passengers. This systematic arrangement is specifically designed to prevent random halts by heavy public vehicles, which frequently lead to major traffic bottlenecks. Consequently, these proactive steps have significantly facilitated the smooth and hassle-free passage of all other private and commercial vehicles onto the flyover, effectively mitigating the risk of daily traffic jams in the bustling area.

Legislator Assures Comprehensive Support To The Family Of Fatal Road Accident Victim

East Godavari, May 18 | TPN Bureau:

Expressing profound grief over a tragic road accident that claimed the life of a young man, the local Member of the Legislative Assembly has firmly assured the bereaved family of unconditional support from both the state government and the Janasena Party. The fatal incident occurred on Sunday night when a speeding, empty lorry collided with the victim, resulting in his instantaneous death at the scene. Deeply moved by the sudden loss of a young life, the legislator promptly initiated measures to stand by the devastated family during their darkest hour, promising comprehensive administrative and personal assistance to help them navigate the difficult times ahead.

Early Monday morning, the legislator personally visited the government hospital where the mortal remains of the deceased were kept. He paid his solemn tributes and expressed his deepest condolences to the grieving friends and relatives gathered at the medical facility. Demonstrating a proactive approach, he immediately convened a brief meeting with the on-duty hospital doctors and senior police officials. He issued strict directives to the medical administration to expedite the mandatory post-mortem procedures so that the body could be swiftly handed



over to the family for final rites. Furthermore, he categorically instructed the law enforcement authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and initiate stringent legal action against the negligent lorry driver responsible for the fatal crash. Following his visit to the hospital, the representative traveled directly to the victim's residence to meet the insole family members. Witnessing the highly emotional atmosphere, he offered his deepest sympathies and spent time comforting the grieving relatives. Addressing the gathering, he stated that the premature demise of a young man who had a long life ahead of him is an agonizing and irreparable loss for the household. He strongly reassured the distressed family that they would not be left to fend for themselves in this vulnerable state. Representing the alliance government, he pledged to ensure

that complete justice and necessary compensation would be delivered to the household without bureaucratic hurdles.

In a deeply compassionate gesture, the legislator announced that he would personally take full responsibility for the educational needs of the victim's children, guaranteeing that their academic future remains secure despite the tragic loss of their father. He concluded his visit by praying for the departed soul to rest in eternal peace and for the almighty to grant the bereaved family the psychological strength required to endure this tragedy. The condolence visit witnessed a large gathering of prominent leaders and dedicated workers from the alliance parties, alongside numerous local residents, who collectively expressed their heartfelt sympathies and showed unwavering community solidarity.

Renowned Sand Artist Unveils Magnificent Sculpture To Promote National Economic Growth Through Savings

East Godavari, May 18 | TPN Bureau:

Amidst increasingly complex global economic conditions, international sand artist Devina Srinivas has urged citizens to embrace the vital habit of financial prudence to fortify the nation's economic stability. Deeply inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call for economic conservation, the acclaimed artist meticulously crafted and unveiled a magnificent sand sculpture in the regional town of Rangampeta. The artwork serves as a profound visual medium to communicate the critical importance of financial discipline at the grassroots level, encouraging every citizen to actively participate in the country's collective economic progress and long-term prosperity. The expansive sand sculpture prominently features the inspiring progressive slogans emphasizing that saving money directly helps the country grow, alongside messages highlighting that the Prime Minister's vision of economic conservation paves the direct path to national development. Masterfully sculpted to depict the Prime Minister personally delivering this crucial economic message to the masses, the visually striking installation is capturing the immedi-



ate attention and admiration of numerous onlookers. Measuring an impressive eight feet in height and spanning thirteen feet in width, the massive artwork was thoughtfully designed to convey four fundamental practices essential for safeguarding the national economy. Through this captivating artistic endeavor, the sculpture explicitly educates the public on four key economic interventions without relying on complex financial jargon. It advocates for the strict conservation of fuel by avoiding unnecessary wastage, urges citizens to significantly reduce excessive financial investments in purchasing gold, advises limiting foreign travel to absolute emergencies to prevent the outflow of domestic wealth, and strongly promotes the purchase of indigenous or locally manufactured products to empower the domestic market.

Who will tie the Bell?

Just 0.4 % of global GDP can preserve the 6 % of humanity in desperate.

The global landscape of humanitarian organisations has changed drastically since 1971, expanding from a few specialised legacy entities into a massive ecosystem. It all happened when a group of French doctors decided to end the rigidity of Red Cross bureaucratic operations.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was founded in Paris in 1971 in the aftermath of the Biafran Nigerian civil war. A group of French doctors who had volunteered with the Red Cross during the conflict became deeply frustrated with the structural limitations imposed on them.

Their core dispute centered around advocacy vs. silence. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) operates on an orthodox model of strict neutrality. Their mandate requires them to negotiate directly with belligerent states to improve the conduct of warfare and secure civilian protection. To maintain this fragile access, they generally practice quiet diplomacy and refrain from speaking out publicly against atrocities. This, in fact, favours the dictators more than the victims. In most cases, victims are the common public, who are not party to either.

The volunteering doctors felt that by staying silent amid unimaginable suffering and hunger, they were becoming a "fig leaf" for state propaganda. During the Cold War, governments routinely categorised people into "good" and "bad" victims based on political alignments. These doctors, alongside journalists and psychologists, decided that a new framework was needed, one that positioned the victim's rights at the absolute center, not a mediator. They established the "principle of témoignage" (eye-witness account), choosing to openly speak out about the atrocities they witnessed on the front lines. The phrase "Without Borders" (Sans Frontières) was chosen explicitly to declare that government edicts closing lines of transit would not block the universal right to medical assistance.

Following Médecins Sans Frontières, the humanitarian sector is now a highly competitive and crowded marketplace consisting of thousands of individual non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Most of them come out of UN agencies and the Red Cross/Red Crescent, seeing the limitations in unquestioned med-



Stephan Cornish

ical or life support to the dying victims.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), founded in 1971 following the Biafran war, remains a defiant "irritant" within the humanitarian system. In a discussion with my friend Dr Mukesh Kapila, a former UN peacekeeping diplomat and a ferocious critic of the UN, Stephen Cornish, operations director of MSF explains that the organisation's "Without Borders" ethos asserts that the right to medical and humanitarian assistance has no borders, rejecting the notion

of "good" or "bad" victims in favour of universal victim rights. MSF's operations are its fierce financial independence. By relying on over 7 million individual supporters rather than government grants that account for less than 1% of the MSF budget, they maintain the freedom to operate in conflict zones. This independence facilitates eye-witness accounts and provides the moral obligation to "bear witness" and speak out against atrocities, even when doing so risks expulsion or retaliatory attacks, as seen during the chemical attacks in Syria. MSF also challenges medical orthodoxy through field-based innovation. Prioritize the poor at the "front of the queue" for science, pioneering antiretroviral treatments for mobile populations and developing new protocols for tuberculosis and Ebola. Furthermore, Stephan Cornish emphasises that MSF now recognises climate change as a human health crisis, adapting logistics to reduce carbon footprints while trialling novel genetic interventions for diseases like Dengue.

In contemporary crises like Gaza, MSF staff continue to provide care with "dignity



and humanity" despite immense personal loss. This persistent action is characterised as humanitarianism as an act of resistance, defying inhumanity through the sheer practice of empathy.

System-wide, the UN spends roughly \$65 to \$70 billion annually across all four of its major operational functions. Development assistance generally accounts for about 30% of total system expenditures, but humanitari-

an assistance (which targets emergency poverty relief) accounts for roughly 45% to 46%. In this, a net 15% goes purely on administrative expenses as per the record. If there is a fair system to mobilise just 0.4 per cent of global GDP to preserve the 6 per cent of humanity in desperate humanitarian need is eminently feasible.

Tail piece
This 6% of humanity also has the right to peace and

prosperity, if the world of power-hungry politics and religious atrocities can be curbed. But who is there to tie the bell? The UN should be sanitised, and numerous regional agencies formed by professionals like MSF should take the roles without bowing their heads to power.



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

SYMPTOMS

- Persistent Diarrhoea
- Abdominal Pain
- Blood in Stool
- Urgency to Defecate
- Fatigue & Weight Loss

HEALTHY HABITS

- Eat more Fruits, Vegetables & Fibre
- Drink Plenty of Water
- Stay Active & Manage Stress
- Limit Alcohol, Avoid Smoking & Processed Foods

IBD HAS NO BORDERS: ACCESS TO CARE

ULCERATIVE COLITIS | CROHN'S DISEASE

IBD has No Borders: Access to Care

(On the occasion of "World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day" on 19 May)

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases comprise ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, which are two different diseases that are difficult to distinguish. There has been an increasing trend of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases in the Indian subcontinent, and the financial burden it causes due to long-term treatment and constant monitoring. In-

flammatory Bowel Diseases are increasing globally, higher in Western countries, but are now being observed in Asian countries as well. Inflammatory Bowel Diseases have no age restrictions.

Theme of World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day-2026: To promote awareness of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day is observed annually on May 19. On this day, various global and local or-

ganisations step forward together to support a crore of people globally who suffer from Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. The theme of World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day-2026 is "Inflammatory Bowel Disease has No Borders: Access to Care", to focus and strive to shatter the silence and stigma surrounding Inflammatory Bowel Diseases by encouraging open talks about the condition, particularly taboos associat-

ed with discussing bowel movements. The early diagnosis, patient care, and society's understanding of persons living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Reasons for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: The diet and alterations in the composition of intestinal microbiota may interact with the immune system and lead to immune dysregulation in the gut, causing Inflammatory Bowel Disorder. The diet

high in fat and sugars, along with low fibre and vegetables, can inflame the gut. Refined carbohydrates and sweetened beverages, more animal protein intake, and food additives also increase the risk of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.

Symptoms of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: The symptoms of Ulcerative Colitis are ulcers in the colon, bloody diarrhoea, abdominal pain, and urgency to defecate. Similarly, the

Crohn's disease symptoms are inflammation in the intestine, persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain, weight loss, and fatigue. It is better to take a diet rich in fresh fruits, vegetables, prunes, and caffeinated beverages to increase stool production. Reducing the consumption of intense sweets, increasing water intake, and reducing alcohol consumption may help alleviate Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.



