



Farmers Demand Return of Lands Taken for Jindal Project in Vizianagaram

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Is the Telangana Narcotics Team looking for Mr. Pulaparti Prashant?

- **Allegations link MLA Anjibabu’s son to drug use**
- **Hyderabad Narcotics Team reportedly trying to locate him**
- **Prashant’s name surfaced in customer data seized during raids**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Yes, say officials. Mr. Pulaparti Prashant, who is Bhimavaram MLA Anjibabu’s son, and Son-in-law of Mr. MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, has recently been in the spotlight due to controversies involving a cricket franchise. His name has also surfaced in connection with poker and wine businesses running in the Bhimavaram constituency. There are allegations that he is managing Bhimavaram’s affairs as if he were the MLA himself.

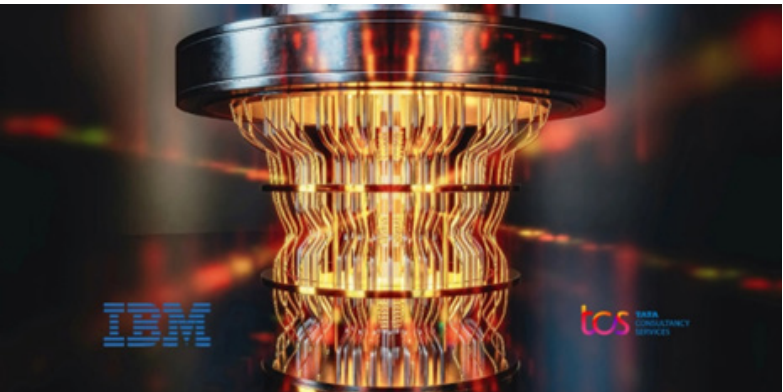
Though not a dominant figure in Bhimavaram politics earlier, Prashanth was born there. As he is son-in-law of Ganta Srinivasa Rao, He used to stay at Vizag also. But locals say he has more influence in Hyderabad than in either of those places. Even when he visits Bhimavaram, he reportedly doesn’t go home but spends time with friends in Suite No. 8888 at the Fortune Hotel, which is their own. But now, a new and serious issue has come to light — allegations of drug use. Known for his fondness for alcohol and card games, Prashanth’s social habits have already raised eyebrows. Locals claim such habits are common among many nowadays, but the mention of drugs has taken everyone by surprise. This information didn’t come from the public — it came directly from a official of Hyderabad

Narcotics Team. Recently, the Narcotics and Task Force teams busted several gangs supplying drugs and reportedly extracted detailed customer data. Based on this data, they identified various users and supply centers — and according to sources, Prashanth’s name is on that list allegedly. It is said the Narcotics Team is currently searching for him as per the sources. He is not at his home in Hyderabad, and officials report that his phone is switched off. His whereabouts are unknown, but an official stated that his mobile’s last known location was Shamshabad Airport, suggesting he may have flown abroad. However, since no charges have been confirmed yet, no further details have been officially checked. At present, there are only suspicions of drug use. What makes the situation more concerning is the possible fallout if these suspicions are proven true. Prashanth currently serves as Vice President of the Andhra Cricket Association. If proven to be a drug user, questions will arise about whether someone facing such allegations can hold a leadership position in an association that strictly monitors its players for drug use. Can someone with a shadow over their name remain in such a post? However, Prashanth’s close friends and admirers dismiss



the allegations as baseless. They insist he may have gone abroad on business. Moreover, he’s a helpful figure in Bhimavaram, they claimed. They argue that while there are always rumors, Prashanth is known for resolving local issues effectively. They also claim that handling transfers, postings, and contracts is standard practice for any MLA or their circle — and there’s nothing unusual about it. Prashanth is listed as a director in multiple companies — some active, others in name only. Records show that influential individuals are associated with these ventures, mostly from his friend circle in Bhimavaram and Hyderabad. They argue that such associations are to be expected. Interestingly, Prashanth appears to have no social media presence. MLA Anjibabu, once known as a respected figure with vast aquaculture assets, reportedly faced significant debts by the last election cycle but is said to have cleared them. Given the

scale of operations Prashanth now oversees — from cricket franchises to local influence — many wonder who’s backing him. MP Sana Satish and Uncle Ganta Srinivasa Rao are the supporters to him. Still, the fact that Prashanth’s name is being linked to a drug case is worrisome. In the past, authorities have imposed strict legal action on drug suppliers under severe sections. Now, even consumption or possession of drugs is treated as a serious crime. There are concerns that Prashanth may face legal trouble, although some argue that even in such cases, bail is usually granted and major issues may be avoided. However, such cases carry a reputational cost and can hinder participation in institutions like the Andhra Cricket Association. For now, all eyes are on whether these allegations hold any truth. Regardless, many hope that Prashanth will come out clean and clear his name in this episode.



Amaravati's Quantum Valley- India’s bold leap into the future of Deep Tech

TPN | Mahesh ARN

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government is developing the country’s first dedicated Quantum Valley in Amaravati. Scheduled for inauguration on January 1, 2026, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, renowned for ushering in the IT revolution in the 1990s, now leads this transformative effort. Spread over 50 acres, the Quantum Valley will house cutting-edge facilities, including IBM’s 156-qubit Quantum System Two, India’s most powerful quantum computer. Infrastructure is being developed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T), while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will focus on developing hybrid quantum-classical computing applications across healthcare, finance, and manufacturing sectors.

The Quantum Valley Tech Park is envisioned as more than a research hub; it’s a complete innovation ecosystem integrating academia, industry, startups, and government. Andhra University and other state institutions will introduce degree programs in quantum computing from the 2025–26 academic year to build a future-ready workforce. Global partnerships with Purdue University (USA) and the University of Tokyo (Japan) have already been signed, highlighting its international appeal. Beyond computing, the Valley will encompass fields like artificial intelligence, semiconductor design, post-quantum cryptography, advanced materials, aerospace, and defence technologies. It is expected to attract investments from MNCs, defence agencies like ISRO and DRDO, and space-tech firms, creating a vibrant, multi-disciplinary R&D and manufacturing cluster.

The Quantum Valley also reinforces national missions such as Atmanirbhar Bharat and Digital India by fostering indigenous technology development and building quantum governance capabilities for secure and efficient public service delivery. Sustainable infrastructure is central to its design, powered by renewables, equipped with EV mobility, smart traffic systems, and circular economy principles.

While exact commercial revenues are hard to forecast in the nascent quantum sector, the Valley is poised to generate thousands of high-end jobs, attract global investment, and produce pathbreaking intellectual property. With a strong policy push, global collaboration, and a forward-looking vision, Amaravati’s Quantum Valley stands to become a global benchmark in quantum and deep-tech innovation, ushering in a new era for India’s technological future.



TPN | Ch. Sri

East Godavari: The river of life, Godavari... is becoming lifeless in the hands of the sand mafia. They have no regard for the Supreme Court verdicts. They ignore the orders of the National Green Tribunal. They dig recklessly with machines, destroying the riverbed. What is striking is the complete indifference shown by public representatives and officials, despite this large-scale destruction. Ever since the coalition government came to power, the sand mafia has been raging across the East Godavari district. Allegations are widespread

that a man named RK (Ramakrishna) from Guntur has become the don of the sand mafia in this region. After the joint government announced the free sand policy and permitted sand ramps, irregularities at these ramps have become rampant. Excavations and sales are carried out without necessary permits or supervision. Since the Collector’s directives in June, illegal excavation and transactions have been happening openly at the ramps, led by middlemen. There are no laborers in sight — only dredging boats filling up the Godavari. It is an open secret that RK is overseeing the entire operation.

During the YSRCP regime, RK flaunted photos with then-minister Peddiredy Ramachandra Reddy and Chief Advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, claiming close relations to run his illegal empire. He earned crores. After the coalition government came to power, he seamlessly continued his operations, now hand-in-hand with the new regime. The same Telugu Desam, Jana Sena, and BJP leaders who once criticized RK are now being questioned for their silence. It should come as no surprise that RK is conducting illegal dredging across nearly 12 sand ramps in Dhavaleswaram and Kateru under the

Rajahmundry Rural constituency. His audacity in bypassing local representatives and making direct financial deals with top leaders is being widely discussed. He is openly managing his empire by paying off local leaders monthly and daily. What’s more surprising is the silence of BJP State President and Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeshwari, Rural MLA and forty-year political veteran Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdhury, and Jana Sena State Minister Kandula Durgesh — all of whom visited these ramps before elections, highlighting the sand mafia issue. Now, locals are raising doubts about their silence as

the same RK continues his illegal operations. Illegal transportation of sand, unregulated dredging — all continue unabated across Dhavaleswaram, Burilanka, Kateru, and other parts of Rajahmundry Rural. It’s evident that RK has successfully influenced leaders and officials. No rules, no respect for the Green Tribunal, no oversight — just 25 boats digging up and transporting sand with dredging engines. District-level officials are silent spectators.

‘RK’ THE KINGPIN...

All the sand mafia is under his control

- **Then in the YSRCP... now in the TDP**
- **All the Dhavaleswaram and Kateru boat ramps are under his grip...**
- **The Godavari riverbed is being looted by the sand mafia...**
- **Court verdicts don’t matter... the National Green Tribunal is ignored.**
- **Even after being shut down... illegal dredging continues at ramps...**
- **Even after seizing dredging boats, the sand mafia remains unstoppable.**



‘RK’ THE KINGPIN...

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Ironically, even in Rajahmundry Rural — where the District Collectorate is located — sand is being illegally dredged from the Godavari in Dha-valesswaram, Burrilanka, and Kate-ru, especially at night. SEB, Irriga-tion, Mining, and Police officials are reportedly watching silently as the sand mafia dredges from 8 pm to 5 am — completely against the rules. Despite assurances that the Godavari would be protected, neither the rul-ing nor opposition leaders have ques-tioned the sand mafia's activities. In fact, complaints are mounting that the new government's sand policy is worse than the YSRCP's. During the YSRCP regime, sand min-ing rights were handed over to JC Company, which sub-leased manage-ment to another firm — Arki. Allega-tions continue that dredging under both these entities has heavily dam-aged the Godavari. What's shocking is that these operations have continued under the joint government without any fresh permissions. Dredging is being touted as a "bless-ing" — but it is a curse. Dredging boats have become the sand mafia's gold mines. The illegal operations begin after 7 pm and run until 5 am. Even after the District Collector warned that bridges on the Godavari are at risk due to this activity, Vigilance and SEB officials are not acting. In East Godavari, sand ramps man-aged by boatmen are more active than official reaches. Rajahmundry Rural's Kateru, Dhavalesswaram, and Jonnada areas are hotspots where dredging boats operate illegally round the clock under the boatmen's leadership. It's widely known that all these dredging machines originate from Vijeswaram. Shocking allega-tions suggest that some irrigation staff are not only allowing but also carrying out the dredging. Vigilance officials allegedly collude by showing only ordinary boats during inspec-tions. If caught by SEB, the mafia pays hefty penalties — but no criminal cases are filed. In fact, mafia members them-selves admit that fines are routine and expected. The same boats are used for dredging and regular trans-port — blurring the lines and mak-ing it harder for enforcement agen-cies to act. These dredging machines, however, are causing severe ecolog-ical damage by removing massive amounts of sand from the Godavari riverbed. Recently, RDOs and Joint Collec-tors conducted surprise inspections across East Godavari. Dredging ma-chines and lorries were seized; many ramps were shut down. Authori-ties have temporarily halted opera-tions at open reaches. After receiving night-time violation complaints, the RDO-led raids intensified, with ma-chinery seizures and criminal cases being filed. Still, the reality is undeniable — even as District Collector Prasanthi an-nounced stricter action, departments like Mines, Irrigation, Police, and Vig-ilance had to join hands for surprise raids. The crackdown revealed the scale of illegal activity and the need for urgent, continued action to save the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh — the Godavari.

