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# New Ministers If Needed... Chandrababu's Stern Warning To Non-Performers

- CM hints at cabinet reshuffle if things don't improve
- Chandrababu dissatisfied with five ministers' performance
- Ministers failed to counter YSRCP's negative campaigns

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has once again expressed serious dissatisfaction with the performance of some ministers in the Andhra Pradesh cabinet. In a recent cabinet meeting, he reportedly gave a stern but subtle warning, stating that if the current trend of negligence continues, new ministers will be brought into the team. His remarks are being seen as a signal of an impending cabinet reshuffle.

Sources reveal that Chandrababu is particularly unhappy with five ministers whose performance has been consistently underwhelming, both in their respective constituencies and in the districts under their charge. Intelligence reports and political assessments have indicated that these ministers are not effectively engaging with the public or defending the government against misinformation campaigns led by YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy and his party leaders.

One incident that particularly irked the Chief Minister was the ministers' lack of response when YSRCP leaders made inappropriate comments about Nellore MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy. Despite the controversy, the ministers reportedly failed to defend their colleague or counter the narrative. Chandrababu also highlighted a recent case where emails were allegedly sent to nearly 200 companies to damage the image of the state and dis-



courage investments, and criticized ministers for not reacting strongly to such acts. He has now directed that an inquiry be ordered into the matter.

It is said that despite multiple warnings and personal interventions—including a direct call to a minister from Rayalaseema—there has been no visible improvement in behavior or work ethic. Similar concerns have been raised about two ministers from coastal Andhra and two from Uttaraandhra. Even pro-government media have started reporting critically about these ministers, highlighting scandals ranging from irregularities in computer procurement to questionable trans-

fer practices.

Rumors of cabinet reshuffle have been circulating for some time. In the past, there was speculation during the MLC elections that Naga Babu would be inducted into the cabinet, though that did not materialize. However, with growing dissatisfaction within the party and increased public scrutiny, Chandrababu's recent comments are being taken more seriously than before.

The big question now is—will Chandrababu limit himself to warnings once again, or will he finally take decisive action to reconstitute his cabinet? The coming days may offer the answer.

## Lokesh Accepts Pawan Kalyan's Green Challenge

- One crore saplings to be planted through Education Dept
- Effort inspired by PM Modi's 'Plant A Sapling In Mother's Name' call



TPN Correspondent | Sri Sathya Sai District

In a powerful green initiative, Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh has accepted the plantation challenge posed by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, announcing that the state's Education Department will plant one crore saplings across all districts. The move comes as a response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to plant saplings in the name of "Amma" (mother), a campaign aimed at boosting environmental awareness and honoring maternal bonds.

Lokesh made this announcement while addressing a gathering at the "Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting 2.0" held at the Zilla Parishad High School in Kothacheruvu, Sri Sathya Sai district, where Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was also present. Speaking to parents, students, and educators, Lokesh stated, "Inspired by Prime Minister Modi's noble call, and taking forward the challenge issued by our Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, I accept the responsibility to plant one crore saplings across Andhra Pradesh through the Education Department." He emphasized that the mission goes beyond just planting trees—it's about instilling values of responsibility, sustainability, and environmental stewardship among students.

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# Rajat Bhargava Under SIT Scanner In Liquor Scam

- Retired IAS faces inquiry in ₹3,500 crore excise scandal
- SIT issues notice to appear on 11th in Vijayawada
- Role suspected in policy loopholes, appointments

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The sensational ₹3,500 crore liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh has now drawn former IAS officer Rajat Bhargava into its scope. The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the scandal, has issued a notice to the retired bureaucrat, summoning him for questioning at the SIT office in Vijayawada on the 11th of this month. Rajat Bhargava had earlier served as the Special Chief Secretary of the Excise Department during the YSRCP government.

The SIT suspects that Bhargava was well aware of the irregularities in the liquor syndicate operations but chose to remain silent. Investigators are expected to question him on critical aspects of the case, including how the liquor policy was framed, why supply contracts were awarded to entities without distillery licenses, and how price regulation was neglected under his watch. The SIT also wants to know why he allowed Raj Kasireddy, the main accused in the scam, to exert unchecked influence over the excise department.

Notably, Bhargava is alleged to have bypassed procedure to appoint a woman named A. Anusha as a data entry operator in the MIS section of AP Beverages Corporation. This appointment, reportedly recommended by then Rajya Sabha MP Vijayasai Reddy, is now under scrutiny as the woman is believed to have relayed liquor sales data via WhatsApp to accused Raj K. Reddy and Saif Ahmed. The SIT believes this data was used to determine extortion amounts from distilleries.

Sources reveal that the SIT has already compiled crucial evidence on Bhargava's role and



included his name in the remand report of the accused. Questions are also being raised about whether he received bribes to remain passive while the excise network was being monopolized. Departmental action is reportedly being considered by the government pending the results of his upcoming interrogation. With the IAS officer's questioning just days away, the investigation is expected to expose more layers in the complex network of political, bureaucratic, and syndicate-level collusion behind the scam.

# Will AI Stop Mosquitoes? Buggana Mocks Govt

- Former Minister Buggana fires sharp questions at coalition govt
- Where is the ₹2.45 lakh crore budget being used?
- Is it betrayal to question debt and capital?

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath launched a scathing attack on the Andhra Pradesh coalition government, ridiculing its administration and questioning the financial policies being pursued. Speaking to the media at the Hyderabad Press Club, Buggana questioned the state's rising debts and alleged mismanagement, saying, "Where is the ₹2,45,000 crore budget going? Despite being a partner in the Centre, why is Amaravati still not developed?"

In a sharp tone, he asked, "Are we traitors just for questioning where the debts are going?" He slammed the current leadership for branding the opposition as anti-state when they seek clarity on public finances. "You are hurling mud at us to cover your failures," he said.

Buggana posed a series of questions targeting the government's welfare and governance record. "Did the girl child fund bring happiness? Is the breadwinner scheme truly supporting families? How many have received the Deepam gas connections?" He also questioned whether even one Dearness Allowance (DA) was granted to employees in the past year. "Has PRC been implemented? Are salaries being paid on the first day of the month?"

Turning to farmers, he asked, "What is the condition of tobacco, mango, and chilli farmers in the state?" He further criticized the coalition for limiting the free bus travel scheme to just certain districts. "Is this how Dabidda Nidhi and Annadata Sukhibhava are being implemented?" he asked.

In a direct accusation, Buggana alleged that the



Mineral Development Corporation funds were being looted. "On what basis are private individuals being given rights to draw funds from the state treasury?" he questioned, calling it an outright violation. He also pointed out that several individuals in constitutional positions had sent emails targeting the previous government, questioning the motive behind such actions.

Resorting to sharp satire, Buggana mocked the coalition's lofty claims. "Can AI control mosquitoes now? Is this the level of governance we are seeing?" He went on to sarcastically mention that some in the government act as if they can stop natural disasters like drought and cyclones with technology alone. "At least admit whether borrowing money is right or wrong. We took loans during COVID, in crisis. What is your excuse now?" he asked.

He condemned the current government's decision to borrow ₹10,000 crore at once, calling it unprecedented in the state's history. He rubbished misinformation being spread that the previous government gave ₹14 lakh crore to Sri Lanka and Venezuela, asserting the actual debt was ₹5 lakh crore.





## Lokesh Accepts Pawan Kalyan’s Green Challenge

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Lokesh underlined that this initiative will not only enhance greenery across the state but also create an environmental consciousness in young minds. He also reiterated the government’s commitment to elevating the standards of government schools to match or exceed those of private institutions. Lokesh stated that schools will not just be centers of academic education but hubs for all-round development including sports, arts, yoga, and life skills. The minister lauded the dedication of teachers, saying they hold a place of honor next only to parents in shaping children’s lives. He assured that schools will remain apolitical zones focused solely on the future and well-being of students. With the announcement, the education sector is expected to take the lead in environmental action across the state, aligning with both the Centre’s vision and the state government’s developmental goals. The massive sapling drive is likely to commence in coordination with schools, teachers, students, and local bodies in the coming weeks.

## Tulasi Yogish Chandra Elected LUB AP State President



TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Amaravati: The Laghu Udyoga Bharati (LUB) held its general body meeting at Yogi Bhavan, Arundalpet, where Tulasi Yogish Chandra was elected State President of the Andhra Pradesh committee. The meeting reviewed the organization’s progress and financial reports for the past two years. National Secretary Prakash Chandra, the chief guest, announced the new state committee, including Atluri Ramesh as General Secretary, Dharaneesh Dhanikula as Treasurer, and Vice Presidents Kamal Nayan Bang, Ramalinga, and Nallamothu Sivaprasad. Gutta Subrahmanyeswara Rao was named Joint Secretary, with Atluri Sunita Narayana, Haridasula Chandra Sekhar, Thota Ramakrishna, and Datla Tirupati Raju as Secretaries. Executive Committee members include Sridhar Chitiprolu, Vittal Prasad, Marpu Venkatesham, Pandillapalli Praveen, and Rajulapati Venkata Rajasekhar. Prakash Chandra highlighted India’s historical self-sufficiency and the role of small-scale industries in national development, noting LUB’s efforts to address their challenges. Yogish, congratulated by members like Tulasi Ramachandra Prabhu and Chukkapalli Arun Kumar, pledged to resolve industry issues and boost membership from 150 to 1,000. He emphasized LUB’s role in connecting industries with government and multinational platforms for support in production and marketing. General Secretary Atluri Ramesh concluded with a vote of thanks.

# Digging Deep into Corruption...

- Nandigama’s Crusher Mafia Unleashed
- Crushers plundering natural wealth with no official accountability
- Revenue, RTO, and mining officials allegedly turn a blind eye



TPN | V.V.S Madhu Babu

NTR District: A massive illegal mining racket is unfolding in broad daylight in Paritala village of Kanchikacharla mandal, NTR district, where crushers and quarry owners are reportedly plundering natural wealth worth crores without fear of consequence. Under the guise of legal leases, entire hillocks are being dug up, with authorities turning a blind eye.

Locals are outraged by what they call an open-season looting of hills, canals, and streams by crushers operating under political protection. Despite heavy truckloads violating weight regulations, RTO officials reportedly refrain from taking action, raising suspicions of collusion. At the center of this controversy is a powerful crusher owner who also heads the Crushers Union. Locals allege he uses political clout and muscle power to silence opposition.



Those attempting to question or resist the illegal gravel transportation face threats, abuse, and even alleged atrocities. Officials from the Mining and Revenue departments, though aware of the large-scale violations, remain inert. “What was once a natural landscape with hills and streams has turned into a dust bowl,” a local resident lamented. “Crushers are digging without limit—it’s like loot-as-you-go.” Even coalition leaders,

who once opposed these illegalities under the previous government, are now accused of maintaining silence as the same violations continue unabated. Residents are demanding immediate action against the quarry mafia and the negligent officials enabling them. The question remains—how long will the people and the environment pay the price while crushers dig deeper into both the land and public trust?

## Green Tax Slashed In AP... Coalition government keeps its poll promise to transport sector



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a much-needed relief to the transport sector, the Andhra Pradesh government has slashed the green tax imposed on goods and public transport vehicles. The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held in Amaravati on July 9, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. This marks a key move in fulfilling the coalition government’s election promise to ease the financial burden on motorists. The cabinet has approved an ordinance to revise the green tax, aligning it with Telangana’s structure. Until now, transport vehicle owners were paying up to ₹20,000 annually due to changes implemented by the previous YSRCP government. Now, the tax has been rationalized to ₹1,500 per year for vehicles aged 7–12 years and ₹3,000 for those older than 12 years. This applies to all public and goods transport vehicles. Under the earlier policy, lorry and public vehicle owners were burdened with quarterly taxes that escalated depending on the vehicle’s age. For example, vehicles between 7–10 years had to pay half a quarter’s tax, those aged 10–12 years paid one quarter’s tax, and vehicles above 12 years had to pay two quarters’ tax. This led to widespread frustration in the trans-

port community, especially among lorry owners, who claimed the hike severely impacted their livelihoods. Despite repeated appeals, the previous YSRCP government had refused to reduce the tax. Additionally, public transport operators, including cab and bus owners, were earlier charged between ₹4,000 and ₹6,000 annually as green tax, up from the earlier ₹200. The new decision brings significant financial relief to these operators as well. The green tax reduction also has implications for electric vehicle owners. For instance, an electric scooter priced at ₹70,000 would previously attract several additional charges—green tax, road tax (9–12%), registration fee, and insurance—often pushing the total cost up by ₹10,000 or more. The reduced green tax will now lessen this burden slightly, encouraging more people to shift towards cleaner transport options. The coalition leaders—Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, and Pawan Kalyan—had jointly promised to revise the green tax during their election campaign. With this move, they have delivered on that commitment, winning praise from the transport community. The policy is expected to help thousands of vehicle owners and enhance growth in the state’s transport sector.