Prof Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

Principal (Rtd) & Social Analyst
9949700037

India, Sweden Upgrade Ties to Strategic Partnership During PM Modi's Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced that India and Sweden have decided to elevate their bilateral relationship to the level of a Strategic Partnership, marking a significant step in cooperation between the two democratic nations. Speaking in Gothenburg during his visit to Sweden, Modi emphasized that the partnership would focus on emerging technologies, green transition, defence cooperation, and stronger people-to-people ties.

Addressing a joint gathering alongside Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Modi described India-Sweden relations as being rooted in democratic values, innovation, sustainability, and rule

of law. He also thanked Sweden for conferring upon him the Royal Order of the Polar Star, one of the country's highest honours, calling it a tribute to the people of India and to the long-standing friendship between the two countries.

The Prime Minister said both nations see tremendous potential for cooperation in high-technology sectors including artificial intelligence, health-tech, and green mobility. He announced that India and Sweden would work on concrete initiatives to strengthen the "Sweden-India Technology and AI Corridor." To boost collaboration between startups and research institutions, the two countries will also establish an India-Sweden Science and

Technology Centre.

Climate change and sustainability emerged as key themes during the discussions. Modi highlighted the joint global initiative LeadIT, focused on low-carbon industrial transformation, and said both countries had agreed to move forward with its third phase. He noted that India's large-scale efforts in green hydrogen, circular economy projects, and sustainable infrastructure could combine effectively with Swedish technology to create global climate solutions.

The Prime Minister also pointed to the growing defence partnership between the two countries, stating that Swedish companies establishing manufacturing facilities in India reflected a transition

from a buyer-seller relationship to long-term industrial collaboration.

Modi further underlined the importance of India's partnership with the European Union, particularly in areas such as trade, clean energy, semiconductors, digital technology, and resilient supply chains. Referring to the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement, he said it would create major opportunities for industries, investors, and innovators on both sides.

On global security, Modi reiterated that India and Sweden both view terrorism as a serious threat to humanity and stressed the need for democracies to work together through dialogue and diplomacy to ensure global peace, stability, and prosperity.



V. D. Satheesan Takes Oath as Kerala CM, UDF Returns to Power

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has officially returned to power in Kerala after a decade, with senior Congress leader V. D. Satheesan taking oath as the state's new Chief Minister. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy during a grand swearing-in ceremony held at the Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.



The UDF registered a sweeping victory in the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, winning 102 seats in the 140-member Assembly. The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), led by former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was reduced to 35 seats, while the BJP secured three constituencies. The verdict marked a significant political shift in Kerala, where power traditionally alternates between the UDF and the LDF.

Along with Satheesan, a 20-member Cabinet was sworn in. Prominent leaders including Ramesh Chennithala and P. K. Kunhalikutty were among those inducted as ministers. The Cabinet reflects a blend of experienced politicians and fresh faces, with reports indi-

cating that nearly two-thirds of the ministers are first-time entrants to the ministry. Political observers see this as an attempt by the Congress to project generational change and administrative renewal.

Several senior Congress leaders attended the ceremony, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and Mallikarjun Kharge. Chief Ministers from Congress-ruled states also participated in the event, highlighting the political significance of the UDF's victory. Former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and representatives from other political parties were also present.

Before the swearing-in, Satheesan emphasized that social and regional balance had

been carefully considered while finalising the Cabinet. Though many senior leaders reportedly expected ministerial berths, the Congress leadership prioritized representation and generational transition.

The new government now faces the challenge of meeting the high public expectations that accompanied the UDF's emphatic victory. During the campaign, the alliance strongly criticized the LDF government over governance, unemployment, and economic management. Satheesan has promised transparent administration, improved public services, and a development-oriented approach as his government begins its tenure in Kerala.

ED Arrests AAP Leader Deepak Singla After Raids in Delhi, Goa

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Deepak Singla following a series of raids conducted in Delhi and Goa in connection with an alleged money laundering and bank fraud case. The searches were carried out at multiple premises linked to Singla and several others as part of an ongoing investigation into suspected financial irregularities. According to officials, the ED launched coordinated searches early in the morning at locations associated with the AAP leader. One of the locations reportedly included a flat in North Goa where members of AAP's organisational team were staying. Authorities stated that the raids were linked to a bank loan fraud case that is currently under investigation under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Deepak Singla had earlier contested the Delhi Assembly elections from the Vishwas Nagar constituency on an AAP ticket in both 2020 and 2025. This is not the first



time he has come under the scanner of central agencies. In 2024, the ED had also searched premises connected to him in relation to another money laundering probe linked to alleged bank fraud. The action triggered a sharp political response from the Aam Aadmi Party. Senior AAP leader Atishi accused the BJP-led Centre of misusing central agencies to target opposition leaders and intimidate party workers. She alleged that the raids were po-

litically motivated and aimed at accessing the party's organisational data in Goa, where AAP is trying to strengthen its presence ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled next year. AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal also defended Singla, claiming that the arrest was politically driven rather than based on wrongdoing. Party leaders argued that the BJP was attempting to weaken opposition parties by using investigative agencies as politi-

cally motivated and aimed at accessing the party's organisational data in Goa, where AAP is trying to strengthen its presence ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled next year. AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal also defended Singla, claiming that the arrest was politically driven rather than based on wrongdoing. Party leaders argued that the BJP was attempting to weaken opposition parties by using investigative agencies as politi-



CBI Recovers 'Chemistry Questions Bank' in Expanding NEET-UG Paper Leak Probe

The investigation into the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak has intensified, with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recovering a "chemistry questions bank" during searches conducted at premises linked to Maharashtra-based coaching institute operator Shivraj Motegaonkar in Latur. The development is being viewed as a major breakthrough in the high-profile probe surrounding the cancellation of the national medical entrance examination. According to officials, the CBI carried out extensive searches at the offices and residence of Motegaonkar, founder of Renukai Chemistry Classes (RCC), after allegations surfaced that several questions appearing in the NEET-UG examination closely matched mock test papers circulated by the institute before the exam. Investigators reportedly seized electronic devices, documents, and question banks that are now being examined for links to the leaked paper network. The CBI has described Motegaonkar as an "active member" of the alleged network involved in leaking and circulating NEET-UG question papers before the examination. Reports suggest that investigators found evidence indicating that a chemistry-related question bank stored on electronic devices may have contained material substantially

similar to the actual examination paper. The case first drew attention after a parent filed a complaint alleging that over 40 questions from a mock test conducted by the coaching institute matched those in the NEET-UG exam held on May 3. The complaint triggered a wider investigation into possible links between coaching institutes, paper setters, and intermediaries involved in the alleged leak. The probe has already led to multiple arrests, including that of retired chemistry professor P. V. Kulkarni, who allegedly had connections with the National Testing Agency's examination process. Investigators suspect that the leaked paper may have been circulated through a network involving coaching operators, middlemen, and candidates willing to pay large sums for advance access to questions. The NEET-UG 2026 examination was cancelled by the National Testing Agency following nationwide outrage over allegations of widespread malpractice. The controversy has sparked protests from students and parents across the country, raising serious concerns over the integrity of India's highly competitive entrance examination system. Authorities have announced that a fresh examination will be conducted later this year under enhanced security measures.

DMK Leader Predicts Short Lifespan for Vijay-Led TVK Government

Senior DMK leader and Tiruchendur MLA Anitha Radhakrishnan has launched a sharp political attack on the newly formed Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government led by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay, predicting that the administration may not survive beyond six months. His remarks have intensified the political confrontation in Tamil Nadu following the dramatic rise of actor-turned-politician Vijay and the formation of the TVK government.



Speaking to reporters, Radhakrishnan questioned the stability of the new government and claimed that internal contradictions and political arrangements supporting the administration would eventually lead to its collapse. He alleged that the TVK government lacked long-term political strength and suggested that the coalition backing Vijay could face serious challenges in the coming months.

The DMK leader also raised questions about the absence of Vijay's wife and children during his swearing-in ceremony, making controversial remarks that quickly triggered reactions across political circles and social media platforms. He further criticized some of the celebrations surrounding Vi-

jay's electoral victory, claiming that emotional political waves alone cannot ensure administrative stability.

The comments come at a time when the TVK government is facing continuous attacks from opposition parties despite recently proving its majority in the Assembly. Vijay had successfully cleared a crucial floor test with the support of alliance partners and backing from several legislators outside his party, helping the government secure its position in the Assembly.

Political tensions in Tamil Nadu have increased after the Assembly election results produced a major shift in the state's political landscape. TVK emerged as the single-largest party but required post-

poll support to form the government. Since then, leaders from the DMK and other opposition parties have repeatedly questioned the durability of the new administration.

Meanwhile, TVK leaders have dismissed the criticism and accused opposition parties of attempting to create instability soon after the government's formation. Supporters of Vijay argue that the government has received a strong public mandate for political change and remains focused on governance and welfare measures.

The latest remarks by Anitha Radhakrishnan are expected to further sharpen the political battle between the ruling TVK and the opposition DMK in the coming weeks.

poll support to form the government. Since then, leaders from the DMK and other opposition parties have repeatedly questioned the durability of the new administration.

Meanwhile, TVK leaders have dismissed the criticism and accused opposition parties of attempting to create instability soon after the government's formation. Supporters of Vijay argue that the government has received a strong public mandate for political change and remains focused on governance and welfare measures.

The latest remarks by Anitha Radhakrishnan are expected to further sharpen the political battle between the ruling TVK and the opposition DMK in the coming weeks.

poll support to form the government. Since then, leaders from the DMK and other opposition parties have repeatedly questioned the durability of the new administration.

Meanwhile, TVK leaders have dismissed the criticism and accused opposition parties of attempting to create instability soon after the government's formation. Supporters of Vijay argue that the government has received a strong public mandate for political change and remains focused on governance and welfare measures.

The latest remarks by Anitha Radhakrishnan are expected to further sharpen the political battle between the ruling TVK and the opposition DMK in the coming weeks.

Monsoon Advances as IMD Warns of Heavy Rain in South, Severe Heatwave in North India

With the southwest monsoon steadily advancing towards mainland India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued heavy rainfall warnings for several southern states while alerting northern and central India about continuing heatwave conditions. The weather department said monsoon activity has intensified over southern coastal regions, with Kerala expected to receive the monsoon around May 26, earlier than the normal onset date of June 1.

