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# Population Is Our Strength, Not a Burden: CM

**Calls for population management, increased fertility rate in AP**

- “People are the greatest economic resource,” says CM at Amaravati Summit
- Announces plan for child care centers in government offices
- Suggests incentives for families to have more children

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu declared that the population is the strongest economic asset of the nation and emphasized the need to shift from “population control” to “population management.” Speaking at the first Amaravati Summit on the occasion of World Population Day, held at the State Secretariat on Friday, the CM said, “A country is not made of soil, but people,” quoting Gurajada Apparao’s famed sentiment. Launching the new policy concept “Population Management: Every Family Matters – Your Opinion is a Guide”, the CM stressed that falling fertility rates could threaten future economic growth. “In the past, we encouraged population control. Now, we need to promote responsible growth. AP’s fertility rate stands at 1.7 — below the replacement rate of 2.1 — and this must be corrected,” he said. **‘Youth power is declining globally’** Highlighting global trends, the CM expressed concern that developed countries are facing crises due to declining fertility rates. He cited examples of countries like Japan, China, and Singapore — all of which have initiated

incentive schemes to boost birth rates. He noted that Andhra Pradesh too needs similar forward-looking policies to maintain a balanced population structure and prevent future human resource shortages. **Incentives for more children** Drawing inspiration from global models, CM Naidu suggested that Andhra Pradesh might consider incentives for families with more children. “Some nations provide monetary rewards, tax exemptions, and housing benefits for larger families. We too must think in that direction,” he said, while also proposing that childcare centers be set up in government offices to support working parents. **‘Indians lead the world in productivity’** CM Naidu proudly remarked that Indians are among the highest earners globally and have significant representation in global leadership. “Despite challenges, India’s demographic dividend is pushing it forward — we must use this opportunity until 2047 to secure sustainable growth,” he said, urging policymakers to adopt people-focused economic policies. **Addressing public**

**concerns**

Interacting with attendees, Naidu acknowledged that many couples today are unwilling to have children due to rising living expenses. “Joint families are disappearing, and the cost of living is growing. But children are a family’s wealth — we must not lose that sentiment,” he said. Citing poll data from the summit, he pointed out that while most still prefer two children, a growing number are considering just one or none. **A shift in approach** “This is not just about increasing numbers — it’s about maintaining balance. We will not control population but manage it. A healthy population will lead to a healthy nation,” he said, concluding his speech by assuring that the state will develop a comprehensive Population Management Policy with inputs from experts and the public. Prominent attendees included Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the PM’s Economic Advisory Council; Tenali MLA Shraavan Kumar; Myna Mahila Foundation founder Dr. Suhani Jalota; public health expert Dr. M. Prakasamma; and Professor Sanjay Kumar. Senior officials from various departments also participated in the summit.

# Mr. MURTHY NAIDU PADAM GOT BAIL

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

The Managing Director of Point Media House Mr. Padam Murthy Naidu was released on bail on 11th July after 11 days remand. An SC ST atrocity case including defamation was mounted on him based on the complaint of Polavaram Janasena MLA Chirri Bala Raju. The POINT has given series of articles on the allegations coming on Mr. Balaraju locally. MLA has filed complaint with Police without issuing any rejoinder to the publication. Based SC ST atrocity section, the Police has arrested him on 30th June at the office of POINT, Vijayawada. The court has remanded him for 14 days. In the remand report the Police have included two other directors in the case. On 2nd Mr. Murthy Naidu has filed bail petition and Police have filed custody petition. The other two directors have got quash from High Court on 8th July. In that order, the High Court has commented that the case should not be filed and the complainant has to file private petition in the court instead. On 10th July arguments were done on custody and bail petitions of this case at SC ST court, Eluru. The court has given bail order for Murthy Naidu on 11th July. The court has mentioned the references of many cases including social media cases of journalists.



# Mega PTM 2.0 a Grand Success: Nara Lokesh

- State-wide Parent-Teacher Meet held across government and private institutions
- Minister Lokesh thanks stakeholders for united efforts
- Promises continued efforts to improve education system

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

State IT and Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh has declared the ‘Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) 2.0’ a grand success. Speaking after the conclusion of the program held across Andhra Pradesh yesterday, Lokesh thanked all those who contributed to making the event impactful. He expressed happiness over the massive participation from government and private schools and colleges, teachers, parents, alumni, donors,

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# Four Suspended Over Harassment at Kakinada GGH

- Para medical students complain of sexual harassment
- Lab staff took photos, threatened students
- CM orders immediate suspension

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada

Shocking incidents of harassment have surfaced at the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Kakinada, leading to swift action from the state government. On the orders of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, four employees, including a lab attendant and three technicians, were suspended following serious allegations of sexual harassment of female para medical students. Kalyan Chakravarthy, a regular employee of Rajiv Gandhi Medical College (RMC) working as a biochemistry lab attendant at GGH, has been accused of harassing female students during their training. The allegations state that he secretly took inappropriate photographs of students during health check-ups and sent them via WhatsApp, using “One Time View” to prevent evidence from being retained. He also allegedly threatened to fail students in their exams if they didn’t comply with his demands.



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# Business Needs Hindi, So Why the Opposition to Learning It...?

- Pawan Kalyan calls Hindi vital for business, IT, and cinema
- Says learning Hindi strengthens, not weakens, identity
- Highlights 31% South film revenue comes from Hindi dubbing

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan underscored the growing importance of Hindi in business and national integration while addressing the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the State Language Department held at Gachibowli’s Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad. Pawan Kalyan stated that learning Hindi, which is spoken by the majority of India, is equally important as English, especially in fields like information technology, business, and cinema. He questioned the opposition to learning the language, saying, “When Hindi

is needed for business, why is there a problem with learning it?” Citing data from the film industry, he revealed that 31% of the revenue generated from South Indian films comes from Hindi dubbed versions, further emphasizing the language’s national reach and economic value. He defended his own decision to include a Hindi song, “Ae Mera Jaha,” in one of his Telugu films, stating that it was a gesture to honour Hindi as the national language, despite Telugu being his mother tongue. “Learning Hindi does not mean losing our identity, but becoming stronger.



Deputy CM highlights importance of Hindi at State Language Department’s Golden Jubilee in Hyderabad

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## Mega PTM 2.0 a Grand...

Continued from page 1

public representatives, and education department staff. Lokesh stated that it is the collective support from society that will build a strong foundation for the education system.

The minister said the main goals of PTM 2.0 were to foster better coordination between teachers and parents, review student progress, and encourage community participation in school development. “Such programs can pave a golden path for the future of students,” he said.

Lokesh highlighted that several important issues were discussed during the event, including school infrastructure and the quality of education. He assured that the government would positively consider the suggestions given by parents and take necessary action.

He affirmed that similar programs will be conducted in the future to further strengthen the state's education system. Educationists believe that Mega PTM 2.0 has boosted student morale and activated greater involvement from parents in their children's academic journey.

## Four Suspended Over Harassment...

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Acting on the students' email complaint, the RMC principal forwarded the matter to the Internal Complaints Committee. A team comprising a department head and two associate professors interrogated 48 students on the 9th and 10th of this month. Following a detailed inquiry, Kalyan Chakravarthy and his three associates—Microbiology Lab Technician Jimmy Raju, Biochemistry Lab Technician Gopalakrishna, and Pathology Lab Technician Prasad—were found to be involved in the harassment.

The complaint also stated that the three technicians collaborated with Kalyan Chakravarthy and facilitated his actions. In response to the findings, the Chief Minister ordered the immediate suspension of all four accused. The local police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Kakinada GGH officials submitted a detailed report on the incident and the disciplinary steps taken to the Chief Minister. Further action is expected following the police inquiry.



## Business Needs Hindi, So Why...

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Accepting another language is not defeat; it is a journey together,” he remarked. Pawan Kalyan argued that resisting Hindi in an era of diminishing language barriers is detrimental to the growth and opportunities of future generations.

While expressing respect for mother tongues such as Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, Pawan described Hindi as the ‘state language’ that can serve as a common thread across the nation.

He elaborated that India's strength lies in unity through diversity, and Hindi plays a key role in that. “While the world is dividing over identities, India seeks to unite through a common language, and that language is Hindi,” he asserted.

Recalling the diversity that shaped India, he mentioned how the national anthem was penned in Bengali, how a Punjabi fought for freedom, how Rana Pratap from Rajasthan embodied valor, how Abdul Kalam from Tamil Nadu became the Missile Man, and how the tricolour was designed by a man from the Madras Presidency.

Concluding, Pawan Kalyan said every language is a biological and cultural identity, but Hindi can function as a national integrator, bridging regional diversities without erasing them.

## APCRDA Signs MoU with NaBFID for Amaravati Infra Financing

- Partnership to design financial roadmap for capital projects
- NaBFID to advise on PPP models, land monetization
- Financial blueprint for Amaravati infrastructure in the works
- CM Chandrababu Naidu witnesses MoU signing

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a significant step towards building robust infrastructure in Amaravati, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for Transaction Advisory Services (TAS). The MoU was signed in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday, July 11.

As a strategic advisor, NaBFID will support APCRDA in crafting a comprehensive financial strategy for developing Amaravati. The institution will help design financial models, evaluate Public-Private Partnership (PPP) implementation frameworks, and explore monetization avenues for land and infrastructure assets in the capital region.

The scope of NaBFID's advisory services includes identifying revenue sources, evaluating optimal financing mechanisms, and assisting APCRDA in engaging stakeholders and potential investors. This collaboration is expected to



drive efficient capital deployment across multiple infrastructure projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajkiran Rai G., Managing Director of NaBFID, expressed confidence in the partnership. “We are pleased to collaborate with APCRDA in its mission to build world-class infrastructure for Amaravati. Through our Transaction Advisory Services, we aim to unlock innovative financing models for key infrastructure projects in the capital region,” he said.

K. Kannababu, Commissioner of APCRDA, emphasized the im-

portance of this partnership in shaping Amaravati's future. “The development of Amaravati as the capital city is a major initiative of the Andhra Pradesh Government. The MoU with NaBFID marks a significant step towards strengthening the financial ecosystem for infrastructure development in this greenfield city,” he said.

The MoU is expected to provide APCRDA with the financial and strategic tools necessary to implement structured, high-impact infrastructure projects aligned with Amaravati's long-term development goals.

## TTD Speeds Up Preparations for Srivari Brahmotsavams

TPN | C Shekar

Tirumala: With the Srivari Salakata Brahmotsavams scheduled from September 24 to October 2, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Additional Executive Officer C.H. Venkaiah Chowdhury has instructed all department heads to complete arrangements well ahead of schedule to ensure a smooth and spiritually fulfilling experience for lakhs of devotees. Chairing a review meeting at Annamayya Bhavan in Tirumala on Thursday, the Additional EO examined preparations department-wise and issued directives on multiple logistical, security, and religious arrangements.

### Key Dates for Srivari Brahmotsavams 2025:

- **September 16: Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam**
- **September 23: Ankurarpanam (inaugural ritual)**
- **September 24: Dhvajaro-**



nam (flag hoisting)

- **September 28: Garuda Seva (Garuda Vahanam)**
- **October 1: Rathotsavam (chariot procession)**
- **October 2: Chakrasnanam (holy bath of Sudarshana Chakra)**

The official vehicle processions (vahanasevas) will take place twice daily—from 8 am to 10 am and 7 pm to 9 pm—across Mada streets.

In view of the massive influx of pilgrims, VIP break darshans have been suspended for all except protocol dignitaries. Darshan privileg-

es for the elderly, disabled, parents of disabled children, NRIs, and donors will also remain suspended throughout the festival.

The Additional EO also suggested involving youth volunteers as Srivari Sevaks to enhance the quality of services and support during the grand annual Brahmotsavam celebrations. The engineering department was instructed to act swiftly on infrastructural needs and pending works before the rush begins. TTD officials are expected to meet again for follow-up reviews in the coming weeks to monitor progress.

## RTC Employees Union Celebrates 74th Foundation Day

APJAC Amaravati pledges full support for resolving employee issues

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh Public Transport Department (APPTD) Employees Union (RTC EU) celebrated its 74th foundation day with grand festivities at the PNBS bus stand depot in Vijayawada on Friday. The event saw the participation of APJAC Amaravati leaders and various employee association representatives, who pledged continued support to RTC workers in their ongoing struggle for rights and welfare.

APJAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, who attended as the chief guest, recalled that the APSRTC Employees Union has been instrumental in securing key benefits for the working class since 1952. “Even after RTC's merger with the government in 2020, many employee welfare schemes were dis-



rupted. APJAC Amaravati, along with the EU, was responsible for achieving benefits like compassionate appointments, incentive schemes, and overtime duties, which were later discontinued,” he said.

Highlighting current concerns, Bopparaju noted that although a letter had been submitted last month to the Chief Minister's Secretary, Sri

Muddada Ravichandra, regarding unresolved issues, the government is yet to respond. He warned that employee dissatisfaction could rise further if the government delays arrear payments, implementation of the 12th PRC, and announcement of Interim Relief (IR).