Farmers Demand Return of Lands Taken for Jindal Project in Vizianagaram

- Farmers protest as Jindal project remains unfulfilled after 17 years
- Allegations of land being sold to private players at high prices
- MLA Lalitha Kumari assures justice to displaced farmers



TPN | Narasimha

Vizianagaram: Farmers from Kiltampalem, Cheedipalem, Pedakhandepally, and Moola Boddavara villages in Srungavarapukot man-dal of Vizianagaram district are in-tensifying their protests, demand-ing that the lands acquired from them in 2007 for Jindal's alumini-um project be returned. The lands, measuring 1048.65 acres,

were acquired by the then Congress government for setting up a Jindal Aluminium factory with a project-ed capacity of 1.4 million tonnes. Seventeen years on, not only has the company failed to materialise, but none of the promises made to farmers—jobs, company shares, or proper compensation—have been fulfilled, the farmers allege. Adding to their frustration, farm-ers claim the lands are now being

handed over to other private com-panies, with no consultation or consent from those who originally gave up their lands. Many farmers say they were forced to part with their lands at very low rates based on assurances from Jindal manage-ment that have now proven hollow. "The Jindal group took our land with promises of jobs and equity, but they didn't even lay a founda-tion stone for the factory," said one



protesting farmer. "Now we hear our lands are being resold at high-er prices to private players—this is betrayal." The aggrieved farmers emphasized that they are not opposing develop-ment or industrialisation but want justice for those who sacrificed their livelihoods. They demanded either their lands be returned or the gov-ernment take possession of the un-used lands and ensure local youth get jobs as originally promised. MLA Kolla Lalitha Kumari of Srun-gavarapukot has assured the agit-at-ing farmers that their concerns will be addressed. Speaking to report-ers, she stated, "We will do justice to all land-displaced farmers. Soon, we will hold village-level meetings in the presence of government of-ficials to identify genuine land do-nors and escalate the issue to high-er authorities." She added that development in the region should go hand-in-hand with justice for the local communi-ties and expressed hope that future industrial growth would also secure employment for the youth of the re-gion.

AP Tourism Set for ₹10,000 Cr EV & Infra Boost

- MoUs worth ₹10,039 Cr to be inked at Tourism Tech AI 2.0 Conclave
- Focus on EV infrastructure, eco-tourism, and smart hospitality
- CM targets 20% tourism sector growth, says Spl CS Ajay Jain

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a major step towards sustain-able tourism and green mobility, the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Develop-ment Corporation (APTDC) is all set to sign a series of landmark MoUs at the Tourism Tech AI 2.0 Conclave in Vijayawada on June 26–27. The event aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a global tourist destination and hub for energy-efficient travel infrastructure. Special Chief Secretary Ajay Jain an-nounced that the state will sign an MoU with Convergence Energy Ser-vices Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of EESL under the Ministry of Power, to establish Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) and Battery Swapping Stations (BSS) across major highways, cities, and tourism hotspots. This is expected to drive green mobility and energy conservation in the tourism sector. The initiative follows successful In-do-Swiss energy-saving building proj-ects supported by the Bureau of En-ergy Efficiency (BEE) and implemented through APSECM, demonstrating measurable indoor temperature re-duction and efficiency in housing. Speaking ahead of the conclave, Ajay



Jain said, "With the Chief Minister targeting a 20% growth rate in the tourism sector, we aim to attract ₹25,000 crore investments over four years. The upcoming MoUs will cata-lyze this transformation." Ajay Jain also urged BEE and the Andhra Pradesh State Designated Agency (SDA) to extend technical sup-port to make AP Tourism the most en-ergy-efficient utility in the country, aligning with the government's green vision. At the conclave, over 50 MoUs will be signed across various tourism seg-

ments—hospitality, cruises, adven-ture sports, and rural homestays. These agreements are expected to Bring in ₹10,039 crore investments, Create 24,780 jobs across the state and to Add 7,509 new hotel rooms. The conclave will also host expert panels on themes like Creative Econ-omy, Tourism Branding, Tech Inno-vation, and Capacity Building, en-gaging top developers, investors, and tech leaders. EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit has deputied Animesh Mishra, CGM Cor-porate Communications & Market-

These developments come under the ambit of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024–29, which offers:

- 100% reimbursement on stamp duty and land conversion charges
- Capital subsidies up to 25% for MSMEs and up to 10% for large-scale projects
- Reimbursements for quality certifications (₹2 lakh for national, ₹10 lakh for international)
- Additional 5% subsidy for women, SC/ST, and disabled entrepreneurs
- Power cost and electricity duty reimbursements for up to seven years
- Employment-linked incentives for inclusive economic growth

ing, to oversee MoU arrangements with APTDC. By coupling strategic incentives with sustainable planning and global partnerships, Andhra Pradesh is pre-paring to reimagine tourism as an engine for inclusive, eco-conscious economic development.

UK Shows Interest in Amaravati Projects...

British Deputy High Commissioner Meets Minister Narayana

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

British Deputy High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen, who oversees UK government affairs in both Telu-gu states, paid a courtesy visit to Andhra Pradesh Municipal Admin-istration Minister Dr. P. Narayana in Amaravati on Wednesday. The meeting was also attended by UK Group Infrastructure Export Chairperson Parvez and Municipal Department Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar. Discussions pri-

marily revolved around potential collaboration in design, engineer-ing, and urban infrastructure ser-vices in Amaravati. Minister Narayana briefed the dele-gation about the revival of Amar-avati's development, stating that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has paid special attention to the city's economic and infra-structural progress. He noted that Amaravati's iconic buildings were designed by the UK-based archi-tect Norman Foster, reflecting the

state's international vision. In response, Deputy High Commis-sioner Gareth Owen expressed the UK's strong interest in participat-ing in the Amaravati project and assured the minister of the British government's willingness to work closely with Andhra Pradesh. He appreciated the visionary lead-ership of CM Chandrababu Naidu, and specifically praised the recent successful conduct of Prime Min-ister Narendra Modi's program in Amaravati, calling it a model for

large-scale event organization. The UK Infrastructure Export Group also showed readiness to explore technical and engineering partner-ships, which could bring global ex-pertise and investment into Amar-avati's next phase of development. The meeting marks a renewed mo-mentum in foreign collaboration for Amaravati's capital develop-ment, with the British side affirm-ing that they view Andhra Pradesh as a priority destination for infra-structure cooperation.



Emergency Was a Stain on Democracy, So Was Jagan's Rule...

- **Emergency was the darkest chapter in Indian democracy: CM**
- **Chandrababu compares Jagan’s 5-year rule to authoritarianism**
- **Coalition has begun rebuilding Andhra Pradesh with democratic spirit**

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday drew a sharp parallel between the 1975 Emergency and the recent five-year rule of the YSRCP, calling both glaring examples of how democracy should not function. Addressing the gathering at the "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" program held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetra, Vijayawada, the CM paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and recalled the grave violations of rights and democratic values that occurred during the Emergency imposed 50 years ago.

"Emergency is a destruction of democracy," said Chandrababu, describing June 25, 1975, as the day India's Constitution and fundamental rights were trampled. He condemned the then government's crackdown on dissent, including the imprisonment of leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Vajpayee, Advani, George Fernandes, and many from Andhra Pradesh. He also recalled the undemocratic dismissal of NTR's government in 1984, calling it another violation of democratic norms. Shifting focus to Jagan Mohan Reddy's five-year rule, Chandrababu said, "If Emergency is

a case study in dictatorship, the last five years in Andhra Pradesh are another." He alleged rampant misuse of power, suppression of dissent, fake cases, and seizure of private property. "Even I was a victim," he added, referring to his arrest last year. He condemned the treatment of Dr. Sudhakar, who was allegedly harassed for demanding masks during COVID-19 and later died under mysterious circumstances. Chandrababu emphasized the need to protect democratic values, asserting that freedom, equality, and justice are the foundational principles of the

Constitution that must not be forgotten. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for initiating "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" to educate citizens about past political wrongdoings and inspire democratic awareness. Speaking about the current TDP-BJP-Janasena coalition, the Chief Minister said, "We have taken the first step towards good governance in just one year, rebuilding what was destroyed." He also praised Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for enduring political humiliation and fighting to uphold democracy. The Chief Minister closed his



address by urging youth to study the Emergency and learn from history. "Under Modi ji's leadership, we will build Vikasit Bharat and Swarnandhra. We will give people a government rooted in Constitution and compassion," he said.

Red Book Sparks Panic in YSRCP: Minister Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | Machilipatnam
State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh made sharp remarks against the YSRCP leadership during his visit to Machilipatnam, stating that "just the mention of Redbook is enough to give YSRCP leaders palpitations." He was referring to the government's accountability framework that allegedly lists irregularities and misdeeds of the previous regime. Minister Lokesh received a grand welcome from TDP and alliance cadres. Ministers Kollu Ravindra, Vasamsetty Subhash, MP Balashouri, MLAs Bode Prasad, Varla Kumar Raja, Venigandla Ramu, and Kagita Krishna Prasad accompanied him during the visit. Women activists from the party offered aarti and blessed Lokesh as a token of their appreciation for the government's pro-women initiatives. Addressing the crowd, Lokesh highlighted the 'Salute to Mother' (Thalli Ki Vandhanam) scheme and said it was being implemented with a heartfelt intention to ensure no mother faces difficulty in educating her child. He expressed satisfaction over the overwhelming response from women, who thanked the government for the initiative. He drew comparisons between the previous and current governments, accusing the former YSRCP regime of disrespecting women through derogatory remarks and political conduct. In contrast, Lokesh assured that the current coalition government would restore dignity to women in all spheres of life. "Change in society cannot be achieved by just enacting laws or distributing money. We must change attitudes, especially the way people speak about women," Lokesh said, announcing that parent-teacher meetings will soon be conducted in all government schools to foster accountability and collaboration. On a personal note, Lokesh acknowledged the role of his family in his political journey. He credited his wife Brahmani's constant support for his ability to serve the public and paid tribute to his mother Bhuvaneshwari, whose sacrifices he said enabled Chandrababu Naidu to lead the state.



Sugavasi Balasubrahmanyam Joins YSRCP in Presence of Jagan



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa
In a significant development in Rayalseema politics, senior TDP leader Sugavasi Balasubrahmanyam has left the Telugu Desam Party and joined the YSR Congress Party. The former chairman of the united Kadapa Zilla Parishad officially joined the YSRCP in the presence of party president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Balasubrahmanyam said that he had taken the decision to leave the TDP after enduring continuous insults and political marginalization in the Rajampet unit of the party. "Unable to bear the humiliation anymore, I have decided to work under the able leadership of Jagan Mohan Reddy, who has a clear vision for the development of the state," he stated.

Balasubrahmanyam began his political journey in 1995 as the heir of prominent leader Sugavasi Palakondrayudu, winning the ZPTC from Rayachoti. He later served as the Chairman of the united Kadapa Zilla Parishad in 2000, and was re-elected as ZPTC in 2001. Despite multiple electoral defeats, including from Rayachoti in 2012 and most recently from Rajampet in the 2024 general elections as a TDP candidate, he has remained an active political figure. His switch to the YSRCP is being viewed as a setback to the TDP's prospects in the Rajampet region, especially considering his experience and influence in the local political landscape. His entry is expected to strengthen the YSRCP's base in the Rayachoti-Rajampet belt, which continues to be a politically sensitive zone in Kadapa district.

Liquor Scam: Mohit Reddy Seeks Time, Skips SIT Hearing

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The investigation into the high-profile liquor scam rocking Andhra Pradesh has intensified, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) tightening its focus on accused individuals. Among them is Chevireddy Mohit Reddy, son of senior YSRCP leader Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, who has now emerged as Accused No. 39 (A-39) in the case. Despite being summoned by the SIT for questioning today, Mohit Reddy failed to appear before the investigating team. Sources say he cited personal reasons and has sought three more days to present himself for the inquiry. Meanwhile, in an apparent move to preempt arrest, Mohit Reddy has filed an



anticipatory bail petition in the Vijayawada ACB court. The court is expected to hear the petition today, even as the SIT continues to pursue the case against him and other accused. The SIT has already arrested Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, along with his alleged benami Venkatesh Naidu, in connection

with the scam. In its remand report submitted to the court, the SIT revealed direct involvement of both father and son, highlighting financial irregularities and suspicious transactions related to the alleged scam. The scam, which has drawn widespread attention, involves allegations of massive irregularities in liquor contracts and illegal earnings. As more names surface, the case is likely to have significant political ramifications, especially given the stature of the individuals involved. With the SIT digging deeper and court proceedings underway, all eyes are now on Mohit Reddy's next move, and the court's decision on his anticipatory bail plea.