According to the IMD, heavy rainfall is likely over Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, and coastal Karnataka until Thursday. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are also expected in several districts. During the past 24 hours,



many areas in Kerala recorded significant rainfall, indicating strengthening pre-monsoon activity across the southern peninsula.

The IMD said the monsoon has already advanced further into parts of the southeast Ara-

bian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Weather conditions are considered favourable for further advancement over the coming days. Authorities have also warned fishermen against venturing into the Gulf of Mannar, south Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea, and coastal regions of Kerala and Karnataka because of strong winds and rough sea conditions.

At the same time, large parts of northwestern and central India continue to battle intense heatwave conditions. The IMD has forecast heatwave to severe heatwave conditions over Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh until May 23. Temperatures in several regions are expected to remain 3 to 5 degrees Celsius

above normal.

Delhi is likely to witness temperatures touching 43 to 45 degrees Celsius in some areas over the next few days, with the IMD issuing yellow alerts for heatwave conditions. Uttar Pradesh is expected to face particularly severe heat stress, prompting health advisories for vulnerable groups including children, elderly citizens, and outdoor workers.

Weather experts say the early progress of the monsoon could benefit agricultural activity, especially kharif crop sowing in southern states. However, the IMD has also forecast below-normal monsoon rainfall for the 2026 season overall, raising concerns over water availability and agricultural productivity later in the year.

above normal.

Delhi is likely to witness temperatures touching 43 to 45 degrees Celsius in some areas over the next few days, with the IMD issuing yellow alerts for heatwave conditions. Uttar Pradesh is expected to face particularly severe heat stress, prompting health advisories for vulnerable groups including children, elderly citizens, and outdoor workers.

Weather experts say the early progress of the monsoon could benefit agricultural activity, especially kharif crop sowing in southern states. However, the IMD has also forecast below-normal monsoon rainfall for the 2026 season overall, raising concerns over water availability and agricultural productivity later in the year.

Kim Jong Un Turns North Korea's Border Into A Massive Fortress Amid Rising Tensions

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has reportedly intensified efforts to transform the country's border with South Korea into a heavily fortified military zone, further escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Recent satellite images and intelligence assessments suggest Pyongyang is aggressively strengthening defenses near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), one of the most heavily guarded borders in the world. According to reports, North Korea has been constructing anti-tank barriers, reinforcing fences, laying new landmines, and building additional military infrastructure along key sections of the border. Analysts believe the developments signal Kim Jong Un's growing focus on tightening national security and preparing for possi-

ble future confrontations. The move comes amid deteriorating relations between North and South Korea. In recent months, both nations have increased hostile rhetoric, military drills, and border activities, raising international concerns about regional stability. Experts say North Korea's latest actions appear aimed at physically and symbolically cutting itself off from the South. Reports indicate that some roads and railway links connecting the two countries have also been damaged or dismantled, reversing years of limited cooperation efforts. Kim Jong Un has recently taken a much harder stance toward South Korea, reportedly describing it as a hostile state rather than a partner for reunification. Political ob-

servers believe this marks a major shift in North Korea's long-standing policy narrative. Satellite imagery reportedly shows military personnel working continuously on construction activities near the border areas. The new defensive structures are believed to include concrete barriers, trench systems, observation posts, and fortified positions designed to slow down any military movement across the border. South Korean officials have been closely monitoring the developments and have expressed concern over the increased militarization. Seoul has also strengthened surveillance operations and maintained high military readiness in response to North Korea's actions. The Korean border has re-

mained heavily armed since the Korean War ended in 1953 with an armistice rather than a formal peace treaty. Although there have been occasional diplomatic efforts and summits over the years, relations between the two nations continue to swing between dialogue and confrontation. Analysts suggest the latest border fortification project may also serve domestic political purposes for Kim Jong Un. By emphasizing external threats and military preparedness, the North Korean leadership can reinforce internal unity and strengthen control over the population. International observers fear that continued escalation could further reduce opportunities for diplomatic engagement in the region. Many experts believe the growing hostility between the two Ko-



As construction activities continue, the situation is being watched closely by neighboring countries and global powers, all concerned about the possibility of rising instability on the Korean Peninsula.

India Raises Concern Over UAE Nuclear Plant Drone Strike Amid Rising West Asia Tensions

India has expressed serious concern over reports of a drone strike near a nuclear facility in the United Arab Emirates, describing the incident as a "dangerous escalation" amid rapidly rising tensions in West Asia. The development has triggered international alarm due to fears that attacks involving sensitive nuclear infrastructure could lead to wider regional instability. According to reports, the strike targeted an area connected to the Barakah nuclear power plant in the UAE. While authorities reportedly stated that the facility itself remained safe and operational, the incident has intensified concerns about the growing use of drones and missile technology in regional conflicts. India's response highlighted the risks associated with military actions near critical civilian infrastructure, especially nuclear installations. Officials reportedly stressed the importance of restraint and dialogue to prevent the situation from spiraling into a broader confrontation. The incident comes during a period of heightened tensions involving several countries in West Asia, with ongoing fears of retaliation, military escalation, and disruption to global trade and energy routes. Analysts warn that attacks near nuclear facilities carry particularly serious consequences because even limited damage or panic could create widespread international concern. The Barakah plant is considered one of the most strategically important infrastructure projects in the UAE and plays a



major role in the country's energy plans. Any threat to such facilities is viewed as highly sensitive by governments and global security experts. India, which maintains strong diplomatic and economic ties with countries across the Gulf region, has been closely monitoring developments. Millions of Indians live and work in West Asia, making regional stability a matter of significant importance for New Delhi. Experts believe India's statement reflects broader international anxiety about the increasing militarization of the region. Several countries have already urged restraint and called for diplomatic engagement to avoid further escalation. The use of drones in modern conflicts has become a growing challenge for governments worldwide. Compared to traditional military systems, drones are relatively inexpensive, difficult to detect, and capable of targeting strategic sites from

Iranian State TV Airs Rifle Training Segments Amid Rising West Asia Tensions

Amid escalating tensions in West Asia, Iranian state television has sparked global attention after broadcasting unusual segments showing news presenters and civilians handling rifles and discussing combat preparedness. The broadcasts reportedly suggested that ordinary citizens and media personnel would be ready to participate in the conflict "if necessary." The televised segments featured anchors and guests demonstrating the use of firearms while discussing national defense and resistance. The unusual programming comes at a time of heightened tensions involving Iran, Israel, and Western powers, raising concerns about the possibility of a wider regional conflict. According to reports, the broadcasts are part of a broader effort by Iranian authorities to emphasize national unity and readiness during a period of growing geopolitical uncertainty. Iranian media outlets have increasingly focused on military preparedness, patriotic messaging, and public defense awareness in recent



weeks. The televised rifle-handling sessions quickly went viral online, with clips circulating widely across social media platforms. Many viewers were surprised to see state TV presenters participating in weapon demonstrations rather than regular news programming. The developments come amid rising military tensions across the Middle East. Reports indicate that regional hostilities, military deployments, and threats of retaliation have increased significantly in recent months, keeping global powers on alert. Analysts believe the broadcasts are aimed at sending both a domestic and international message. Domestically, the programming may be intended to strengthen public morale and project readiness in the face of external threats. Internationally, it could serve as a symbolic warning that Iran is prepared for prolonged confrontation if tensions continue escalating. Experts also note that Iranian state media has historically

played a major role during periods of crisis, often broadcasting content designed to promote resilience, military strength, and national solidarity. Meanwhile, concerns continue to grow over the possibility of broader instability in the region. Several countries have reportedly increased security measures, while governments worldwide are closely monitoring developments due to fears of disruption to global energy supplies and international trade routes. Social media reactions to the broadcasts have been sharply divided. Some users viewed the segments as patriotic and symbolic, while others criticized them as propaganda designed to intensify public fear and nationalism. As tensions remain high, the unusual television broadcasts have become another sign of how rapidly the political and military atmosphere in West Asia is evolving. Observers say the coming weeks could prove crucial in determining whether diplomatic efforts can prevent the situation from escalating further.

Three Suspects Taken Into Custody After Shooting Spree In Austin, Texas

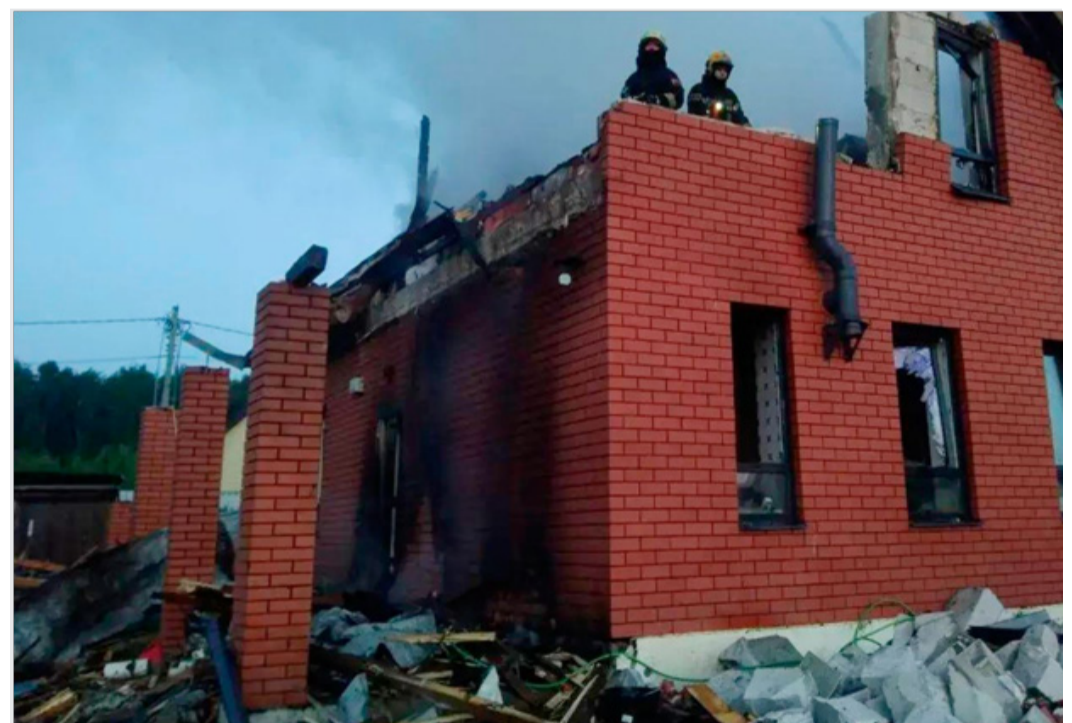
Authorities in Austin, Texas, have taken three suspects into custody following a series of shootings that spread fear across multiple neighborhoods over the weekend. Police say the incidents involved at least 12 separate shootings that left four people injured and triggered temporary shelter-in-place orders in parts of the city. According to officials, the shootings appeared to be random and took place across South and East Austin over a 24-hour period. Several locations, including homes, apartment complexes, businesses, and even fire stations, were struck by gunfire during the spree. Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis confirmed that two juvenile suspects, aged 15 and 17, were initially arrested. A third suspect, who reportedly fled during a police stop in the nearby Manor area, was later located and detained by authorities. Police stated that there is currently no ongoing threat to the public. Officials revealed that at least four people were injured during the shootings. One victim suffered critical injuries but is now reportedly in stable condition, while the remaining