RTC Employees Union State President Palisetty Damodar Rao emphasized the union's legacy, stating, “Of the 14 wage revisions so far, 9 were during the EU's recognition period. We achieved salaries on par with government employees and successfully fought for a 43% and 25% fitment during 2015 and 2019 wage revisions respectively.” He demanded immediate approval of pending promotions for RTC employees and urged the government to ensure that electric buses are operated directly by RTC rather than privatized.



## Aravind Arasavilli Contributes ₹5 Lakh to NTR Trust for Thalassemia Awareness

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Exxeella Education Group Chairman Aravind Arasavilli, along with his wife, met Smt. Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Managing Trustee of the NTR Trust, and extended his support towards the upcoming Thalassemia Awareness Program being organized by the Trust.

Speaking after the meeting, Aravind expressed his deep admiration for Smt. Bhuvaneshwari's unwavering commitment to social service and her inspiring efforts in improving the lives of thousands. As a gesture of solidarity with the cause, he announced a contribution of ₹5,00,000 to the NTR Trust, aimed at strengthening its initiatives for Thalassemia awareness and patient support.

“I'm truly honoured to meet Smt. Nara Bhuvaneshwari Garu, whose compassion and commitment continue to inspire thousands,” Aravind said, adding that he was proud to be associated with the upcoming awareness drive. The NTR Trust is organizing a Thalassemia Awareness Walk on July 19 at RK Beach in Visakhapatnam, and Aravind Arasavilli urged the public to participate in large numbers. “Let's unite for a meaningful walk and stand in support of our brave Thalassemia warriors,” he appealed.

The meeting today not only highlighted a generous act of philanthropy but also strengthened the ongoing efforts to build a more informed and compassionate society for children and families battling Thalassemia.



## Godavari Flood Alert: APSDMA Warns, Control Room Numbers Issued

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

With heavy rains lashing the upper catchment areas, floodwaters in the Godavari river are rising rapidly, prompting the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) to issue a flood alert for low-lying and Lanka villages along the river basin. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain revealed on Friday that the water level at Bhadrachalam has reached 37.2 feet by 6 PM. At Dhavaleswaram, the inflow and outflow have touched 2.9 lakh cusecs, indicating the severity of the flood situation. In view of the rising flood threat, the APSDMA has urged residents in vulnerable areas to remain on high alert and take all safety precautions. The public has been advised to avoid venturing near riverbanks, and strictly refrain from using boats, steamers, or engaging in fishing, bathing, or swimming in the floodwaters.

**The APSDMA has also provided emergency helpline numbers for citizens needing assistance:**

- **112**
- **1070**
- **1800 425 0101**

These control rooms will operate round the clock, and the department emphasized that residents should immediately report any emergencies or concerns. Prakhar Jain stated that disaster response teams and local authorities are actively monitoring the situation and will take immediate action if needed. He stressed that public cooperation is critical at this stage to ensure safety and prevent loss of life or property. As the Godavari continues to swell, the state machinery remains on high alert, and citizens in flood-prone areas are urged not to panic but stay informed and vigilant.



# ₹50 Lakh CMRF Aid Distributed to Sick Poor in Tenali: Minister Manohar

TPN | B Madhusudhanarao  
Tenali: Minister for Consumer Affairs and Food & Civil Supplies, Nadendla Manohar, stated that the Andhra Pradesh government is committed to extending timely medical support and financial assistance to the poor and needy, particularly those suffering from critical illnesses. On Friday, at his camp office in Tenali, the Minister distrib-

uted Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques worth ₹50,35,290 to 50 beneficiaries from various villages in the Tenali constituency. These funds will aid patients suffering from life-threatening health conditions who require urgent treatment in private and government hospitals. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Manohar noted that ₹2.90 crore has been sanctioned to the Tenali constituency alone

under the CMRF in the past year, reflecting the government's strong commitment to public welfare and healthcare access. He emphasized that the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is focused on building a robust health support system for the underprivileged. "The alliance government is working with a humanitarian approach—providing free

treatment in government hospitals and extending financial aid for costly treatments in private hospitals through the CMRF," the Minister added. He appealed to the people to stand with the coalition government and recognize the efforts being made to improve healthcare infrastructure and provide dignity to the poor through effective governance. The Minister reiterated that this program is a testimony to



the alliance's dedication to people-centric policies and compassionate governance. Several local leaders, officials, and beneficiaries attended the cheque distribution program and expressed gratitude to the government for its responsive medical assistance during times of crisis.

## Drone Aid for Farmers: Gottipati Pushes Tech in Agriculture

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu  
Kanigiri: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar emphasized the importance of adopting technology in agriculture to ensure profits for farmers. Participating as the chief guest at the "Good Governance First Step" and "Intintiki Telugu Desam" programs held in Kanigiri, Prakasam district, he distributed drones to farmers from Kanigiri, Chandrasekharapuram, and Veligandla mandals. He said each drone costs ₹10 lakh, with ₹8 lakh being covered as a government subsidy. "Modern methods in farming must be embraced for better yields and profitability," he stated. Later, the Minister conducted a door-to-door campaign in Kanigiri Municipality and interacted with welfare beneficiaries. He reviewed the implementation of promises and welfare schemes and revealed that within one year, the coa-



lition government has spent ₹400 crore through the Arogyasri scheme and CM Relief Fund (CMRF). This demonstrates the government's commitment to the health and welfare of the poor, he said. Minister Gottipati also addressed the growing demand for electricity, noting

a 6–8% annual rise in consumption. The coalition government is taking necessary steps to meet this demand, he assured. He highlighted that as promised, free electricity is already being provided to handloom and power loom workers. Additionally, he announced that barber-shops will soon receive 200 units of free power. He said new substations and electric lines are being set up in rural areas to ensure 24-hour uninterrupted power supply. He urged citizens to join the "Suryaghar" solar scheme, which reduces electricity bills and helps control power losses. The Minister concluded by calling for public participation in clean energy initiatives and reaffirmed the government's intent to implement promises made before the elections. Several local coalition leaders also participated in the event.

## Coalition Govt Abandoned Farmers, Says Former Minister Perni



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati  
Tadepalli: Former Minister Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) has accused the coalition government of completely abandoning farmers and claimed that YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the only leader standing up for their cause. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in Tadepalli, he said the government failed to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops like chillies, tobacco, mangoes, bananas, paddy, and cocoa, leaving farmers at the mercy of middlemen. Perni criticized the "double-engine" BJP-TDP government for making empty promises while ignoring farmer protests. He alleged that Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu is more focused on targeting YS Jagan than resolving agricultural issues. "Farmers are suffering while the government looks the other way," he said. He cited YS Jagan's visit to Bangarupalyam to support mango farmers as an example of how the former CM's efforts forced the

government into late action. Perni condemned the denial of helipad permissions and police cases filed against protesting farmers. On July 9, mango farmers were forced to dump their produce due to halted procurement, and were later booked under false charges. Debunking claims that 80–90% of mango procurement was done, Perni quoted the district collector's BBC interview, which pegged the number at only 67%. He demanded a government order, financial clearance, and immediate subsidy release for mango procurement across all districts, not just Chittoor region. Prices reportedly rose to Rs. 6–6.50/kg in Chittoor after YS Jagan's visit. Perni also accused TDP of inciting violence during Jagan's Podili visit and using media channels to distract from farmer issues. He slammed CM Chandrababu Naidu for ignoring serious women's safety incidents while focusing on trivial matters, and called the re-branding of Amma Vodi as "Thalli Ki Vandanam" a political gimmick.

## Sharmila Slams Babu's Amaravati Plan as Real Estate Scam

TPN | VVS Madhu Babu  
APCC Chief YS Sharmila launched a fiery attack on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, calling the second phase of Amaravati land acquisition a real estate scam under the guise of development. She questioned the need for acquiring an additional 40,000 acres when 33,000 acres already collected during 2015 still remain underutilized. "What capital was built with the first phase? Why another phase now? This seems more like land grabbing than governance," she alleged, adding that the TDP is preparing to mortgage lands for private loans. Sharmila criticized the lack of progress in Amaravati de-

spite grand claims. "In 2015, Modi laid a foundation stone and left. After 10 years, there's nothing but wild shrubs. No roads, no buildings, just broken promises," she said. She pointed out that around 29,000 farmers gave land under the Land Pooling Scheme, but many of them still remain uncompensated. "Nearly 23,000 landless families received no justice. Their sacrifice hasn't yielded any result," she added. She strongly opposed the push for self-financed development, arguing that capital city construction is the Centre's responsibility under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. "Modi himself promised a capital better than Del-

hi, yet gave only ₹1,500 crore in ten years. Now Chandrababu wants to borrow ₹70,000 crore more and place that burden on the people. Why? Why can't you demand what is rightfully ours from the Centre?" she asked. She also questioned the credibility of ₹53,000 crore worth of tenders and accused the government of planning to use the capital as a front for real estate manipulation. Targeting Naidu's airport expansion plans, Sharmila said, "With Gannavaram airport nearby, why a new airport in 5,000 acres? There isn't even a single international flight operating from here. Amaravati has no business, no flights, no necessity—just a

bogus project to help realtors." She sarcastically added that even the much-hyped 'Vision House' lacks electricity and reflects the powerlessness of Naidu's so-called vision. Sharmila concluded by demanding an immediate halt to second-phase land acquisition and insisted the government first develop the existing 33,000 acres. "Chandrababu must stop this real estate mafia and focus on actual governance. Rajadhani is not a business venture—it's the people's future," she said. She challenged the TDP-BJP alliance to use their political strength in Delhi to bring ₹1 lakh crore to Andhra Pradesh instead of burdening the public with loans.

## No Shortage of Fertilizers for Farmers, Assures Agriculture Director

TPN Correspondent | Amaravathi  
Mangalagiri: In a crucial move to ensure timely fertilizer availability, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Director Dilli Rao, IAS, conducted a coordination meeting with fertilizer manufacturers, wholesale, and retail dealers at the Directorate office in Mangalagiri on July 11, 2025. He emphasized that no farmer should face obstacles in receiving fertilizers, especially during the peak cultivation period following heavy rains and full reservoir levels across the state. Highlighting the government's commitment to farmer welfare, Dilli Rao said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's initiative led to the Centre approving a goods railway rake point at Anakapalli. The Chief Minister has also written to the Central Government requesting free truck transport from rake points to retail outlets to reduce logisti-



cal costs and ensure fertilizer reaches farmers faster. Fertilizer company representatives agreed to provide free truck transport directly from rake points to retail outlets as per Agriculture Department guidelines. This move is expected to lower transportation expenses and stabilize market prices. Dilli Rao further mentioned that proposals for railway goods rake points at Hindupur and Madanapalle are in their final approval stages, while Anakapalli has already been sanctioned. During the meeting, officials

expressed gratitude for Dilli Rao's proactive coordination between the government, manufacturers, and traders to ensure smooth fertilizer supply. The meeting was attended by AP Agriculture Commissionerate Additional Director VV Vijayalakshmi, Joint Director (Fertilizers) Krupadas, Deputy Director Venkateswara Rao, representatives from 14 fertilizer companies, and trade association leaders such as V.V. Nagireddy (President, Fertilizer Dealers' Association) and Eetakota Nanaji (President, Wholesale Traders' Association), among others.

## New CC Road, Welfare Push Signal Rural Revival Begins: Venigandla Ramu

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District  
Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu and APS-RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao said that the coalition government is giving top priority to rural development in its first year of rule. They credited CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for their commitment to the holistic growth of villages. The leaders inaugurated a newly constructed CC road worth ₹33 lakh in Vatla-vanadu village of Gudlavalleru mandal on Friday. They were warmly welcomed by local villagers and TDP cadre. ZP former Vice Chairperson Sayini Pushpavathi, Market Yard Chairman Potluri Ravi, and several local leaders accompanied them. Later, they participated in the swearing-in of the new Milk Centre Committee and congratulated President Pulleti Raja Prasad and other committee members. Speaking at the event, MLA Ramu said the previous government neglected local bodies and diverted funds meant for village development. In contrast, the coalition government, within just one year, has launched major welfare schemes and improved basic infrastructure in rural areas. RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao added that the Krishna district had lagged in devel-



opment, but under the coalition regime, rapid progress is being made. He noted that leaders across the district are working in unison, using both Central and State funds to solve key rural issues. Several TDP leaders, including Mandal and village-level representatives like Polavara-pu Venkata Rao, Suragani Prasad, Kodali Ramaraju, Pamarthi Satibabu, and others were present. Committee members such as Milk Centre Manager Thota Satyanarayana, Supervisor Peyyeti Basavaraju Kumar, and Secretary Vemula Veera Kondal Rao also participated. Local residents and a large number of party supporters gathered in support of the event, which showcased the coalition's strong focus on grassroots development.