CITU Calls Panchayat Workers to Join July 9 Strike

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has urged panchayat workers across the country to participate in a nationwide strike on July 9, pressing for better wages and working conditions. Addressing a preparatory meeting in Pathapadu, CITU NTR district leader M. Someswara Rao called upon all rural workers to support the agitation to protect their rights. Strike notices were formally submitted to the Gram Panchayat Secretaries of Pathapadu (P. Kotilingamma), P. Nainavaram (Santosh), and Ambapuram, indicating strong local mobilization in support of the national call. Rao demanded the implementation of a minimum wage of ₹26,000, along with Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund (PF) benefits for panchayat workers. He also stressed the need to repeal the four controversial labor codes introduced by the BJP-led central government, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration of enacting pro-corporate legislation at the cost of workers' welfare. "Since Modi came to power, the labor laws have been modified to benefit corporations, weakening hard-



won labor protections," Rao asserted. He urged all rural workers to unite and voice their demands collectively on July 9. CITU leaders M. Anjaneyalu, along with local Gram Panchayat Union leaders Durga Rao, Shankar, Shyam Kumar, and Vamsi, were also present at the meeting. The leaders emphasized that only through mass participation and solidarity can the working class compel the government to address their demands. CITU further warned that unless workers' voices are heard, protests will intensify nationwide.

Give Buragadda Veda Vyas a State-Level Post...

TPN Correspondent | Machilipatnam
Jai Kapu Sena State Legal Cell President Lankisetty Balaji has urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to appoint former Deputy Speaker and ex-MLA Buragadda Veda Vyas to a state-level post in recognition of his dedicated political service and contributions to the party's success in the recent elections. Speaking to reporters in Machilipatnam, Balaji recalled that Veda Vyas, who hails from a respected political family, served as the Deputy Speaker of both Telugu states and as MLA from Malleswaram (now Pedana). He emphasized that Veda Vyas and his father, Booragadda Niranjan Rao, have upheld political ethics and public service throughout their careers. Balaji said Veda Vyas deserves a post such as MLC or Chairman of a state corporation, particularly given his active

support for Pedana MLA Kagita Krishna Prasad and Machilipatnam leader Valabhaneni Bala Souri during the last elections. He added that Veda Vyas also holds professional eligibility, being a practicing member of the Machilipatnam Bar Association. Expressing disappointment over the lack of recognition for senior Kapu leaders who worked hard for the alliance's victory, Balaji stated, "By appointing Veda Vyas, it would be a tribute to the entire Kapu community across the state." He also said that Veda Vyas' involvement is critical in the upcoming local body elections, especially for Gram Panchayat, Mandal Parishad, and Zilla Parishad bodies. He demanded that Kapu leaders be given due representation across all 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh and urged the CM and Deputy CM to immediately respond to Jai Kapu Sena's appeal.

GoM Seeks Action Plan to Clean Up APCAS System

- Ministers Payyavula, Lokesh, and Narayana hold first review
- Officials asked to study legal disputes and recruitment issues
- Next meeting to be held in a week after complete assessment

TPN Correspondent |
Amaravati

The Group of Ministers (GoM) formed to review Andhra Pradesh's outsourcing recruitment system has instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to streamline and clean up the APCAS (Andhra Pradesh Corporation for Outsourced Services) system.

Finance Minister Payyavula Ke-

shav, Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and Municipal Administration Minister Dr. P. Narayana held the first meeting of the GoM on Wednesday at the Secretariat's Education Department chamber (Block 4), where a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the existing APCAS structure was given by senior officials.

Officials informed the ministers that 1,07,082 outsourcing

employees are currently working under various departments across the state. Among them, sweepers and public health workers form the largest segment at 28.89%, followed by attendants (9.64%) and data entry operators (9.10%). The ministers asked pointed questions about outsourcing recruitment conducted since 2020 and instructed officials to review all legal disputes associated with the

process. They emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in staffing and expressed concern over the irregularities and system loopholes. The GoM directed that a thorough legal and procedural review be completed and presented along with a clean-up strategy in the next meeting. It was decided that the GoM will reconvene in one week after a full study of the APCAS frame-



work. Senior officials including GAD Special Chief Secretary Shamsheer Singh Rawat, MAUD Chief Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, Finance Secretary D. Ronald Ross, Joint Secretary Gautam Allada, and APCAS MD G. Vasudeva Rao participated in the discussions. The GoM reiterated that the objective is to create a fair, efficient, and legally sound outsourcing system that can effectively serve the needs of the state without exploitation or irregularities.

AP Police Earns National Recognition for Excellence in Passport Verification

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh State Police has been awarded the Certificate of Recognition for 2024-25 by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for outstanding performance in passport application verifications. The recognition was presented during the 13th Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers' Conference 2025, held from June 23-25 in New Delhi, marking the anniversary of the Passport Act of 1967. The AP Police stood out nationally for completing 6.25 lakh Police Verification Reports within a maximum period of three days, making a significant contribution to

the smooth functioning of the passport issuance process in the state. The certificate was received by Ms. A. Ramadevi, IPS, Superintendent of Police (Intelligence), on behalf of the department from Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Pabitra Margherita.

Andhra Pradesh achieved three major awards at the event:

1. Institutional Performance Award (Police)
2. Institutional Performance Award (Postal)
3. Individual Recognition Award

– POPSK, Guntur
– RPO, Vijayawada
This is the second time AP



Police has received this national honour, the first being in 2018-19. The MEA commended the department for its prompt, thorough, and technology-driven verification processes, which have helped boost trust in public service delivery. This achievement is a result of the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who continues to champion efficiency and in-

novation in public service. The Director General of Police, along with the Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence Department), played key roles in coordinating the effort statewide. The award not only celebrates the accomplishment but also serves as a powerful motivator for the AP Police to continue delivering world-class public services.

APCO Employees to Receive 2022 PRC Implementation

**Key Decisions Approved by the Governing Body Meeting
Strategic Action Plan for the Institution's Growth: R.P. Sisodia**



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

As part of the government's ongoing efforts to prioritize employee welfare, the Andhra Pradesh Handlooms Weavers Cooperative Society (APCO) has decided to implement the 2022 Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for its employees. This decision was taken during the governing body meeting held on Wednesday at the APCO central office in Vijayawada, under the chairmanship of R.P. Sisodia, Special Chief Secretary, Handlooms and Textiles Department. The board thoroughly discussed several key issues related to the development of handloom workers and approved vital proposals. Sisodia highlighted that despite the financial challenges faced by APCO, the institution is focused on developing a comprehensive action plan for its growth while addressing employee aspirations. The board has decided to grant revised salaries from now onwards. This move is expected to benefit APCO's permanent employees. Additionally, the board approved a proposal allowing employees to monetize 15 days of earned leave annually. The Managing Director of APCO, Vishwa Manoharan, stat-

ed that the board had endorsed several strategic decisions for APCO's progress. They decided to formulate an action plan based on a report by the Indian Institute of Management, which conducted a study on APCO's operations. Furthermore, it was resolved to release pending dues to cooperative societies. Manoharan also announced plans to modernize APCO's website to promote global sales and stated that products from APCO and Lepakshi would be made available in both institutions' showrooms. The board welcomed this initiative. Commissioner for Handlooms and Textiles, G. Rekha Rani, emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring better wages for handloom workers. The meeting was attended by key members of the governing body, including NABARD AGM Milind Chousalkar, AP-COB CGM Narra Venkat Ratnam, NCDC Regional Director Goswami, and Industries Department Deputy Secretary Neetla Veera Vijaya kumari, who joined online. APCO officials such as GM Nageswara Rao, AGMs Harikrishna, Benahar, Sai Babu, AO Srinivas Rao, and others were also present.

Govt Launches State-Level Training of Trainers Workshop on Assisted Vaginal Births

TPN Correspondent |
Vijayawada

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with Fernandez Foundation and the UNICEF, inaugurated a State Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Assisted Vaginal Births (AVB) today at Hotel GRT Grand, Vijayawada. This initiative marks a significant step towards improving maternal and neonatal outcomes by strengthening clinical competencies in evidence-based birthing techniques. This AVB project is funded by Leardal Foundation, to implement across the AP state over a period of three years. Over two days (25th-26th June 2025), the workshop is bringing together senior obstetricians



from 22 districts of the state to build a pool of master trainers in AVB techniques, including forceps and vacuum delivery. The training is being led by clinical faculty from Fernandez Hospital, Hyderabad, including Dr. Pallavi Chandra Ravula, Dr. Sreedevi Paineni, and Dr. Anitha Reddy. The event was inaugurated by Shri G. Veerapandian, IAS, Commissioner, Health &

Family Welfare, who emphasized the urgent need to reduce unnecessary caesarean sections in the state, which currently stand at 42.4% (NFHS-5)—one of the highest in the country. Dr. Sirisha – Joint Director MH (I/c), also addressed the participants, reinforcing the state's commitment to quality maternal care. Assisted Vaginal Birth (AVB) is recognized as one of the seven signal functions of Basic Emergency Obstetric Care (BEmOC) but has seen declining practice in many health facilities. This ToT aims to revive confidence and clinical proficiency in AVB to safely manage second-stage complications and reduce surgical interventions where avoidable.

The workshop features didactic sessions, skill stations, live demonstrations, and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) to ensure hands-on learning. Post this training, the master trainers will cascade their knowledge at district-level facilities under a mentoring framework supported by Fernandez Foundation and UNICEF. This initiative is a part of the state's broader strategy to promote respectful, physiologic births, reduce maternal morbidity, and integrate midwifery-led care into high-delivery facilities. The event underscores Andhra Pradesh's leadership in maternal health reform through collaborative, skill-focused, and scalable interventions.

Andhra Gears Up for Quantum Revolution with Amaravati Quantum Valley

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh is poised to lead India's quantum technology revolution with the establishment of the Amaravati Quantum Valley, a groundbreaking initiative set to transform industries and create vast opportunities. The curtain-raiser event for a national workshop on quantum technology, scheduled for June 30 in Vijayawada, highlighted the state's ambition to become a global hub for quantum computing. Chief Minister's Secretary Pradyumna and IT Secretary Katamaneni Bhaskar, alongside industry experts like Professor Anil Prabhakar, IBM Director Dr. Amit Singhe, and LTI Mindtree Lead Vijayarau, emphasized the transformative potential of this technol-

ogy. Quantum computing, described as a high-speed, precise process, is already revolutionizing sectors worldwide. Companies like IBM, Google, and Microsoft have developed quantum computers, with research spanning over three decades. Professor Prabhakar, a member of the National Quantum Mission, noted that quantum technology is being applied in drug research, electric vehicle batteries, logistics optimization, stock markets, and cybersecurity. Globally, institutions are adopting quantum cryptography for enhanced security, while India's Qwila project strengthens network and password protection. The Amaravati Quantum Valley, set to launch in January 2026, is part of the National



Quantum Mission and aims to serve as a beacon for innovation. Pradyumna underscored Andhra Pradesh's readiness to spearhead this revolution, citing the state's skilled IT youth and supportive policies. "Our youth have the expertise to lead this quantum revolution. By

seizing this opportunity now, Andhra Pradesh can secure a pivotal role globally," he said. The Quantum Valley will cater to diverse sectors, including education, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and defense, enabling rapid research and product design.

The center will not be limited to Andhra Pradesh but will serve institutions, industries, and governments across India. IBM has signed an agreement to establish logical qubit computers at the Quantum Valley, while TCS and LTI Mindtree are also partners. Dr. Singhe highlighted IBM's plan to develop a large-scale quantum computing system, Starling, by 2029, underscoring the technology's growing importance in logistics, space, finance, and cybersecurity. Vijayarau added that quantum computing, combined with AI, is advancing risk analysis, climate change solutions, and supply chain management.

The Quantum Valley is expected to generate significant employment opportunities, partic-

ularly for startups, and foster collaboration with educational institutions. Bhaskar debunked myths about job losses due to quantum technology, clarifying that it complements traditional computing and addresses complex problems unsolvable in short timeframes. "Quantum computing enhances productivity, paving the way for wealth and prosperity," he said. The upcoming national workshop on June 30, dubbed Quantum Day, will further raise awareness and outline the roadmap for the Quantum Valley. With the nation's eyes on Andhra Pradesh, the state is ready to embrace quantum technology, ensuring it remains at the forefront of global innovation.