victims sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Investigators believe the suspects used stolen firearms and multiple stolen vehicles during the attacks. Authorities said the suspects allegedly switched between several vehicles, including sedans and compact cars, while carrying out the shootings across different areas of the city. The violence caused widespread panic among residents and led police to issue shelter-in-place warnings in parts of South Austin and Manor as officers searched for the suspects. The restrictions were later lifted after authorities gained control of the situation. Police said the motive behind the shootings remains unclear. Austin Mayor Kirk Watson described the attacks as "senseless" and urged the public to remain vigilant while the investigation continues. Surveillance footage from some incidents reportedly showed suspects firing from moving vehicles at random targets. In one case, a woman standing outside a store was struck by gunfire. Authorities also confirmed that two Austin Fire Department stations were hit during the attacks, though no firefighters were injured. Law enforcement agencies continue to investigate the shootings and are reviewing evidence, surveillance footage, and witness statements. Officials have urged anyone with information related to the incidents to contact police or local crime-stopper programs.

Russia And Ukraine Exchange Massive Drone Attacks As Tensions Intensify

Russia and Ukraine have launched massive drone attacks against each other in one of the largest aerial escalations seen in recent months, further intensifying the ongoing conflict between the two countries. The overnight strikes reportedly targeted military facilities, infrastructure, and strategic locations on both sides, causing damage and raising concerns about a new phase of the war. According to reports, Russia launched a large-scale drone and missile assault on multiple Ukrainian cities, triggering air raid sirens across several regions. Ukrainian authorities claimed their air defense systems intercepted many of the incoming drones, though some strikes reportedly damaged energy facilities, residential areas, and transport infrastructure. At the same time, Ukraine carried out major drone attacks deep inside Russian territory. Russian officials said several drones were intercepted near key regions, including areas close to Moscow and other strategic zones. Airports in some locations reportedly faced temporary disruptions as authorities responded to the aerial threat. The exchange marks one of the most intense waves of drone warfare since the conflict began. Both countries have increasingly relied on drones as cost-effective and high-impact weapons capable of targeting critical infrastructure far from the frontlines. Ukrainian officials accused Russia of deliberately targeting civilian infrastructure and attempting to weaken public



morale through continuous aerial bombardment. Meanwhile, Russian authorities claimed Ukraine's strikes were aimed at destabilizing security within Russian territory. International analysts say the growing use of drones has significantly changed the nature of the conflict. Unlike traditional battlefield engagements, drone warfare allows both sides to strike targets hundreds of kilometers away with relatively low operational costs. Experts believe this strategy has become central to both Russian and Ukrainian military planning. The recent attacks also come amid heightened diplomatic tensions and ongoing fighting across eastern and southern Ukraine. Reports indicate that both armies are continuing operations along multiple frontline sectors while simultaneously expanding long-range strike capabilities. International observers have expressed concern that the escalating drone exchanges could further complicate efforts toward diplomacy or ceasefire negotiations. Several countries have already urged restraint and warned that continued escalation may increase instability across the region. The attacks once again highlighted the pressure on air defense systems in both countries. Authorities on both sides claimed to have intercepted large numbers of drones overnight, though independent ver-

ification of battlefield claims remains difficult. Social media platforms were flooded with videos showing explosions, anti-aircraft fire, and damaged buildings following the strikes. Many civilians described another night of fear and uncertainty as sirens and explosions echoed across cities. As the conflict continues with no immediate resolution in sight, the latest wave of drone warfare demonstrates how rapidly military tactics are evolving in the Russia-Ukraine war. Analysts warn that the increasing scale and frequency of such attacks could lead to even greater risks for civilians and critical infrastructure in the months ahead.

Sensex, Nifty See Wild Swings As Crude Oil Surge And Global Tensions Shake Markets

Indian stock markets witnessed a highly volatile trading session on Monday as investors reacted nervously to rising crude oil prices, global geopolitical tensions, and weak international cues. Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty opened sharply lower after GIFT Nifty signaled a weak start, with fears surrounding West Asia tensions weighing heavily on investor sentiment.

Early in the session, the Sensex plunged more than 1,000 points while the Nifty slipped below the 23,350 mark as panic selling hit several sectors, especially consumer durables, PSU banks, media, and realty stocks. Analysts attributed the sharp fall largely

to the sudden spike in crude oil prices, which crossed the \$111 per barrel mark amid growing uncertainty around the Strait of Hormuz and fears of supply disruptions.

Investor concerns were further amplified by the continued weakness of the Indian rupee, which recently touched record lows against the US dollar. Rising global bond yields and weak Asian market trends also contributed to the negative mood on Dalal Street.

However, markets staged a strong intraday recovery later in the session, helped largely by gains in information technology stocks. The Nifty IT index emerged as the top-performing sector, with

major companies such as Tech Mahindra, Infosys, TCS, HCL Tech, and Wipro witnessing buying interest. Tech Mahindra reportedly surged more than 4 percent during the rebound phase.

By the closing bell, benchmark indices managed to recover most of their losses despite extreme volatility throughout the day. The Sensex eventually ended marginally higher by around 77 points at 75,315, while the Nifty closed slightly above the 23,649 mark. The late recovery prevented what initially appeared to be another major market crash.

Despite the rebound in headline indices, broader market sentiment remained

weak. Midcap and smallcap stocks continued to face heavy selling pressure, with market breadth staying sharply negative through most of the session. Reports indicated that nearly three times as many stocks declined compared to advances on the exchanges.

Experts believe the market will likely remain highly sensitive to developments in global crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions in the coming days. Any further escalation in West Asia could continue to impact inflation expectations, currency stability, and investor confidence across global financial markets.



Bharti Airtel Surpasses HDFC Bank To Become India's Second Most Valuable Company

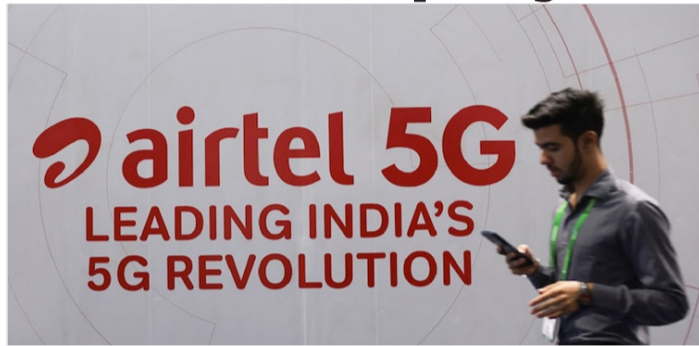
Bharti Airtel has achieved a major milestone by overtaking HDFC Bank to become the second most valued company in India by market capitalization. The telecom giant's strong rally on the stock market reflects growing investor confidence in the company's financial performance, subscriber growth, and long-term business prospects.

Shares of Bharti Airtel witnessed strong buying interest during recent trading sessions, helping the company's market value surge past that of HDFC Bank. The development marks a significant shift in India's corporate rankings, especially considering the dominance traditionally held by banking and financial institutions.

Reliance Industries continues to hold the top position as India's most valuable company, while Airtel's latest rise has highlighted the growing importance of the telecommunications and digital services sector in the country's economy.

Market analysts believe several factors have contributed to Airtel's impressive rise. Strong average revenue per user (ARPU), expanding 5G services, stable subscriber additions, and improving profitability have all strengthened investor sentiment toward the company.

The telecom sector has undergone major transformation in recent years, with data consumption increasing rapidly across India. Bharti Airtel has emerged as one of the biggest



beneficiaries of the digital boom, driven by rising smartphone penetration, online streaming, digital payments, and internet usage.

Experts also point to Airtel's aggressive expansion in broadband, enterprise services, and digital platforms as important reasons behind its growing valuation. The company has continued investing heavily in network infrastructure and next-generation technology to strengthen its market position.

Meanwhile, HDFC Bank has faced pressure in recent months due to concerns surrounding deposit growth, margins, and broader banking sector challenges. Although the bank remains one of India's strongest financial institutions, Airtel's rapid stock market gains helped it move ahead in terms of market capitalization.

Investors have also shown optimism regarding the future earnings potential of telecom companies as India continues its transition toward a digital-first economy. Analysts believe telecom operators with strong

infrastructure and customer bases are likely to benefit significantly over the next few years.

The achievement has generated widespread discussion in financial markets, with many experts calling it a symbolic moment that reflects changing investor preferences and the increasing value of digital connectivity businesses.

Bharti Airtel's rise has also been supported by positive global investor sentiment toward technology and communication-related companies. Strong institutional participation and consistent operational performance have further strengthened the stock's momentum.

As competition in India's telecom sector continues to evolve, Airtel's latest milestone reinforces its position as one of the country's most influential and financially powerful corporate giants. Investors will now closely watch whether the company can maintain its growth trajectory and continue narrowing the gap with Reliance Industries at the top of the valuation rankings.

Gland Pharma Shares Surge 15% To Hit 52-Week High After Strong Q4 Performance

Gland Pharma witnessed a massive rally in its share price after the company reported strong financial results for the fourth quarter, boosting investor confidence and driving the stock to a new 52-week high. Shares of the pharmaceutical company surged nearly 15 percent during trading as markets reacted positively to the earnings announcement.