# Building an Eco-Friendly, Biodiversity-Rich Amaravati

## 320 km roads with tree-lined avenues

**TPN | Mahesh Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh government is taking significant steps to transform Amaravati into a green, eco-friendly, and biodiverse capital city. Speaking at an environmental workshop in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmi Parthasarathi said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu envisions Amaravati as a model urban center driven by sustainable greenery. The one-

day workshop was organized for horticulture officials and staff from ADC, APCRDA, VMC, APGBC, and Tadepalli-Mangalagiri municipalities. Parthasarathi explained that expert-led training sessions are being held to educate staff on biodiversity preservation and landscaping. As part of the green city initiative, 320 km of Amaravati's road network is being developed with green avenues. Government complexes and residential zones are also being surrounded with greenery. In addition, development

is underway in the 18 returnable Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) zones handed back to farmers. Natural water bodies such as Kondaveetivagu and Palavagu are being protected by establishing buffer zones of 100 to 150 meters around them. As part of sustainable planning, a 22 km stretch along the Krishna River will be developed under the "Blue-Green Infrastructure" concept in line with National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines. This model aims to balance environmental protection with urban develop-



ment. Biodiversity expert Dr. Smita Hegde from the Center for Learning and Tree Mapping shared her successful experience in Mangaluru, where she trained 1,200 students and mapped 68,000 trees, which contributed to a temperature

drop of 4°C. She stressed the importance of native trees like neem and banyan for oxygen enrichment in cities. Other green technology experts, including Srinivas (Bangalore International Airport), Dr. P. Sriram (pest control specialist),

and environmentalists Sharan Gowda and A.S. Subbarao, shared best practices in smart irrigation, auto-machines, and drip systems. These technologies, they noted, would support efficient green maintenance in Amaravati's urban environment. Senior officials such as APGBC Managing Director K.V. Srinivasulu and APCRDA Horticulture Director M. Hariprasad attended the workshop. The event underscored the state's commitment to building Amaravati as a sustainable capital with a focus on environment-first policies.

# ABVP Celebrates 77<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day with Student Rally in Vijayawada

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada** The 77th Foundation Day of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) was celebrated with enthusiasm in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The event, organized by ABVP Vijayawada unit, began with a flag hoisting ceremony at PB Sidhartha College in Moghalrajpuram and continued with a spirited student rally up to Eat Street. ABVP National Secretary Sravan, addressing the gathering, said the organization, which started with just five members on July 9, 1949, has now grown into the world's largest student organization with over 60 lakh members. He emphasized that ABVP instills patriotism and inspires students to put the nation above all else, while consistently raising student issues at national forums. State Secretary Yaganti Venkata Gopi said ABVP focuses on building students with strong character, unity, and cultural values, preparing them to serve the na-



tion. He noted that ABVP's membership exceeds the population of 50 countries, showcasing its wide reach. He urged youth to join ABVP and contribute to national service if unable to join the armed forces. Leaders including ABVP State Organizing Secretary Suman, NTR District Convener Durga Rao, SFD Convener Subramanyam, and

several student activists participated in the celebrations, reaffirming the group's commitment to Indian culture and education. ABVP Marks 50 Years of Emergency at ANU Campus The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) organized a seminar on "50 Years of Emergency" at Acharya Nagarjuna University in

Guntur to reflect on the dark period of 1975 when democratic rights were curtailed. ABVP National Secretary Shraavan B. Raj said the Emergency was a direct assault on democracy, where Articles 352, 356, and 360 were misused to suspend fundamental rights, weaken state governments, and suppress judicial independence. College Principal Prof. Suresh stressed that students must learn from history to safeguard democracy. ABVP State Secretary Venkat Gopi recalled the era's mass arrests and press censorship, stating that ABVP and RSS strongly opposed the authoritarian rule. Dasari Ramakanth noted that while today's students enjoy freedom of speech, they must recognize the sacrifices made in the past. He described the Emergency as a warning against centralized power. The seminar saw participation from ABVP leaders, students, and faculty, aiming to instill civic awareness and democratic values.

## Surprise Inspections at Railway Station: Ganja, Prohibited Chocolates Seized



**TPN | VVS Madhu Babu** **Vijayawada:** In a joint operation, the Railway Police and Satyanarayanapuram Police conducted surprise inspections at Vijayawada Railway Station on Friday morning. The inspections, held across multiple platforms, were aimed at curbing illegal transportation of narcotic substances through trains. During the checks, police seized ganja (cannabis) and prohibited chocolates from passengers arriving from various locations. Speaking to the media, Railway DSP Ratnaraju stated, "As part of a special drive to eradicate ganja smuggling, we are intensifying surveillance at all major railway stations. With trains becoming a preferred route for illegal transport, our teams are carrying out unannounced inspections to deter smugglers." Satyanarayanapuram Circle Inspector Lakshminarayana, along with his team, actively participated in the operation. Passengers and their belongings were thoroughly examined, especially in suspicious cases, to ensure no illegal items were being transported. Police personnel closely monitored entry and exit points of the platforms and scanned luggage for contraband. The seized ganja and banned items have been sent for forensic analysis. Further investigation is underway to identify the individuals involved and their network. Officials suspect that organized groups may be using railway routes to move narcotics across the state. Authorities also appealed to passengers to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to nearby police or railway personnel. "Public cooperation is crucial in our efforts to eliminate drug trafficking," said DSP Ratnaraju. Railway officials assured that such inspections will be conducted regularly and stringently moving forward. The operation is part of a broader anti-narcotics initiative to make public transport hubs safe and drug-free. Police reiterated their commitment to maintaining law and order and preventing the misuse of railway services for criminal activities.

# Caretaker Turns Killer, Escapes with Jewellery

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada** A gruesome incident shocked Vijayawada's NTR Colony under Machavaram police station limits, where a domestic worker allegedly murdered a 70-year-old man and fled with cash and gold ornaments. Bodduluri Venkata Ramarao was living with his elderly mother Saraswati. Just three days ago, they had hired a woman named Anusha as a caretaker to assist with his mother's needs. She had been staying with them in the same house. Around 1 AM on Thursday night, Saraswati noticed the lights on in Ramarao's room and found her son unconscious on the bed, with chili powder sprinkled on him. Anusha was missing

from the house, and the cupboard appeared to be broken. Suspecting foul play, she alerted neighbors who called the police. Police arrived at the scene and launched an investigation. By Friday morning, they took Anusha into custody. Initial findings suggest Anusha, with her husband's help, smothered Ramarao using a pillow and committed the murder. Afterward, they looted the house and fled. The brutal crime has created panic in the neighborhood. Police are continuing their inquiry to gather further evidence and are expected to file a detailed chargesheet soon.



## Four Held for Theft at Gannavaram Sub-Registrar Office

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna District** In a major breakthrough, crime police arrested four individuals involved in a theft at the Gannavaram Sub-Registrar office that took place on July 3. The accused reportedly stole stamp papers and bond documents worth approximately ₹15 lakh. Based on CCTV footage from the office premises, police identified and apprehended the culprits. All four accused are reportedly residents of Visannapeta in NTR district. The stolen items include high-value currency note stamps and bond papers that are crucial for official documentation and property registrations. The theft had triggered concerns over security at government offices. Police acted swiftly by analyzing surveillance footage and tracking



down the suspects within days. Further interrogation and investigation are underway to determine if more individuals are involved in the crime. Officials said more details will be revealed after a thorough inquiry. Security arrangements at registration offices are likely to be reviewed following the incident.

# Grievance Day Held to Address Land and Lease Issues

**TPN | Mahesh Amaravati:** To address the concerns of farmers and agricultural workers in Amaravati, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) held a "Grievance Day" at its Tulluru office on Friday. Additional Commissioner G. Suryasai Praveen Chand, IAS, personally received 28 petitions covering issues such as land pooling, village boundaries, returnable plots, and annual lease payments. Of these, a majority were resolved on the spot, while the remaining were forwarded for swift follow-up. The official emphasized CRDA's commitment to timely redressal and directed staff to act without delay.

Speaking to the farmers, the Additional Commissioner encouraged them to actively participate in this initiative, which is held every Friday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. He reassured them that their concerns would be addressed fairly and transparently. He also stated that such weekly programs are crucial to ensuring that government schemes and capital region policies are implemented in a farmer-friendly manner. Officials from various CRDA departments, including GRM Nodal Officer P. Jayashree, several deputy collectors, and planning, welfare, and infrastructure officers participated in the program. Their presence ensured on-the-spot decisions and quick



responses to a wide range of grievances. The CRDA reiterated its ongoing commitment to supporting the farming community and delivering citizen-focused governance.



# Remove Non-Believers from TTD Jobs: Bandi Sanjay

TTD is Hindu property, not a platform for vote-bank politics  
Calls for temple development in Karimnagar, Illandakunta, and Kondagattu

**TPN Correspondent | Tirumala** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has demanded the immediate removal of all non-Hindu individuals working in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), questioning how more than a thousand non-religious people could be employed by an institution dedicated to Hindu faith and tradition. He accused successive governments of ignoring this serious issue and called it a blatant insult to Sanatana Dharma. Speaking to the media after having darshan of Lord Venkateswara on his birthday,

Bandi Sanjay said, “This is not acceptable. TTD is a Hindu institution, the property of Hindus. Why are people who do not believe in Hinduism or the deity working here? Will any mosque or church offer jobs to Hindus? Why is this being tolerated here even after governments changed?” He alleged that the presence of non-believers is leading to a dilution of sacred practices and temple traditions. “This kind of system must be stopped immediately. There is no place for vote-bank politics when it comes to Sanatana Dharma. They should be removed with-



out delay,” he asserted. The Union Minister further demanded that TTD funds be used for the restoration and development of neglected and historic temples across the

Telugu states. “Temples that have not even seen incense offerings must be identified and developed. A war-footing plan should be made for their revival,” he urged. Bandi Sanjay specifically requested Immediate construction of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Karimnagar, for which foundation has already been laid and Special funds for the development of Illandakunta Ramalayam and the Kondagattu Anjanna temple, which are important religious centers for local devotees. He also stressed that declaration should be mandatory for those of other religions and non-believers when entering Tirumala. “This sacred hill must be protected and pre-

served according to the values of Sanatana Dharma,” he said. Marking his birthday visit to Tirumala, Bandi Sanjay received greetings from prominent leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Amit Shah personally called Bandi Sanjay to extend wishes. Concluding his statement, Bandi Sanjay said, “Today I prayed to Lord Venkateswara to grant strength and health to Prime Minister Modi, who is working for the progress of Bharat and the protection of Dharma. Let us all stand united to safeguard the future of our nation and our traditions.”

## Nidadavolu to Be Developed as a Health Town: Minister Kandula Durgesh



**TPN | Trinadh** **Nidadavolu:** State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister and Nidadavolu MLA Kandula Durgesh announced that Nidadavolu will soon be developed into a “health town,” as part of the government’s commitment to strengthening public healthcare facilities across Andhra Pradesh. Participating in a free mega medical camp organized at the BC Community Hall in Churchpet on Friday, the Minister lauded the efforts of the Hand of Hope organization, which has conducted 200 free medical camps across the state to serve the rural and urban poor. The camp was jointly organized by Believers Eastern Church and Hope for Children. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Durgesh said, “While the coalition government is providing strong medical infrastructure, the support from private organizations like Hand of Hope further enhances healthcare access for the poor.” He noted that the camp offers ECG, blood, sugar, BP, dental, eye, and seasonal disease screenings, along with free medication and expert consultations. He also appreciated the awareness efforts being undertaken through these camps. The Minister specially congratulated organization members Juvvala Rambabu and Prasanna for their service to society, and thanked the organizers for hosting the event

in Nidadavolu. He urged citizens to make the most of such camps and highlighted the positive outcomes they bring in early diagnosis and preventive care. In a major announcement, Minister Durgesh revealed that plans are in motion to upgrade the Nidadavolu Government Hospital to a 100-bed facility. He informed that discussions have already taken place with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav, and Medical Department Principal Secretary Krishnababu. “We are working to secure the required financial approvals and recruit necessary medical staff to ensure the upgradation happens at the earliest,” he said. Later, the Minister visited the Churchpet Government School, where he interacted with students and teachers. He personally inquired about the midday meals and uniform quality, with students expressing satisfaction. Teachers expressed their gratitude to the coalition government and Minister Durgesh for facilitating the parent-teacher meetings, stating that the initiative has strengthened the link between parents and teachers and positively impacted student development. The event was attended by Municipal Chairman Bhupathi Adinarayana, Nidadavolu Town President Rangamesh, BJP Town President Pramod, alliance leaders, and several local dignitaries.