## Pawan Kalyan Praises Lokesh’s Reforms in Education Smart Kitchen in Kadapa to serve 12 schools with nutritious meals



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has lauded the reforms introduced by State Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, stating they are producing positive results and enhancing the standards of government schools. He said the ‘Smart Kitchen’ project in Kadapa is a fine example of the transformation underway in the education system under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking on the initiative, Pawan Kalyan recalled his earlier visit to the Kadapa Municipal Corporation High School during a mega parent-teacher meeting. During that visit, he was impressed by the suggestion made by the district collector for a centralized kitchen facility. Inspired by the idea, Pawan contributed his personal funds for the construction of the kitchen in the name of Dokka Seethamma Garu, aimed at ensuring clean, nutritious food for school children. The newly completed ‘Smart Kitchen’ will now provide food to 12 schools in Kadapa city. According to Pawan Kalyan, the meals will be prepared by trained cooking staff with inputs from nutrition experts to ensure quality and taste. He said the model not only addresses hygiene and nutritional needs but also reduces the burden on individual schools. Pawan expressed hope that this initiative would serve as an inspiration across the state and help raise the overall standards of school infrastructure and student welfare. He also extended his special appreciation to District Collector Dr. Sri-dhar Cherukuri for his close supervision and efforts in completing the project efficiently.

## Chandrababu Turns Teacher During Mega PTM

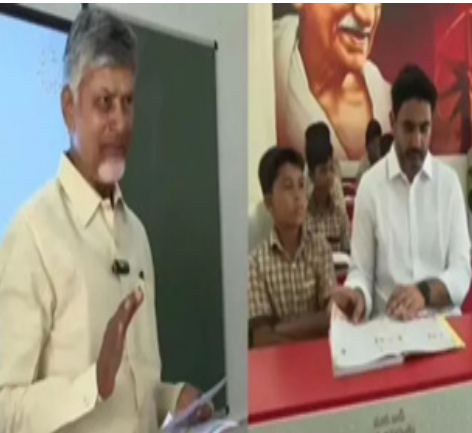
TPN Correspondent | Sathya Sai District

In a rare and heartwarming moment, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu turned into a teacher during the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) held at Kotha Cheruvu Zilla Parishad School in Puttaparthi, Sathya Sai district, on July 10. The event, part of a massive statewide initiative, brought together over two crore students, parents, teachers, alumni, donors, and education stakeholders.

As part of the event, the Chief Minister personally interacted with the students, asking them about their aspirations. He then visited the classrooms to observe the learning environment and, in a surprising move, stepped into the role of a teacher. Chandrababu conducted a short class on the subject of “resources,” engaging directly with students and sharing knowledge. Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh sat among the students, listening attentively to the lesson. The Chief Minister also reviewed stu-

dent progress cards and spoke with parents about their experiences and satisfaction with the school system. Many students and parents seized the opportunity to take photographs with the CM and the Minister. Minister Lokesh highlighted the positive changes being made in the education system and affirmed his commitment to further reforms. Both Chandrababu and Lokesh posed for photos inside a specially designed frame featuring the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting logo.

The school campus was transformed for the occasion, with NCC cadets presenting a ceremonial salute to the Chief Minister. Student-created posters and artworks, many dedicated to the theme of “mother,” were displayed, adding a creative touch to the atmosphere. The Chief Minister also inspected the school’s infrastructure and offered several suggestions to officials for further improvement, emphasizing his commitment to raising the standards of education across Andhra Pradesh.





# Minister Gottipati Distributes 452 Bicycles to Students Fulfills Promise, Promotes Education and Welfare

TPN Correspondent |  
Bapatla

Addanki: Fulfilling his promise to the students of the Addanki constituency, Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar distributed 452 bicycles at Medarametla Zilla Parishad High School in Korishapadu Mandal as part of the state-wide Mega Parent-Teacher Meet (PTM) 2.0. The initiative, supported by Assist NGO and CSR funds, aims to facilitate students' daily commute and encourage regular school attendance—especially in rural and remote villages where transportation poses a challenge. Addressing the gathering, Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to strengthening the education system and prioritizing student welfare. Applauding Minister Nara Lokesh's visionary reforms in the education sector, he said, "A strong education system is the foundation of a prosperous and progressive society. The state government is working with a clear goal to improve school infrastructure, accessibility, and inclusivity." Highlighting the Talliki Vandanam scheme, which provides financial aid to mothers of school-going



children, he announced that the scheme would now benefit 67 lakh mothers, compared to 42 lakh under the previous YSRCP government. This will significantly reduce the financial burden on families while promoting better educational outcomes for children. The Minister also advised students to stay away from distractions such as mobile

addiction and alcohol, urging them to stay focused on their goals. Despite economic constraints, the government remains dedicated to continuing welfare initiatives. As part of its commitment, schemes like free gas cylinders, enhanced pensions, and free bus travel for women will be rolled out starting August 15. During his visit, the Minister also promised

additional toilet facilities for both boys and girls at the ZP High School in Korishapadu after inspecting the campus infrastructure. In a significant move towards social justice, the Minister distributed permanent land title deeds to 25 Scheduled Caste families in Medarametla and Somavarappadu SC Colony, ensuring security and dignity for the beneficiaries.

# Congress Slams Coalition Over Farmer Neglect, Illegal Mining in Pedana

TPN Correspondent |  
Krishna District

Pedana: Congress Party Coordinator for Pedana Constituency, Shonti Nagaraju, has come down heavily on the ruling alliance, accusing them of turning a blind eye to farmers' struggles while enabling large-scale illegal mining and land encroachments. "Farmers in Bantumilli and Kruthivenu mandals are waiting helplessly for irrigation water while their nurseries dry up. Yet the local MLA is more focused on party promotions than addressing farmers' woes," said Nagaraju, warning that the Congress would launch a mass agitation if these issues are not resolved. He alleged that while genuine farmer concerns are ignored, illegal sand mining and land encroachments have become rampant, with the ruling leaders amassing crores through these illicit activities. "Pedana was among the worst-affected constituencies in terms of illegal min-



ing even during the YSRCP rule. Under the current coalition, things have worsened," he said. Nagaraju pointed to dozens of acres being filled with sand in Bantumilli without land conversion permits. "Without mining challans or revenue approvals, agricultural lands are being turned into sand yards and sold," he claimed. "Even the revenue and mining department incomes are being siphoned off by local leaders." He named specific areas

such as Manimeshwaram, where alleged illegal lake digging by MLA's relatives occurred, and locals revolted when no land conversion or permits were shown. "Despite complaints, the illegal pond remains untouched, and revenue officials seem to be under pressure or influence," he added. Villages like Arthamuru, Ramavarappu Modi, Pedathummi, and Penduru reportedly witness hundreds of tractor loads of sand being transported daily without any inter-

vention. Nagaraju also alleged that the MLA's PA has encroached three cents of land near the Panchayat office and is selling it at ₹15-20 lakh. He demanded that the government stop looting public wealth and focus instead on farmers' needs and public welfare. "If these actions continue, we will intensify our agitation," he warned. Congress leaders including Gudivada Raja, Krishna District Vice-President Padamata Sagar, and others supported the statement.

# Nara Lokesh Promises Higher Education Support to Four Students

TPN Correspondent |  
Satya Sai District

Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh visited the Zilla Parishad High School in Kottacheruvu as part of the state-wide Mega PTM 2.0 (Parent-Teacher Meeting) initiative. The program is designed to bridge the gap between parents, students, and school staff, and to enhance transparency and collaboration in the education system. Before the PTM, Lokesh conducted a Rachabanda (interactive session) at the junior college premises, where he engaged with parents and students to understand their issues and experiences. A touching moment unfolded when he interacted with P. Madhavi, a beneficiary of the Thalliki Vandhanam scheme. Madhavi, who has four children — Balu (Grade 8), Narasamma (Grade 7), Baby (Grade 5), and Sana (Grade 3) — studying in the same school, said she had received ₹52,000 under the scheme, which she deposited in her children's bank accounts. Appreciating her initiative and commitment to her children's education, Lokesh assured her that the government would take complete responsibility for their higher education. "Make sure they study well. Their future is our responsibility," he said, offering reassurance and encouragement. Lokesh also inspected the school's infrastructure, including classrooms, washrooms, and digital resources. He spoke with students to gather



feedback on the quality of education and support services. The students responded positively, highlighting improvements such as the semester system, availability of quality uniforms, effective workbooks, and high-grade rice served in midday meals. Lokesh expressed satisfaction with the school's implementation of reforms and praised the staff for their dedication. The event underscored the government's commitment to the holistic development of students in government schools, especially from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Through schemes like Thalliki Vandhanam and initiatives like Mega PTM, the government is ensuring financial aid reaches the right hands and that student welfare remains the core priority.



# Is This Alliance Dharma? Jana Sena Asks in Kovvur

TPN Correspondent | Kovvur

Jana Sena Party leaders and activists staged a protest near the Road-cum-Railway Bridge in Kovvur constituency, expressing strong dissatisfaction over what they described as injustice to the party in seat allocation. The protest was led by Kovvur constituency Jana Sena in-charge T.V. Ramarao, who questioned the fairness of the seat-sharing arrangement within the NDA alliance. Addressing the media during the protest, Ramarao said that out of 14 cooperative society seats in the Kovvur constituency, 13 were allocated to the TDP and only one to Jana Sena, despite the party's significant cadre and growing public support in the region. "Is this the true spirit of alliance dharma?" he asked, warning that if such trends continue, it will endanger the very existence of Jana Sena in the constituency. He further expressed concern about the implications of this pattern in the upcoming

local body elections. "If the same formula is applied during the municipal and panchayat elections, what will be the future of Jana Sena in Kovvur? Is the intention of some TDP leaders to eliminate the party's presence here altogether?" he questioned. Ramarao called on party workers to stay united and alert, emphasizing that Jana Sena is not just an ally but a vital political force with a dedicated following. He said that the party's grassroots workers have made immense sacrifices and cannot be sidelined under the guise of alliance compromises. The protest saw participation from several Jana Sena leaders and active cadre from the constituency, who raised slogans demanding justice and equal representation. They urged the party leadership to intervene and ensure fair treatment within the alliance framework. The event highlighted internal tensions in the coalition at the constituency level.

# We Will Resolve Every Grievance: MLC Alapati Rajendra Prasad

TPN | B Madhusudhanarao Guntur(Tenali): MLC and former minister Alapati Rajendra Prasad emphasized that the Suparipalana – Tholi Adugu (Good Governance – First Step) program is a proactive initiative designed to understand and resolve the real-life problems faced by citizens across the Tenali constituency. He said the program is being implemented under the direction of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, with a vision to deliver responsive, citizen-centric gov-

ernance that is both transparent and accountable. On the 8th day of this outreach campaign, Alapati visited the 12th and 13th wards of Tenali town on Thursday. Joined by a team of local TDP leaders, party workers, and volunteers, he interacted directly with the residents, gathered their feedback, and reviewed the implementation status of various government welfare schemes. During the visit, several women informed him that the financial assistance promised under



the free gas cylinder scheme had not yet been deposited into their bank accounts. Alapati responded with assurance, stating that he would take up the matter immediately with the concerned authorities to ensure that the eligible beneficiaries receive their dues without delay. He stressed that the coalition government is determined to address issues related to employment, livelihood, women's welfare, small businesses, and farmers with utmost serious-

ness. "Every grievance collected will be recorded, tracked, and followed up through the right administrative channels until resolved," he said. The warm public reception to his visit underscored growing community support for such people-focused initiatives. Residents appreciated the opportunity to voice their concerns directly to their representative. The large turnout of TDP cadre and locals also showcased the enthusiasm and trust in the ongoing governance efforts.