TPN | Nagaraju
Kadapa: Gandikota, which has earned a special place in the world tourism sector, is set to gain fresh momentum in its development journey. Situated on the banks of the Penna river in Jammalamadugu taluka of Kadapa district, Gandikota is one of Andhra Pradesh's most popular tourist destinations. The fort here got its name 'Gandikota' due to the picturesque gorge formed between the Erramala mountain range and the flowing Penna river. The area is also known as "Gandi Konda". The narrow valleys, where the river width doesn't exceed 300 feet, offer breathtaking views. The combination of red granite rocks, the serene river, and birdsong adds to the natural charm. Tourists from AP, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka frequently vis-

it, especially during weekends. With its surrounding hills and the scenic Penna River, Gandikota continues to mesmerize visitors. **Gandikota set for transformation:** Now, Gandikota is heading toward major development. The state government is taking concrete steps to enhance its status as a premier tourist destination. In a significant move, the AP Cabinet has approved the allocation of 50 acres for the construction of an Oberoi Hotels & Resorts property. Although representatives from Oberoi had previously visited during the YSRCP regime — including CEO Arjun Singh Oberoi and others — and even laid a foundation stone in the presence of then CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the project did not take off. With the new coalition gov-

ernment in power, fresh interest has been shown in the project. The cabinet has now officially allocated 50 acres in survey numbers 134-1 and 135 of Duttapatnam village in Jammalamadugu mandal. The land was allotted based on a proposal by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC). The upcoming hotel will follow a luxury villa model and offer 7-star amenities to ensure top-tier hospitality for tourists. **Support from the Centre:** The Central Government is also stepping in to support the transformation of Gandikota. The Union Tourism Department is expected to allocate ₹78 crore for its development. Additionally, Union Minister Dr. Pemasani Chandrasekhar has announced the installation of a 100-foot statue of Sri Krishnadevaraya, further enhancing Gandikota's cultural and historical prominence. **Comprehensive development plan:** As part of the Oberoi Hotels project, several facilities are being planned. These include a helipad, resort-style buildings, dedicated viewpoints



for scenic observation, sports grounds, a gym, swimming pool, restaurant, children's play zone, landscaping, lighting, seating arrangements, water jetties in the reservoir, and boating infrastructure. These amenities will enhance Gandikota's tourism appeal and are being developed to international standards. The

Oberoi Group is expected to handle hospitality services, providing tourists with an unforgettable luxury experience. **Employment boost:** The establishment of the Oberoi hotel is also expected to create significant employment. The project is likely to generate direct and indirect job opportunities for 500 to

800 individuals. Moreover, the Oberoi project is seen as a key anchor for further investment in the region. As additional tourism projects follow, even more employment opportunities will emerge, benefitting the local population and boosting the regional economy.

₹94 Cr Akhanda Project Launch Today...

- Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Union Minister Shekhawat to launch project
- Minister Durgesh reviews arrangements with officials

TPN | Ch. Sri
East Godavari: The long-cherished Akhanda Godavari Tourism Project will be officially launched today, June 26, by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and MP Dagubati Purandeswari, announced State Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh. Speaking after reviewing the arrangements at Pushkar Ghat along with Rajahmundry Urban MLA Adireddy Srinivas, the minister said the project would give a major boost to tourism and economic development across the Godavari region. He stated that the reconstruction of the Havelock Bridge and development of Pushkar Ghats would be taken up as part of the ₹94.44 crore project. The plan also includes the transformation of Kadiyam Lanka nurseries into global tourist attractions and the enhancement of the Nidadavolu Kota Sattema Temple for improved tourist access. Minister Durgesh explained that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) had been approved by the Centre and termed



the initiative a people-centric welfare program. "With support from Union Minister Shekhawat, the Akhanda Godavari Basin development will now become a reality," he said. He also announced that the Science Museum at Bommur Centre would be inaugurated and that the foundation stone for a new Forest Academy would be laid tomorrow. MLA Adireddy Srinivas noted that the project fulfills a long-standing dream of the Godavari districts' people, and would not only enhance the region's spiritual and cultural appeal but also boost employment opportunities. "This is a major step toward building the Godavari region into a tourism hub," he said.

The MLA emphasized that low investment in tourism can yield high returns, and urged the media to highlight the initiative's significance. He also proposed a supplementary project titled 'Amrutha Sarovar', with an allocation of ₹3 crore, to prevent contamination of city water sources. Minister Durgesh and officials including District Collector P. Prashanthi, SP D. Narasimha Kishore, and representatives from Revenue, Police, RMC, and Tourism Departments reviewed the on-ground arrangements and expressed confidence that the event would mark a turning point in Godavari region's tourism development.

Drone Surveillance to Track Hooligans Near Colleges in Kadapa

TPN | Nagaraju
Kadapa: In a significant step towards ensuring women's safety, Kadapa District Superintendent of Police E.G. Ashok Kumar has deployed drone surveillance to monitor the activities of hooligans around schools and colleges. The initiative, launched on Wednesday, is being implemented by Shakti teams under direct instructions from the District SP. The Shakti teams, specially formed to protect women and deter harassment in public places, are now using drone cameras to keep a close watch near educational institutions across Kadapa city. This tech-based intervention aims to identify and arrest those involved in

eve-teasing and other anti-social behaviour near girls' colleges and schools. The surveillance initiative has already begun in sensitive zones. Drones are capturing live footage and helping the police zero in on miscreants who may otherwise escape conventional patrols. SP Ashok Kumar emphasized that the police will take strict action against offenders, and drone footage will be used as key evidence. "We want to send a strong message that the safety of women and girls is a top priority, and the Kadapa police will not tolerate harassment in any form," officials said. Officers including Women's Police Station Inspector K. Yellama



Raju, AHTU Inspector Eeduru Basa, Sis Srinivasulu, Shanthamma, and their teams actively participated in the drone surveillance operations. Kadapa police continue to remain vigilant and proactive, encouraging the public to report any suspicious activity and reiterating their commitment to creating a safe environment for women across the district.

Kola Anand Welcomes Kerala BJP Co-in-charge Aparajitha Sarangi at Tirupati

TPN | C Shekar
Tirupati: BJP leader and Srikalahasti Assembly Party Convener Kola Anand extended a warm welcome to Smt. Aparajitha Sarangi, MP and Kerala State BJP Co-in-Charge, upon her arrival at Tirupati International Airport on Wednesday. Smt. Aparajitha Sarangi arrived in Tirupati to attend the Intellectuals' Conference being organized in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, described by BJP leaders as a dark chapter in Indian democracy. The event is being held in Tirupati to reflect on the les-



sons and consequences of the 1975 Emergency. Kola Anand, along with Tirupati District BJP President Samanchi Srinivasulu, received the MP and felicitated her with a traditional Srikalahasti Kalamkari Vastra as a mark of respect. The reception was held at the airport premises

amid chants and greetings by local BJP cadre. Speaking on the occasion, Kola Anand said it was an honour to host a leader of Smt. Aparajitha Sarangi's stature, especially during a symbolic event that reaffirms the BJP's commitment to democratic values and freedom of speech. Also present at the welcome were BJP district officials and workers who expressed enthusiasm about the conference and the role leaders like Aparajitha Sarangi play in guiding the party's outreach efforts across South India.

Admissions Must Rise in Govt Schools: Collector Shyam Prasad

TPN Correspondent | Parvathipuram Manyam
District Collector A. Shyam Prasad on Thursday directed education department officials to intensify the student enrollment drive across the district and ensure a significant rise in admissions to government schools. Addressing a review meeting with education officials and junior college principals at the Collectorate, the

Collector expressed concern over the sharp drop in Class 1 admissions this year. "There are 4,132 fewer Class 1 students compared to last year. This gap must be filled through the enrollment campaign," he emphasized. The Collector instructed that the drive must involve digital assistants, teachers, Panchayat secretaries, Anganwadi supervisors, and VROs, who should actively reach out to communities to

encourage parents to admit their children into government institutions. He pointed out that students who have already joined schools but have not completed online registration must be updated in the system within the next two days. "Every student must be allotted a Permanent Education Number (PEN), which is essential for registration and for availing benefits like the Mother's Salute program," he said.

Shyam Prasad underlined that government schools are now offering better infrastructure, academic standards, and free provisions including textbooks, uniforms, shoes, notebooks, and nutritious mid-day meals. He stated that these advantages should be properly communicated to parents to shift the perception in favor of government schools. He also emphasized the importance

of re-enrolling dropout students and instructed teachers to lead this initiative at the grassroots level. "The Mother's Salute program is a step toward improving student retention and involvement of mothers. Necessary certificates must be obtained for this scheme to be valid," the Collector clarified. The enrollment process, including PEN allocation and awareness efforts, must be completed by July 1st, he said, adding that accountability would be ensured at every level to achieve the targets set for the academic year.

From Emergency to Neo-Emergency: A Democracy Caught Between Memory and Manipulation

As India marks the 50th anniversary of the 1975 Emergency on June 26, 2025, the political atmosphere is thick with symbolism, rhetoric, and irony. What should have been a solemn moment of national reflection has become an arena of political theatre. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), invoking the dark past of the Emergency, has launched a full-throttle campaign against the Congress, declaring June 25 as Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas (Murder of Constitution Day). Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and even President Draupadi Murmu have echoed this line, presenting themselves as the protectors of democracy and constitutional values.

However, critics argue that this commemoration is not about remembering the past but rewriting it. The same government that claims to honour democracy is accused by its opponents of engineering an undeclared "neo-Emergency"—marked by institutional capture, suppression of dissent, and governance by fear. The Congress and the INDIA bloc have responded fiercely, accusing the BJP of exploiting the memory of Emergency to erase opposition, delegitimise dissent, and entrench authoritarianism.



Historically, the 1975 Emergency was a dark time. Declared by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, it suspended civil liberties and fundamental rights. Opposition leaders, including Jayaprakash Narayan (JP), were jailed. JP—an icon of moral courage and democratic integrity—emerged as a beacon of resistance. His peaceful defiance and the subsequent electoral ouster of the Congress in 1977 restored

India's democratic pride.

Today, as the ruling regime commemorates that resistance, critics question whether it truly honours those ideals. The irony is stark: those condemning past authoritarianism are accused of imposing a similar regime now—though more sophisticated and silent in its operation. Unlike the overt censorship and mass arrests of 1975,

today's repression is more veiled—enabled by pliant institutions, weakened opposition, surveillance, and polarised media.

The promise of Indian democracy was rooted in the Constitution, which begins with the collective voice: "We, the People of India..."—committing to justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. But in today's climate, these

ideals are fraying. Justice is inaccessible to the common citizen, liberty is compromised, equality is replaced by widening economic and social disparities, and fraternity is under siege due to growing hate and polarisation.

Voices from the past like Rabin-drath Tagore and Subramanya Bharati envisioned a fearless India. Their dreams remain unfulfilled as a fearful silence grips citizens and institutions alike. Leadership today is stifled—by politics, by bureaucracy, even by academia. Youthful dissent is extinguished before it can mature, and political parties, obsessed with power and loyalty, reward mediocrity over merit.

Yet, despite this gloom, there are flickers of resistance—individuals of courage and conscience who move quietly, preparing for a new dawn. These figures, though in silhouette now, may one day emerge to rebuild a democratic India. As we remember the Emergency of 1975, we must also recognise the neo-Emergency of 2025. The struggle for democracy is not over; it is simply being waged in new forms. The challenge before us is not just to remember history—but to resist the repeating of it.



Skill India at a Crossroads: Leadership Crisis, Mismanagement, and a Shrinking Demographic Window

Against a backdrop of factories and promise, the Skill India logo symbolizes a national ambition: to empower India's vast youth population with employable skills. But despite this vision, the country's skill development ecosystem is plagued by leadership failures, financial opacity, and misaligned priorities—at a time when the urgency to act has never been greater.

Vocational education in India is largely financed by the government, with minimal participation from the formal private sector. Yet the outcomes remain dismal. Most Indian youth, after receiving a lack-luster school education, are either absorbed into the informal sector as unpaid trainees or funneled into the sprawling but underperforming government skill ecosystem.

There are five principal avenues for vocational training: the roughly 14,000 Industrial Training Institutes (mostly private), optional vocational courses in secondary school, short-term government-funded programs like the Prime Minister's Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), schemes under other ministries such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, and finally, public-private apprenticeship programs.

The PMKVY, managed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)—a public-private partnership under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)—has come under increasing scrutiny. Over ₹10,000 crore has been spent on Skill India initiatives so far, with a substantial share routed through NSDC. However, the organization's leadership vacuum has raised serious concerns. Key roles like CEO and Chairperson remained vacant for years, and in 2025, NSDC's officiating CEO Ved Mani Tiwari was abruptly terminated after allegations of unauthorized title usage—casting a shadow over the credibility and seriousness of the

program.

Worse, NSDC has become opaque since 2021, launching a new entity—NSDC International—without clear cabinet approval or public transparency. It is unclear what unique role this subsidiary plays, given its parent's similar mandate. Its financial reports are not publicly available, raising questions about oversight and accountability in the use of public funds.