## ONGC Organizes Walkathon for Cleanliness in Rajahmundry

Campaign themed “Swachhta is Everyone’s Business”

**TPN | Ch. Sri Rajamahendravaram:** In an effort to promote public awareness on cleanliness and sanitation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Rajahmundry Asset organized a walkathon as part of the ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada 2025 campaign. The rally began from Kambala Lake and concluded at Pushkar Ghat on Friday morning, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of over 300 individuals including ONGC employees, Andhra Pradesh Special Protection Force (APSPF) personnel, and students of

Aditya Degree College. The rally was flagged off by ONGC Rajahmundry Asset Manager and Executive Director (ED) Shri Santanu Das, who underscored the organization’s commitment to the national Swachhta initiative launched by the Government of India. He stated that ONGC has been actively organizing awareness programmes under the Swachhta Pakhwada framework, a cleanliness campaign that runs from July 1 to July 15 every year. Speaking on the occasion, Santanu Das said, “Swachhta is everyone’s



business. The responsibility of maintaining clean surroundings lies with all citizens. ONGC is fully committed to this cause and continues to promote cleanliness through various CSR initiatives.” He noted that ONGC is not only conducting awareness campaigns but is also undertaking practical initiatives such as distribution of

saplings, setting up RO plants in rural areas, and engaging in solid waste management activities across districts where it operates. Highlighting the importance of the event, Das added that this year’s campaign focuses on reinforcing the collective responsibility of individuals, organizations, and institutions in maintaining hygien-

ic public spaces. “Clean India was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, and ONGC stands firmly behind turning that dream into reality,” he emphasized. The walkathon and related activities form part of ONGC’s broader commitment to environmental sustainability and social welfare. Officials said several similar initiatives are lined up throughout the 15-day Swachhta Pakhwada programme, aiming to instill lasting awareness about cleanliness, sanitation, and green practices among the public.

## Population Growth Harms Society, Says DMHO

World Population Day rally held in Nellore with wide participation

**TPN | Seshu** **Nellore:** A massive rally was held on Podalakur Road in Nellore on the occasion of World Population Day to raise awareness about the consequences of unchecked population growth and the importance of planned parenthood. The rally, organized by the district health department, was flagged off by District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. V. Sujatha. The rally began at Sarai Angadi Center and moved towards Podalakur Road Center with participants raising slogans on the harms of population explosion, promoting safe motherhood practices, and encouraging adoption of various family planning methods. Speaking after the rally, Dr. Sujatha said this year’s World Population Day is themed around



“Healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies for planned motherhood.” She emphasized the need for timely identification of every pregnant woman and ensuring that she undergoes all necessary medical tests, with healthcare staff bearing full responsibility for her care up to a safe delivery in a government hospital. Dr. Sujatha also instructed the health staff to identify eligible couples and raise awareness on adopting temporary family

planning methods for at least three years after childbirth to maintain maternal and child health. DLATO Dr. II Khader Wali addressed the participants on the urgent need to control population growth to ensure sustainable use of resources. He stressed the importance of balancing population with resource availability. Demo K. Kanakarathnam highlighted the significance of the Prohibition of Fetal Sex Determination Act and called for

public awareness on gender balance and the importance of valuing girl children. Several senior health officials and community leaders participated in the event, including DIO Dr. A. Uma Maheswari, DPMO Dr. Ramesh, DMO E. Hus-sainamma, Medical Officer Dr. Veena Bharathi, Deputy HEO V. Venkatesh, AMO V. Nagarjuna, and health supervisors Smt. Jayalakshmi and Ramani. Representatives from PMP Association, Roods Trust, ASHA workers, and other health department staff were also present in large numbers. The event concluded with a renewed commitment from the health department to intensify public awareness on population control, planned parenthood, and women’s reproductive health.

## Poleramma Ammavari Temple Hundi Yields Rs.3.36 Lakh

**TPN | C Shekar** **Tirupati:** A total income of ₹3,36,238 was recorded through the Hundi counting at Sri Sri Poleramma Ammavari Devasthanam in Naidupeta town and the mandal of Tirupati district. The counting program was conducted today under the auspices of the Endowment Department. The process was carried out under the supervision of Endowment Department Inspector Sudheer Babu and in the presence of Devasthanam Executive Officer Musunuri Ravi Krishna. Retired bank employees were also in-



involved to ensure transparency in the process. Officials informed that the amount was collected over the last two months and three days.

Committee members Bala Subbarao and Vinukonda Dhananjaya, along with Devasthanam staff Yugandhar and Balaji, participated in the program.

## Garikipati Chandra Celebrates Birthday with Schoolchildren

**TPN | C Shekar** **Tirupati:** Jana Sena Party leader Garikipati Chandra, in-charge of the Kapu constituency under Srikalahasti town, celebrated his birthday in a meaningful way by distributing essential items to schoolchildren in Ponguru village of Yerpedu mandal. As part of the celebrations, Garikipati Chandra presented steel plates, sweets, jackets, and water bottles to the children studying in local schools. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed happiness at spending his birthday among children and said such gestures bring him immense satisfaction. He also interacted with the school staff and assured them of continued support in addressing any challenges they face in running the institution. “Knowing the issues first-

hand from the teachers, I am committed to extending help whenever needed,” he said. Jana Sena Joint District Secretary Kottesai Peta Chiranjeevi Peta Chandra and several party activists also participated in the program.





# Breaking the cycle of debt through Andhra Pradesh Money Lending Act

## A call to enact Andhra Pradesh's Money Lending Act

In the shadows of poverty and disaster, a silent crisis is gripping the lives of sex workers and trafficking survivors in Andhra Pradesh. Years of recovery from violence, stigma, and exploitation are now being undone by a new, more insidious threat, unregulated private money lending. This is not just a financial problem; it is a human rights emergency that demands immediate legal and policy action.

Andhra Pradesh has long been a state where grassroots organisations like HELP have worked with women who are survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Many of these women, despite their past trauma, have been rebuilding their lives, supporting families, raising children, and advocating for their communities through survivor-led collectives like VIMUKTHI. But back-to-back disasters, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the recent flash floods in Krishna and NTR districts, have pushed these communities to the edge once again.

Without access to formal financial systems or government relief, many

women are forced to turn to unlicensed private moneylenders for survival. These lenders offer instant cash without documentation, but at predatory monthly interest rates of 20% to 30%. What follows is a vicious cycle of mounting debt, emotional and physical abuse, and, in the worst cases, a return to trafficking and sexual exploitation.

This situation bears disturbing resemblance to the notorious "Call Money" scandal of 2015-16, where such informal lending networks led to suicides, extortion, and extreme harassment. While the previous government responded with emergency crackdowns, today Andhra Pradesh finds itself dangerously exposed, with no legal framework to regulate private money lending. The Andhra Pradesh Debtors' Protection Act (1934) was repealed in 2018, and though the Money Lenders Bill (2017) was passed by the state assembly, it still awaits Presidential assent.

This delay is not just bureaucratic, it is costing lives. As of now, Andhra Pradesh is the only state in India without a dedicated law to control



private money lending, despite having the highest number of sex workers in the country, estimated at 1.33 lakh by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Survivors from VIMUKTHI report devastating impacts. In a joint study by HELP and Sanjog during the pandemic, 70% of VIMUKTHI leaders had

taken loans from informal moneylenders, with many still trapped in repayments. Even loans from Self-Help Groups, once a beacon of financial autonomy, are being diverted to repay illegal debts, choking any hope of economic progress.

These debts are not just about money. They are being used as weapons of coercion, leading to abuse, humiliation, and, in some cases, re-trafficking. Borrowers, especially women-led families supporting children or elderly relatives, are left without protection or recourse.

The Money Lenders Bill (2017) offers a strong foundation for reform. It proposes mandatory licensing, annual audits, interest rate caps, and punitive action against illegal practices. Its enactment would not only regulate the sector but offer legal protection to thousands of vulnerable borrowers. The time has come for the Andhra Pradesh government, now part of a central alliance, to prioritize this bill and seek urgent Presidential assent.

In the short term, Unconditional Cash

Transfers (UCTs) can provide critical relief. Pilots run during COVID-19 in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal showed that modest direct cash support helped survivors meet basic needs without falling into debt. For women without collateral or credit history, UCTs offer dignity, stability, and a chance to rebuild.

The state must also establish a grievance redressal mechanism for borrowers, and penalize harassment, illegal lending, and any form of sexual exploitation linked to debt. The link between economic vulnerability and trafficking is well established. Ignoring it now would risk creating another generation of women trapped in cycles of abuse. HELP and VIMUKTHI stand ready to support the government in implementing these changes. With the right legal and financial tools, Andhra Pradesh can lead the way in protecting survivors, not just from past trauma, but from future exploitation.

What is at stake is more than policy, it is the possibility of a dignified future for thousands of women who have already endured too much.



## The Cost of 'Boasting': Trump And India's Post-Op Sindoor Dilemmas

Diplomacy thrives on measured words and deliberate pauses. Decisions are usually made behind closed doors, with public statements carefully crafted for impact and interpretation. Yet, former U.S. President Donald Trump broke with this tradition when he publicly claimed that his threats of trade penalties had prevented war between India and Pakistan in May. The declarative tone may have worked for a domestic audience, but it significantly disrupted the delicate regional and strategic dynamics between New Delhi, Islamabad, and Washington. The situation he referred to was deeply serious. On April 22, a terror attack near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. From May 7 to 10, both nations exchanged air strikes, escalating fears of a broader conflict. A ceasefire was announced on May 10. Trump quickly took credit, saying his offer of U.S. market access pressured both countries to de-escalate. This version of events has been repeated by him often, and it even featured in a U.S. government filing justifying the use of tariffs under national security grounds.

Such a narrative, however, has broader implications. It shifts the focus from diplomacy to transactional leverage, suggesting that trade threats—rather than diplomatic efforts or military restraint—brought calm. For India, this is particularly damaging. Since independence,

India has prided itself on strategic autonomy, choosing partners while retaining independent decision-making authority. Trump's framing implies that India's security posture can be swayed by economic coercion, which strikes at the core of its foreign policy principles. More troubling is the implicit suggestion of third-party intervention in the India-Pakistan conflict. India has consistently rejected outside mediation on Kashmir, asserting that any talks must be bilateral. By treating India and Pakistan as equal stakeholders in a conflict and positioning himself as a mediator, Trump blurred critical distinctions—between a democracy targeted by cross-border terrorism and a state accused of supporting it. New Delhi has firmly rejected the claim. Indian officials maintain the ceasefire resulted from direct military dialogue with Pakistan, not external influence. Yet, the perception created by Trump's remarks has been politically costly. Opposition leaders have accused the Modi government of diplomatic weakness, and media voices warn that silence may imply acceptance. The controversy complicates ambitious trade goals. India and the U.S. have set targets to boost bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, with an initial agreement expected by autumn 2025. But lingering doubts about the reliability of trade as a policy tool, especially if wielded as a geopolitical weapon, cast a shadow over negotiations.

## NHAI Capex Claims Under Scrutiny Amid Financial Tightening and Monetisation Setbacks



In 2024-2025, the Government of India lauded the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for achieving a record capital expenditure (capex) of over ₹2.5 lakh crore for national highway development, surpassing its ₹2.4 lakh crore target. However, this claim is now being questioned due to discrepancies in NHAI's unaudited financial statements, which report a significantly lower capex of ₹1.45 lakh crore. This gap of over ₹1 lakh crore has raised concerns about possible financial window-dressing and a deepening funding squeeze on the NHAI. According to NHAI's unaudited 2024-2025 accounts, while the government claimed a record ₹2.5 lakh crore in infrastructure spending, a closer look reveals that a large portion of these funds was used not for highway construction but for loan repayments. Specifically, the repayment of ₹50,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) and the reduction of public sector bank loans were included in the government's capex figures, thereby inflating the real developmental spending. Effectively, the net capex spent on actual infrastructure works was only ₹1.45 lakh crore—the amount reflected in NHAI's accounts. This discrepancy suggests the government's ₹2.5 lakh crore claim includes significant debt repayments, thus overstating its investment in new highway infrastructure. The reported repayment of ₹50,000 crore to NSSF, which

simply circles money back to the government, further underscores the lack of transparency. Hence, the real support extended to NHAI stands at around ₹2 lakh crore, far below the claimed figure. Additionally, NHAI's asset monetisation efforts appear to be faltering. The government has celebrated the National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT) as a success in raising ₹18,380 crore in its fourth fundraising round. However, closer scrutiny of NHIT reveals that it remains largely government-controlled, with project management and investment oversight still under NHAI through wholly owned entities. While monetisation transactions have nominally raised ₹43,648 crore by transferring 2,345 kilometres of roads, genuine private sector participation remains limited, with much of the funding sourced through loans rather than equity investment. Other monetisation models like the Toll, Operate, and Transfer (ToT) approach have been sidelined. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari himself expressed dissatisfaction with the government's decision to discontinue the ToT model, previously an effective monetisation tool. Similarly, the government's special purpose vehicle (SPV) model for financing new expressways has seen little traction, with only one such project—the Delhi-Vadodra expressway—currently underway, despite notable delays.