The sharp rise came after Gland Pharma posted impressive growth in revenue and profit for the quarter, exceeding market expectations. Strong operational performance, healthy demand across key markets, and improved margins contributed to the company's better-than-expected results.

Investors responded enthusiastically to the earnings report, with heavy buying seen throughout the trading session. The rally pushed the stock to its highest level in the past year and made it one of the top gainers in the pharmaceutical sector.

Analysts noted that the company benefited from robust growth in its injectable business, which remains one of Gland Pharma's core strengths. Increased exports and improved performance in international markets also played an important role in the strong quarterly numbers.

The company reportedly delivered better profitability due to improved operational efficiency and favorable product mix. Market experts believe the results indicate that Gland Pharma is successfully recovering from earlier challenges faced by the pharmaceutical sector, including pricing pressure and regulatory concerns.



The pharmaceutical industry has remained in focus among investors due to stable global demand and continued growth opportunities in healthcare and generic medicines. Companies with strong export businesses and specialized manufacturing capabilities have attracted significant market attention in recent months. Brokerages and market analysts reacted positively to Gland Pharma's performance, with several firms expressing optimism regarding the company's future growth outlook. Some experts also highlighted the company's

strong balance sheet and expanding global presence as additional positives. The rally in Gland Pharma shares also boosted sentiment across the broader pharma sector, with investors showing renewed interest in healthcare-related stocks following the earnings announcement. Market participants believe the company's performance demonstrates resilience despite global economic uncertainties and ongoing competition in the pharmaceutical industry. Continued focus on high-value products and international expansion could further support growth in the

coming quarters. Social media and investor forums were filled with discussions about the stock's sharp rise, with many retail investors celebrating the strong comeback in the company's share price after a challenging phase over the past year.

As attention now shifts toward future guidance and upcoming quarters, investors will closely monitor whether Gland Pharma can sustain its growth momentum and continue delivering strong financial performance in an increasingly competitive global pharma market.

TVS Venu To Acquire Stake In Jana Small Finance Bank; TVS Motor Shares Decline

TVS Motor Company Managing Director Sudarshan Venu is set to acquire a 5.64 percent stake in Jana Small Finance Bank in a deal valued at around Rs 317 crore. The development comes alongside a separate proposal by TVS Motor Company to purchase an additional 4.9 percent stake in the lender, signaling growing interest from the TVS Group in the financial services sector.

Following the announcement, shares of TVS Motor Company witnessed a decline of nearly 5 percent during trading, as investors reacted cautiously to the proposed investment plans.

According to reports, Sudarshan Venu will make the investment in his personal capacity, while TVS Motor's proposed acquisition would be carried out through the company itself. The combined transactions are expected to strengthen the relationship between the TVS Group and Jana Small Finance Bank. Market experts believe the move reflects the increasing trend of industrial groups expanding into financial services and fintech-related businesses. Analysts say small finance banks continue to attract investor interest due to their growing presence in retail lending, microfinance, and



underserved banking segments.

Jana Small Finance Bank has built a strong presence in microfinance and small-ticket lending operations over the years. The bank primarily focuses on providing banking services to individuals and small businesses that traditionally have limited access to mainstream financial institutions. The proposed investment is expected to support Jana SFB's growth plans as competition in India's financial services sector continues to intensify. Small finance banks have been steadily expanding their digital operations and customer base in recent years.

However, investor sentiment toward TVS Motor appeared cautious after the announcement. Some analysts believe shareholders may be concerned about the company allocating capital toward non-core investments outside its primary automobile business.

Others, however, see the move as part of a long-term diversification strategy by the TVS Group, which has steadily expanded into multiple sectors beyond automotive manufacturing. Supporters of the investment argue that financial services offer strong long-term growth potential in India's rapidly evolving economy.

The market reaction also reflects broader investor sensitivity toward capital allocation decisions, especially when major listed companies enter sectors unrelated to their core operations. Meanwhile, Jana Small Finance Bank continues to strengthen its position in India's banking ecosystem amid increasing demand for retail credit and financial inclusion services. Industry experts believe strategic investments from large business groups could help smaller banks improve technology, expand operations, and strengthen financial stability.

Government Explores Fresh Strategies To Revive IDBI Bank Privatization Process

The Indian government is reportedly evaluating new options to revive the long-delayed privatization process of IDBI Bank after earlier efforts failed to attract a successful conclusion. Officials are said to be reviewing multiple strategies aimed at making the proposed stake sale more attractive to investors and speeding up the disinvestment plan.

The privatization of IDBI Bank has been under discussion for several years as part of the government's broader agenda to reduce its presence in the banking sector and encourage private participation. However, the process has faced repeated delays due to regulatory challenges, market conditions, and concerns among potential bidders.

According to reports, authorities are now considering structural and policy-level changes that could improve investor interest in the bank. Discussions are believed to include possible revisions in shareholding structures, operational flexibility, and regulatory clarity for prospective buyers.

At present, both the Government of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) jointly hold a majority stake in IDBI Bank. The pro-



posed privatization plan involves selling a significant portion of these holdings to strategic investors.

Analysts believe the government remains committed to completing the transaction because IDBI Bank's privatization is considered one of the most important banking-sector reforms currently underway. A successful sale would also send a strong signal regarding India's broader disinvestment and economic reform agenda.

One of the key challenges in the process has been finding investors willing to take con-

trol of a large public-sector bank while dealing with regulatory and operational complexities. Experts say potential bidders often seek greater clarity regarding governance, management control, and long-term policy stability before making major investments.

Over the past few years, IDBI Bank has shown improvement in its financial performance, including better asset quality, stronger profitability, and reduced bad loans. These improvements have raised hopes that the bank may now appear more attractive to investors

compared to earlier stages of the privatization effort.

The government has consistently emphasized that privatization can help improve operational efficiency, strengthen competitiveness, and reduce the financial burden on the state. Supporters of the move argue that private ownership could allow the bank to operate with greater flexibility and faster decision-making.

However, the proposal has also faced criticism from employee unions and some political groups, who argue that privatizing public-sector banks could affect job security and weaken government control over strategic financial institutions.

Market experts believe the timing of the sale will be crucial. Global economic conditions, domestic market sentiment, and investor appetite for large banking assets are expected to play a major role in determining the success of the transaction.

As discussions continue, the future of IDBI Bank's privatization remains closely watched by investors, policymakers, and the banking industry. Any breakthrough in the process could become a major milestone in India's ongoing financial-sector reforms.

“Goodie Bag Instead of a Raise?” Employee’s Viral Post Sparks Outrage Online

A frustrated employee has gone viral after revealing what their company allegedly handed out instead of annual salary raises — a small “goodie bag” containing inexpensive everyday items. The post triggered widespread criticism online and reignited conversations about employee appreciation, corporate culture, and rising living costs.

The employee shared a photograph of the bag’s contents along with the caption: “Instead of a raise, the company gave out ‘goodie bags.’ Yes, this is all that came in it.” According to the image, the package included a water bottle, a pen, a single piece of candy, a packet of crackers, and a small round object that some users guessed was ei-

ther a toy or a measuring tape.

While the company involved was not identified, the post quickly attracted thousands of reactions across social media. Many users expressed disbelief that employees received inexpensive trinkets at a time when inflation and living expenses continue to rise globally.

The comment section soon became a space for workers to vent about similar workplace experiences. One user wrote that it would have been “less offensive to give nothing at all,” while another joked that the bag looked like “half of a kindergarten’s snacks and some office supplies.” Others encouraged the employee to search for a better job.

Several commenters also

shared personal stories about disappointing rewards from employers. One particularly viral response described a company where executives reportedly received massive bonuses while employees were handed a single chocolate chip cookie as appreciation. The story resonated strongly with readers who felt many companies prioritize executives over regular workers.

The incident has also drawn comparisons to earlier viral stories involving employees receiving minimal rewards after years of service. In another widely discussed case, a fast-food employee who completed nearly three decades at the company received only a modest goodie bag instead of a major reward. Public sympathy later

helped raise thousands of dollars for him through crowdfunding campaigns.

The latest viral post has once again highlighted growing dissatisfaction among employees who feel symbolic gestures cannot replace fair pay, recognition, and meaningful workplace appreciation. Many social media users argued that while small tokens of gratitude may be acceptable as additional perks, they should never be used as substitutes for deserved salary increases.

As discussions continue online, the story reflects a larger workplace debate about how companies value employees in an era marked by economic uncertainty and increasing financial pressure on workers.



NRI Woman’s Comparison Of Indian And US Work Culture Sparks Online Debate

An Indian woman living in the United States has sparked a major discussion online after sharing what she believes are the biggest differences between corporate work culture in India and America. Her video, posted on social media, quickly went viral and drew strong reactions from professionals across both countries.

The woman, identified as Sarika Yadav, explained that the most noticeable difference she experienced in the US workplace is flexibility. According to her, employees in American companies are generally trusted to manage their schedules and personal responsibilities without constant supervision.

In the video, she described how workers in the US often block time on their office calendars for activities such as dropping children to school, attending medical appointments, or handling personal errands. Colleagues usually respect those time slots and avoid scheduling meetings during those hours. She added that employees are not expected to justify every personal commitment to their managers. Comparing this with her experience in India, she said Indian corporate culture can sometimes be more rigid. According to her, employees are often expected to remain physically present in the office during working hours, even when personal tasks arise. She recalled instances where workers had



to explain minor personal errands in detail before stepping away from work.

Her comments resonated with many social media users, especially Indians working abroad. Several people agreed that work-life balance is taken more seriously in many Western countries. Others argued that Indian workplaces still equate long office hours with productivity and dedication.

At the same time, not everyone agreed with the comparison. Some users pointed out that work culture varies from company to company and cannot be generalized based on geography alone. A few also said Indian offices often foster stronger personal relationships

and team bonding compared to the more formal and individualistic culture seen in some American workplaces.

The discussion has once again highlighted the growing conversation around employee well-being, workplace trust, and burnout in modern corporate life. Many professionals online said companies should focus more on productivity and results rather than measuring commitment through long hours at the office. As debates continue online, the viral video has become another example of how global work experiences are reshaping expectations around flexibility, mental health, and work-life balance among young professionals.