Earlier, in 2015, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had flagged serious operational lapses within NSDC. Since then, public audits and internal reviews have been largely withheld. Changes in accounting methodology under Tiwari's tenure also warrant close examination—were they aimed at enhancing transparency, or simply improving optics?

NSDC has also invested significantly in technology platforms like ASEEM and SMART, yet India still lacks a fully functional Labour Market Information System (LMIS). Ironically, this critical task may now fall to the Ministry of Labour via its National Career Service portal. Meanwhile, Skill India platforms duplicate functionalities without solving the core problem: generating reliable, real-time labour market data.

Despite the Union Budget for 2025–26 allocating ₹36,000 crore to skill development—up from ₹20,000 crore—the results remain underwhelming. NSDC's 6,000+ short-term training partners under PMKVY have produced a long-term employability rate of just 22%. India's demographic advantage is fading fast. By 2040, the window closes, and the country enters the phase of an aging population. The rise of artificial intelligence will further disrupt the job market, making it critical that India's youth are adequately skilled.

Bihar's Dalit Vote Fragmented Identity, Missed Opportunities, and the Struggle for Political Empowerment



Bihar's political landscape has long been framed by the rhetoric of social justice—a legacy born from the 1970s 'Total Revolution' led by Jaiprakash Narayan. This transformative movement gave rise to a generation of leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, and Ram Vilas Paswan, and promised empowerment for the marginalised, particularly the Dalits or Scheduled Castes, who constitute nearly 20% of the state's population. Yet, five decades later, the Dalit community continues to be shackled by economic deprivation, social exclusion, and political fragmentation.

Unlike Uttar Pradesh, where the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) unified Dalits under an Ambedkarite identity, Bihar's Dalit vote is deeply splintered. The three largest Dalit sub-castes—Chamars (31.3%), Paswans (30.9%), and Musahars (13.9%)—exhibit divergent political loyalties, diluting their collective bargaining power. This lack of unity has prevented the emergence of a cohesive Dalit political force capable of challenging entrenched social hierarchies.

In the 1990s, Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) garnered substantial Dalit support by emphasizing dignity, representation, and resistance to upper-caste dominance. However, Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) disrupted this alignment by crafting the 'Mahadalit' category, which excluded influential groups like the Paswans and focused on smaller, more marginalised sub-castes. This reconfiguration allowed him to target welfare schemes more strategically and create a new leadership base, most notably Jitan Ram Manjhi, who later formed the Hindustani Awam

Morcha (HAM).

Meanwhile, Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) claims to represent Paswan interests. However, both HAM and LJP have aligned with larger coalitions like the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), often limiting their ability to advocate independently for Dalit concerns. Personal rivalries and public spats between leaders like Manjhi and Paswan have further fractured Dalit solidarity.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in alliance with JD(U), has adeptly exploited these divisions. It has extended a blend of cultural nationalism, welfare initiatives, and strategic symbolism—integrating Dalit icons into its Hindutva narrative. This approach has helped it secure a segment of the Dalit vote, especially through partnerships with leaders like Manjhi and Paswan.

On the other hand, the RJD-Congress-led Mahagathbandhan has attempted to reignite Dalit support by advocating for policies like the caste census and showcasing Dalit icons like Dashrath Manjhi. However, their failure to elevate significant Dalit voices within their ranks has hampered trust and credibility. Interestingly, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, which won 12 of 19 seats it contested in the last Assembly election, is gaining traction among Dalits disillusioned with mainstream parties, though its influence remains regionally limited. The socio-economic challenges facing Dalits are staggering. A recent caste survey revealed widespread landlessness, institutional underrepresentation, and persistent caste discrimination.

No Indian will ever forget manner in which spirit of Constitution was violated

PM Modi on Emergency

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described it as one of the darkest periods in India's democratic history, stating that no Indian will ever forget how the Constitution was violated and Parliament silenced.

In a series of posts on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on June 25, 2025, PM Modi said the imposition of the Emergency in 1975 represented a deliberate attack on the Indian Constitution and democratic principles. He referred to the day as "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" (Constitution Murder Day).

"Fundamental rights were suspended, press freedom was crushed, and thousands — including political leaders, activists, students, and ordinary citizens — were jailed. It was as if the government of the day had



imprisoned democracy itself," Modi wrote.

He highlighted the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, brought during the Emergency, as a stark example of how power was mis-

used. This amendment made sweeping changes that were later reversed by the Janata Party government. The Prime Minister also emphasized the suffering of the poor, marginalized, and downtrodden,

who he said were especially targeted and humiliated during the Emergency.

Paying tribute to those who fought against authoritarian rule, he said: "We salute every person who resisted the Emergency. People from all walks of life and across political ideologies united to protect democracy."

Modi recalled his own experience during that time, saying, "When the Emergency was imposed, I was a young RSS Pracharak, and the anti-Emergency movement became a valuable learning experience for me."

Reaffirming his government's commitment, he concluded, "We must continue to uphold the principles of the Constitution and work towards building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India), ensuring dignity and justice for all."



Bypoll victories were semifinals for 2027

Assembly polls in Punjab, Gujarat: Arvind Kejriwal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday (June 25, 2025) described the party's recent victories in the Punjab and Gujarat Assembly bypolls as a "semifinal" ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, declaring that AAP is on the path to forming governments in both states.

Kejriwal was speaking at a celebratory event following the AAP's twin wins in Visavadar (Gujarat) and Ludhiana West (Punjab). He congratulated Gopal Italia, the winning candidate from Gujarat, and Sanjeev Arora, who secured the Punjab seat, thanking voters for their support.

"These bypoll results show that people are rejecting both BJP and Congress. In Punjab, we have been in power for three years. There's no anti-incumbency — in fact, people are supporting us more. We won 92 seats in 2022, and in 2027, we will cross 100," Kejriwal said.

Turning to Gujarat, Kejriwal asserted that the BJP's popularity is declining and the Congress offers no real alternative. "People were looking for change, and they now see hope in AAP. We are committed to clean politics, and we are fighting against a corrupt system. The top Congress leadership is working hand-in-hand with the BJP," he alleged.

Kejriwal confidently declared that AAP would form the next government in Gujarat in 2027. He emphasized that the bypoll results indicate a shift in public sentiment and growing trust in AAP's governance model. The twin victories come as a significant morale boost for AAP, strengthening its position as a rising national political force.



DMK Launches 45-Day 'Oraniyil Tamil Nadu' Campaign to Challenge Centre Over State Rights and Keeladi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a bold political move, the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu has announced a 45-day statewide campaign titled 'Oraniyil Tamil Nadu' (Tamil Nadu in One), aimed at highlighting what it calls the Union Government's continued "betrayal" of the state. The campaign, to be flagged off by Chief Minister and party president M.K. Stalin on July 1, will formally begin on July 3. Covering all 234 assembly constituencies, the campaign will start simultaneously from Palaverkadu to Kanyakumari and Anaikattai to Nagapattinam. It will focus on key issues including the Centre's non-recognition of the Keeladi archaeological findings and the withholding of education-related funds.

Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, who is spearheading the effort, accused the Union Government of systematically eroding Tamil Nadu's rights while the DMK government continues to deliver on its promises. "The Keeladi excavations reveal the deep cultural and civilizational roots of Tamil Nadu, yet the Centre refuses to acknowledge their significance," he said. He also criticized the lack of adequate central funding for the state's education sector.

Described as a "first-of-its-kind" outreach, the campaign aims to connect with two crore households through door-to-door visits, public rallies, and meetings. A state-wide membership drive—including new enrolments and renewals—will be conducted in parallel. On June 27 and 28, DMK representatives from all constituencies will train booth-level agents to ensure grassroots mobilisation. Rajaa also took a jab at opposition parties, stating they lack both infrastructure and outreach compared to DMK's strong cadre network and digital capabilities.

Operation Sindhu: IAF evacuates 224 more Indians from Israel, total reaches 818

In response to the escalating conflict in the Middle East, the Government of India has intensified efforts to safely evacuate Indian nationals and citizens of friendly nations, including those from Nepal and Sri Lanka, under Operation Sindhu. The large-scale repatriation operation is being coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The first successful evacuation flight under Operation Sindhu took off from Amman, Jordan on Monday, June 23. On Tuesday morning, the flight landed in New Delhi, carrying 161 Indian citizens who had been stranded in war-hit Israel.

Later the same day, a second flight arrived from Sharm el-



Sheikh, Egypt, with 286 Indian nationals who had been residing in Israel. These repatriations mark a significant step in India's ongoing mission to ensure the safety of its citizens abroad during the ongoing crisis.

Alongside the evacuations from Israel, a parallel operation has

been underway in Iran, where rising regional tensions have also endangered foreign nationals. According to the MEA, a total of 2,858 Indian nationals have been successfully evacuated from Iran so far. These efforts underscore India's proactive approach in safeguarding its diaspora during times of international turmoil.

The MEA has confirmed that evacuation operations will continue in coordination with various international agencies and partner governments. Special efforts are being made to ensure the safety of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly.

The Indian government has also extended evacuation assistance to nationals of friendly countries, reinforcing its commitment to regional cooperation and humanitarian support.

With the situation in the Middle East remaining volatile, Operation Sindhu stands as a testament to India's readiness and resolve in protecting its citizens abroad.

Shubhanshu Shukla Becomes Second Indian in Space, Heads to ISS on Axiom-4 Mission

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has marked a historic moment in space exploration as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force launched aboard the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The launch took place on June 25, 2025, from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida — the same iconic site from which Apollo 11 began its journey to the Moon in 1969.

Group Captain Shukla becomes the second Indian to travel to space, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma who flew as part of a Soviet mission in 1984. Shukla has undergone rigorous training and spent more than a month in quarantine to ensure mission safety and health readiness.

The four-member Axiom-4 crew also includes Commander Peggy Whitson from the United States — a seasoned astronaut, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland, and Tibor Kapu of Hungary. The mission, which faced multiple delays due to weather and technical conditions, is now in full swing, with docking at the ISS



expected around 4:30 PM IST on June 26, after a 28-hour journey in orbit.

During their two-week mission, the crew will conduct 60 scientific experiments, including seven proposed by Indian researchers. These studies aim to advance

research in microgravity across domains like human physiology, material science, and Earth observation.

Before liftoff, Group Captain Shukla delivered an emotional message: "I carry with me not just instruments and equipment,

but the hopes and dreams of a billion hearts." He also sent a note to his family: "Just wait for me, I'm coming."

The Axiom-4 mission stands as a testament to India's growing presence in space exploration, reigniting national pride and scientific ambition.

"It's Done": Indian Origin Democrat Zohran Mamdani Wins New York Mayoral Primary

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a major political upset, Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old Indian-origin Muslim and self-described socialist, has won the Democratic primary for Mayor of New York City, defeating former Governor Andrew Cuomo. According to the latest vote counts, Mamdani secured 43.5% of the vote, while Cuomo trailed with 36.3%.

Mamdani, the son of acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair and renowned Ugandan-Indian Marxist scholar Mahmood Mamdani, thanked his supporters in a heartfelt message on social media. Quoting Nelson Mandela, he wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "It always seems impossible until it's done. My friends, it is done. And you are the ones who did it. I am honoured to be your Democratic nominee for the Mayor of New York City."

The primary field featured nearly a dozen candidates vying to lead the largest city in the United States, where registered Democrats vastly outnumber Re-



publicans. Despite a scorching heatwave on election day, voter turnout remained strong, though final results may take time to certify. Mamdani's grassroots campaign was powered by youthful energy, social media savvy, and a platform focused on affordable housing, public transportation reform, and equity for marginalized communities. His candidacy

was endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America, energizing New York's progressive base.

In contrast, Andrew Cuomo, a centrist with strong establishment backing from figures like former President Bill Clinton, had led in early polls. However, his past controversies—including sexual harassment allegations

and criticism over his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic—seemed to weigh heavily on voters.

Mamdani's victory reflects a significant shift in the city's political landscape, signaling a rising appetite for progressive leadership and transformational change in one of the world's most influential urban centers.



Pakistan Court Rejects Imran Khan's Bail in May 9 Riots Cases

A Pakistani court on Tuesday dismissed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's petitions for post-arrest bail in eight terrorism cases linked to the violent protests of May 9, 2023. The decision marks another legal setback for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, who has been incarcerated for nearly two years on multiple charges.

The cases stem from widespread violence that erupted following Khan's dramatic arrest by paramilitary Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises. The protests led to attacks on several government and military facilities, allegedly incited by Khan and his supporters.