# ‘When you turn 75, it means you should stop’: Mohan Bhagwat signalling to PM Modi?

TPN | Delhi

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat’s recent comment at a book launch in Nagpur has reignited speculation about political retirement norms in India. Bhagwat stated that when someone reaches the age of 75, they should step aside and make way for others. This remark is widely perceived as a subtle message directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is set to turn 75 in September 2025. The statement immediately caught the attention of political parties, with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) being among the first to respond. Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut pointed out that Modi had previously compelled veteran leaders like LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, and Jaswant Singh to retire



after they crossed the age limit of 75. He questioned whether the Prime Minister would now follow the same rule for himself. The Congress party also seized upon Bhagwat’s remarks to critique the

BJP leadership’s stance on retirement and political longevity. Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh sarcastically commented on the situation, saying, “Poor award-winning Prime

Minister! What a homecoming—being reminded by the RSS chief that he will turn 75 on September 17, 2025.” He added with irony that the Prime Minister could remind Bhagwat in return that he, too, would turn 75 just days earlier on September 11, 2025. Ramesh summed it up by saying, “One arrow, two targets,” highlighting the political jabs exchanged in the wake of Bhagwat’s statement. The remarks have reignited debates on age limits for political leadership and whether such informal rules will be enforced consistently across parties, especially with the upcoming 2026 assembly polls and the shifting political landscape. As Modi approaches this milestone age, the comment by the RSS chief has added a new layer of intrigue to discussions on leadership transitions in Indian politics.

## Visitor Registration Opens for SEMICON® India 2025: Building the Next Semiconductor Powerhouse

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

SEMI and the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) have officially opened visitor registrations for SEMICON® India 2025, set to take place from September 2 to 4, 2025, at Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre) in New Delhi. Under the theme “Building the Next Semiconductor Powerhouse,” the event will highlight India’s expanding capabilities and ambitions within the microelectronics and semiconductor value chain. Organized under the aegis of the India Semiconductor Mission, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, SEMICON India 2025 builds on the success of SEMICON India 2024. It aims to bring together global and domestic stakeholders from policy, industry, academia, and investment sectors, offering a high-impact platform for collaboration and growth. SEMICON India is part of SEMI’s global network of eight annual expositions, which connect leading executives and experts across the semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem worldwide. The event’s impressive growth reflects India’s emerging status as a critical semiconductor hub. Key highlights of SEMICON India 2025 include over 300 exhibiting companies from 18 countries and regions showcasing the entire electronics value chain—from materials and equipment to silicon, design, and systems. The three-day conference will feature global CXOs and expert speakers, alongside four international pavilions and nine participating state government pavilions. Special features such as the Workforce Development Pavilion, Startup Pavilion, country roundtables, B2B forums, and training programs will further enrich the experience. Ajit Manocha, President and CEO of SEMI, emphasized the industry’s growing interest in India as it seeks to diversify supply chains and expand into fast-growing markets. Shri S Krishnan, Secretary of MeitY, invited leaders, innovators, researchers, students, and policymakers to join the event and participate in India’s semiconductor transformation journey. Visitor registration for SEMICON India 2025 is now open at [semiconindia.org](https://semiconindia.org). For more information, visit the official website or connect with SEMI India on LinkedIn and X.

# 'Punishing States': On Population Day, MK Stalin Pushes For Fair Delimitation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On World Population Day, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader MK Stalin renewed his demand for a “fair delimitation” of parliamentary constituencies, warning against what he described as attempts to “punish” southern states like Tamil Nadu for their successful population control efforts. Stalin criticized the AIADMK and its leader, Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), accusing them of siding with the BJP-led central government rather than defending Tamil Nadu’s interests. He emphasized Tamil Nadu’s achievements in empowering women, improving healthcare and education, and stabilizing population growth, yet lamented the state’s diminishing representation in Parliament. “Our reward has been fewer seats, less funding, and a muted voice in the Lok Sabha,” he said.



The chief minister alleged that the AIADMK supported an unfair delimitation process that would disproportionately increase seats for northern states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar while reducing Tamil Nadu’s share. He accused EPS of choosing to align with Delhi instead of standing for Tamil

Nadu. In response, AIADMK leader EPS dismissed Stalin’s claims, citing Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s assurances that Tamil Nadu’s seat count would not decrease. EPS added that since delimitation has not yet been announced, it was premature to take a firm stance. AIADMK

spokesperson Kovai Sathyan accused Stalin of spreading misinformation for political gain and pointed out that AIADMK had earlier proposed freezing Tamil Nadu’s current seat share. The delimitation debate centers on the 2027 census-based redistribution of Lok Sabha seats. Southern states fear losing representation because their stable population growth contrasts with rapid increases in some northern states. Tamil Nadu currently holds 39 Lok Sabha seats, about 7.1% of the total, but new delimitation could reduce this number, raising concerns over fair political representation. Earlier in 2025, Stalin convened a high-profile meeting with several southern and northern leaders in Chennai, signaling efforts to build a coalition seeking constitutional safeguards to protect southern states’ parliamentary strength amid delimitation changes.

# India 'Will Have Largest Workforce By 2047': NSA Ajit Doval



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, speaking at the 62nd convocation ceremony of IIT Madras on Friday, painted a visionary picture of India’s future as it approaches the centenary of its independence in 2047. He projected that India’s GDP could multiply eightfold by that year, potentially reaching \$32 trillion, with per capita income soaring from \$2,500 to \$22,000. Doval highlighted India’s remarkable economic and military growth on the global stage, attributing it to the country’s resilience and contributions from national icons throughout history. He urged students to prepare themselves as dynamic leaders, emphasizing their crucial role as the “X factor” in navigating future challenges. Stressing the significance of adopting advanced technologies, Doval compared India’s rapid progress in 5G development to China’s slower and costlier journey. “The Chinese took 12 years and invested \$300 billion to develop 5G. We

didn’t have that much time or money, but in just two-and-a-half years, we created an indigenous alternative,” he said. Doval also underscored India’s demographic advantage, with an estimated 1.1 billion highly skilled working population by 2047. He contrasted this with China’s shrinking workforce, expected to drop to just 23% of its current size, presenting India with a significant competitive edge. Highlighting the importance of technological innovation, the NSA cautioned that future advancements must be carefully managed to ensure national security. He referenced “Operation Sindoor,” praising its precision and quick execution within 23 minutes, while condemning inaccurate foreign media reports about damages to Indian forces. Concluding his address, Doval called on the students to embrace leadership roles and contribute to India’s rise as a global powerhouse, driven by collective effort and unwavering determination.

# Tennis Player Radhika Yadav's Autopsy Report Shows She Was Shot 4 Times



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tennis player Radhika Yadav was tragically shot dead by her father at their double-storey residence in the upscale Sushant Lok area of Gurugram on Thursday. The 25-year-old sustained four gunshot wounds, according to the autopsy report, and died at the scene. Her father, Deepak Yadav, 49, later confessed to the killing and was promptly arrested by the police. Authorities revealed that the motive behind the killing was rooted in ongoing disputes over the tennis academy Radhika ran. Gurugram police spokesperson Sandeep Singh explained that Deepak Yadav was unhappy with his daughter operating the academy, which became a major point of contention between them. Despite several warnings from her father to shut down the academy, Radhika continued to run it, leading to escalating tensions. Deepak claimed that he was financially self-sufficient through rental income and did not see the need for his daughter to man-

age the academy. In a fit of anger, he fired at least five shots, three of which struck Radhika in the back, resulting in her instant death. The police confirmed the father’s confession during their investigation. Radhika was a former national-level tennis player who had competed in tournaments earlier this year, including qualifying events in Indore and Kuala Lumpur. She was ranked 1999 by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and had reached the highest All India Tennis Association (AITA) Under-18 ranking of 75, along with a women’s singles ranking of 35. Her uncle expressed shock and sorrow over the incident, stating that Radhika was an accomplished player with numerous trophies to her name. He also mentioned that the family-owned licensed .32 bore revolver used in the shooting was kept at their home. The tragic incident has sent shockwaves through the tennis community and raised concerns about familial disputes turning deadly.



# Trump Considers Blanket Tariffs of Up to 20% on Non-Compliant Trade Partners

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday indicated he is weighing the implementation of a 15 to 20 percent blanket tariff on countries that have not yet received specific trade notifications, with the proposed duties to take effect from August 1. The announcement follows Trump's recent move to issue formal letters to over 20 U.S. trading partners, signaling a major escalation in his ongoing push for more favorable trade deals. In these letters, Trump outlined steep, country-specific tariffs ranging from 20 percent to 50 percent—with Brazil facing the highest proposed rate. According to NBC News, Trump warned that if any of the countries targeted in these communications respond by increasing their own tariffs, the U.S. would retaliate with even higher duties. "We're just going to say all of the remaining countries are going to pay,



whether it's 20 percent or 15 percent. We'll work that out now," Trump said when asked about countries that had not received any letters. It remains unclear whether these new tariffs would replace the current baseline 10 percent import tariff that most nations are subject to under Trump's earlier trade framework or if the blanket rate would apply in

addition to existing or proposed country-specific penalties. The potential tariffs are part of Trump's broader "Liberation Day" trade initiative, first announced in April. The original plan included a universal 10 percent tariff on nearly all imports, alongside elevated "reciprocal" tariffs tailored to specific countries. Initially scheduled for implementation

on July 9, the start date has now been delayed to August 1 to allow ongoing trade discussions more time. The proposed blanket tariffs mark a significant shift toward a more aggressive and generalized trade policy, raising concerns among global trading partners and potentially setting the stage for renewed trade tensions.

## High Turnover at US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Raises Concerns



TPN Correspondent | Taiwan

At least eight core members of the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have departed their roles in the past six months, according to a report by Politico citing internal records and informed sources. In addition to these senior staff ex-

its, the report states that seven DOGE engineers—many holding high-level access across multiple federal agencies—have also left, with at least three more preparing to exit soon. A senior White House official downplayed the departures, explaining to Politico that many senior DOGE officials were ap-

### Eight core staffers leave roles

pointed for fixed terms and that long-term careers in the government were not expected for these roles. "It was never the plan for the highest levels of DOGE officials to make a career out of the government," the official said. DOGE, launched by an executive order on January 20, aims to modernize federal technology and boost government efficiency, overseeing job cuts and restructuring across nearly every federal agency. However, it operates as a temporary White House unit rather than a formal government department established by Congress. The unit also absorbed the US Digital Service. The turnover comes amid other leadership changes in Elon

Musk's sphere of influence. Musk, the world's richest man, had significantly scaled back his involvement with DOGE in late May. The timing follows his fallout with former US President Donald Trump, after reportedly spending hundreds of millions supporting Trump's re-election campaign. The two clashed publicly in early June, escalating tensions. Reuters was unable to confirm the report independently, and both the White House and DOGE have not yet responded to requests for comment. The high turnover raises questions about the stability and future direction of the government's tech modernization efforts, especially under a temporary and rapidly evolving structure.

## US Strikes on Iran's Nuclear Sites: Conflicting Claims and Ongoing Uncertainty

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Last month, the United States launched airstrikes on three nuclear sites in Iran, with President Donald Trump declaring that the military operation had achieved "total obliteration" of the targets. However, this claim has been met with skepticism by some US intelligence agencies and experts, leading to differing assessments about the actual impact on Iran's nuclear capabilities. A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated in a recent briefing that while the uranium buried underground at the Isfahan facility would be difficult for Iran to access, any attempt to retrieve it would be detected, prompting Israel to potentially resume strikes. The official noted that the majority of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile is believed to be buried at Isfahan. According to Israeli assessments, Iran's nuclear program has been delayed by approximately two years due to the strikes. Iran, however, maintains that its uranium enrichment activities are strictly for peaceful pur-



poses. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi emphasized the country's right to enrich uranium, calling it a matter of national pride and dignity. Iranian President Mahmoud Pezeshkian acknowledged that the nuclear facilities had been "severely damaged" and said that Iran currently does not have access to them, but a full assessment of the damage is still underway.

The Trump administration has remained firm in its assertion that the facilities were completely destroyed. White House spokesperson Anna Kelly praised the operation, stating that it made the world safer under the President's leadership. Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Grossi offered a more measured view, confirm-

ing that while the sites were damaged "to an important degree," some structures remain intact. Grossi stressed that it cannot be claimed the facilities have been entirely wiped out. The true extent of the damage and its long-term implications for Iran's nuclear program remain uncertain as global powers continue to monitor the situation closely.