# Bribe Nexus and Transfer Irregularities Alleged in RD Zone

TPN Correspondent | Amaravathi

A series of serious allegations have emerged from the Office of the Regional Director of Medical and Health Services (RD), Rajamahendravaram, pointing toward a deep-rooted network of bribery, collusion, and blatant violations of government transfer norms during the 2025 transfer season. At the center of the controversy are Senior Assistants Sri Arji Narasimha Murthy and Sri K. Jagadish, who have allegedly created a strong bribe-collection nexus with agents operating throughout the zone. These two are accused of manipulating transfers to favor certain individuals in exchange for bribes, sidelining eligible candidates and bypassing official norms. Both officers are said to have close ties with Sri N. Sai Chinnarao, another Senior Assistant previously implicated in bribery and disciplinary issues. In 2013, Chinnarao was transferred to Rampachodavaram

DMO Office following Lokayukta recommendations. His continued influence within the RD zone has raised eyebrows, as he is believed to be working in close coordination with Arji and Jagadish, reactivating old patterns of administrative misuse. Another controversial transfer involves Sri Ramesh, Senior Assistant and AP NGOs Association office bearer, who was shifted from Government General Hospital, Kakinada to RMC Kakinada — despite having pending charges. This transfer appears to directly violate G.O.Ms.No.23 (Finance) and G.O.Ms.No.344 (Health), which mandate that employees with disciplinary charges be posted to non-focal stations. Instead, Ramesh was placed in a key urban facility, suggesting a misuse of influence. Department insiders and whistleblowers allege a well-orchestrated system where a select group of officials holds disproportionate sway over appointments, acting without formal



clearance or transparency. The absence of disciplinary scrutiny on these questionable postings has sparked outrage and demands for a full-scale vigilance inquiry.

Until a formal probe is ordered, doubts continue to grow over the integrity of the 2025 health department transfers — and over the system's willingness to hold the guilty accountable.

## Mega PTM 2.0 Reflects Govt's Commitment to Holistic Education: Collector



TPN | V V S Madu Babu

The government's commitment is entirely focused on ensuring a bright future for children, said NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha. He stated that facilities in government schools are now on par with private institutions. Participating in the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) 2.0 held at ZP Girls High School in Kondapalli on Thursday, the Collector addressed students, parents, teachers, and public

representatives. He said the initiative brings together all stakeholders to support the holistic development of children. Around three lakh students and their parents from 1,453 government schools across the district actively participated. He urged students to make full use of government provisions such as quality education, infrastructure, uniforms, textbooks, and nutritious mid-day meals. Students should set clear goals and work with sin-

cerity to achieve them. Dr. Lakshmisha encouraged children to aim high and aspire to become doctors, engineers, scientists, IAS, or IPS officers, and to uphold discipline and integrity from a young age. He noted that progress reports, once exclusive to private institutions, are now available in government schools through Holistic Progress Cards, which help track academic and behavioral development. He also highlighted the implementation of the Green Passport initiative, through which students receive points based on the health of the saplings they plant. The passport includes the student's photo, the scientific name of the plant, and is monitored online. Over 1.61 lakh students have already registered under this eco-awareness program. The Collector further launched the cyber safety awareness campaign "Think Before You

Click," educating students on the importance of staying alert against online threats. In collaboration with the Eagle Cell, students were also sensitized to the dangers of drug abuse under the "Say No to Drugs, Bro" campaign. He emphasized that temporary temptations can lead to permanent damage, urging students to stay away from harmful substances and online frauds. A heartwarming "Salute to Mother" ceremony was held, where students washed their mothers' feet and sought their blessings. The event also featured cultural performances, tug of war, and musical chair games for parents, with saplings distributed in the name of mothers. The Collector joined in the kolatam folk dance, dined with students and parents, took selfies, and planted a tree on campus, making it a memorable and impactful community gathering.

## Vijayawada Gears Up for Mega Urology Summit SUZICON-2025

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The prestigious 36th annual conference of the Southern Urologists Association – SUZICON-2025 – will be hosted from July 11 to 13 at the CK Convention Centre, Mangalagiri, with Prashanth Hospital, Vijayawada, serving as the organizing hub. Over 1,000 urologists and delegates from across India are expected to participate in this landmark event, which is set to be the largest zonal urology meet in the association's history. The conference will feature more than 50 scientific sessions, eight sub-specialty meetings, live demonstrations, masterclasses, and over 75 trade stalls showcasing the latest innovations in urology – from endoscopy to full-scale robotic and reconstructive surgeries. Organizing Secretary Dr. Dheeraj Kasaraneni expressed personal pride in continuing a family legacy, noting that his father hosted the same event in 2004. "Today, Vijayawada stands as a centre for advanced urological care, and SUZICON-2025 reflects this transformation," he said. Chairman Dr. C.V. Satish Kumar highlighted the team's collaborative efforts in planning the conference. Treasurer

Dr. G. Ajay Kumar confirmed all logistics and resources are in place, while Scientific Committee Head Dr. P. Sreemannarayana emphasized the inclusion of world-class content and national expertise. Special attractions include the Legacy Tunnel, pilgrimage tours, an eco-park trek, a BPH awareness walkathon, and a vibrant cricket tournament. SOAGS Secretary Dr. G. Srinivas Rao and President



Dr. G. Ravishankar lauded the organizing team's commitment to combining academic excellence with cultural hospitality. Prashanth Hospital Chairman Dr. K. Prashanth Kumar Kasaraneni noted the city's remarkable journey in urological advancement, which this conference aims to celebrate. SUZICON-2025 begins Friday and runs through the weekend, offering a rich blend of knowledge, legacy, and celebration.

## Truth Vivekamrutham Marks Guru Purnima with Twin Launches

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

On the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, the Truth Vivekamrutham Spiritual Organization grandly launched its official YouTube channel and unveiled a new spiritual book authored by founder Sri Vivekananda. The event took place at SLV Amaravati Grand 2 premises in Gunadala, Vijayawada. The spiritual text, a modern commentary on the Mandukya Upanishad—known as the crown jewel among Upanishads—was officially released by renowned businessman and social worker Sri Tondepu Venkata Hanumantha Rao, who handed the first copy to author Vivekananda. He praised the initiative for making ancient spiritual wisdom more accessible to the modern world. Sri Vivekananda elaborated on the core teachings of India's Sanatana Dharma, emphasizing the inner divinity within every human being and the significance of the sacred syllable "Om." He explained the deeper meanings of the Bhagavad Gita and the creation mysteries outlined in the Mandukya Upanishad in a way even common people could understand and apply to their daily lives. The event saw enthusiastic participation from spiritual seekers and students from both Telugu states, as well as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Mumbai. Notable attendees included Vandana Obul Reddy, Tondepu Srinivas, Mamata (Mumbai), Sambasiva Rao (Chennai), and Prasanna (Hyderabad), among others.



## Basavatarakam Hospital, CRDA Join Hands for Cancer Awareness Drive

TPN Correspondent | Amaravathi

As part of its public health outreach in the People's Capital Region, Andhra Pradesh CRDA, in collaboration with Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, organized a free cancer screening and awareness medical camp at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Thullur. On the first day, over 200 people availed themselves of the services, with expert medical teams from Basavatarakam providing free consultations and screening tests. Tenali MLA Sravan Kumar participated in the camp and stated that a state-of-the-art Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital will soon be established in Amaravati to provide advanced oncology services locally. He also announced that another free cancer camp will be held tomorrow (Friday) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Urban Health Centre (UHC) in Yerrabalem, urging the public to make full use of the initiative. Basavatarakam Hospital CEO Dr. Kurapati Krishnayya, addressing the gathering, emphasized the importance of early detection in cancer treatment. "Cancer is no longer a death sentence. Early diagnosis not only reduces treatment costs but also increases the chances of complete recovery," he said. The camp provided awareness on various types of cancers, including breast and cervical cancer among women, and conducted costly diagnostic tests free of charge. The event was supported by Basavatarakam COO Sunil Tandon and a team of senior doctors and specialists including Drs. Harikrishna, Santosh, Krishnaprasad, Shravanakumari, Sulochana, Ravishankar, Abdul, and Simran, along with nurses and lab technicians. CRDA officials and staff also played a key role in organizing the event. Several CRDA employees availed themselves of the services provided during the camp.

## Child Labour Drive in Andhra Pradesh Yields Key Findings

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

As per the directive of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the Andhra Pradesh Labour Department conducted a month-long statewide child labour eradication drive from June 1 to June 30, 2025. The initiative was supervised by Secretary and Commissioner M.V. Seshagiri Babu and involved inspections across all 26 districts in collaboration with district-level task force committees and legal services authorities. The inspections confirmed that no children under the age of 14 were found working in hazardous industries. However, 21 children and 189 adolescents (under 18 years) were identified as working in non-hazardous shops and establishments. All identified minors were immediately rescued and enrolled into local schools with the assistance of the Education Department. Following these inspections, 147 cases were registered under the Minimum Wages Act against the violating employers. A total of ₹1.98 lakh was recovered and disbursed to the rescued children via Demand Drafts through the court's Minimum Wages Authority. Legal proceedings against other errant employers are still underway. The Labour Department reiterated that employing children below 14 in any industry or adolescents in hazardous occupations is strictly prohibited, with violators facing imprisonment or fines up to ₹50,000. The department urged employers to support child labour eradication efforts.

## An Evening of Classical Elegance Lights Up Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A vibrant traditional dance program was held on Thursday at Jeeveer College of Music as part of the Guruprabha celebrations organized by Hamsadhwani Nrutyalaya. Under the guidance of renowned dance guru Dr. Ajay Kumar, several dance teachers and their disciples delivered spellbinding performances that captivated the audience. The event featured classical pieces like Ganesha Stuti, Cheriyaashodaku, Chandana Charchita, Aalarulu Kuriyaga, Ananda Tandavamaade, and Kattedura Thiruveedhu-

la, all performed with grace and devotion. Young dancers including Niharika, Sushma, Divya, Vighnesh, and Tania showcased remarkable talent. Over 200 artists and 15 dance gurus participated, making it a grand cultural spectacle. Dr. Ajay Kumar was felicitated by the organizers for his contributions to classical dance. Jeeveer College Principal K. Lakshminarasamma, the chief guest, highlighted the guru's role in spreading knowledge and tradition. Cultural officials C.H. Srinivas, Padma Shri Hemant, and Usha Madhavi were also present.



# D2M Feature Phones Coming to AP: Lokesh Meets Khush Tech CEO

Revolutionary tech to deliver TV, internet, and calls without SIM or WiFi

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
In a move set to revolutionize digital access in rural and remote areas, Andhra Pradesh is gearing up to introduce Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) technology-based feature phones, thanks to proactive efforts by State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh. The initiative follows a fruitful meeting between Lokesh and Eric Shin, CEO of South Korea's Khush Tech and the pioneer of D2M technology.Lokesh, following the visionary path of Chief

Minister Chandrababu Naidu, invited Khush Tech to establish a manufacturing unit for D2M feature phones and tablets in Andhra Pradesh. He assured full support through land allocation, permissions, and infrastructure via the state's single-window system and promised to take up the matter with the central government for necessary clearances. The D2M technology, developed in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, Prasar Bharati, and the Department of Telecommunications, enables access to live

TV, internet services, and voice calls — all without the need for internet connectivity, mobile data, WiFi, or even a SIM card. This innovation is expected to greatly benefit remote villages, tribal regions, forest zones, and hilly areas, where connectivity issues are common. Lokesh emphasized that these feature phones will bring vital services such as government scheme information, weather alerts, disaster warnings, and educational content to the doorsteps of citizens, even in signal-deprived regions. He

noted that this technology can transform governance and empower the poor by delivering digital services at minimal cost.During the meeting, Eric Shin showcased working prototypes of D2M-powered feature phones and tablets. Lokesh, visibly impressed, praised the innovation and congratulated Shin and his team, which included Jung Hoon Kim, Sarin Suvarna, Shashi Doppalapudi, and Sagar Doddapaneni. “Phones and tabs powered by D2M will change the lives of the poor by bridging the digi-



tal divide and enabling access to real-time information,” Lokesh said. This development is seen as yet another leap forward in Andhra Pradesh's digi-

tal journey, further cementing the state's image as a leader in tech-driven governance under Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh's combined leadership.