Indian Woman In US Shares Why Florida Feels Like Home

An Indian woman living in the United States has gone viral after sharing an emotional video explaining why she never wants to leave Florida after spending several years there. Her heartfelt reflections about lifestyle, weather, peace, and quality of life resonated with thousands of social media users and sparked discussions about life abroad.

In the video, the woman described Florida as a place that gave her a sense of comfort and belonging unlike anywhere else she had lived before. She explained that after years of adjusting to life in the US, Florida eventually began to feel more like home than a temporary destination.

One of the biggest reasons she mentioned was the warm and sunny weather. According to her, Florida’s climate reminded her of India and made it easier to adapt emotionally and physically. She said the bright sunshine, beaches, palm trees, and outdoor lifestyle created a relaxing environment that positively affected her mental well-being.

The woman also praised the slower and calmer pace of life compared to crowded cities. She shared that daily life in Florida feels less stressful, allowing people to spend more time outdoors, with family, or pursuing hobbies. She explained that the peaceful atmosphere helped her feel happier and more balanced.



Another factor she highlighted was the multicultural environment. She said Florida has a diverse population with people from different countries and backgrounds, making it easier for immigrants to feel accepted. She added that Indian communities, restaurants, grocery stores, and cultural events also helped reduce feelings of homesickness.

The viral video quickly attracted reactions from people who related to her experience of finding emotional comfort in a foreign country. Many users commented that certain

places abroad can unexpectedly start feeling more familiar and welcoming over time. Some social media users agreed that Florida offers a unique mix of warm weather, relaxed living, and cultural diversity. Others shared their own experiences of becoming deeply attached to cities or countries they initially moved to only for work or studies. However, a few users also pointed out that every place has its challenges, including rising living costs, hurricanes, and healthcare expenses in the US. Still, many appreciated the woman’s honest and emotional perspective on building a life far from home. The video has become another example of how migration experiences are deeply personal and emotional. For many immigrants, “home” eventually becomes less about birthplace and more about where they feel peace, stability, and belonging. As the clip continues to circulate online, it has sparked conversations about identity, adaptation, and the emotional connection people develop with places that shape their lives over time.

Man Paying \$697 Rent Climbs 134 Steps To Reach “Smallest Apartment” In Paris

A video showing a man’s extremely tiny apartment in Paris has gone viral on social media, leaving viewers shocked by the realities of housing in one of Europe’s most expensive cities. The clip features the tenant climbing 134 narrow steps to reach what many online users are calling the “smallest apartment in Paris.”

The man revealed that he pays around 7 euros per night — approximately \$697 — to stay in the compact space located at the top of an old Parisian building. Despite the low cost compared to standard Paris rents, the apartment’s tiny size quickly became the main talking point online.

The video begins with the tenant climbing several flights of steep spiral stairs before finally arriving at a small attic-style room tucked under the roof. Once inside, viewers were stunned to see how little space was available. The apartment reportedly contains just enough room for a bed, a small sink, a compact cooking area, and minimal storage. The cramped layout sparked mixed reactions online. Some users found the apartment fascinating and appreciated the creative use of limited space, while others questioned how anyone could comfortably live there for an extended period.

Many social media users joked that the apartment looked more like a storage closet



than a home. Others compared it to famous “micro apartments” often seen in cities such as Tokyo, Hong Kong, and New York, where sky-high housing prices force residents to adapt to tiny living spaces.

Despite the limited room, several people praised the apartment’s cozy appearance and the tenant’s positive attitude. Some commenters argued that affordable accommodation in central Paris is extremely difficult to find, making even a tiny room valuable for students, tourists, or short-term workers. The viral clip also reignited discussions about the growing housing crisis in major global cities. Rising rent prices and limited housing availability have pushed many people, especially young professionals and students, toward increasingly smaller living arrangements.

Paris, known for its historic architecture and high living costs, has long faced criticism over expensive rental markets and tiny apartments. In recent years, authorities in France have introduced stricter housing regulations to address concerns about unsafe or excessively small rental properties.

Still, the unusual apartment managed to capture the internet’s attention because of its combination of low rent, exhausting stair climb, and surprisingly compact design. Many viewers admitted they were both horrified and impressed by how efficiently the tiny space had been arranged.

As the video continues circulating online, it has become another reminder of the extremes people are willing to accept in order to live affordably in some of the world’s most desirable cities.

Rare Buffalo In Bangladesh Goes Viral For Looking “Exactly Like Donald Trump”

A rare albino buffalo in Bangladesh has become an internet sensation after people claimed it bears a striking resemblance to former US President Donald Trump. The unusual animal has attracted huge crowds and sparked thousands of reactions on social media ahead of Eid al-Adha celebrations. The buffalo, which weighs nearly 700 kilograms, is being raised at a farm in Narayanganj, near Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka. What caught everyone’s attention is the animal’s pale pink skin and golden-colored tuft of hair, which many people say looks remarkably similar to Donald Trump’s famous hairstyle.

Locals soon began calling the buffalo “Donald Trump,” and videos of the animal quickly spread online. Curious visitors have been flocking to the farm daily to take selfies, record videos, and see the now-famous buffalo in person.

According to the buffalo’s owner, the nickname began as a joke after his younger brother noticed the animal’s hair and facial appearance. However, the comparison soon became popular across social media platforms, turning the buffalo into a viral celebrity.

Interestingly, despite its powerful size and intimidating appearance, the buffalo is reportedly calm and gentle in nature. Several visitors joked online



that the animal may resemble Trump physically, but its quiet personality is completely different. The viral fame of the buffalo has also brought attention to another albino buffalo at the same farm. This second buffalo, weighing over 750 kilograms, has been nicknamed “Benjamin Netanyahu” because of its reportedly aggressive and unpredictable behavior. Farm workers say the animal often snorts loudly and charges at handlers, making it much harder to manage.

As Eid al-Adha approaches,

the two buffaloes have become major attractions in the area. Large crowds continue visiting the farm every day, with many people amused by the unusual comparisons to world leaders. Social media users have also flooded comment sections with memes and humorous reactions, further boosting the animals’ popularity online. The owner revealed that the “Donald Trump” buffalo was purchased from a cattle market about ten months ago and has been given special care and nutrition to maintain its impressive size and health. Reports suggest the buffalo has already been sold ahead of Eid festivities. Albino buffaloes are considered rare in South Asia, making the animals even more fascinating to visitors. Their unusual appearance, combined with the humorous nicknames, has transformed the farm into an unexpected tourist attraction. As the videos continue circulating online, the story has become another example of how quirky moments from everyday life can quickly turn into global internet sensations.

CIC Rules BCCI Is Not Under RTI Act, Reversing Landmark 2018 Decision

In a major development for Indian cricket administration, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has ruled that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not fall under the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The decision effectively reverses the landmark 2018 ruling that had declared the cricket board a "public authority" under the transparency law. The latest ruling has sparked widespread discussion among legal experts, sports administrators, and transparency activists, as it significantly impacts public access to information related to the functioning of India's richest cricket body.



The 2018 decision had argued that the BCCI performs public functions connected to cricket administration in India and therefore should be subject to public scrutiny under the RTI Act. That ruling was considered a major moment in efforts to increase transparency and accountability within Indian cricket governance.

However, the CIC's latest order reportedly concluded that the earlier judgment was not fully implemented and that the BCCI cannot currently be treated as a public authority under RTI provisions. The commission is said to have observed that the required legal and administrative conditions for bringing the board under RTI were not fulfilled.

The ruling means the BCCI will not be legally obligated to provide information sought by citizens through RTI applications, at least for now. The decision is expected to reignite debate over whether sports bodies that exercise signifi-

cant influence and enjoy public importance should be subjected to greater transparency requirements. The BCCI remains one of the most powerful and financially influential cricket organizations in the world. It governs cricket operations in India, organizes the Indian Premier League (IPL), controls media rights, and plays a major role in global cricket administration through the International Cricket Council (ICC). Supporters of bringing the BCCI under RTI have long argued that the board enjoys indirect public support, uses public infrastructure such as stadiums and security arrangements, and performs functions that affect millions of cricket fans across the country. They believe transparency is essential given the board's enormous financial and administrative power. On the other hand, critics of RTI intervention argue that the BCCI is a private au-

tonomous body registered under a society framework and should not be treated like a government institution. They claim excessive external interference could affect the board's independence and operational flexibility. The latest ruling has already generated mixed reactions online. Transparency advocates expressed disappointment, while some sports administrators welcomed the move, calling it necessary to protect the board's autonomy.

Legal experts believe the issue may continue to face challenges in courts or through future policy discussions. The debate over balancing transparency and institutional independence in sports governance is likely to remain active in the coming years. For now, the CIC's ruling marks a significant shift in the long-running discussion surrounding accountability, governance, and public access to information in Indian cricket.

Sunrisers Storm Into Playoffs, Halt CSK's Charge At Chepauk

Sunrisers Hyderabad sealed a spot in the IPL 2026 playoffs with a clinical five-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. A brilliant middle-order show from Ishan Kishan (70 off 47) and Heinrich Klaasen (47 off 26) steered the visitors to a chase-completing win with one over to spare, while Pat Cummins' incisive new-ball bowling put the brakes on Chennai's innings.

Chennai, winning the toss and opting to bat, posted a competitive 180 for 7 in their 20 overs. Sanju Samson provided an early spark with a brisk 27 off 13, and contributions from Dewald Brevis (44 off 27) and Kartik Sharma (32 off 19) helped Chennai recover after early losses. The Super Kings looked set to post a higher total before Cummins produced a match-turning spell, returning figures of 4-28 with three key wickets. Shakib Hossain sup-



ported well with two breakthroughs.

Chasing 181, Hyderabad stumbled early as Travis Head (6) and Abhishek Sharma (26) fell cheaply. The contest turned when Kishan and Klaasen combined for a decisive 75-run partnership for the third wicket. Kishan's patient, punishing innings included seven fours and three sixes, while Klaasen accelerated with six fours and two maximums. The duo wrestled momentum away from the

pitch and the crowd, setting up the finish. Contributions from Nitish Reddy (11) and Salil Arora (10 not out) closed out the chase in the 19th over.