## Imran Khan's sons will be dealt with strictly if they join 'protest' in Pakistan, warn PML-N leaders

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

Tensions are escalating in Pakistan as leaders from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) warned on Friday that Imran Khan's sons would face strict action if they visited the country to participate in any "violent protest" organized by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. The warnings come amid preparations by the Shehbaz Sharif government to counter the PTI's planned "Imran Khan Free Movement" protest scheduled for August 5. Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, recently confirmed that his sons, Suleman and Kasim, would join the protest movement. However, a cabinet member from the Maryam Nawaz-led Punjab government, Information Minister Azma Bokhari, strongly opposed this, asserting that Khan's sons would not be allowed to create unrest in Pakistan. She questioned why the sons had not visited earlier when their father was injured and criticized Jemima Goldsmith, Khan's ex-wife, for reportedly barring their visit. Bokhari emphasized that while a daughter has the right to see her father, children would not be used as tools to instigate unrest. On the other hand, Jemima Goldsmith accused the Pakistani government of preventing her children from speaking with their father, who has been held in solitary confinement for nearly two years. She alleged that the government threatened to arrest her sons if they came to Pakistan, calling it "not politics but a personal vendetta." Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also warned that Khan's children are subject to the law and would face consequences if they broke it. Meanwhile, PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui suggested that while the government had not taken an official stance, the sons should be allowed to come and exercise their right to protest peacefully. He noted that having spent much of their lives abroad, they would understand the boundaries of lawful protest. The situation highlights deep political divisions as Pakistan braces for the upcoming protest and further tensions between the ruling party and opposition.



## Hope hostage deal can be reached in a few days: Netanyahu

TPN Correspondent | UN

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed hope on Thursday that a deal could be reached within a few days for the release of Israeli hostages still held by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas. Speaking in Washington, Netanyahu revealed that around 50 hostages remain captive, with only 20 believed to be alive. "I want to take them all out," Netanyahu said. "We now have a deal that supposedly will get half of the living and half of the dead out. So, we'll have 10 living left and about 12 deceased hostages, but I'll get them out, too. I hope we can complete it in a few days." The hostage crisis dates back to October 7, 2023, when Hamas launched a brutal attack on southern Israel, killing approximately 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages, according to Israeli sources. Israel's subsequent military retaliation has resulted in the deaths of more than 57,000 Palestinians, as reported by Gaza's health ministry, and has left much of Gaza in ruins. Since the conflict began, two ceasefires have been attempted — one in November 2023 and another in January 2025 — but lasting peace remains elusive. Netanyahu indicated that Israel and Hamas are now likely to agree on a 60-day ceasefire to work towards ending the conflict. However, Hamas has highlighted ongoing obstacles in ceasefire negotiations, including aid delivery, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, and the need for "genuine guarantees for a permanent ceasefire." Netanyahu made the remarks during his third visit to Washington since President Donald Trump took office. He praised Trump as Israel's strongest ally in the White House. Addressing recent joint US-Israel strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, Netanyahu warned that without intervention, Iran could have produced atomic bombs within months, underscoring the urgency of ongoing regional security challenges.



## Rupee Falls 9 Paise to Close at 85.68 Against U.S. Dollar Amid Market Caution and Rising Oil Prices



The Indian rupee weakened by 9 paise to settle at 85.68 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, July 2, 2025. The decline was attributed to weakness in domestic equity markets, rising crude oil prices, and a marginal recovery in the U.S. dollar. Forex traders pointed to market participants' cautious stance ahead of the anticipated conclusion of the India-U.S. trade deal, which is reportedly in its final stages. While optimism around the trade agreement supported early gains in equities, the uncertainty over tariff terms and market access continued to weigh on the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 85.59 against the dollar and fluctuated within a range of 85.57 to 85.75 during the trading session, before closing at 85.68—down from its previous close of 85.59 on Tuesday, when it had appreciated by 17 paise. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, edged up by 0.14% to 96.95, further pressuring the rupee. Meanwhile, Brent crude futures rose by 0.92% to \$67.73 per barrel, adding to India's import bill and impacting currency sentiment.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, noted, "We expect the rupee to decline further on trade tariff uncertainty as the July 9 deadline approaches. Remarks from U.S. President Donald Trump on tariff policies are also keeping markets cautious." Talks between Indian and U.S. officials continued for a sixth day in Washington, with India pushing for better market access for its labor-intensive goods. The Indian negotiating team, led by Commerce Department Special Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, is aiming to finalize an interim trade agreement before the July 9 deadline. Despite pressure, improved global risk sentiment, including a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, may provide some support to the rupee. Choudhary expects the USD-INR spot rate to remain in the range of 85.45 to 86.05 in the near term. In domestic markets, the BSE Sensex fell by 287.60 points to 83,409.69, while the Nifty dropped 88.40 points to 25,453.40. On a positive note, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers, purchasing ₹890.93 crore worth of equities on the day.

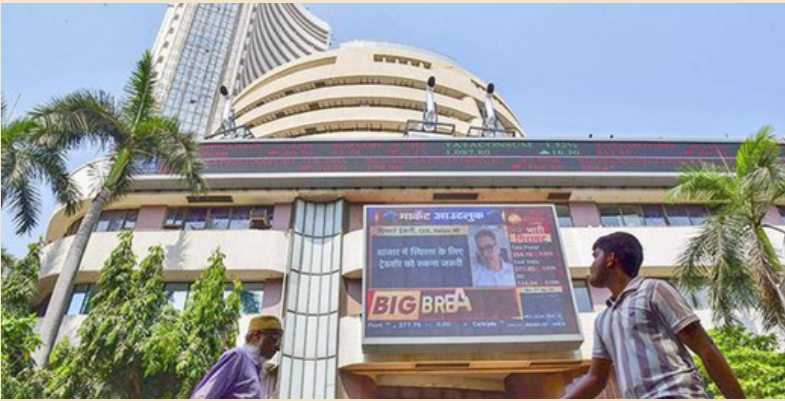
## India's Trade Deficit Could Rise to \$300 Billion in FY26 Despite Moderate Oil Prices: ICICI Bank



ICICI Bank has forecast that India's trade deficit will widen to USD 300 billion in the financial year 2025-26, even though oil prices are expected to remain moderate. This would mark an increase from the USD 287 billion deficit recorded in FY25 and USD 245 billion in FY24, representing 7.0% of the country's GDP. According to the bank's report, the main driver of the growing trade deficit is the weak performance of India's non-oil exports, which have struggled to keep pace with rising imports. On the other hand, strong domestic economic growth is expected to sustain high import levels, further widening the gap between imports and exports. Despite the widening trade deficit, ICICI Bank projects that steady inflows from services exports and remittances will help maintain the current account deficit (CAD) at a manageable USD 30 billion, or approximately 0.7% of

GDP. The current account deficit includes not only the trade balance but also other international financial flows such as investment income and remittances. A trade deficit occurs when a country imports more goods than it exports, and India's persistent deficit highlights ongoing challenges in boosting export competitiveness outside of the oil sector. Meanwhile, imports remain robust, driven by strong domestic demand and economic expansion. The report underscores the importance of strengthening non-oil exports to reduce India's reliance on imports and improve the overall balance of payments. As the economy continues to grow, addressing these structural trade imbalances will be crucial for sustaining external stability and economic resilience in the coming years.

## Markets End Lower as HDFC Bank, Foreign Outflows Drag Indices Amid Tariff Concerns



Indian equity markets closed in the red on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, as the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty reversed early gains due to sustained selling pressure in key stocks like HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, and Reliance Industries. Investor sentiment remained cautious amid concerns over the approaching U.S. tariff deadline, foreign fund outflows, and mixed global cues. After opening on a positive note, the 30-share BSE Sensex lost steam and closed 287.60 points or 0.34% lower at 83,409.69. It had dropped as much as 546.52 points during intraday trading to hit a low of 83,150.77. The broader NSE Nifty also declined by 88.40 points or 0.35% to settle at 25,453.40. Major laggards in the Sensex pack included Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, Bharat Electronics, and Kotak Mahindra Bank. On the other hand, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, and Trent emerged as the top gainers, offering some resistance to the market slide. According to market experts, the ongoing withdrawal of foreign institutional investments and the uncertain glob-

al trade outlook are key factors behind the current volatility. "Mixed global cues, particularly ahead of the impending tariff deadline, are driving investor caution. Attention is now shifting to upcoming Q1 earnings, which are carrying high expectations," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Despite the market dip, some domestic economic indicators remained strong. India's manufacturing sector showed solid momentum, with the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI rising to a 14-month high of 58.4 in June, up from 57.6 in May. Employment levels also reached record highs, indicating positive sentiment in the industrial sector. However, gross GST collection slipped to ₹1.84 lakh crore in June, down from over ₹2 lakh crore in each of the previous two months, though still up 6.2% year-on-year. Asian markets ended on a mixed note, with South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, and China's Shanghai Composite finishing lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended higher.

## Indian Stock Market Opens Flat Amid Positive Global Cues

Mumbai: The Indian stock market opened flat on Monday, buoyed by positive global cues and early buying interest in the PSU bank and IT sectors. At 9:27 am IST, the Sensex edged up marginally by 1.35 points to 84,057.55, while the Nifty rose 6.50 points, or 0.03%, to 25,644.30. Nifty Bank showed slight gains, up 15.15 points or 0.03% at 57,459.05 in early trade. Market analysts pointed to easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a sharp decline in Brent crude prices to \$67 as key factors supporting the market sentiment. Additionally, reports suggesting positive developments in trade negotiations between the US and China, as well as the US and India, have boosted investor confidence. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, noted that recent market rallies have been driven by large-cap stocks like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries



(RIL), and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), which have seen strong institutional buying. The Nifty Midcap 100 index climbed 220.90 points (0.37%) to 59,606.05, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index rose 153.35 points (0.81%) to 19,130.15. Among the Sensex constituents, M&M, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, NTPC, and UltraTech Cement were the top losers. On the other hand,

Trent, SBI, L&T, Axis Bank, and Hindustan Unilever Limited led the gains. Weakness in the US dollar index continues to encourage foreign institutional investor (FII) inflows, alongside ongoing retail optimism supporting domestic fund investments. Experts advise that while staying invested in this bullish market makes sense, caution should be exercised when making fresh investments at current high valuations. On June 27, FIIs were net buyers, acquiring equities worth ₹1,397.02 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers, offloading shares worth ₹588.93 crore. Asian markets also showed mixed trends, with China, Bangkok, Japan, Seoul, and Jakarta trading in green, while Hong Kong slipped into the red.

In the US, the Dow Jones closed Friday at 43,819.27, up 1%, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq also posting solid gains.

## India's Industrial Growth Slows to 9-Month Low of 1.2% in May 2025

India's industrial output growth slipped to a nine-month low of 1.2% in May 2025, reflecting a significant slowdown in key sectors such as electricity and mining. This marks the weakest growth since August 2024 and is a decline from 2.6% in April, according to official data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday. The April figure was also revised downward from the earlier estimate of 2.7%.

The latest data from the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) — which tracks changes in the volume of production in factories, mines, and utilities — points to broad-based weakness, with particular stress in energy and resource-linked industries. Electricity output contracted sharply by 5.8%, while mining output saw a marginal decline of 0.1% year-on-year.



In contrast, manufacturing, which constitutes the bulk of the IIP, provided some support with 2.6% growth, driven by increased production in machinery, non-metallic minerals, and basic metals. However, this was still notably below the 5.1% growth recorded in the same month last year, indicating per-

sistent softness in industrial momentum.

Sector-wise, consumer goods remained weak, reflecting subdued demand, while capital goods and infrastructure-related output offered modest positive contributions to overall industrial performance.

The IIP reading for May stood at 156.6, up slightly from 154.7 in May 2024, but the slow pace of expansion raises concerns about the resilience of India's industrial recovery amid global uncertainties and domestic demand challenges.

This deceleration in industrial activity may influence monetary policy discussions, especially as the Reserve Bank of India weighs the implications of softening growth against ongoing inflation risks.



# Bengaluru Traffic Jam at 3:30 AM? Resident Warns of ‘Ticking Time Bomb’

In a city infamous for its traffic woes, one Bengaluru resident’s recent experience is raising fresh concerns. Sharing his ordeal on Reddit, the long-time resident revealed he was stuck in gridlock not once, but twice—at 3:30 AM and again at 5:40 AM—warning that the city’s infrastructure is now a “ticking time bomb.”

“I’ve lived in Bengaluru for over a decade, and this is the worst I’ve seen,” he wrote. “A negative compound effect of small failures in various areas is now exploding.” He described how a trip from Indiranagar to Manyata Tech Park via Outer Ring Road (ORR) took him nearly two hours—at 3:30 in the morning.

Later that same day, a beam collapse near Elements Mall at 5:40 AM created chaos again. “There were glass pieces on the road. I think it might’ve hit a car, though I can’t confirm. But it’s going to be pandemonium there today,” he



added, urging people to hold BBMP and local leaders accountable.

The post resonated widely, with others echoing frustration. One user said they’ve witnessed the city’s decline firsthand: “Even the metro is overcrowded. Roads are full of garbage, rents are crazy high, and basic infrastructure like footpaths is missing.” Another noted that the ORR stretch is constantly under metro construction between midnight and 5 AM.

The city’s rapid population growth, spurred by the IT boom, has outpaced infrastructure development. In a recent podcast, Bengaluru’s Traffic Commissioner MN Anucheth explained that the number of vehicles has doubled in a decade. He emphasized that boosting public transport is the only sustainable solution.

Until then, even 3:30 AM traffic might become the new normal in India’s tech capital.