## Farmers Are Nation's Strength, Women Must Rise Above Poverty



**TPN | Sumanth Jangam**  
**Andhra Pradesh:** Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan declared farmers as the backbone of India and urged women to rise above poverty during a face-to-face meeting with farmers and Self-Help Group (SHG) members in Pedaballi village, Puttaparthi. The event saw participation from State Agriculture Minister Achchennaiidu and District Collector T.S. Chetan. Chouhan praised farmers for feeding the nation and lauded the district's natural farming methods, noting their low cost and high profitability as a model for India. He highlighted the potential of modern technology to boost small farmers' income. On women's empowerment, he celebrated SHG members' strides toward self-reliance, recalling his “Ladli Behna Yojana” initiative as Madhya Pradesh CM, equating service to farmers with divine worship. The minister distributed ₹437.09 crore in bank linkage funds to 53,746 SHG members from Puttaparthi and Anantapur districts. He inspected organic mixed-crop fields and a photo exhibition on drought-affected crops. The program began with prayers by SHG women and included officials like Joint Collector Abhishek Kumar, SERP CEO V. Karuna, and AP Agriculture Chairman T. Vijay Kumar.

## 52nd Week of Dokka Seethamma Annadana Program Held in Srikalahasti

**TPN | C Shekar**  
**Srikalahasti:** The 52nd week of Smt. Dokka Seethamma Gari's Annadana Program was successfully held at the RTC Bus Stand Circle in Srikalahasti, reflecting the ongoing commitment of Janasena Party leaders toward the vision of Shri Pawan Kalyan. The initiative, aimed at feeding the needy, has been organized consistently by the Peta Brothers and local Janasena cadres. This weekly food donation drive has become a symbol of service and dedication, inspired by the legacy of Dokka Seethamma Garu, known for her selfless annadanam tradition. The event was conducted under the supervision of Janasena's Joint Chittoor District Secretary Kotte Sai and program organizers Peta Chandrasekhar and Peta Chiranjeevi. Also participating in the program were party Vice Presidents Teja,

General Secretary Laxman, Mani, Eerla Chiranjeevi, Naveen, Mahesh, Gandham Srinu, Muni Kumar, and Ramesh Babu. Kapunadu Srikalahasti Constituency Presidents and several Janasena leaders including Garikapati Chandra, Raja, Muni Chandra, Muni Kumar, Rajesh, and Venkatayya actively took part. A notable presence of women leaders added to the spirit of the event. Veera Women leaders such as Kavitha, Battema, Sharada, Gayatri, Shakuntala, and Ratnamma participated with great enthusiasm, furthering the message of community service and unity. This weekly annadana initiative continues to garner appreciation across the region, standing as a testament to the Janasena Party's dedication to public welfare and Pawan Kalyan's enduring influence on grassroots service.



## 500 Tobacco Bales Must Be Purchased Daily: Minister Gottipati



**TPN Correspondent | Addanki**  
Fuel Minister Gottipati Ravikumar on Thursday directed company representatives, agency managers, and ITC officials to ensure the purchase of at least 500 bales of tobacco per day from farmers, stressing that no farmer's crop should be sent back under the pretext of rejection. During an inspection of the J. Panguluru tobacco purchasing center in the Addanki constituency, Minister Gottipati interacted with farmers and reviewed the ongoing procurement process. Farmers voiced concerns over slow purchases and the rejection of their produce citing quality issues. Responding firmly, the minister said that even the last ripe tobacco leaf must be purchased and that no farmer should be left in distress. “The coalition government stands firmly with tobacco farmers,” he declared, assuring that corrective steps are underway to prevent losses. Highlighting broader support for the farming community, the minister noted that initiatives are already in place to protect mango, cocoa, and tobacco growers. He emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has allocated ₹270 crore towards supporting the tobacco crop, calling it an unprecedented move in the country's history. He also assured the farmers that a new tobacco purchase center would be established in Korishapadu soon, in response to their appeals. Criticizing the previous YSRCP administration, Minister Gottipati accused former Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy of ignoring farmers' hardships, recalling incidents where mango crops were allegedly thrown on the roads and crushed. “Today, the coalition government is procuring mangoes at better prices, ensuring no losses to farmers,” he said. Dismissing recent criticism by the opposition, the minister claimed that YSRCP's mudslinging was based on false allegations and political theatrics. “Our government, under CM Chandrababu's leadership, is focused on ensuring justice for all sections and protecting the livelihood of the farmer—the backbone of our state,” he said. Several officials, ITC staff, and coalition leaders were present during the visit and assured their cooperation in streamlining the procurement process.

# SP Ashok Kumar Emphasizes Health Care for Police Personnel

Medical camps launched in Kadapa for timely diagnosis and preventive care

**TPN Correspondent | Kadapa**  
Kadapa District Superintendent of Police E.G. Ashok Kumar stressed the importance of regular health check-ups for police personnel who are constantly on duty and often under high stress. Speaking at the inauguration of medical examination camps held on Thursday at Sri Arunachala Hospital and Sri Holistic Hospital, the SP emphasized that only a healthy police force can provide efficient and dedicated service to the public. The medical camps are being organized across the district under the directions of Kurnool Range DIG Koya Praveen and as per the orders of State DGP Harish Kumar Gupta. On this occasion, SP Ashok Kumar himself underwent a health check-up, setting an ex-



ample for the personnel. These camps will continue for 20 days and will cover 20 types of medical tests including those related to heart, liver, kidney, blood pressure, sugar levels, and general health parameters. The SP explained that early detection of issues such as hypertension,

diabetes, cardiac concerns, and vision problems would help in timely intervention and effective treatment. “Health of the police personnel is my top priority,” SP Ashok Kumar stated. “Only when the police are healthy can they serve the public with full dedication and enthu-

siasm. These medical camps are aimed at ensuring the well-being of our personnel.” He advised officers to make yoga and meditation a part of their daily routine and emphasized the need to focus on the health of their families as well, adding that a healthy home environment ensures mental peace and better performance on duty. Present at the event were AR Additional SP Ramanaiah, AR DSP Srinivasa Rao, DTC DSP Abdul Karim, Arunachala Hospital Cardiologist Dr. R. Niranjan Reddy, AO Kotiredy, Sri Holistic Hospital CEO Sarath Babu, Manager Harinadh, One Town CI Ramakrishna, Police Officers Association District President Dhulam Suresh, State Vice President Uppu Shankar, and EC members Madhavalatha and Aprin.

# Government Committed to Students' Future: Minister Sandhyarani

**TPN Correspondent | Parvathipuram Manyam**  
State Women, Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare Minister Gummidi Sandhyarani reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to securing a bright future for students. Participating in a parent-teacher interaction program at Saluru Government Junior College on Thursday, the minister emphasized the importance of public education and the holistic development

offered by government institutions. On this occasion, the minister congratulated K. Rohit Naidu, a YPC student from Saluru Junior College, who secured 967 out of 1000 marks in the intermediate examinations and earned an engineering seat at Amaravati VITS. “Every student should set a goal, work hard, and achieve it. Parents are making great sacrifices, and students should understand and respect that,” the minister said, ad-

ressing students and parents. She praised students in government institutions as courageous, talented, and disciplined. She also highlighted the comprehensive development approach in public schools, noting that children are being trained not only in academics but also in discipline, communication, sports, and positive thinking.Minister Sandhyarani stressed the government's efforts in ensuring educational infrastructure

and support services. “Government colleges and schools now have fully-equipped labs, nutritious mid-day meals, and timely distribution of books, bags, uniforms, and shoes. The environment in government schools—with spacious playgrounds and competent teachers—is far superior to the confined classrooms in many private schools,” she said. The minister encouraged parents to choose government schools and as-

sured them that the state would take full responsibility for their children's future. She said that such interactive programs boost parents' confidence and instill self-belief in students. As part of the program, Minister Sandhyarani launched the Sarvepalli Radhakrishna Vidya Mission Kits for students. She also took part in a sapling plantation drive on the college campus, promoting environmental awareness among students.



# How the Taliban Has Become a Pawn in the India-Pakistan Strategic Rivalry

Afghanistan, long a focal point of geopolitical rivalry, has once again emerged as a critical theatre in the ongoing power play between India and Pakistan. The Taliban's return to power in 2021 has only sharpened the strategic contest, with both nations leveraging diplomatic and security tools to assert their influence over Kabul, albeit through very different approaches. India's recent abstention at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on a resolution urging political inclusion and human rights reforms in Afghanistan reflects its cautious, pragmatic stance. India's UN envoy Parvathaneeni Harish explained the move as a rejection of symbolic gestures, emphasizing the need for tangible efforts to combat terrorism in the region. India's approach remains focused on maintaining a degree of diplomatic engagement, providing humanitarian assistance, and quietly building influence—particularly through trade infrastructure like the Chabahar Port and regional energy projects such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline. Meanwhile, Pakistan continues to walk a tightrope. Despite its accusations that the Taliban are sheltering anti-Pakistan militant outfits like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Islamabad maintains high-level diplomatic



ties with the Taliban regime. This dual strategy, marked by engagement on one hand and denial of responsibility

on the other, allows Pakistan to sustain influence while deflecting international scrutiny. A recent comment by Bilawal Bhutto, suggesting that JeM

chief Masood Azhar may be hiding in Afghanistan and that Pakistan lacks the capacity to act alone, reflects Islamabad's strategy of plausible deni-

ability. Afghanistan's strategic location and resources add further stakes. It serves as a gateway to Central Asia and is rich in minerals and energy transit potential. The control of upstream river systems also makes Afghanistan crucial to Pakistan's water security, while India views these dynamics as potential leverage in the future. The presence of radical groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Afghanistan adds a dangerous layer. Historically linked to the Taliban, these groups ran training camps and aided insurgencies in Kashmir. A 2022 UN report indicated JeM had eight training facilities in Nangarhar, while LeT maintained camps in both Nangarhar and Kunar provinces. India remains concerned that a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan could again become a launchpad for cross-border terrorism. For India, the challenge lies in balancing pragmatic diplomacy with security concerns, while ensuring the Taliban doesn't become a tool for proxy terror used by Pakistan. Sustained international pressure through platforms like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and strategic alignment with global allies remain essential to countering this evolving threat.



## Xi Jinping's Absence: A Familiar Silence, Not a Crisis

Speculation surrounding Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent disappearance from the public eye—from May 21 to June 5—has once again captured global media attention. His decision to skip the BRICS summit has only added fuel to the fire, with some commentators questioning the stability of his leadership and even suggesting political turmoil within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). However, history suggests such speculation is not only premature but also often misplaced. This isn't the first time Xi has vanished from public view and triggered global curiosity. In fact, similar instances have occurred in the past. In 2012, a year before Xi officially became President, his unexplained absence led to intense speculation, though it was later attributed to a minor injury. Again, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Xi remained out of public view for extended periods, prompting rumors that ultimately proved unfounded. One reason such rumors thrive is the inherent opacity of the Chinese political system. The CCP guards information about its top leadership closely. Public appearances and state announcements are tightly choreographed, and deviations from routine are rarely explained. In this environment, any prolonged absence by a senior leader, especially someone as central as Xi Jinping, naturally attracts attention.