The eight cases in which bail was denied include high-profile incidents such as:

- The Jinnah House attack
- The Askari Tower assault
- The burning of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office
- The arson of the Shadman police station

Authorities accuse Khan of inciting unrest and enabling these violent acts. His legal team, however, argues that the cases are politically motivated and intends to challenge the Lahore High Court's ruling in the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, PTI has raised serious concerns over Khan's treatment in jail. The party claims that the former prime minister is being kept in solitary confinement and that electricity to his prison cell has been cut, which they describe as a violation of basic human rights.

Imran Khan, once Pakistan's most powerful civilian leader, has faced increasing legal pressure and political isolation since his ouster in 2022. The May 9 riots have become a focal point in the government's crackdown on PTI, resulting in hundreds of arrests and ongoing trials. Khan's legal battles continue to shape the country's volatile political landscape as the PTI fights to remain relevant amid mounting challenges.

Axiom-4 Mission Cleared for Launch: India, Poland, and Hungary Return to Human Spaceflight

TPN Correspondent | Dubai

SpaceX has confirmed that all systems are "go" for the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS), with Dragon's hatch secured, suit and communication checks complete, and the four-member crew ready for liftoff. The launch is scheduled for 2:31 AM EDT (12:01 PM IST) on June 25, from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The Ax-4 mission, a collaborative effort by NASA, Axiom Space, and SpaceX, marks the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS. It is a landmark mission for India, Poland, and Hungary, each of which is sending astronauts to space



for the first time in over four decades.

Commanding the mission is veteran American astronaut Peggy Whitson, who holds the record for the most time spent in space

by any American. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force will serve as the mission's pilot, representing ISRO. Mission specialists include ESA astronaut Sławosz Uznanski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary. All four astronauts remain in pre-launch quarantine in Florida.

Originally scheduled for June 22, the launch was delayed to ensure ISS readiness following repairs to the Zvezda service module. Agencies have emphasized the historic nature of this mission, highlight-

ing the strengthened global partnerships in space exploration.

The Ax-4 mission includes 60 scientific studies spanning 31 countries, making it the most research-intensive mission Axiom has conducted to date. These studies focus on microgravity research, human health, biological sciences, and Earth observation, showcasing international cooperation and scientific ambition.

Axiom Space described the mission as a "return to human spaceflight" for the three participating nations, reinforcing their commitment to developing national space programs and contributing meaningfully to future space exploration.

Indian Army Participates in Multinational Exercise 'Khaan Quest 2025' in Mongolia

TPN Correspondent | Cameroon

The Indian Army is actively taking part in the 22nd edition of the multinational military exercise 'Khaan Quest 2025', held from June 14 to June 28 at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This prestigious event is co-hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, with troops from 24 countries training together under the United Nations peacekeeping framework.

The Indian contingent comprises 40 personnel, mainly from a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment, supported by troops from various arms and services. Notably, the team includes one woman officer and two women soldiers, reflecting the Indian Army's dedication to gender inclusivity.

'Khaan Quest 2025' focuses on enhancing interoperability, counter-IED operations, and civil-military coordination, underlining



India's commitment to global peacekeeping and strengthening defence ties with Mongolia. The exercise also builds on the momentum of the recent Nomadic Elephant 2025 bilateral drill.

On June 18, the Indian contingent delivered a standout performance by clocking the fastest timing in the obstacle course among all participating nations. From sandbag carries to tire flips, the team showcased not only physical endurance but also team spirit, resilience, and camaraderie.

The Indian Army shared visuals and updates from the ground through its official handles, stating that the exercise promotes collaboration and synergy in multinational peacekeeping operations.

Originally started in 2003 as a bilateral event, 'Khaan Quest' evolved into a major multinational peacekeeping training exercise from 2006 onward. With its participation, the Indian Army reaffirms its role as a key player in global peace and stability, in alignment with UN Chapter VII mandates.

Explosive Attack in Gaza Kills 7 Israeli Soldiers; Conflict Death Toll Surges

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Seven Israeli soldiers were killed on Tuesday in southern Gaza's Khan Younis when an armoured military vehicle was hit by an explosive device, according to an Israeli military official. Six of the soldiers' names have been released to the public, while the identity of one remains confidential.

This marks one of the deadliest single incidents for Israeli forces in Gaza. Since the war erupted following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, more than 860 Israeli soldiers have been killed, with over 400 deaths occurring during ground operations inside Gaza.

Also on Tuesday, another Israeli soldier was seriously wounded by gunfire in the Khan Younis region. Meanwhile, Hamas's military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, claimed responsibility for an ambush in the area, stating that its fighters targeted Israeli soldiers hiding in a residential building using a Yassin 105 missile followed by another explosive strike. They also claimed to have used machine guns to attack the building. It remains unclear whether this was the same incident as the armoured vehicle explosion.

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, the Palestinian death toll has now exceeded 56,000 since Israel launched its military re-



sponse, including 5,759 deaths since March 18, when hostilities resumed after a brief ceasefire. The ministry reports that more than half of the deceased are women and children. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants.

Israel maintains that it targets only militants, blaming Hamas for civilian casualties due to their operations within densely populated areas. Israel claims to have killed over 20,000 Hamas fighters, though this figure remains unverified.

In a separate incident on Wednesday, Israeli police launched an investigation into the death of a woman from east Jerusalem who arrived fatally wounded at a checkpoint.

This ongoing conflict continues to claim lives on both sides, with no clear end in sight.

Markets Rally on Fed Rate Cut Hopes and Geopolitical Easing; Sensex Jumps 700 Points, Nifty Reclaims 25,244

Domestic stock markets gained heavily on Wednesday. Benchmark indices rose on positive signals from global markets. US Fed Chair Jerome Powell's signal that he would cut interest rates in the future also contributed to this. With this, IT, pharma and healthcare shares gained. On the other hand, the cessation of the Israel-Iran war also helped. Overall, the Nifty 200 and the Sensex rose by 700 points. The Nifty closed at 25,244.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,055 in the previous session, opened at 82,448 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 82,339. It reached an intraday high of 82,815. It finally closed at 82,755 with a gain of 700 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,150, touched a low of 25,125 and a high of 25,266. It rose 200 points to settle at 25,244. The Bank Nifty rose 159 points to settle at 56,621.

In the Nifty50, 41 companies gained while 9 lost. Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, Grasim, and Infi were the top gainers. BEL, Kotak Bank, Eicher Motors, ONGC, and Axis Bank were the biggest losers. Today, media, IT, healthcare, consumer durables, auto, FMCG, pharma, realty, finance, and metal indices rose the most. The private bank index rose slightly.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2990 stocks traded, 135 gained and 776 lost. 51 shares touched their 52-week high and 23 shares touched their 52-week low. 106 shares reached the upper circuit and 45 shares reached the lower circuit.

By the end of the market, HDB



Financial Services IPO received a response of 0.29 times on the first day. Nuama has given a buy rating to Lalpath Lab with a target price of Rs. 3440. Sambhav Steel IPO received a response of 0.47 times on the first day in the afternoon. Tata Technologies collaborates with Amazon Web Services. KNR Construction has won an order worth Rs. 4801 crore for the development of a coal mining block in Jharkhand. Jefferies has retained a buy rating on JSW Energy with a target price of Rs 700. Himadri Specialty Chemicals has acquired a 16.24% stake in International Battery Company. InterGlobe Aviation's market value increased from 64.1% to 64.6% in April. Kalpataru IPO received a response of 0.31 times on the second day in the afternoon. Reliance Defense Company received an order worth Rs 600 crore from a German defense company. Keynes Technology raised Rs 1600 crore by allotting 28.72 lakh shares under the QIP method.

Max Healthcare Institute Ltd.

Max Healthcare delivered a strong performance in Q4 FY25, with net profit rising 21% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹376 crore. Gross revenue grew 29% to ₹2,429 crore, driven by robust growth across its hospitals and healthcare services. EBITDA also increased by 26%



to ₹632 crore. Max Healthcare is in an expansion mode, planning to invest ₹6,000 crore by 2028 to add 3,700 beds, aiming for around 30 hospitals by then. The company's focus on higher occupancy, increasing average revenue per occupied bed (ARPOB), and inflow of international patients are key drivers for future growth.

Titan Company Ltd.

Titan reported a solid Q4 FY25, with a 10.7% YoY increase in consolidated net profit to ₹870 crore and operational revenues rising by 19.7% YoY to ₹13,477 crore. The jewellery business posted a 25% jump in revenue, while watches and wearables saw a 20% uptick. Titan is expected to continue benefiting from robust demand trends, particularly in the jewellery segment, despite elevated global gold prices. Macquarie reiterated an 'Outperform' rating with a target price of ₹4,150, citing a bright jewellery outlook and improving profitability.



TVS Motor Company Ltd.

TVS Motor reported a strong Q4 FY25, with consolidated net profit jumping 68% YoY to ₹648.1 crore, and revenue from operations rising 16% to ₹11,542 crore. Both



two-wheeler and three-wheeler sales, including exports, grew by 14% to 12.16 lakh units in Q4. TVS Motor's consistent growth across segments, including electric vehicles, positions it well in the competitive auto market. Indicating confidence in its continued performance. The company's focus on product innovation and expanding market reach (including exports) are expected to sustain its momentum.

JSW Steel Ltd.

JSW Steel achieved its highest-ever crude steel production of 27.791 million tonnes and saleable steel sales of 26.452 million tonnes in FY25. For Q4 FY25, crude steel production was 7.633 million tonnes (up 12% YoY), and saleable steel sales were 7.49 million tonnes (up 11% YoY). JSW Steel's future outlook is positive, driven by strong domestic demand, particularly from the government's continued capital expenditure push. The company aims to increase its domestic crude steel production capacity to 37 MT by 2025.



Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd. (JFL)

Jubilant FoodWorks, the operator of Domino's Pizza in India, reported a significant 76.86% drop in net profit for Q4 FY25 to ₹48 crore, despite a 33.6% revenue increase to ₹2,103 crore. While the Q4 profit drop raises concerns, the company's robust revenue growth, driven by new store openings (52 new Domino's outlets in Q4 alone), increasing order volumes, and a growing loyalty program (33.7 million members), indicates underlying demand strength. JFL is focused on profitable growth for Domino's, aiming to expand its network to over 5,500 stores in the geographies it operates.



S&P Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5%

Cites Domestic Resilience and Favorable Global Conditions



S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 upward to 6.5%, citing supportive domestic conditions and a favorable external environment. The forecast aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) earlier projection and assumes a normal monsoon, lower global crude oil prices, income tax concessions, and monetary policy easing.

This revision comes just a month after S&P had downgraded India's FY26 estimate to 6.3%, largely due to concerns over global uncertainties and potential economic shocks from new U.S. tariffs. However, improved domestic indicators and stabilizing global energy markets have prompted the agency to adopt a more optimistic view.

India, which imports about 90% of its crude oil and roughly half of its natural gas, is highly sensitive to global energy price fluctuations. S&P acknowledged the escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly the recent U.S. military strikes on Iran's key nuclear sites following Israeli counterattacks. While these developments could

raise the risk of sustained oil price hikes, S&P believes current global oil markets are well-supplied, minimizing the chances of a long-term energy price shock.

The report further highlights India's resilient domestic demand, which plays a critical role in cushioning the economy from external shocks. Unlike export-heavy economies, India's reliance on internal consumption and services has made its economic outlook comparatively more stable.

S&P also warned of broader global risks, especially the ripple effects of U.S. trade policies and rising geopolitical instability. "The increase in U.S. import tariffs and the uncertainty surrounding them could weigh on global trade, investment, and overall growth," the report noted.

Despite these external headwinds, India's economy is expected to maintain momentum, driven by structural reforms, fiscal incentives, and stable macroeconomic fundamentals. As the world navigates volatile conditions, India's internal strengths are likely to be the cornerstone of its growth in FY26.

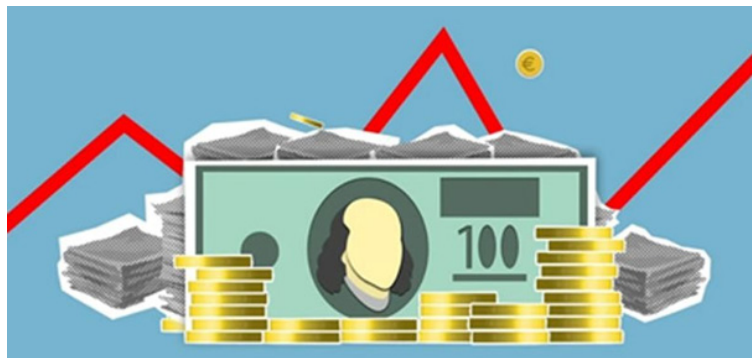
India Set to See 55% Surge in Millionaires by 2029, Outpaces Asia-Pacific Growth: BCG Report

India is witnessing a significant rise in its millionaire population, with the number of individuals holding over USD 1 million in financial wealth expected to grow by 55% between 2024 and 2029, far surpassing the global average of 21%, according to a Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report released on June 25, 2025.