## Pawfect Match: India Launches First-Ever Dating App for Dogs!

In a heartwarming and innovative twist to digital matchmaking, India now has a dating app made exclusively for dogs! Called Doffair, the platform aims to tackle pet loneliness by helping urban dogs find companions—not just for mating, but for friendship, playdates, and emotional bonding.

Launched in March 2025, Doffair was founded by Maurya Kampeli, who observed that many pets in urban homes were emotionally isolated. “Whenever I visited friends with dogs, I noticed how lonely they seemed. Even animals in today’s fast-paced lifestyle don’t get time to socialise,” he said. Backed by insights from veterinarians, groomers, and pet parents, the Doffair team found that many dogs experience stress and behavioural issues due to a lack of interaction. Recognising this, they created not just a dating app, but a holistic platform connecting pet owners with local services, vets, and other pet parents.



Here’s how it works: Pet parents create a profile for their dog, listing details such as breed, temperament, energy level, and preferences. The app then suggests compatible matches using filters like location and behavior. The goal is not romance, but social comfort and healthy interaction.

Safety is a top priority. Every user must verify their mobile number, upload their dog’s photo, and provide a valid vaccination certificate. Suspicious profiles can be reported and are quickly reviewed. The app also promotes ethical breeding practices in collaboration with vets and professionals.

From just 100 trial users, Doffair now boasts over 10,000 downloads, especially in cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. One pet parent even shared that after weeks of trying to find a playmate for her dog through WhatsApp groups, Doffair finally brought her relief and joy.

In a world where swiping right has become a norm, now it’s time our furry friends find their pawfect match too!

## Fed Up With Soaring Real Estate Costs, Man Contemplates Living on a Houseboat



With real estate prices in Indian metro cities reaching record highs, owning a home has become an unattainable dream for many middle-class citizens. Amid this ongoing crisis, one frustrated Reddit user has sparked an unusual but thought-provoking conversation by suggesting an alternative housing solution: living on a houseboat.

In a now-viral Reddit post, the user expressed his dismay at the skyrocketing cost of flats in cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai. “I am unable to afford flats in any of the Indian cities—Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad. I am already aged out, so I won’t be of working age for EMIs,” he explained, adding that a houseboat could be a creative and affordable alternative.

The post, which quickly gained traction, included a genuine query: “Is it legal to live in a boat in India?” While the idea might seem far-fetched to some,

it’s not without precedent. Houseboats are already popular in regions like Kerala and Srinagar, albeit mostly for tourism. The thought of using one as a permanent residence in urban areas, however, is relatively uncommon and raises several questions about legalities, infrastructure, and accessibility.

The user’s perspective resonated with many others who are equally disillusioned by the ever-increasing real estate costs. In a country where housing affordability is becoming a crisis, the concept of floating homes may no longer be just a quirky fantasy, but a potential future reality.

As urban housing challenges grow, creative solutions like these are likely to spark more conversations around alternative living, sustainability, and financial independence. Whether or not it becomes a trend, this post certainly highlights the lengths people are willing to go for a roof over their heads.

## Squirting Pink Foot Fountain in NYC Divides Public: Art or Obscene?

A bold new art installation in New York City is sparking debate and turning heads for all the right—and wrong—reasons. Installed along the High Line near 30th Street, Foot Fountain (Pink) is a 10-foot-tall sculpture that looks like a giant pink leg and foot, complete with bright red-lipped mouths and protruding tongues.



Created by Argentine-born artist Mika Rotenberg, the piece was unveiled in April 2025. While many passersby see it as a whimsical, surreal take on traditional fountains, others are not amused. What makes the sculpture even more interactive—and controversial—is that it squirts water when someone pedals a nearby bike. A viral video posted by user Colling Ruggs shows exactly how pedestrians can make the foot “squirt,” sparking both curiosity and discomfort.

According to the artist’s press release, the sculpture is an “irreverent take on classical fountains” and is meant to challenge the norms of public art. But the reaction online has been mixed. Many social media users have slammed the installation, calling it “disturbing,” “gross,” and “inap-

propriate for public space.” One user commented, “This is what happens when you remove beauty and morality from art.”

However, not everyone is disgusted. Danny R., a visitor from San Francisco, admitted the sculpture made her uneasy but found it “really cool” overall. Angie R., a local mother, said her kids love running around it and see it as a fun sprinkler. Tourist Katie Sareno from Italy added, “It’s fun for kids, but adults will see the deeper art.”

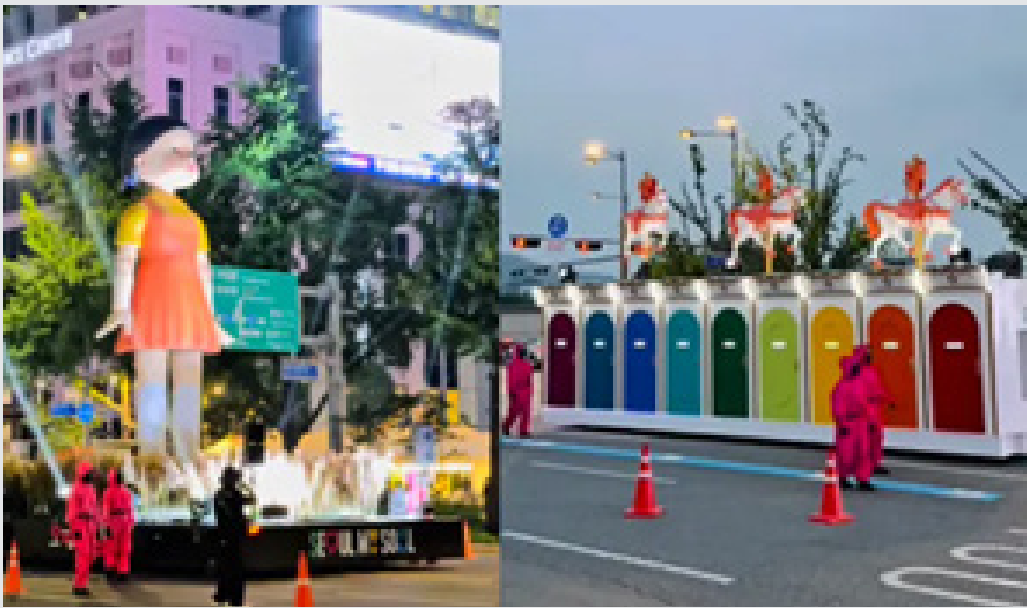
Despite the polarized opinions, Foot Fountain (Pink) has undeniably become a conversation piece. It’s scheduled to remain on display until May 2026—leaving New Yorkers and tourists alike plenty of time to decide: bizarre brilliance or public eyecore?

## Squid Game Finale Sparks Real-Life Parade Frenzy in South Korea

Squid Game mania is back—and this time, it’s spilling onto the streets. To mark the highly anticipated release of the third and final season of Netflix’s global phenomenon Squid Game, fans in South Korea organized a spectacular real-life parade inspired by the show. The event, held Fans Celebrate Final Season with Real-Life Squid Game Parade in South Korea shortly after the season’s premiere on June 27, has taken social media by storm.

A viral video capturing the parade, shared by South Korea-based digital content creator Rana Adil Mushtaq, has already surpassed 1.2 million views. The clip showcases a street full of enthusiastic fans recreating some of the show’s most iconic elements with remarkable detail and energy.

Participants marched in the signature pink jumpsuits and black masks worn by the guards in the show, creating an eerie yet thrilling atmosphere. A towering replica of the motion-sensing animatronic doll from the infamous “Red Light, Green Light” game led the procession, drawing loud



cheers from onlookers. Adding to the dramatic flair, black coffins—similar to those used to carry eliminated players in the series—were also part of the parade, emphasizing the dark themes that made the series so gripping.

The celebration served as both a tribute and a send-off to a show that redefined the survival thriller genre on a global scale. Fans around the world flooded the comments section with awe and appreciation for the creativity and dedication shown in the parade.

With Squid Game Season 3 now streaming, the buzz is stronger than ever. And if this parade is any indication, the fandom’s love for the series is as powerful as the show’s cultural impact itself.



# Indian Women Aim to End Historic T20I Series on a High Against England



Having already secured a historic maiden T20I series victory over England, the Indian women's cricket team will now look to wrap up the five-match series with another win in the final game to be played at Edgbaston, Birmingham on Saturday, July 12. India's 3-1 lead was sealed with a commanding six-wicket win in the fourth T20I, highlighted by stellar fielding performances. Arundhati Reddy's three catches in the deep and Radha Yadav's sharp fielding and two wickets restricted England to 126/7 — a target India chased down with ease. This landmark series win marks a significant milestone for Harmanpreet Kaur's side, boosting morale ahead of the upcoming three-match ODI series. A fourth win would not only underscore India's dominance but also deal a psychological blow to England. India's spin-heavy bowling unit has been central to their success. With Radha Yadav and debutant N Shree Charani

leading the charge, and senior spinner Deepti Sharma anchoring the attack, England's batters have been consistently outplayed — losing 22 wickets to spin across four games. On the batting front, Smriti Mandhana has been the top scorer, while Shafali Verma's brisk starts, including a 19-ball 31 in the last game, have been impactful. Jemimah Rodrigues, with 107 runs so far, has been a steadying force in the middle order. England, meanwhile, have struggled in the absence of injured skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt. Sophia Dunkley has been their only consistent performer, while others have failed to fire. Lauren Bell leads their bowling with six wickets, but overall, India's batters have faced little resistance. With momentum on their side, India will be keen to finish strong and maintain their winning run at Edgbaston, following the men's memorable Test win last week.

# Thrilling Quarter-Finals Set Up High-Stakes Semi-Finals in Sub Junior Women's Hockey Nationals

The quarter-finals of the 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2025 delivered a day full of intense action and high drama at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Thursday. Hockey Haryana, Hockey Association of Odisha, Hockey Mizoram, and hosts Hockey Jharkhand booked their spots in the Semi-Finals with commanding victories and nerve-wracking finishes. The day began with a nail-biting clash between Hockey Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Hockey. Haryana secured a hard-fought 1-0 win, courtesy of Manjinder's early goal in the 9th minute. Despite Uttar Pradesh earning seven penalty corners, they couldn't break through Haryana's solid defence. In the second quarter-final, the Hockey



Association of Odisha displayed complete dominance over the Hockey Association of Bihar, registering a thumping 5-0 victory. Ashika Samad (10') set the tone with a penalty corner conversion, followed by field goals from Priyanka Minz (14') and Eleena Burh (26'). Gita Lakra (33') and Sweeti Kujur (37') extended the lead in the second half, sealing a comfortable

win. Hockey Mizoram breezed past Hockey Punjab in the third quarter-final with a clinical 4-0 triumph. Team captain Vanlalrinhlui scored a brace (19', 47'), while Lalruatsiami C (41') and Lalvenpuii (57') added to Punjab's woes with well-timed goals. The final quarter-final was a thriller as hosts Hockey Jharkhand faced Hockey Madhya Pradesh. The game ended 1-1 in regular time with goals from Nousheen Naz (33') and Sugan Sanga (44'). The shootout saw Jharkhand edge out MP 5-4, with five successful conversions, while a single miss from Tanvi proved decisive. The semi-finals on July 12 will see Haryana clash with Odisha and Mizoram face off against Jharkhand in what promises to be a gripping battle for a place in the final.

# Minerva Academy Storms into Round of 16 at Helsinki Cup with Stunning 7-0 Victory

Minerva Academy FC continued its dream run at the Helsinki Cup 2025, thrashing Finnish club GrIFK 7-0 in the Round of 32 to secure a spot in the pre-quarterfinals. The Indian side, which dominated the group stage, has now firmly established itself as one of the tournament's strongest contenders. Coming off an impeccable group performance with four wins from four matches, 24 goals scored, and none conceded, Minerva maintained their red-hot form in the knockouts. The commanding win against GrIFK, one of Finland's historic and reputed youth clubs founded in 1925, was a clear statement of Minerva's rising stature in global youth football. From the opening whistle, Minerva controlled the tempo, showcasing swift



passing, ball control, and aggressive pressing. Star forward Raj stole the show with a sensational hat-trick, dismantling GrIFK's defence every time he approached the box. Chetan added to the tally with a thunderous strike, while Yohenba dazzled with his individual brilliance to net a superb solo goal. Rajesh and Reesan also found the back of the net, sealing a

dominant win. More than just a big scoreline, the match highlighted Minerva's complete team performance. The defence remained rock-solid, maintaining their record of not conceding a single goal in five matches. The midfield relentlessly pressed and won possession, while the forwards clinically converted opportunities. Minerva's group stage campaign saw them top a tough pool that included Icelandic clubs KR and Afturelding, and Finnish sides HJK/2 and LoPa—teams known for their pedigree and local advantage. Yet, Minerva stood out with 31 goals scored overall and zero conceded. Now heading into the Round of 16, Minerva Academy is no longer seen as an underdog but a legitimate title contender. The echoes of their dominance are now being heard throughout Helsinki.