The result moves Sunrisers to 16 points from 13 matches, consolidating third place on the table and confirming their playoff berth. The victory also had a knock-on effect elsewhere: Gujarat Titans, who also sit on 16 points with eight wins from 13 matches, have likewise cemented a playoff

spot following today's outcome. For Chennai, the defeat complicates their path to the post-season. The Super Kings remain on 12 points from 13 games and now face a precarious final league match — they must win and hope other results fall in their favour, making qualification far from straightforward.

Key performers

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Ishan Kishan 70 (47), Heinrich Klaasen 47 (26), Pat Cummins 3-28.

Chennai Super Kings: Dewald Brevis 44 (27), Kartik Sharma 32 (19).

With momentum on their side and a balanced combination of power hitting and pace bowling, Sunrisers Hyderabad head into the business end of the tournament as genuine contenders. Chennai, meanwhile, must regroup quickly and rely on a favourable set of results to keep their IPL campaign alive.

Andhra Archers Shine in Asian Games, World Cup Trials

Vijayawada, May 18 | TPN Bureau

Archers from Andhra Pradesh delivered an impressive performance at the final selection trials for the 2026 Asian Games and World Cup Stages 3 and 4, held from May 15 to 18 at the Sports Authority of India facility in Sonapat, Haryana. Organised under the Archery Association of India, the trials witnessed strong participation from across the country. In the recurve category, Bommadevara Dhiraj, a trainee of the Late Cherkuri Lenin from the Cherkuri Volga Archery Academy, secured first place with 15.5 points. In



the compound category, T. Ganesh Maniratnam from Naidupeta in Tirupati district clinched third position with

10.75 points. Both archers have been selected to represent India at the 2026 Asian Games and World Cup Stages 3 and 4.

In the women's recurve category, Kondapavuluri Yuktasari, also from the same academy, secured eighth place with 5.75 points, showcasing promising talent. Officials of the Andhra Pradesh Archery Association, including President Nandamuri Tejaswini, Chairman Cherkuri Satyanarayana, and General Secretary B.V. Ramana, congratulated the selected archers. They also lauded the efforts of coaches and parents in nurturing talent.

The 2026 Asian Games are scheduled to be held in Japan from September 25 to October 3, while the World Cup Stages 3 and 4 will take place in June and July.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam Set For Fourth Asian Games Appearance

Renowned Indian archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam has once again made the nation proud with her remarkable consistency and excellence on the international stage. The star compound archer has officially been selected to represent India at the 2026 Asian Games, marking her fourth consecutive appearance at the prestigious continental event after competing in the 2014, 2018, and 2022 editions.



Over the years, Jyothi has established herself as one of India's finest archers and a dependable performer in major international tournaments. Her journey at the Asian Games has been particularly outstanding, as she has already won an impressive tally of 3 gold medals, 1 silver medal, and 1 bronze medal across her previous appearances.

With these achievements, Jyothi Surekha Vennam now stands as the second-highest medal-winning Indian woman in Asian Games history, behind only legendary athlete P. T. Usha. Her accomplishments have not only elevated Indian archery on the global stage but have also inspired countless young athletes across the country.

Known for her calm temper-

ament, precision, and consistency under pressure, Jyothi has played a crucial role in India's rise in compound archery over the past decade. She has delivered several memorable performances in both individual and team events, earning recognition as one of the world's leading compound archers. Her qualification for the 2026 Asian Games reflects her sustained dominance and dedication to the sport. Despite intense competition and the emergence of several young talents, Jyothi has continued to maintain elite standards through hard work and discipline.

Indian sports fans and fellow athletes have widely congratulated her on the latest achieve-

ment, with many praising her commitment and longevity in the sport. Social media platforms were flooded with celebratory messages recognizing her contribution to Indian archery and women's sports.

As preparations begin for the 2026 Asian Games, expectations will once again be high from the experienced archer. Fans will be hoping she can add more medals to her already glittering collection and further strengthen her legacy in Indian sporting history.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam's journey continues to be a story of perseverance, excellence, and national pride, and her fourth Asian Games appearance is yet another milestone in an extraordinary career.

Kumar Sangakkara Heaps Massive Praise On Teen Sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

Young Rajasthan Royals batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi continues to impress the cricketing world with his fearless batting in IPL 2026, and now he has received one of the biggest compliments of his career from Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara.

The Rajasthan Royals head coach showered praise on the teenage sensation while speaking about his remarkable approach to batting and maturity at such a young age. Sangakkara even went on to say that Sooryavanshi is "a much better player" than he himself ever was, a statement that quickly grabbed the attention of cricket fans across social media.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has emerged as one of the breakout stars of the IPL season with his aggressive batting at the top of the order. Despite being only 15 years old, the youngster has consistently provided explosive starts for Rajasthan Royals and has become a key player in the team's batting lineup.

Sangakkara praised the youngster's natural understanding of the game and said



what stands out most is his love for batting. According to the former Sri Lankan captain, Sooryavanshi plays with the freedom and joy that most young cricketers dream of having, while also showing surprising game awareness and clarity in different match situations.

The RR coach also revealed that the franchise is being careful not to overload the teenager with too much advice or technical discussion. Sangakkara explained that the team prefers to keep things simple around the youngster and allow him to enjoy his cricket naturally rather than burden

him with expectations.

Reports suggest that Sooryavanshi has already scored heavily during the ongoing IPL season and has become one of Rajasthan Royals' most consistent powerplay performers. His fearless stroke play and attacking mindset have drawn praise from several former cricketers and experts throughout the tournament.

The teenage batter's performances have also sparked comparisons with some of India's greatest young talents. Many fans and analysts believe he could become one of the future stars of Indian cricket if his

development continues in the right direction.

Sangakkara also highlighted that Sooryavanshi reads the game extremely well and is not simply relying on blind aggression. The coach believes the youngster understands match situations better than many players of his age and already shows signs of maturity beyond his years.

Social media platforms were flooded with reactions after Sangakkara's comments surfaced online. Fans described the praise as one of the biggest endorsements possible for a young cricketer, especially coming from a player widely regarded as one of the greatest batters in cricket history.

As IPL 2026 progresses, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's rise continues to become one of the most exciting stories of the season. With strong backing from Rajasthan Royals and praise from legends like Kumar Sangakkara, expectations surrounding the teenage sensation are only growing stronger.

Heartbroken Ricky Ponting's Dugout Moment Goes Viral After Punjab Kings' Collapse

Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting was left visibly devastated after his team suffered a crushing defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2026, a result that pushed PBKS to the brink of elimination from the playoffs race. The emotional moment quickly went viral after cameras captured Ponting sitting alone in the dugout, staring silently into the distance after the match.

The defeat marked Punjab Kings' sixth consecutive loss of the season, completing a dramatic collapse after the team had once looked like serious contenders for a top-two finish. Fans and cricket experts were quick to react to the now-viral image of Ponting appearing complete-

ly heartbroken in the Dharamshala stadium dugout.

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin also spoke about the moment during a discussion on his YouTube channel, calling it a "powerful picture." Ashwin said Ponting must have been carrying immense disappointment and pressure after seeing the team's campaign fall apart in the second half of the tournament.

Ashwin further suggested that Punjab Kings may have hurt their own momentum by shifting between multiple home venues during the season. According to him, successful IPL teams usually maintain stability by playing consistently at one home

ground, while Punjab had to adapt between Mullanpur and Dharamshala conditions.

The emotional visual of Ponting alone in the dugout resonated strongly with fans online. Many supporters expressed sympathy for the Australian legend, praising his passion and commitment toward the franchise. Social media platforms were flooded with posts describing the image as one of the defining moments of the IPL season.

Punjab Kings had started the season strongly and were once considered genuine title contenders under captain Shreyas Iyer and coach Ricky Ponting. However, the team's form dipped

sharply in the latter stages, with consecutive defeats severely damaging their playoff hopes.

Reports also indicate that concerns over player form and fitness added to the team's struggles. Fast bowler Arshdeep Singh, one of PBKS' key performers, reportedly dealt with physical restrictions that may have impacted his effectiveness during the crucial phase of the tournament. As the playoff race intensifies, Punjab Kings now depend on other results to keep their slim qualification hopes alive. Meanwhile, Ponting's lonely dugout moment has become a powerful symbol of the emotional highs and lows that define the IPL.



Ram Charan Unleashes Intense Avatar In Buchi Babu Sana's Mass Entertainer

The much-awaited trailer of Peddi starring Ram Charan has finally been released, and it has taken social media by storm with its raw action, emotional intensity, and powerful mass moments. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film promises a rugged rural drama packed with high-energy action and strong emotional storytelling.

From the very first frame, Ram Charan dominates the screen with a fierce and intense transformation that has left fans thrilled. Sporting a rugged look and commanding screen presence, the actor appears in a completely massy avatar that is vastly different from his recent

performances. The trailer showcases a story deeply rooted in rural backdrop and emotions, with themes of pride, revenge, family bonds, and power struggles taking center stage. Ram Charan's character is portrayed as a fearless and emotionally driven man who is ready to fight against all odds. Director Buchi Babu Sana appears to have delivered exactly the kind of larger-than-life commercial entertainer fans were expecting. The trailer blends powerful dialogues, emotional sequences, whistle-worthy elevation moments, and visually rich action blocks that instantly grab attention. One of the major highlights

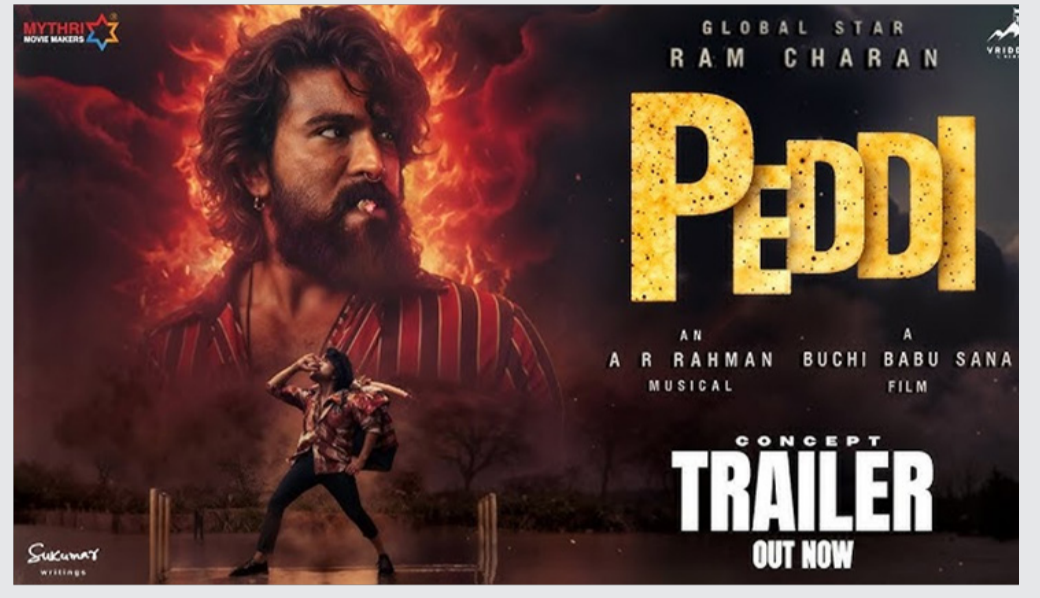
of the trailer is the intense action choreography. Ram Charan is seen performing several hard-hitting fight sequences with raw aggression and energy, giving the film a strong mass appeal. The action visuals, combined with a gripping background score, have further elevated the trailer's impact. The emotional angle also seems to play a crucial role in the narrative. Along with the action-packed moments, the trailer hints at deep emotional conflicts and strong character-driven storytelling, which has become one of Buchi Babu Sana's strengths as a filmmaker.