That said, there is no concrete evidence pointing to political instability or leadership challenges. The most likely explanation remains the simplest one: a personal health issue or a routine medical check-up. In China's political culture, especially under Xi, public disclosure of health matters is seen as a sign of weakness and a potential threat to political continuity. Leaders have traditionally avoided revealing such information to prevent creating uncertainty within the Party and among the population. Moreover, Xi remains firmly entrenched in power. Having secured an unprecedented third term in 2022, he has consolidated control over the Party, the military, and the state. There is little to suggest any organized pushback against his leadership. The Chinese system is not designed to allow easy or public dissent at the highest levels, and no visible signs of unrest or elite infighting have emerged. Ultimately, Xi Jinping's temporary absence is neither extraordinary nor necessarily alarming. It reflects the opaque, carefully managed nature of Chinese governance rather than any immediate political crisis. While the global media may continue to speculate, seasoned observers of Chinese politics know that silence, in this context, often says less than it seems.

## 70 Years of Nationalisation: Lessons from SBI, LIC, and Air India

Nearly seven decades ago, the Indian government under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru undertook a major shift in economic policy by nationalising three key service sector entities — State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), and Air India. As SBI celebrates the 70th anniversary of its nationalisation in 2025, and LIC approaches the same milestone in 2026, the divergent paths these entities have taken reflect how successive governments have balanced public ownership, profitability, and strategic importance. All three were rooted in the services sector — aviation, banking, and insurance — industries that directly touch the lives of citizens. Nehru's decision to nationalise was based not on industrial dominance, but on the ability of these sectors to influence economic and social outcomes. Unlike his daughter Indira Gandhi, who later expanded nationalisation into industrial sectors like coal and textiles, Nehru focused on essential services. SBI, formed from the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank of India in 1955, has become the country's largest and most resilient commercial bank. Its role has extended beyond traditional banking. From supporting the government during the 1962 war with China, to raising billions of dollars during the 1991 balance of payments crisis, and leading financial inclusion efforts through Jan Dhan accounts, SBI has acted as a strategic financial arm of the state. Despite concerns over governance — particularly around the government's dominant role in appointing top leadership — there is little momentum toward privatising or significantly disinvesting from SBI, given its strategic value and profitability. LIC, nationalised in 1956, has been a pillar of

India's life insurance market. With over 57% market share in first-year premium income, it continues to outperform all private insurers combined. The government listed LIC on the stock market in 2022, offloading a 3.5% stake, with potential to reduce its ownership to just above 50%. However, further disinvestment remains unlikely in the near term, as LIC is both profitable and essential to the government's economic strategy. Like SBI, LIC has often been used to stabilise markets and execute large financial operations at the government's request. Air India, in contrast, tells a different story. Originally launched by the Tata Group in 1932 and nationalised in 1953, the airline suffered from chronic inefficiency and financial losses, especially after the aviation sector opened to private players in 1994. A poorly managed merger with Indian Airlines in 2007 worsened its finances. After years of mounting losses and failed turnaround attempts, the government finally privatised Air India in 2022, returning it to the Tata Group. Though the airline's revival has faced turbulence, the government is no longer burdened with its losses — a key success of the divestment policy. The experience of these three entities underlines a core principle of India's public sector policy: enterprises retained under government ownership must be financially sound, strategically relevant, and non-dependent on taxpayer bailouts. The 2021 public sector policy reaffirmed this logic — strategic assets like SBI and LIC should remain in public hands, while others, like Air India, can be better managed in the private sector. The nationalisation journeys of SBI, LIC, and Air India offer valuable lessons on when the state should own, support, or step away from running businesses.





# Pawan Kalyan Congratulates PM Modi on Receiving Top Civilian Honours from Brazil, Ghana, Namibia

TPN | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has extended heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for receiving the highest civilian honours from Brazil, Ghana, and Namibia during his recent five-nation diplomatic tour. This prestigious recognition has raised the total number of international awards conferred upon the Indian Prime Minister to 27 — a feat hailed as a moment of pride for the entire nation.

In a message shared on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Pawan Kalyan praised Mr. Modi's exceptional leadership and global statesmanship. "This rare achievement stands as a proud moment for every Indian and a testament to the Prime Minister's exemplary statesmanship and diplomatic skills," he wrote.

Pawan Kalyan highlighted that since assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has significantly elevated India's global stature. Under his leadership, India has strengthened bilateral ties and established strategic relationships with countries across continents, including both global powers and smaller developing nations.

The honours bestowed upon PM Modi by Brazil, Ghana, and Namibia are symbols of deep respect and recognition for his consistent efforts to foster international cooperation, promote peace, and encourage global economic and cultural partnerships. They also reflect India's growing influence in international affairs



and its commitment to building strong South-South cooperation.

Pawan Kalyan, who also serves as the president of the Jana Sena Party, noted that such global recognition not only enhances India's image abroad but also serves as inspiration for Indian citizens

to continue striving for excellence in all spheres.

As diplomatic engagements continue to play a crucial role in shaping India's future, the accolades received by Prime Minister Modi during this tour further cement his position as a prominent global leader.

## Next Dalai Lama Will Be from a Democratic Nation, Not China: Arunachal CM Pema Khandu



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has asserted that the next Dalai Lama will be born in a democratic and free country, clearly stating that it will "definitely not be China."

In an interview with PTI Videos, Khandu emphasized that while the selection process

for the next Dalai Lama begins only after the incumbent passes away, there is clarity on one key point: the next spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism will come from a place where democracy and freedom of expression are upheld.

"There is no democracy in China. So wherever there is democracy... it can be anywhere in the world," Khandu said,

when asked whether the next Dalai Lama would be from China or elsewhere.

The Chief Minister, a practicing Buddhist and follower of the 14th Dalai Lama, said that although he doesn't personally know the intricacies of the selection process, all procedures are well-established by the Gaden Phodrang Trust. He added that the selection would begin only after the passing of the current Dalai Lama.

However, Khandu expressed hope that the 14th Dalai Lama will continue to live a long and healthy life. "His Holiness himself said he would live to be around 130. So we all pray and hope for that," he said.

Addressing China's objections to the Dalai Lama's succession, Khandu questioned Beijing's involvement, noting, "There is no Dalai Lama institution in China. It is recognized by Tibetan Buddhists and mainly in the Himalayan region." He also reaffirmed that the Dalai Lama institution, which has existed for over 600 years, will continue, and that all heads of Buddhist traditions have agreed on this during the spiritual leader's 90th birthday celebrations.

## No vacancy for CM post in Karnataka: Siddaramaiah dismisses leadership change buzz

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday firmly dismissed speculation about a change in leadership in the state, stating unequivocally that there is "no vacancy" for the chief minister's post. He asserted that he would continue to serve the full five-year term.

Addressing reporters in the national capital, Siddaramaiah responded to growing rumours that he may step down to make way for his deputy, D.K. Shivakumar, later this year. "Is there any vacancy for chief ministership? I am very much here before you. I am the chief minister of Karnataka," Siddaramaiah said, reinforcing that both he and Shivakumar are on the same page regarding leadership stability.

The clarification comes amid internal discussions and murmurs within the Congress party, with a section of MLAs reportedly backing Shivakumar to take over



the top post. However, both leaders have publicly maintained a united front.

Siddaramaiah, who is currently in New Delhi, is scheduled to meet senior Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. The visit has further fuelled speculation about possible changes in the state leadership, although party sources indicate it is a routine consultation.

"There is no discussion about leadership change. I have been given a five-year mandate, and I intend to complete it," Siddaramaiah reiterated.

Since forming the government in 2023 after the Congress's emphatic victory in the Assembly elections, there have been periodic talks of a rotational power-sharing agreement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.



## I will retire in August 2027, subject to divine intervention: Vice President Dhankhar

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday remarked that he would retire in August 2027, "subject to divine intervention," during an address at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). His lighthearted comment drew laughter from the audience as he reflected on the end of his term, which is scheduled to conclude on August 10, 2027.

Dhankhar, who was elected as India's 14th Vice President in 2022 after serving as the Governor of West Bengal, was speaking at a university event focused on India's intellectual and cultural evolution. He used the platform to urge a revival of India's indigenous knowledge systems and cultural heritage, which he believes are key to the nation's rise as a global power.

"Our growth on the global stage must be accompanied by a resurgence of our intellectual and cultural gravitas," Dhankhar said. He emphasized that the strength of a nation lies not only in its economy or military might, but in the originality of its ideas and the enduring relevance of its values.

The Vice President also expressed concern over how India's own intellectual contributions were often overlooked in favor of Western ideologies. He criticized what he called a post-independence continuation of colonial attitudes, where indigenous perspectives were dismissed as "primitive relics," while Western theories were upheld as universal truths.

"Even after independence, we continued to selectively remember our past and ignored the richness of our own insights," he said.

Calling for greater academic autonomy and critical thinking, Dhankhar stressed the need for Indian institutions to lead global thought in fields like philosophy, ethics, and governance.

The Vice President's comments were well received by the academic audience, setting the tone for a broader conversation about reclaiming India's intellectual sovereignty.

## Tharoor Recalls Sanjay Gandhi's Role in Emergency, Stresses Vigilance to Safeguard Democracy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor has urged citizens to remain vigilant in protecting India's democratic values, as he reflected on the Emergency period declared under former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977.

In a reflective article published in the Malayalam daily Deepika, Tharoor emphasized that the Emergency should not merely be seen as a "dark chapter" in India's history, but as a period that holds enduring lessons about the fragility of democratic systems.

Tharoor particularly highlighted the role of Sanjay Gandhi, the younger son of Indira Gandhi, in enforcing harsh measures under the guise of reform. He cited the infamous forced sterilisation drives carried out across rural India, where coercion and violence were widely reported in an attempt to meet arbitrary population control targets. Additionally, he noted that urban areas, especially New Delhi, witnessed mass demolitions of slums, leaving thousands homeless without any concern for their welfare.



"These actions, carried out in the name of discipline and order, often devolved into cruelty," Tharoor wrote, warning that the true cost of authoritarian governance is always borne by the most vulnerable. He stressed that democracy is a "precious legacy" that must not be taken for granted. "Let the Emergency serve as a lasting reminder to people everywhere," he urged.

While acknowledging that today's India is markedly different—more confident, more developed, and in many ways a stronger democracy—Tharoor cautioned that the dangers of democratic backsliding still exist. "The lessons of the Emergency remain relevant in troubling ways," he concluded, urging citizens to remain alert to threats that may come disguised as administrative efficiency or national discipline.



# Trump announces 50% tariff on copper effective August 1

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a major trade policy move, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 50% tariff on copper imports, effective August 1, 2025. The announcement was made via his Truth Social platform on Wednesday, following what the administration described as a national security review.

“Copper is necessary for semiconductors, aircraft, ships, ammunition, data centers, lithium-ion batteries, radar systems, missile defense systems, and even hypersonic weapons, of which we are building many,” Trump stated. He emphasized the importance of securing domestic supply chains for critical materials used in defense and high-tech industries. The decision marks another step in Trump’s broader strat-



egy to reassert American manufacturing dominance and reduce reliance on foreign raw materials. It follows earlier tariffs on steel, aluminum, and rare earth elements during his previous term. The announcement had an immediate impact on global markets. U.S. Comex copper

futures surged to record highs on Tuesday, when Trump first signaled the move. Analysts suggest that the tariff could lead to higher costs for manufacturers who rely heavily on copper, potentially affecting sectors from electronics to renewable energy. While the administration

frames the tariff as a national security measure, critics argue it may lead to trade tensions and increase production costs for American companies. Some industry groups and economists have also raised concerns about inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions. This latest action adds to the Trump administration’s increasingly protectionist trade agenda, with more tariff announcements expected in the coming weeks as part of a broader “America First” policy shift. The White House has not yet specified which countries will be most affected or whether exemptions will be granted for key allies. As the August 1 implementation date approaches, both industry stakeholders and global trade partners are closely watching for potential responses or retaliatory measures.