The report highlights India's accelerating momentum as a wealth management powerhouse, driven by a new generation of first-time wealth creators, including millennial entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and digital economy pioneers. This surge reflects a seismic transformation in India's financial landscape and positions the country at the forefront of global wealth expansion.

"India's wealth management market is undergoing rapid transformation," said Mayank Jha, Managing Director and Partner at BCG. "With financial wealth growing at 10.8% between 2023 and 2024—surpassing the Asia-Pacific (APAC) average of 7.3%—India is reshaping the global financial narrative."

Globally, financial wealth reached a record USD 305 trillion in 2024, propelled by an 8.1% increase in financial assets, largely fueled by strong equity market performance. In the Asia-Pacific region, Asset Under Management (AUM) saw organic growth of 50% from 2014



to 2024, more than double that of Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), and North America—primarily due to emerging economies like India.

According to BCG, India's continued rise will be powered by AI and GenAI-driven wealth advisory solutions, with firms needing to focus on customer segmentation, personalized services, and digital transformation to stay competitive.

BCG's Michael Kahlich added that the firms seeing the highest growth today are not just reliant on market exposure or hiring top bankers, but are those investing in advisor enablement, brand identity, and next-gen client strategies.

India's expanding pool of high-net-worth individuals signals not only rising prosperity but also an opportunity for global financial institutions to tap into a thriving and digitally evolving wealth ecosystem.

Adani Airports Secures \$1 Billion Financing for Mumbai International Airport Modernisation

Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has successfully raised \$1 billion in project financing for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), marking a major milestone in India's airport infrastructure sector.

The financing includes a \$750 million bond issuance maturing in July 2029, aimed at refinancing existing obligations. An additional \$250 million provision is included in the structure, offering flexibility for future capital needs. This is India's first private investment-grade bond issuance in the airport sector and is expected to be rated BBB-/Stable.

"This successful issuance validates the strength of the Adani Airports' operating platform, the robust fundamentals of Mumbai International Airport, and our commitment to sustainable infrastructure development," said Arun Bansal, CEO of Adani Airports Holdings Ltd.

The capital raised will be used to support MIAL's development and modernisation plans, including capacity expansion, digitisation, and technology integration. The funding will also help accelerate the airport's sustainability initiatives, supporting its goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2029.

The transaction saw strong participation from



global institutional investors, including Apollo-managed funds, BlackRock, Standard Chartered, and other leading insurance companies. This highlights growing international confidence in India's infrastructure growth story and the credibility of Adani's airport operating model.

"This deal reflects our ability to attract diversified, high-quality global capital and reinforces our financial discipline and long-term value creation strategy," Bansal added.

The issuance follows AAHL's recent \$750 million financing round from a consortium of global banks and reaffirms Adani Group's growing access to international capital markets. Incorporated in 2019, AAHL is now India's largest private airport operator and continues to lead transformation efforts across the country's aviation infrastructure.

YouTuber Sparks Debate With Eerie 2025–1941 Calendar Parallels Amid Global Turmoil

A viral video series by YouTuber Akuldeep Singhanian has sparked intense discussion online, drawing unsettling comparisons between the year 2025 and the historically grim year of 1941. As global crises mount—from the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam—many are beginning to question whether history is eerily repeating itself.

Singhanian’s videos suggest that the calendars for 2025 and 1941 are strikingly similar, with identical dates, weekdays, and weekends. He claims this parallel might explain why 2025 feels “cursed,” pointing to how 1941 was one of the bloodiest years in modern history, marred by World War II atrocities, global instability, and large-scale loss of life.

As tensions flare in the Middle East between Israel and Iran, and Indo-Pakistani relations deteriorate further following fresh violence, many viewers have resonated with Singhanian’s theory. His videos have garnered millions of views, sparking debate not just about calendar oddities, but about whether humanity is ignoring the lessons of the past.

Adding to the intrigue, Singhanian also touches on the ancient 13-month calendar systems used in some early civilizations, which he claims offered more balanced timekeeping but were abandoned for political and religious reasons. He implies that today’s 12-month Gregorian system may be spiritually or energetically flawed.

While many experts dismiss these theories as pseudoscience or coincidence, they’ve clearly tapped into a growing sense of unease in 2025.

With six months still left in the year, and global crises mounting, viewers are left to wonder: is this just pattern recognition—or something more ominous?



Woman Wears Makeup Daily for 22 Years, Suffers Severe Skin Damage



A Chinese woman’s shocking skincare journey has gone viral after she revealed the devastating effects of wearing makeup every single day for 22 years—without ever properly removing it. Known online as Niuyoumian, the 37-year-old from China’s Jilin province shared her painful story, drawing attention to the long-term risks of poor skincare and heavy cosmetic use.

In a video widely circulated on social media, Niuyoumian appears with visibly inflamed, red, and swollen skin—symptoms of what she refers to as “hormone face,” a chronic skin condition caused by prolonged exposure to cosmetic chemicals and inadequate cleansing routines.

According to South China Morning Post, her skin problems began as early as age 14 after using an unsuitable acne cream. By 15, she was wearing makeup daily and continued the habit for over two decades. Working in the beauty and hair industry, she was also regularly exposed to strong salon chemicals. Using inexpensive, low-quality foundations only worsened her condition.

Despite suffering early signs like redness and itching, she ignored them. “I thought it could be fixed with some ointment,” she admitted. “But after 25, everything changed.”

Niuyoumian eventually turned to facial injections in 2011, hoping to improve her skin. However, these treatments backfired, further damaging her complexion. She has since been diagnosed with rosacea and Demodex mite infestations. “At its worst, it felt like ants crawling on my face,” she said.

Reflecting on her journey, she acknowledged that her impatience and constant switching of skincare products only made things worse. Now, with nearly 30,000 followers, she urges others: “Don’t blindly trust beauty products just because someone else says they work.”

Her experience has sparked widespread discussion online about responsible makeup use, the importance of proper skincare, and the hidden costs of beauty standards.

From Village Craft to Global Catwalk: Kolhapuri Chappals Shine on Prada Runway

Once a staple of rural Maharashtra, the iconic Kolhapuri chappal has now taken center stage in global fashion. In a remarkable nod to Indian craftsmanship, the traditional hand-made leather footwear made a stunning appearance at Prada’s Spring/Summer 2026 menswear show in Milan.



Held at the prestigious Deposito of the Fondazione Prada, the event featured models walking the runway in Kolhapuri chappals paired with sleek, modern ensembles. The juxtaposition of the rustic charm of these age-old sandals with high-fashion silhouettes created a moment that fashion watchers are calling both bold and respectful.

Kolhapuri chappals originated centuries ago in the town of Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Designed to endure the harsh, sweltering heat of the region, the sandals are crafted using locally sourced leather and eco-conscious tanning methods. Artisans traditionally tan the leather using vegetable-based dyes and natural oils, ensuring the process remains environmentally sustainable.

What makes Kolhapuris unique is their hand-crafted precision—often involving families of cobblers who have passed the skills down through generations. Each pair carries a story

of tradition, heritage, and regional pride.

The Prada show’s inclusion of these sandals is being hailed as a significant step forward for Indian artisan representation in luxury fashion. While Indian textiles and embroidery have long influenced global designers, footwear rarely receives this level of attention.

Fashion critics and cultural commentators have praised Prada’s move as a celebration of authentic craftsmanship, not just a passing trend. With this global spotlight, Kolhapuri chappals are poised for a major resurgence—not just as summer staples in Indian homes, but as statement pieces in closets worldwide.

As the fashion world turns its eyes toward more sustainable, rooted design choices, the Kolhapuri chappal may finally be stepping into the global limelight it has long deserved.

Could Earth Be Ejected From the Solar System? New Study Reveals Alarming Possibility

A new scientific study has sparked global curiosity—and a bit of concern—about the long-term stability of our planet within the solar system. According to research published in the journal *Icarus*, Earth could one day be ejected into deep space or spiral into the Sun, all due to the gravitational effects of passing stars.

The study, conducted by astronomers Nathan Kaib and Sean Raymond, explored the influence of “field stars”—stars that may pass close to our solar system—on the orbits of planets over billions of years. Using thousands of advanced computer simulations, the researchers found that the solar system is significantly less stable than previously believed.

If a star with a mass similar to our Sun passes within 10,000 astronomical units (about 1.5 trillion kilometers), it could disturb the Oort Cloud, a vast shell of icy objects at the outer edge of the solar system. This could trigger orbital instability across the planetary lineup, including Earth.

The study highlights that Mercury’s orbit could become unstable with a 50–80% increased risk, potentially causing catastrophic gravitational chain reactions. Such events could redirect Venus or Mars into collision paths with Earth or even hurl our planet toward Jupiter, whose strong gravitational pull could eject Earth entirely from the solar system.

Although the likelihood remains low—just 0.2% over the next five billion years—the findings challenge the long-held belief that our planetary orbits are perfectly balanced and unchanging. These revelations come as a reminder that while Earth feels like a safe haven, it is ultimately part of a dynamic and unpredictable cosmic environment. The study offers a humbling perspective on our place in the universe and underscores the ongoing need to study celestial mechanics in greater depth.

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Neeraj Chopra Wins Golden Spike Title, Joins Coach Zelezny in Elite Club

Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra clinched the top spot at the Golden Spike meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic, on Tuesday (June 25, 2025), with a winning throw of 85.29m. This marks Chopra's debut win at the prestigious World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event — and another significant milestone in his already illustrious career.

Coming off a strong victory at the Paris Diamond League on June 20, Chopra continued his fine form in Ostrava, where he outperformed a nine-man field. Despite a modest throw by his high standards, Chopra did enough to secure the title, edging past South Africa's Douw Smit (84.12m) and Grenada's Anderson Peters (83.63m).

Chopra began the competition with a foul, followed by an 83.45m attempt. His best came in the third round with an 85.29m throw, which secured him the lead. His next two attempts measured 82.17m and 81.01m, while the final throw resulted in another foul.

Interestingly, this victory aligns Chopra with his legendary coach Jan Zelezny, who serves as the event director and is a nine-time winner of the Golden Spike meet. Held in Zelezny's homeland,



this event has long been a revered venue in the world of javelin, and Chopra's win only adds to its legacy.

The competition field was relatively light in the absence of Germany's Julian Weber, who had previously beaten Chopra in Doha and Poland. Nonetheless, Chopra's consistency has been notable, with Paris DL, a second-place finish in Doha with a 90m+ throw, and now this win in Ostrava all coming in a stellar 2025 season.

Chopra now looks ahead to hosting the NC Classic in Bengaluru on July 5, where big names like Anderson Peters and Thomas Rohler are also expected to participate.

AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Chris Morris Lead Star-Studded South Africa Champions Squad for WCL 2025

Johannesburg, June 25, 2025 — Cricket fans are set for a nostalgia-packed treat as South Africa's legendary cricketers reunite for the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025. Headlining the formidable South Africa Champions squad are iconic names like AB de Villiers, Chris Morris, and Hashim Amla — players who defined an era of South African cricket.

Joining this powerhouse trio are other notable stars including Albie Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Hardus Viljoen, Aaron Phangiso, and JP Duminy, creating a well-balanced team rich in experience, firepower, and match-winning potential. Together, they bring not only talent but also the legacy and competitive edge that made South African cricket feared and respected globally.

Speaking about his return, AB de Villiers said, "There's nothing like playing for South Africa. Being back with this group of legends, in front of fans who've always supported us, is truly



special. WCL is more than a tournament — it's a celebration of cricket's enduring spirit. And we're here to compete and win."

Amandeep Singh, founder of Game Changers and owner of the South Africa Champions, shared his excitement: "This squad is built to inspire and ignite passion across generations. Legends like AB, Amla, and Morris don't just play — they command the game. We're honoured to have them lead our charge at WCL 2025."

Harry Singh, co-owner of the team, added, "It's a privilege to bring this legendary squad back together. The South Africa Champions embody everything bold, competitive, and passionate about cricket. We're not just participating — we're writing history again."