Fans quickly flooded social media platforms with praise after the trailer launch, with

many calling it one of Ram Charan's most powerful looks in recent years. Several viewers also appreciated the rustic setting, cinematography, and intense characterization presented in the promo.

The film's visuals and production design have also received positive attention. The rural atmosphere, dramatic action setups, and cinematic scale indicate that the makers are aiming for a grand theatrical experience.

Music and background score appear to be another strong pillar of the film. The trailer's energetic soundtrack and emotionally charged score have significantly amplified the intensity of several scenes.



Chiranjeevi Confirms Grand Launch Date For 'Mega 158'

Megastar Chiranjeevi has officially announced the launch date for his highly anticipated film Mega 158, directed by Bobby Kolli. The update has created a wave of excitement among fans who have been eagerly waiting for news about the project for several months.

The veteran actor shared the announcement through his social media platforms while posting an intense workout video, hinting at the physical transformation he is undergoing for the movie. Chiranjeevi revealed that the grand launch ceremony for Mega 158 will take place on May 21, 2026. The project marks Chiranjeevi's second collaboration with director Bobby Kolli after their earlier successful association generated strong expectations among audiences. Ever since the film was announced, fans have been curious about how Bobby plans to present the megastar on screen this time.

Reports suggest that the movie was initially planned to begin earlier this year, but the launch ceremony was postponed due to production-related delays. With the new official date now locked, excitement surrounding the project has significantly increased.



Industry sources say a special look test for Chiranjeevi has already been completed, and the final appearance for the film has been approved. Director Bobby is reportedly aiming to showcase the actor in a completely fresh and stylish avatar unlike his recent films. The movie is being produced on a lavish scale by KVN Productions, which is making its major entry into Telugu cinema with this prestigious venture. Popular music composer Thaman S has been roped in to compose the soundtrack and background score, while cine-

matographer Nimish Ravi will handle the visuals.

Fans on social media immediately began celebrating the announcement, with many expressing excitement over Chiranjeevi's energetic makeover and fitness preparations. The actor's dedication at this stage of his career has once again impressed audiences and strengthened anticipation for the film.

Meanwhile, Chiranjeevi is already enjoying strong momentum following the success of Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, which performed exceptionally well at the box office earlier this year. Many fans believe Mega 158 could continue the actor's successful run with another mass entertainer.

Although details regarding the cast and storyline are still under wraps, insiders believe the film will feature high-energy action, stylish presentation, and strong commercial elements tailored for mass audiences.

With the official launch now confirmed, fans are eagerly waiting for further updates regarding the title announcement, shooting schedules, and first-look posters from the makers.

Jr NTR's 'Dragon' Glimpse To Arrive With Special Theater Screenings

Jr NTR fans are gearing up for a massive celebration as the makers of his upcoming film Dragon have officially locked the release time for the movie's highly anticipated first glimpse. The announcement has created tremendous excitement among fans, especially with the surprise confirmation that the teaser will also be screened in selected theaters.

The glimpse is scheduled to release at exactly 11:52 PM on May 19, coinciding with Jr NTR's birthday celebrations. According to reports, the teaser has a runtime of nearly four-and-a-half minutes, making it one of the biggest introductory glimpses prepared for a Telugu star film in recent times.

Directed by blockbuster filmmaker Prashanth Neel, the movie has already generated enormous buzz due to the powerful combination of the RRR star and the KGF director. Fans have been eagerly waiting for updates ever since the project was announced, and the latest



reveal has pushed expectations even higher.

What has made the announcement even more special is the decision to screen the glimpse in select theaters alongside its digital release. The makers are expected to unveil the complete list of theaters soon, allowing fans to experience the teaser on the big screen amid midnight celebrations.

Social media platforms quickly exploded with reactions after the release time was announced. Fans began trending hashtags related to the film and predicting that the glimpse would showcase Jr NTR in a fierce and intense avatar designed specifically for mass audiences.

The film, tentatively titled Dragon, is described as a high-octane action entertainer set

against a rugged and violent backdrop. Actress Rukmini Vasanth plays the female lead, while veteran Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor is reportedly essaying a crucial role in the movie.

Adding to the excitement is the involvement of music composer Ravi Basrur, whose background scores in the KGF franchise became hugely popular among action-film fans. Many believe his music will play a major role in elevating the teaser's impact.

The film is jointly produced by Mythri Movie Makers and NTR Arts and is currently being prepared as a multilingual pan-Indian project. Reports suggest the movie is scheduled for a grand worldwide theatrical release on June 11, 2027.

With the countdown officially underway, fans are now eagerly waiting for midnight to witness what could become one of the biggest teaser launches in recent Telugu cinema history.

Sreeleela Breaks Silence On Rumours Linking Her With Cricketer Tilak Varma

Popular actress Sreeleela has finally responded to the ongoing rumours linking her with Indian cricketer Tilak Varma. The speculation had been circulating widely on social media for the past few weeks, with several fan pages and gossip accounts claiming that the two were secretly dating.

Addressing the rumours during a recent interaction, Sreeleela reportedly dismissed the speculation and clarified that there is no truth to the dating buzz. The actress made it clear that the stories being circulated online were baseless and urged people not to believe everything shared on social media.

The rumours initially began after a few social media posts claimed that Sreeleela and Tilak Varma were frequently in touch and spending time together. Soon, fan-made edits and speculative posts started going viral, leading many users to assume there was something happening between the actress and the young cricketer.

However, Sreeleela's latest response appears to have put an end to the gossip. According to reports, the actress stated that she is currently focused entirely on her film career and upcoming projects rather than personal speculation.

The actress has become one of the busiest stars in South Indian cinema over the last few years, with multiple Telugu and Kannada films lined up. Her energetic screen presence, dance performances, and back-to-back commercial

projects have made her one of the most sought-after young actresses in the industry.

Meanwhile, Tilak Varma has also been gaining significant attention in Indian cricket after impressive performances in domestic tournaments and the Indian Premier League. His rapid rise in the sport has earned him a strong fan following among young cricket enthusiasts. As expected, Sreeleela's clarification quickly became a trending topic online. While many fans appreciated her direct response, others continued discussing the rumours across social media platforms. Some users even pointed out how celebrity gossip involving actors and cricketers often spreads rapidly without any official confirmation.

The incident once again highlights how public figures frequently become targets of relationship speculation, especially when they are young, successful, and constantly in the spotlight. In recent years, social media has played a major role in amplifying celebrity rumours, often turning unverified claims into viral discussions within hours.

On the professional front, Sreeleela has several high-profile films in various stages of production, and fans are eagerly waiting to see her in upcoming big-budget projects alongside top Telugu stars.

With her latest statement, the actress appears determined to keep the focus on her work rather than personal gossip, bringing temporary closure to the rumours surrounding her and Tilak Varma.



Ram Charan's Look Test Finalised For Sukumar's Next Big Project



Ram Charan and director Sukumar are all set to reunite after the blockbuster success of Rangasthalam, and the latest update about their upcoming project has already created massive excitement among fans. According to industry buzz, Sukumar has officially locked Ram Charan's look and styling for their much-awaited film after conducting a special test shoot in Mumbai.

Reports suggest that the director recently organized a dedicated makeover and camera test to finalize the actor's appearance for the film. Sources claim Sukumar was extremely impressed with the results and quickly approved the final look. The news has generated huge curiosity among movie lovers eager to see what kind of transformation Ram Charan will undergo this time.

The combination of Ram Charan and Sukumar remains one of the most celebrated actor-director pairings in Telugu cinema. Their previous collaboration, Rangasthalam, became a massive commercial and critical success, with Ram Charan's portrayal of Chitti Babu earning widespread praise and considered one of the finest performances of his career. Currently, Ram Charan is busy wrapping up Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana. The actor has already undergone significant physical transformations for that sports action drama, with reports claiming he will appear in multiple different looks throughout the movie.

Fans believe Sukumar's new project could feature yet another unique make-

over for the star, especially considering the director's reputation for creating strong and unconventional character designs. Social media platforms were flooded with excitement soon after the update surfaced online, with many fans predicting another intense rural or rugged role for Ram Charan.

Though the makers are yet to make an official announcement regarding the title, cast, or storyline, expectations are already sky-high because of the duo's successful track record. Industry insiders suggest the project may officially begin after the release of Peddi.

Meanwhile, Peddi itself has generated huge buzz due to Ram Charan's rugged wrestler-style appearance and physically demanding role. Director Sukumar recently even praised the actor's performance in the film, calling it one of the best of his career.

With Sukumar now reportedly finalizing Ram Charan's look, anticipation surrounding the upcoming collaboration has reached another level. Fans are eagerly waiting for an official announcement and hoping the duo can recreate the magic they elvered with Rangasthalam.



Purwa Suhani
RISING STAR