## US Sanctions UN Investigator Francesca Albanese Over Gaza War Criticism

TPN Correspondent | UN

The Trump administration has imposed sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, citing her outspoken criticism of Israel’s ongoing military campaign in Gaza. Albanese, an Italian human rights lawyer, has called Israel’s actions a “genocide” and has urged global sanctions to pressure the country to end its offensive.

The U.S. decision follows months of diplomatic pressure aimed at removing Albanese from her post — efforts that have so far failed. The move coincides with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Washington for high-level meetings, including talks with President Trump. The State Department accused Albanese of leading a “campaign of political and economic warfare” against both the U.S. and Israel.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, announcing the sanctions on social media, said, “We will always stand by our partners in their right to self-defence.” The practical implications of the sanctions, such as travel restrictions or asset freezes, remain unclear.

Albanese has actively supported the International Criminal Court’s efforts to investigate alleged Israeli war crimes and issued a recent report naming U.S. companies allegedly complicit in supporting Israel’s military and settlement activities. Her July 1 report accused Western defense, tech, shipping, and real estate firms of profiting from Israel’s actions in Gaza and the West Bank.

Critics say the sanctions are an attempt to silence an independent UN expert for doing her job. Human Rights Watch condemned the move, warning that it undermines international justice and human rights mechanisms.

Israel has dismissed Albanese’s claims as “legally groundless” and “defamatory,” accusing her of ignoring Hamas’ actions in the conflict. The war, which began in October 2023, has killed over 57,000 Palestinians and displaced millions, while also leaving Gaza’s health infrastructure in crisis.

# Bangladesh's Ousted PM Sheikh Hasina Indicted for Crimes Against Humanity

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was formally indicted on Thursday, July 10, 2025, by the country’s International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in a case related to crimes against humanity. The charges stem from a deadly crackdown on student-led protests that erupted between July and August 2024, shortly before her government was overthrown. According to local media reports, including bdnews24, the ICT has also named former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and ex-Inspector General of Police Abdullah Al Mamun as co-accused in the case. The tribunal alleges that the trio orchestrated violent suppression tactics to quell the mass upris-



ings, which led to widespread casualties and human rights violations. Of the three, only Mamun is currently in custody. He has reportedly pleaded guilty and has filed a petition to become a state witness, potentially providing key testimony against

his former political superiors. The tribunal stated that the trial would proceed in absentia for Hasina and Khan, both of whom remain outside Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina fled the country on August 5, 2024, shortly after her Awami League govern-

ment was toppled by a popular uprising. She is believed to be residing in India, though New Delhi has not made any official statements regarding her status or potential extradition. Hasina, who had been one of South Asia’s most powerful leaders for more than a decade, has denied all charges. In a recent statement, she accused Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus of conspiring against her, claiming, “Yunus planned to kill me.” The indictment marks a dramatic fall from power for the once-dominant political figure and sets the stage for a highly charged legal battle. It also signals a continued reckoning with the political violence and unrest that defined the final months of her tenure.

# Russia Launches Another Devastating Missile and Drone Attack on Kyiv, Two Killed

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Kyiv, Ukraine – July 10, 2025: Russia unleashed another intense wave of missile and drone strikes on Ukraine’s capital early Thursday morning, just a day after executing the largest aerial assault since the beginning of the war, now in its third year. Ukrainian officials confirmed that two civilians were killed in the latest barrage, which triggered widespread fires and destruction across multiple districts of Kyiv.

According to Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kyiv Regional Administration, the victims were caught in the shelling as Russian forces targeted both residential and strategic infrastructure areas. “These people were killed by the Russians. This is a terrible loss. My condolences to their families and loved ones,” Tkachenko stated in a press briefing.

Emergency services rushed to extinguish fires that broke out in residential buildings damaged by the strikes. Photos from the scene showed rescue workers battling flames engulfing rooftops, while debris littered the streets. The attack



adds to the growing toll on civilians in the capital, who have endured weeks of escalating aerial bombardment.

The Ukrainian military reported that several cruise missiles and Shahed-type drones were launched in the assault, with air defense systems managing to intercept most but not all of them. Despite these efforts, missile fragments and success-

ful strikes caused considerable structural damage and civilian casualties. This latest attack comes on the heels of Wednesday’s unprecedented onslaught, described by Ukrainian authorities as the most extensive and coordinated aerial offensive of the war so far.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reiterated calls for stronger Western air defense

support, stating that continued aggression from Moscow threatens civilian safety and critical infrastructure across the nation.

As the war enters a more brutal phase, Kyiv residents are left bracing for further strikes, even as emergency responders work tirelessly to limit the damage and save lives amid the chaos.

## Indian-Origin Student Pilot Dies in Mid-Air Collision in Canada



TPN Correspondent | Taiwan

In a tragic aviation accident in Canada, a 21-year-old Indian-origin student pilot, Sreehari Suresh from Kerala, lost his life in a mid-air collision alongside his classmate, 20-year-old Savanna May Royes, a Canadian citizen. The fatal crash occurred on Tuesday morning near Steinbach South Airport in southern Manitoba, just 400 metres from the runway used by Harv’s Air pilot training school.

Both victims were student pilots at Harv’s Air and were conducting routine flight exercises in single-engine Cessna aircraft. According to Adam Penner, president of the training school, the two were practising takeoffs and landings when their planes collided during an attempted landing. Though both aircraft were equipped with radios, preliminary reports suggest that neither pilot saw the other in time to avoid the crash.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) confirmed that both pilots were pronounced dead at the scene. No passengers were onboard either aircraft.

The Consulate General of India in Toronto expressed deep sorrow over Sreehari Suresh’s death and is in contact with his family, local authorities, and the flight school to provide support. In a statement posted on X (formerly Twitter), the Consulate said, “With profound sorrow, we mourn the tragic passing of Mr. Sreehari Suresh, a young Indian student pilot, who lost his life in a mid-air collision near Steinbach, Manitoba. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.”

Sreehari had already earned his private pilot licence and was pursuing a commercial pilot certification. He was among hundreds of international students training at Harv’s Air, a reputed aviation school founded in the early 1970s. The school currently trains around 400 pilots each year from across the globe.

The tragic incident has left the aviation training community in mourning and raised questions about mid-air safety during pilot training exercises.



# NIIF Set to Close First Phase of \$1 Billion Private Markets Fund II with \$700 Million

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), India's quasi-sovereign investment platform backed by the Government of India, is preparing to make the first closure of its latest Private Markets Fund (PMF II). According to sources close to the development, the first close—expected within the next couple of months—will secure commitments totaling around \$700 million.

PMF II is part of NIIF's ongoing strategy to deepen its presence in India's alternative investments space. The \$1 billion fund is designed to back high-growth, scalable businesses across sectors such as healthcare, financial services, consumer, and technology, with a focus on long-term value creation. The fund will primarily target equity investments in India's mid-market segment, complementing NIIF's existing infrastructure and strategic investment platforms.

NIIF's Private Markets strategy is aligned with the government's broader objective to mobilize institutional capital for the country's development needs. The upcoming closure reflects strong interest from both domestic and global institutional investors, including sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and development finance institutions.

This marks the second vehicle under NIIF's Private Markets strategy, following the success of



the first PMF. With the first close nearing completion, NIIF is poised to ramp up deal-making activity in the coming quarters, supporting India's growing private sector through patient capital.

NIIF currently manages capital across three funds: the Master Fund (focused on core infrastructure), the Fund of Funds (which backs other fund managers), and the Strategic Opportunities Fund (which makes growth equity investments). With PMF II, NIIF aims to expand its investment footprint into emerging and innovation-led sectors.

The fund's final close is expected to reach the full \$1 billion target, reinforcing NIIF's role as a key institutional investor in India's long-term economic growth.

# Reliance Jio Delays IPO Plans Beyond 2025, Focuses on Growth and Valuation

Reliance Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, has postponed its much-anticipated initial public offering (IPO) beyond this year, according to two sources familiar with the development. The delay marks a significant shift in strategy for one of India's most valuable and closely watched companies.

Valued by analysts at over \$100 billion, Jio was widely expected to go public in 2025. However, the company is now focusing on expanding its revenue streams and subscriber base to strengthen its valuation before entering the public market, a source explained. Jio aims to grow its core telecom business while also accelerating development in its broader digital ecosystem, including platforms related to payments, content, and enterprise solutions.

The decision to hold off on the IPO comes amid a period of rapid digital transformation in India, where Jio continues to be a dominant player. With more than 470 million sub-

scribers, the company remains at the forefront of India's telecom market, but is now keen to consolidate gains and show stronger financial performance before listing.

Meanwhile, the IPO for Reliance Retail, another major arm of Ambani's business empire, is also not expected before 2027 or 2028, according to one of the sources.

The delay in Jio's public debut could be seen as a move to maximize long-term value, especially as global and domestic markets remain volatile. Investors, while disappointed by the delay, are likely to watch closely how Jio's business evolves in the coming quarters as it builds toward what could be one of India's largest-ever IPOs.



# India's \$2 Trillion Export Dream Faces a Silent Bottleneck: Compliance



India aims to achieve \$2 trillion in exports by 2030, a goal fueled by surging global demand and a wave of digitally empowered businesses. But while the ambition is clear, a major hurdle stands in the way: a slow, fragmented, and outdated compliance system—especially for small and mid-sized exporters.

Today's export landscape has evolved beyond large manufacturers. It now includes MSMEs and digital-first entrepreneurs from cities like Surat, Jaipur, and Kochi, who sell everything from apparel to candles on global platforms like Amazon, Etsy, and Instagram. MSMEs contribute nearly 45% of India's exports, with their value tripling in four years. Yet, their

growth is often stifled by the complexity of compliance.

For many first-time exporters, the journey begins with daunting registration requirements—IEC codes, KYC checks, and export council memberships. A single delay or mismatch, such as a bank account not updated in the IEC profile, can derail shipments and cost orders. And the challenges don't stop there.

Post-shipment, exporters must chase FIRAs or eBRCs from banks to prove payment receipt—often waiting 7–15 days. Without these, GST refunds or RoDTEP incentives are blocked, impacting cash flow. The process is manual, opaque, and unforgiving—leaving many small exporters overwhelmed.

However, fintech is changing this narrative. New platforms are automating KYC, documentation, and compliance workflows—embedding them into day-to-day operations. Instant FIRAs, smart invoice matching, and unified dashboards are reducing delays, increasing transparency, and restoring confidence.

India's \$2 trillion target won't be achieved through policy alone. Removing these hidden frictions will be key. With the right digital infrastructure, compliance can become a seamless part of business—not a barrier. That's the shift India's new wave of exporters needs to thrive on the global stage.

# NBFCs Double Loan Advances to ₹48 Lakh Crore, Says Finance Minister Sitharaman

Gross loan advances by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) have surged significantly, doubling from ₹24 lakh crore in March 2021 to ₹48 lakh crore as of March 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced at the NBFC Symposium 2025 on Wednesday. Highlighting their growing role in India's financial ecosystem, Sitharaman emphasized that NBFCs have become a vital source of credit for traditionally underserved and excluded segments. "NBFCs are no longer shadow banks," she remarked, adding that their stronger regulation and compliance frameworks demonstrate their increasing significance in the broader economy. The Finance Minister pointed to recent RBI regulatory steps—such as the recalibration of risk weights on bank lending and a more accommodative financial environment—as key factors enhancing credit prospects for the sector. She urged NBFCs to pass on the benefits of reduced funding costs to end-users, especially following recent RBI measures aimed at eas-



ing financial conditions. Sitharaman also reaffirmed the government's support for the NBFC sector, stating, "We remain committed to a consultative approach. Issues raised during consultations will be examined with due attention." The Minister called for deeper collaboration between NBFCs and banks, particularly through co-lending arrangements. She advocated for the institutionalisation of such partnerships, supported by a seamless digital co-lending infrastructure, standardized onboarding processes, and interoperable servicing platforms. These efforts, she said, would help increase credit flow to priority sectors while enhancing risk-sharing and operational efficiency. Sitharaman acknowledged the evolution of some systemically important NBFCs, noting that many now operate with governance and compliance standards on par with banks. This progress, she added, paves the way for robust NBFCs to eventually transition into full-fledged banks, strengthening the overall financial system.