With such an elite lineup, South Africa Champions are undoubtedly among the top contenders to lift the WCL 2025 trophy, promising thrilling moments for cricket lovers worldwide.

World Pickleball League Launches 'WPBL On Tour' to Boost Year-Round Engagement

In a strategic move to expand its fanbase and deepen regional engagement, the World Pickleball League (WPBL) has launched "WPBL On Tour"—a multi-city, off-season tournament series designed to sustain momentum and visibility ahead of Season 2 in early 2026.

This initiative will see each of the six WPBL franchises host a city-based tournament in their home territories, with the league providing marketing, strategic, and financial support. The tour will run over four months and include 20+ days of on-ground events, opening doors for local players and enthusiasts to compete under their city's team banner.

WPBL Co-founder and CEO Gaurav Natekar emphasized the league's commitment to community-driven growth. "From the beginning, our goal



was to create value not just during the main season, but throughout the year. 'WPBL On Tour' empowers franchises to build grassroots support, foster loyal fan communities, and make pickleball a permanent cultural presence in each city,"

he said.

WPBL On Tour Schedule:
Chennai Super Champs: August 6–10, Chennai
Hyderabad Superstars: August 19–24, Hyderabad
Dilli Dillwale: August 29–31,

New Delhi
Bengaluru Jawans: October 8–10, Bengaluru
Pune United: October 29–November 2, Pune
Mumbai Pickle Power: November 5–9, Mumbai

WPBL promises to reveal more activations, programs, and partnerships in the coming months, aiming to create a 360° sporting ecosystem unlike any other professional league in India.

Registration and event details will be shared soon by the WPBL and individual franchises through their social media channels.

With Season 2 scheduled for January 24 to February 8, 2026, 'WPBL On Tour' is positioned as a dynamic lead-up to India's growing pickleball spectacle.

Duckett Masterclass Powers England to Famous Win Over India at Headingley

England pulled off a sensational chase on Day 5 of the Headingley Test, gunning down a daunting 371-run target to defeat India by five wickets and take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The victory was built on a commanding 188-run opening stand between Ben Duckett (149 off 170) and Zak Crawley (65 off 126), who neutralised India's pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj under overcast morning skies. Duckett, named Player of the Match, lit up the innings with a flurry of strokes, including seven sweeps and a reverse-swept six, en route to his sixth Test century.

India briefly clawed back after a short rain delay. Prasidh Krishna removed Crawley and Ollie Pope in quick succession, while Shardul Thakur dismissed Duckett and Harry Brook in back-to-back deliveries to leave England wobbling.



But Joe Root (53* off 84) and Jamie Smith (44* off 55) held their nerve, stitching together an unbeaten 71-run partnership that sealed the win in front of an electric Headingley crowd. Ben Stokes added 33 vital runs in the middle.

India's bowlers struggled to maintain pressure, with Bumrah and Siraj going wicketless. Jadeja managed one scalp, while Prasidh and Shardul claimed two each.

Final Scores:
India 1st innings: 471
England 1st innings: 465
India 2nd innings: 364
England 2nd innings: 373/5 (82 overs)

The series now heads to Birmingham for the second Test, starting July 2, with India needing a strong response after a defeat that will spark serious introspection.

Faith Kipyegon's Historic Quest: Can She Become the First Woman to Break the 4-Minute Mile?



Faith Kipyegon, Kenya's legendary middle-distance runner and a three-time Olympic gold medallist in the 1500m, is now aiming to achieve what no woman has done before — break the four-minute barrier in the mile. In a groundbreaking, non-official race titled Breaking, Kipyegon is determined to etch her name alongside Roger Bannister, who famously broke the men's four-minute mile in 1954.

To accomplish this monumental feat, Kipyegon is embracing cutting-edge performance science. She'll be supported by five pacemakers running in a strategic formation, designed to maximize drafting efficiency. Additionally, she will wear a specially engineered sports bra that retains less moisture, along with an aerodynamic racing suit and headband crafted to reduce wind resistance — all of which aim to shave off precious seconds.

This attempt isn't just about a time. It's about legacy.

Kipyegon's journey began far from the spotlight. A clip from the 2010 World Cross Country Championships shows a teenage Kipyegon running barefoot through mud in Bydgoszcz, Poland, competing in her first international race and finishing fourth in the junior category. "I was just a young girl from the village without shoes or spikes," Kipyegon reflects in the new documentary Breaking4, released ahead of the challenge. "That moment still inspires me. It will always stay in my heart."

Her career has since flourished, culminating in Olympic gold medals in Rio (2016), Tokyo (2021), and Paris (2024), making her the first woman to win three Olympic 1500m titles.

Now, at the peak of her powers, Kipyegon is pushing the boundaries of human potential once more. Can she become the first woman to run a sub-4-minute mile? The world is watching, and history beckons.



“Final Destination: Bloodlines Now Streaming – But There’s a Catch!”

The latest installment in the iconic horror franchise, Final Destination: Bloodlines, has made its way to streaming platforms after a successful theatrical run. Directed by Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein, the film has drawn in horror fans across the globe, especially in India, where it was released in multiple languages including Telugu. Known for its trademark mix of suspense, eerie coincidences, and fatalistic thrills, Bloodlines has been praised for staying true to the spirit of the original films while offering a fresh, terrifying experience.

Now available for home viewing, the film is streaming in English on Amazon Prime Video. However, viewers hoping to watch the Telugu or other regional dubbed versions will need to head over to BookMyShow Stream. Here’s where the twist comes in — those versions come with a rental price tag of Rs. 499, which many fans might find steep, especially considering that the movie is



still playing in theaters in several cities at a lower ticket cost. This pricing strategy has left fans divided. While die-hard franchise lovers may pay the premium to enjoy the film at home, casual viewers are more likely to wait until it becomes available for free with a standard OTT subscription.

Starring Kaitlyn Santa Juana, Teo Briones, and Richard Harmon, the film continues the legacy of death’s relentless design with a new set of characters caught in a deadly chain of events. Though the digital release has brought the scares closer to home, many still believe that the big screen delivers the ultimate Final Destination experience. For now, fans must choose between the thrill of the theater and the convenience of streaming — at a cost.

Raids on Manchu Vishnu Ahead of ‘Kannappa’ Release

- GST officials inspect homes of Vishnu and film crew
- Raids linked to alleged tax evasion on ₹120–₹200 crore film
- Searches come just two days before ‘Kannappa’ release

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar

Hyderabad: Just two days ahead of its highly anticipated release, Manchu Vishnu’s pan-India film ‘Kannappa’ has landed in controversy, as GST officials conducted surprise raids on the actor’s residence and office in Madhapur, Hyderabad. Searches were also carried out at the residences of several members of the film unit. According to officials, the raids were based on allegations of tax and GST evasion related to the massive budget of the film. The film, which reportedly cost between ₹120 crore and ₹200 crore, has caught the attention of authorities, especially after Vishnu himself admitted in an interview that the project involved a large financial risk. “Trains were running in my heart,” he had said about the scale of the production — a statement that officials now seem to be treating seriously. Sources reveal that five officials were involved in the inspections, which were focused on budget records and financial documentation of the film. The fact that these raids have taken place just before the film’s June 27 release has caused a major buzz in the film industry.



‘Kannappa’ features a star-studded lineup including Tollywood star Prabhas, Malayalam legend Mohanlal, and Bollywood icon Akshay Kumar. With such big names involved, there’s now growing speculation around their remunerations and the structuring of payments, which the authorities may also be reviewing.

Veteran actor and Vishnu’s father, Mohan Babu, arrived at the office soon after learning about the raids but declined to speak to the media and left quietly.

With expectations sky-high for ‘Kannappa’, all eyes are now on whether these last-minute raids will impact the film’s release or reception. The production team has not issued an official statement yet.

Rajinikanth’s ‘Coolie’ Gets a New Title in Hindi – Here’s Why!

Superstar Rajinikanth’s 171st film, Coolie, directed by the sensational Lokesh Kanagaraj, is one of the most anticipated films of the year. With expectations soaring high, the film is set to hit theatres worldwide on August 14, 2025. Touted as a pan-India action entertainer, Coolie marks the first collaboration between Rajinikanth and Lokesh Kanagaraj — a pairing that has generated massive buzz among fans and cinephiles.

The ensemble cast includes prominent names such as Nagarjuna Akkineni, Upendra, Soubin Shahir, and Shruti Haasan in pivotal roles, with Pooja Hegde making a special appearance in a much-talked-about song. The film, made on a massive budget of ₹250 crore, is being positioned as a box-office juggernaut with an ambitious target of ₹1000 crore in global collections. However, the film has now made headlines for an unexpected reason — a title change in the Hindi version. While Coolie will retain its original title in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam, sources reveal that the Hindi version will be released as Mazdoor. The rea-



son? Bollywood already has two well-known films with the title Coolie — the iconic 1983 Amitabh Bachchan starrer and the 2020 remake Coolie No. 1 starring Varun Dhawan. To avoid confusion and establish a unique identity in the Hindi market, the makers have opted for the alternative title Mazdoor, which carries a similar meaning. The change has received a

mixed response from fans — some feel Coolie had stronger brand recall across languages, while others appreciate the effort to differentiate.

With just weeks to go for release, all eyes are now on Coolie/Mazdoor as it gears up to storm the box office with Rajinikanth’s trademark charisma and Lokesh Kanagaraj’s gripping direction.

Simbu’s Sci-Fi Hit ‘Maanaadu’ Set for a Sequel: Maanaadu 2 in the Works

Kollywood star Silambarasan TR, popularly known as Simbu, is all set to return to one of his biggest hits — Maanaadu. The 2021 time-loop sci-fi thriller, directed by Venkat Prabhu, turned out to be a major game-changer in Simbu’s career, especially after a string of underwhelming releases. Now, exciting reports from Tamil film circles suggest that Maanaadu 2 is officially in the pipeline.

The original film not only brought Simbu back into the limelight but also earned glowing reviews from critics and audiences alike. With its smart screenplay, engaging narrative, and strong performances — particularly from Simbu and SJ Suryah — Maanaadu was both a critical and commercial success. It grossed over Rs. 120 crores worldwide and found a strong fan base even among Telugu au-



diences, where it was dubbed and released as The Loop.

The sequel is expected to once again feature the dynamic duo of Simbu and director Venkat Prabhu, although produc-

tion will commence only after the two complete their current projects. Simbu is presently working on films with Dragon director Ashwath Marimuthu and acclaimed filmmaker Vetrimaaran. Meanwhile, Venkat Prabhu is busy with a movie starring Sivakarthikeyan.

While plot details for Maanaadu 2 are still under wraps, fans are already speculating about how the time-loop concept will be taken forward. Given the success of the original and the creative potential of the genre, expectations are sky-high.

With this sequel, both Simbu and Venkat Prabhu aim to recreate — or even surpass — the magic of their previous outing. All eyes are now on official announcements to see when the loop will begin again.



Sreeleela Walks Out of Akhil’s ‘Lenin’? Heroine Exit Creates Buzz

Young Tollywood star Akhil Akkineni’s much-anticipated film Lenin has been making waves ever since its announcement. Directed by Murali Kishore Abburi, the film is being jointly produced by Annapurna Studios and Sithara Entertainment, with Akkineni Nagarjuna and Naga Vamsi backing the project. A powerful glimpse from the film, set in a rural backdrop, has already generated excitement among fans. However, recent reports suggest a major shake-up in the cast — leading actress Sreeleela is said to have exited the film.

Initially, Sreeleela was announced as the female lead opposite Akhil in Lenin. Her pairing with the young star had sparked interest, especially considering her rising popularity in Telugu cinema. But according to industry buzz, Sreeleela has decided to step away from the project due to scheduling conflicts. The actress is currently juggling multiple big-ticket films across different languages, including Ustaad

Bhagat Singh with Pawan Kalyan in Telugu, a Hindi film alongside Kartik Aaryan, and a Tamil film directed by Sudha Kongara.

Sources claim that her packed calendar made it difficult to allocate dates for Lenin, prompting her decision to opt out. However, there has been no official confirmation from the film’s team or Sreeleela’s representatives so far.

If the reports are true, the makers are now actively looking for a new heroine to step into the role. This unexpected development has stirred curiosity about who will replace Sreeleela and whether the casting change will impact the film’s production timeline.

With Lenin shaping up to be a crucial project in Akhil’s career, all eyes are on the team’s next move. Fans are eagerly waiting for an official update regarding the film’s female lead and further progress.