# FinMin Likely to Finalise Relief Package for OMCs' ₹41,000 Crore LPG Losses

The Finance Ministry is expected to soon finalize a compensation package for state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) to address the massive losses incurred from selling LPG cylinders below market prices. According to official sources, the move is aimed at supporting Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), which have reportedly faced cumulative losses of over ₹41,000 crore due to under-recoveries on domestic cooking gas sales. The losses stem from the government's decision to keep LPG prices affordable for consumers, even as global energy prices surged. A senior official confirmed that the Finance Ministry is actively reviewing the OMCs' request for compensation and is working on finalizing the amount and the mechanism for the payout. "We have received the request. It is under consideration. We are looking at the amount of under-recovery and discussing the modalities for compensation," said the official. The relief is expected to be funded through additional revenue generated from the hike in excise duties on petrol and diesel implemented in April 2025. This move provided the government with fiscal headroom to support critical sectors like energy while maintaining a balance between consumer welfare and corporate viability.



In October 2022, the government had approved a one-time grant of ₹22,000 crore to partially offset the then-estimated ₹28,000 crore losses of OMCs for selling LPG at subsidized rates. However, continuing global price volatility and efforts to shield consumers from high fuel prices have pushed the loss figures even higher since then. The proposed package is likely to be taken up by the Union Cabinet soon. If approved, it will mark another significant intervention to stabilize the energy sector and ensure the financial health of key public sector enterprises.



# Man Rides Scooter to Ladakh, Internet Stunned by Viral Journey

A video of a man travelling to Ladakh on a Suzuki Access scooter has taken the internet by storm, leaving viewers both amazed and skeptical. While the Himalayan region is typically conquered on rugged, high-powered motorcycles, this adventurous rider chose a modest scooter to take on one of the most challenging terrains in India.

Shared on Instagram on June 27, the now-viral video captures the rider maneuvering through a range of extreme conditions — from rocky trails and steep mountain highways to narrow, snow-covered roads and icy stream crossings. The

visuals are dramatic and captivating, especially considering the scooter's small engine and urban design. Despite that, the rider confidently handles each stretch, earning his two-wheeler the nickname “Lord Access.”

One frame shows the scooter crossing a shallow stream littered with stones, another shows it winding up through treacherous mountain roads, and there's even a breathtaking shot of the scooter riding past walls of snow. Packed with travel bags, bottles, and essentials, the vehicle clearly wasn't part of a stunt — it was geared for a serious, long-distance trip.

The video sparked a wave of reactions online, with social media users calling the journey everything from “crazy” and “unbelievable” to “inspiring.” Many praised the rider's determination and courage, while others were stunned by how a vehicle meant for city rides could survive such a punishing adventure.

This unconventional journey is now being hailed as proof that it's not always about the machine — sometimes, it's about the mindset. The man and his scooter have become unlikely heroes of the travel community, turning Lord Access into a new symbol of grit and passion.



## Are You Really Middle Class? Viral Reddit Post Sparks Heated Debate

A Reddit post questioning who actually qualifies as “middle class” in India has gone viral, igniting a fierce online debate and forcing many to reevaluate their assumptions. Shared on July 8, the post highlighted the vast range of lifestyles among people who all identify as middle class — from luxury penthouse dwellers with multiple cars to working-class individuals with modest incomes.



The Redditor began by recounting stories of affluent families who label themselves as middle class. “Let me share a tale of father's friend,” the user wrote. “He lives in a huge penthouse, has 8 staff round the clock, and owns 6 cars — yet he considers himself middle class. In my own home, we have 5 full-time staff and 4 cars, and we can afford international vacations. But still, my parents claim we're middle class.”

The post then added a contrasting perspective. “My driver, who earns decently but far less than us, also considers himself middle class. And interestingly, the maid in his house believes she's middle class too.”

The post concluded with a pointed and thought-provoking question: “If everyone is middle class, who is upper class and who is lower class?”

The comment section quickly filled with strong opinions. Some users expressed frustration over how the term “middle class” has become a vague and often misused identity marker in India. Others argued that the label is now more about perception and social conditioning than actual income or lifestyle.

The post has sparked a nationwide conversation, pushing people to confront class privilege, wealth denial, and how blurred the lines of socioeconomic status have become in modern India.

## Polish Tourists Highlight Garbage Near Taj Mahal, Internet Reacts Strongly

A video posted by Polish travel vloggers has stirred up a heated debate online after it showed garbage and sewage near the Yamuna River behind the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra. Shared on Instagram by the user @podroznik-dowynajecia, the clip has gone viral, dividing social media over whether the video was constructive criticism or a misrepresentation of India.



The footage shows a group of foreign tourists reacting to the sight and smell of trash in the area, with one woman covering her nose with a scarf. At one point, a tourist comments, “Where is the Taj Mahal? It stinks terribly. Worse than Chennai.” The remark sparked particular outrage, as many felt it unfairly stereotyped Indian cities.

While the video received backlash from some viewers, the vloggers were quick to clarify their intent. In the caption, they wrote, “India is a great country. We would never think to hate this great part of the world. There are many clean and beautiful places. We plan to return soon and share videos from this better side of India.”

Despite the clarification, the video has triggered polarized responses. Critics questioned why the tourists sought out the dirtiest spots. One user wrote, “Why go where there are no roads? Why follow the stench? Just visit the good places, not the landfills.” Another added, “Your behaviour is more disgusting than the mess you're judging.”

However, many supported the vloggers, arguing that the clip highlights a real issue—lack of proper waste management around major tourist sites. Some users urged the government to treat such criticism as a wake-up call and prioritize sanitation and civic upkeep in heritage zones.

Whether seen as offensive or eye-opening, the video has once again spotlighted the urgent need for better cleanliness around India's most treasured landmarks.

## Australian Vlogger Says “India Can Go From Rich to Poor in Seconds,” Video Triggers Online Debate

A video shared by Australian content creator Jeremy Franco has gone viral for its stark observation about India's socioeconomic contrasts, sparking a wave of mixed reactions on social media. In the Instagram clip, Franco remarks, “India can go from rich to poor in two seconds,” citing the jarring shift in surroundings as he stepped out of a luxury shopping mall into a much poorer area nearby.

The clip shows Franco walking through a posh mall filled with high-end international brands like Gucci and Dior. Moments later, the footage cuts to scenes of congested streets, informal markets, and visibly underprivileged neighborhoods. The video is overlaid with text stating, “India is poor and rich at the same time,” and the caption reads, “India has duality, you never know what she's going to give.”

This blunt commentary on India's wealth disparity has divided the internet. Some viewers



agreed with Franco, appreciating the honest portrayal of India's socioeconomic contrasts. They argued that the visible inequality is a reality and not something to shy away from. “He's just stating facts. That's exactly what you experience in Indian cities,” one user wrote.

However, others felt the comparison was oversimplified and sensationalist. Critics pointed out that every country has contrasting layers of wealth, and cherry-picking visuals to emphasize poverty perpetuates stereotypes. “You could do the same thing in Los Angeles or Rio,” a commenter said. Another added, “This ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ lens needs to go.”

Despite the backlash, the video has reignited conversations around India's economic divide and the perceptions of foreign tourists. Whether seen as an honest reflection or a narrow portrayal, Franco's post has undeniably struck a nerve — once again highlighting the complex narrative of modern India.

## Google's July 2025 Pixel Drop Brings Free AI Pro Subscription for Pixel 9 Pro, Circle-to-Search Gets Smarter

Google has surprised Pixel users with an early Pixel Drop for July 2025, introducing several AI-powered features across its ecosystem. The biggest highlight is a free one-year Google AI Pro subscription exclusively for Pixel 9 Pro users — a plan that typically costs ₹1,950 per month in India.

This subscription unlocks access to advanced Gemini models, including Gemini 2.5 Pro and Deep Research on 2.5 Pro, along with limited access to the Veo 3 video generation model. Pixel 9 Pro users also get to try Google's AI filmmaking tool Flow, powered by Veo 3, and enhanced image-to-video capabilities via Veo 2 in Whisk, with up to 1,000 monthly AI credits.

Another major update is the expansion of Circle-to-Search with AI Mode to users in India and the US. This mode now supports text-based prompts with in-line citations, offering a richer search experience. Google is also adding in-game help, allowing users to search for walkthroughs and tips based on their exact location within a game, without leaving the app.



The Pixel Drop doesn't stop at smartphones. Google has also introduced Gemini support on Pixel Watches running Wear OS 4 or later. Users can now interact with Gemini using natural language to send messages, get directions, plan trips, summarize emails, or even remember personal details — all from their smartwatch.

In addition to AI features, Pixel 9 Pro users benefit from 2TB of cloud storage shared across Gmail, Drive, and Photos. With this update, Google continues to weave powerful generative AI into everyday experiences, making Pixel devices smarter, more helpful, and deeply integrated with its AI ecosystem.



## India Women Clinch Historic Maiden T20I Series Win Over England

India scripted a landmark moment in women's cricket history by securing their first-ever T20I series win against England with a commanding six-wicket victory in the fourth match of the five-game series. The triumph gave India an unassailable 3-1 lead, making the final match in Birmingham a dead rubber.

The Indian spin attack was pivotal to the win. Radha Yadav (2/15), young sensation Shree Charani (2/30), and Deepti Sharma (1/29) restricted England to just 126 for 7. This disciplined bowling effort was complemented by sharp fielding that kept the pressure on throughout.

England, led by stand-in captain Tammy Beaumont in the absence of Nat Sciver-Brunt, failed to gain momentum after losing both openers early. Beaumont briefly resisted with a 16-ball 20,



but regular wickets stifled their innings.

India's chase began with a fluent 56-run opening stand between Shafali Verma (32) and Smriti Mandhana (31), setting a strong foundation. Despite losing both openers in quick succession, Jemimah Rodrigues (24\*) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (26) calmly guided the team home with 18 balls to spare.

Kaur praised the team's preparation and execution: "I'm really proud of the way we played. Everyone understood their roles and delivered."

India had previously never won a T20I series against England, either at home or away, making this victory even more significant. It also comes at a crucial time as India builds momentum ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England next year.

## PSG Crush Real Madrid 4-0 to Reach Club World Cup Final

Paris Saint-Germain delivered a stunning performance to thrash Real Madrid 4-0 in the semi-finals of the FIFA Club World Cup, setting up a high-stakes final clash with Chelsea. The match, played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, marked a bitter reunion for Kylian Mbappe, who faced his former club for the first time since his transfer to Madrid.

PSG, the reigning European champions, wasted no time asserting their dominance. Ousmane Dembele opened the scoring in the 6th minute, capitalizing on a defensive lapse, and Fabian Ruiz doubled the lead just three minutes later. Ruiz struck again before halftime, while Goncalo Ramos added a late fourth to complete a humiliating defeat for the 15-time European champions.

Despite key absences—Willian Pacheco for PSG and Trent Alexander-Arnold and Dean Huijsen for Madrid—the French side's fluid attacking play overwhelmed Xabi Alonso's team. Lucas Beraldo filled in seamlessly in defense, while Dembele and Ruiz were unstoppable in midfield and attack.

Mbappe, starting his first match of the tournament, struggled to make an impact against his old teammates. His former club, however, showed they've



moved on, putting on a clinical display that left Madrid chasing shadows.

The match was effectively over by halftime, with PSG leading 3-0 and Real Madrid failing to register any serious threat. By the time Ramos scored the fourth in the 87th minute, Alonso had already withdrawn Jude Bellingham and Vinicius Jr. in a symbolic concession.

PSG now march into the final with momentum and confidence. With a treble already in sight—including the French league title and their maiden Champions League win—Luis Enrique's side looks poised to complete a historic season with Club World Cup glory.

## Wimbledon 2025: Iga Swiatek Storms Into Semi-Finals, Set for Clash With Belinda Bencic

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek advanced to the semi-finals of Wimbledon 2025 after a commanding straight-sets win over Russia's Liudmila Samsonova on Wednesday. Swiatek claimed a 6-2, 7-5 victory in one hour and 49 minutes, marking her place in the semi-finals of all three Grand Slam tournaments this year.

Samsonova provided a tough contest early on, matching Swiatek in the opening games of the first set. However, Swiatek saved an early break point and quickly took control, fending off four more break points and reeling off seven consecutive games to lead 6-2, 3-0. Samsonova responded with back-to-back breaks to level the second set at 4-4, but Swiatek maintained her composure, earning her fifth break of the match and converting her second match point to seal the win.

Swiatek now faces Switzerland's Belinda Bencic, who reached her maiden Wimbledon semi-final with a gritty 7-6(3), 7-6(2) win over Russian seventh seed Mira Andreeva. Bencic, the 2020 Olympic gold medalist and former top-10 player, finally broke her quarter-final curse at the All England Club, having never pro-



gressed beyond the Round of 16 in her previous eight attempts. She also becomes the first Swiss woman to make the Wimbledon semi-finals since Martina Hingis in 1998.

In the men's draw, Novak Djokovic continued his quest for a record-equalling eighth Wimbledon title. The Serbian legend overcame a spirited effort from Italy's Flavio Cobolli, prevailing 6-7(6), 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 to reach a record 14th semi-final at the tournament. Djokovic will next face world No. 1 Jannik Sinner, who ended Ben Shelton's run with a straight-sets win: 7-6(2), 6-4, 6-4.

## India A Men's Hockey Team Thrashes Ireland 6-0, Continues Euro Tour Dominance

The India A Men's Hockey Team continued their commanding form on their European tour, registering a resounding 6-0 win over Ireland in their second encounter at the Hockey Club Oranje-Rood in Eindhoven. This dominant performance follows their 6-1 victory in the opening match against the same opponents.

India began strongly once again, with Uttam Singh breaking the deadlock early. Team captain Sanjay soon doubled the lead with a composed finish. The momentum stayed firmly with India as midfielder Mohammed Raheel Mousen netted twice in quick succession, showcasing his attacking prowess. The rout was completed by goals from Amandeep Lakra and Varun Kumar, sealing a clean sheet victory for the men in blue.

Coach Shivendra Singh expressed his satisfaction post-match, stating, "We've had two really strong games against Ireland. The team is executing our strategies well, and I'm pleased with the balance we're building. We aim to keep this momentum going against France next." India A is now set to face France on Saturday, July 12, at the same venue.



The team will then go on to play against England, Belgium, and hosts Netherlands over the next two weeks. In the tour opener, India A displayed similar dominance, beating Ireland 6-1. That game saw goals from Uttam Singh, Amandeep Lakra, Aditya Lalage—who scored a brace—Selvam Karthi, and

Boby Singh Dharmi. Ireland managed only a consolation goal as India maintained solid defensive organization. India A is scheduled to play two matches each against Ireland, France, and the Netherlands, in addition to one match each against England and Belgium. So far, their form suggests they are strong contenders to finish the tour on a high.

## ENG vs IND 3rd Test Day 1: Joe Root's Steady Fifty Anchors England at 153/2 at Tea

England's seasoned batter Joe Root showcased his trademark composure as he guided his team to a solid 153 for 2 at tea on Day 1 of the third Test against India at Lord's on Thursday, July 10, 2025. Root remained unbeaten on 54, alongside Ollie Pope, who supported him well with a fluent 44\*, as England recovered from an early jolt in the first session. After winning the toss and electing to bat first on a surface offering some assistance to seamers early on, England's openers Ben Duckett (23 off 40) and Zak Crawley (18 off 43) cautiously negotiated the first hour. India's pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Akash Deep, and Mohammed Siraj bowled probing spells without immediate success, but kept the pressure tight with disciplined lines.

It was young pacer Nitish Kumar Reddy who made the breakthrough for India, striking twice in the same over to dismiss both Duckett and Crawley. His double blow reduced England to 39 for 2, shifting momentum momentarily in India's favour.

However, Root and Pope calmly rebuilt the innings with an unbroken 114-run partnership. Root, in particular, was methodical, picking his moments and rotating the strike effectively. This half-century marked Root's 67th in Test cricket, underlining his immense experience and value in the English middle order.



Pope, too, looked assured at the crease, playing confidently off the back foot and countering India's bowlers with calculated risk.

With England at 153/2 in 49 overs at the tea break, the hosts will aim to capitalise on their strong platform heading into the final session of the day, while India will be looking to break the partnership quickly to regain control.

Brief Score: England 153/2 in 49 overs (Joe Root 54\*, Ollie Pope 44\*; Nitish Kumar Reddy 2/35)





## Dhanush Begins Filming High-Octane Action Thriller with ‘Por Thozhil’ Director Vignesh Raja

Dhanush, the powerhouse performer and four-time National Award-winning actor, has jumped straight into his next project following the massive success of Kuberaa, where he stunned audiences with his gritty portrayal of a beggar. Titled D54 for now, the film marks an exciting collaboration with Por Thozhil director Vignesh Raja and promises to be a high-octane action entertainer.

Without taking a break, Dhanush has already commenced shooting for the film, with production beginning today. The makers describe the film with the gripping tagline: “Sometimes staying dangerous is the only way to stay alive,” hinting at a dark, intense narrative. The official announcement poster sets the tone — it features Dhanush standing solemnly in the middle of a burning cotton field, his head bowed, hinting at a character who’s been pushed to the edge and forced to fight back.

This marks Vignesh Raja’s next major venture following the critically acclaimed Por Thozhil, and expectations are high for another edge-of-the-seat thriller. Dhanush is set to deliver another layered performance in what looks to be a gritty and emotionally charged action role.

Joining him is rising star Mamitha Baiju, known for her charm and growing popularity, as the female lead. The supporting cast includes seasoned actors like KS Ravi Kumar, Suraj Venjaramoodu, and Jayaram, adding weight and depth to the ensemble. The film is being produced by Ishari K Ganesh on a grand scale, en-



suring top-notch production values.

With such a stellar combination of talent, D54 is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated action thrillers in Tamil cinema.



## Mahavatar Narsimha Trailer Unleashed: A Mythical Battle to Restore Dharma

The much-anticipated trailer of Mahavatar Narsimha, the first chapter in the Mahavatar Cinematic Universe (MCU), has finally been released — and it promises a visually spectacular and emotionally powerful mythological epic. With a grand theatrical release slated for July 25, the trailer sets the stage for a gripping battle between divine power and demonic tyranny. The trailer opens with a fierce portrayal of the demon king Hiranyakashipu, who is shown undertaking severe penance (Tapasya) to please Lord Brahma. His reward — a near-invincible boon — sets him on a destructive path, spreading darkness across the world. But the greatest threat to his rule emerges not from outside, but from his own son Prahlada, a fearless devotee of Lord Vishnu. As Prahlada’s devotion intensifies, the divine prepares to intervene. The trailer crescendos with the awe-inspiring arrival of Lord Vishnu in his fearsome Narasimha Avatar, a part-li-

on, part-human incarnation that emerges to destroy Hiranyakashipu and restore Dharma. The action, emotional beats, and stunning visuals promise a cinematic experience rooted in Indian mythology yet told with modern storytelling flair. Produced by Hombale Films in association with Kleem Productions, Mahavatar Narsimha features cutting-edge animation and state-of-the-art visuals. The film has been crafted to deliver an immersive 3D experience and will release in all major South Indian languages along with Hindi. Directed by Ashwin Kumar and produced by Shilpaa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai, this mythological spectacle marks a significant step in bringing Indian epics to a global stage through the lens of high-end animation and cinematic storytelling. With its release just around the corner, Mahavatar Narsimha is set to redefine mythological cinema.

## Will Suhas Deliver a Hit with ‘Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama’?

Young and versatile actor Suhas is on a roll, doing back-to-back projects, and his latest film Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama is gearing up for release on July 11, 2025. The buzz around the film has picked up, especially after the trailer struck a chord with audiences. It showcases Suhas in a light-hearted, fun-filled avatar — a refreshing shift from the intense roles he’s known for.

What makes Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama special is that it marks Suhas’s first full-fledged commercial outing. Known for his performances in emotional and realistic dramas, this film sees him stepping into the shoes of a mainstream hero — complete with comedy, dancing, and action. The trailer hints at a blend of laughter, family emotions, and mass entertainment.

Veteran actor Ali joins the cast in a key role as

Suhas’s uncle, adding to the film’s family drama appeal. The film seems to strike a balance between humor and emotional depth, potentially catering to a wide section of the audience.

Suhas was last seen in Uppu Kappurambu alongside Keerthy Suresh, where he delivered a moving performance as a burial ground worker. The film earned decent reviews and praise for Suhas’s emotional depth, especially on OTT platforms like Amazon Prime.

With just a week between his last release and Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama, the spotlight is firmly on Suhas to see if he can deliver yet another successful outing. If the trailer is any indication, this film could very well mark a turning point in his career, establishing him as a bankable lead in commercial cinema.



## “Marshal”: Karthi Embarks on a Sea Adventure in His 29th Film

Tamil star Karthi is all set to explore uncharted waters—literally—with his 29th film titled Marshal. Known for his versatility, Karthi will now be seen in a sea-based period action-adventure thriller, a first in his career. The film is being helmed by director Tamizh and produced by Dream Warrior Pictures, a banner known for backing impactful cinema.

Following the completion of Sarthaar 2 and the upcoming release of Va Vathiyar, Karthi is keeping up his momentum with Marshal, which promises a never-before-seen avatar of the actor. Set against a historic maritime backdrop, the film is expected to deliver a gripping tale of courage, conflict, and survival at sea.

The official announcement of the film’s title came on July 10, 2025, along with a traditional puja ceremony that marked the beginning of the shoot. With high expectations and a fresh genre for Tamil cinema, the buzz around Marshal is already strong.

Joining Karthi in the film is actress Kalyani Priyadarshan, who plays the female lead. The film also boasts a stellar ensemble cast including Sathyaraj, Prabhu, Lal, Eswari Rao, Murali Sharma, and John Kokken, all of whom are set



to play significant roles.

The music for Marshal will be composed by Sai Abhyankar, adding another layer of excitement for fans eager to hear a rousing soundtrack that matches the film’s adventurous tone.

With a fresh genre, an experienced cast and crew, and a compelling storyline set at sea, Marshal is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Tamil films in Karthi’s career.

## Priyanka Chopra’s Powerful Simplicity on Esquire India’s Cover

As anticipation builds for her upcoming film SSMB29 alongside superstar Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra Jonas makes a striking statement with her latest Esquire India cover. The global icon showcases a look that’s both commanding and minimal, proving once again that less can indeed be more. Wearing a reimagined pinstripe jacket over a sleek black bralette, Priyanka balances structure with ease. The tailored lines of the jacket contrast beautifully with the simplicity of the bralette, creating a modern, bold aesthetic. It’s an outfit that doesn’t scream for attention but commands it nonetheless. Her makeup follows the same quiet strength. A rich berry lip stands out against an otherwise understated palette, while her textured hair adds a sense of raw elegance. There’s no elaborate set or exaggerated styling—just Priyanka,



the camera, and her unwavering presence. What truly sets the cover apart is how it leans into subtlety. It doesn’t rely on over-the-top fashion or heavy glamour. Instead, it allows Priyanka’s poise and expression to lead. Her gaze is confident, grounded, and deliberate—a visual reminder of her lasting impact in both fashion and film. With SSMB29 already generating excitement, this cover serves as a calm but confident pause. It’s not a promotional push, but rather a reflection of where Priyanka stands today: experienced, powerful, and in full control of her narrative. She doesn’t just step into the frame—she defines it. In a world that often equates bold with loud, Priyanka Chopra’s Esquire feature is a lesson in restraint and strength. It’s proof that presence isn’t about noise—it’s about knowing exactly who you are and owning it.