# Telangana Athletes Shine at 7th Indian Open Para Athletics International Championship 2025

The 7th Indian Open Para Athletics International Championship was held on the 11th and 12th of July 2025 at the prestigious Sri Kanterava Stadium in Bangalore. The event showcased some outstanding performances from para-athletes across India, with Telangana's representatives leaving a remarkable mark. Among the stand-out performers were Telangana's own Jeevan Ji Deepthi and Akira Nandan, who both clinched gold medals in their respective running events. Jeevan Ji Deepthi, competing in the T20 category, completed the race in an impressive 56.63 seconds. Akira Nandan, participating in the T37 category, secured his gold medal with a swift finish of 51.71 seconds. Their victories have brought great pride to the state and have highlighted Telangana's growing prominence in para athletics. In addition to these stellar performances, Devendra, another talented athlete from Telangana, took part in the javelin throw and shot put events.



Although he did not win a medal this time, his participation demonstrated promising potential and added depth to the state's athletic contingent. The achievements of these athletes were warmly acknowledged by key figures from Telangana's para sports community. Singarapu Babu, Executive Member of the Paralympic Committee and President of the Para Sports Association of Telangana, expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the athletes. He was joined by Gadipalli Prashanth, General Secretary of the Para Sports Association of Tel-

angana, Uppunutala Raju, Joint Secretary, and Executive Member Kalyan Gar, all of whom praised the athletes for their dedication and determination. Their efforts have not only brought glory to Telangana but have also significantly contributed to elevating the status and recognition of para sports within the state. The inspiring performances in Bangalore have set a strong foundation for Telangana's para-athletes as they look forward to future competitions on the national and international stage.

# Jamie Smith Equals Record as Fastest Wicketkeeper-Batter to 1000 Test Runs

England's rising star Jamie Smith etched his name into the record books on Day 2 of the Lord's Test against India, becoming the joint-fastest wicketkeeper-batter to reach 1000 runs in Test cricket. Smith reached the milestone in just 21 innings, matching the record set by South African great Quinton de Kock. This puts Smith at the top of an elite list, alongside De Kock, who achieved the feat before retiring from Test cricket in 2021. Trailing just behind are Sri Lanka's Dinesh Chandimal and England's Jonny Bairstow, who both needed 22 innings to reach the 1000-run mark. The legendary Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka) and AB de Villiers (South Africa) follow with 23 innings, while West Indies' Jeff Dujon sits fourth with 24. Smith made a composed and fluent 51 off 56 balls, including six boundaries, showcasing his aggressive intent and sharp technique. His fifty came up in just 52 deliveries, reinforcing his growing reputation as a dynamic middle-order option for England. Earlier in the session, England resumed their innings at 251/4 with Joe Root unbeaten on 99 and skipper Ben Stokes on 39. Root wasted no time, smashing a boundary on the first ball to bring up his 37th



Test century and ninth at Lord's — placing him fifth on the all-time century list. Jasprit Bumrah disrupted England's progress, dismissing Stokes for 44 and then removing Root for 104 with a peach of a delivery. He followed it up by getting Chris Woakes out for a golden duck. England suddenly found themselves at 271/7. But Smith, joined by Brydon Carse, counterattacked brilliantly. The pair guided England past the 350-run mark, with Smith's confident strokeplay standing out in a session that balanced class with resilience.





# Kireeti’s “Junior” Trailer Promises a Winner



The much-awaited trailer of Junior, the debut film of Kireeti Reddy, has been released by none other than SS Rajamouli — and it’s creating waves. Directed by Radha Krishna and produced by Rajani Korrapati under Vaaraahi Chalana Chitram, the film has already garnered massive attention with its teaser and chart-topping songs. Now, the trailer takes the hype a notch higher. Junior follows the journey of Abhi, the late-born son in a loving family. Adored by his parents, especially his father, Abhi enjoys a pampered and carefree upbringing. His world takes a turn when he falls for Spoorthy in college. However, Abhi’s life takes on a deeper meaning as he becomes aware of the hardships his father and village face. What ensues is a touching tale of love, self-realization, and responsibility.

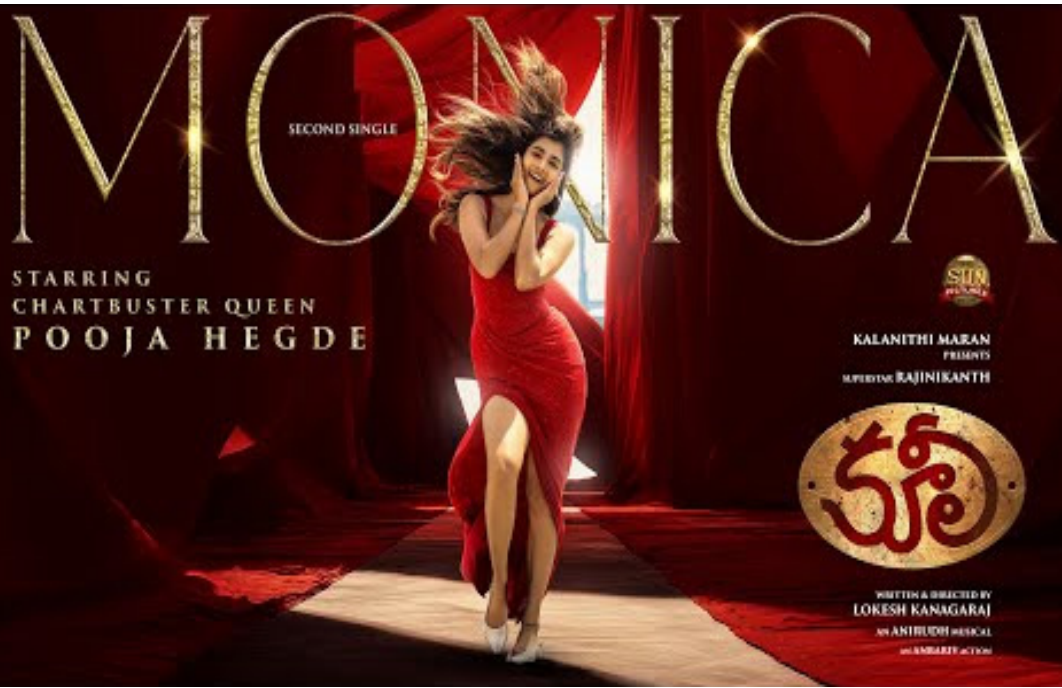
Kireeti Reddy makes a powerful first impression. From light-hearted romance to emotional depth and action-packed moments, his performance is strikingly balanced and mature for a debutant. Sreeleela impresses with her screen presence and emotional depth, while Genelia and Ravichandran bring gravitas and heart to their roles. Comedians Viva Harsha and Satya provide well-timed comic relief, adding freshness to the narrative. On the technical front, Junior excels. Cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar’s visuals are stunning, while Devi Prasad’s music elevates every moment with an energetic score. The film’s rich production quality reflects Vaaraahi Chalana Chitram’s commitment to storytelling and entertainment.

# Tollywood Faces a Dussehra Dilemma: September 25 Gets Crowded

The Dussehra 2025 season is shaping up to be one of the most competitive periods in recent Tollywood history. With multiple big-budget films eyeing a release on September 25, the Telugu film industry finds itself in a tight spot, unsure of how the final release calendar will unfold. At least four major Telugu films, each with budgets ranging from ₹150 crore to ₹300 crore, are currently lined up for the same date. This crowded window is further intensified by the pan-India release of Kantara: Chapter 1, locked for October 2 to coincide with Vijayadashami. Directed by Rishab Shetty, the much-anticipated prequel is expected to draw significant footfall in Telugu-speaking regions. The release race was kicked off by Akhanda 2, the sequel to the 2021 blockbuster. Directed by Boyapati Sreenu and starring Nandamuri Balakrishna, the team reaffirmed the September 25 release with a teaser launched on NBK’s birthday. The production is in full throttle to meet the deadline. Complicating matters further is Vishwambhara, which was initially set for Sankranti 2025 but is now eyeing September 25 or 18, depending on CG readiness. With no official changes announced, Tolly-



wood is bracing for a potential box office clash. A clearer picture is expected in the coming weeks.



# Pooja Hegde Sizzles in “Monica” Song from Rajinikanth’s Coolie

The buzz around Coolie, director Lokesh Kanagaraj’s high-octane action entertainer starring Superstar Rajinikanth, just got bigger. The makers have dropped the second single from the film, titled “Monica,” and it’s already heating up the charts. Coolie, produced by Sun Pictures, is one of the most anticipated pan-Indian films of the year. Featuring an ensemble cast that includes Nagarjuna, Aamir Khan, Upenendra, Sathyaraj, Soubin Shahir, and Shruti Haasan, the film promises a grand cinematic spectacle. Adding to its mass appeal is the music by Anirudh Ravichander, who

has once again delivered a foot-tapping, high-energy track with “Monica.” The song features Pooja Hegde in a glam avatar, performing alongside Soubin Shahir. Dressed in a striking red outfit, Pooja steals the spotlight with her sizzling dance moves and screen presence. Her energetic performance adds a vibrant charm to the already electrifying number. Anirudh, along with Subhalakshmi and rapper Asal Kolaar, lends dynamic vocals that perfectly complement the song’s pulsating beats and festive vibe. “Monica” is tailor-made for mass audiences, with its catchy hook, energet-

ic choreography, and colorful visuals. It’s poised to dominate music charts across languages and platforms. With Coolie scheduled for a grand pan-India release on August 14, just ahead of Independence Day, the hype is only expected to grow. In Telugu, the film will be released by Asian Multiplexes Pvt. Ltd., ensuring wide reach across the region. As anticipation builds for the full theatrical experience, “Monica” serves as a sizzling reminder of the star power and musical spectacle that Coolie is set to deliver.

# Pawan Kalyan Wraps Up OG Shoot; Striking New Poster Unveiled

Power Star Pawan Kalyan is moving full throttle, completing his film commitments with speed and focus. One of the most eagerly awaited films in his lineup, OG, has now officially wrapped up its shooting schedule. The news was confirmed by DVV Entertainment, the production house behind the film, which also released a striking new poster to mark the occasion. The rain-drenched image features Pawan Kalyan in a fierce and intense avatar, capturing a perfect blend of style and danger. His rugged look and powerful presence in the poster have sent fans into a frenzy, reigniting the buzz surrounding the project. Directed by Sujeeth, OG is said to showcase Pawan Kalyan in one of his most intense roles to date. From what little has been revealed so far, the film is expected to be a gripping action drama packed with emotion, mystery, and high-stakes storytelling. The visuals, combined with the actor’s commanding screen presence, hint at a performance that could be a game-changer. With shooting now completed, OG moves into its post-production phase. Given the scale of the film and the excitement surrounding it, expectations are sky-high as the team works on fine-tuning the final cut. The movie is slated for a massive worldwide theatrical release on September 25, 2025, a date that is quickly becoming one of the most talked-about in Tollywood’s calendar due to multiple big releases.



As fans count down the days, the newly unveiled poster serves as a powerful teaser of what’s to come. With Sujeeth at the helm and Pawan Kalyan in top form, OG looks all set to make a major impact at the box office this Dussehra.

# The 100 Movie Review: A Decent Crime Drama With Pacing Issues

TV actor RK Sagar, best known for his popular role in the serial Mogali Reku, makes a comeback to the silver screen with The 100, a crime thriller directed by Raghav Omkar Sasidhar. Released today, the film presents an investigative storyline with a few gripping moments but falls short of being consistently engaging.

**Story:** Vikranth (RK Sagar), a newly appointed IPS officer, begins his career by investigating a series of connected robberies and murders. As he digs deeper, he uncovers a pattern behind the crimes. Things take a personal turn when Aarthi (Misha Narang) becomes a victim, pushing Vikranth to confront powerful forces. The mystery deepens with the arrival of Madhu (Vishnu Priya), whose connection to the case adds new layers to the investigation. **Performances:** RK Sagar fits well into the role of a resolute cop. His performance, particularly in action and investigation scenes, is sincere and reflects his television experience. Misha Narang looks good and plays her part adequately. Vishnu Priya and Dhanya Balakrishna leave a mark in key second-half roles. Tarak Ponnappa also delivers a solid performance. **Positives:** The film’s core plot has potential. A few twists in the second half offer some intrigue, and the in-



vestigative elements work in parts. The film manages to maintain some engagement, especially during the more intense sequences. **Negatives:** However, the movie suffers from sluggish pacing and a lack of urgency in storytelling. Several scenes feel forced or unnecessary, and the romantic track disrupts the flow. The climax ends on a predictable note, and the casting in negative roles feels underwhelming. **Technical Aspects:** The music by Harshavardhan Rameshwar is decent, and Shyam K Naidu’s visuals are competent. Editing could have been tighter to improve pacing. **Verdict:** The 100 is a partially engaging crime drama with a decent lead performance by RK Sagar. Watch it if you enjoy cop stories, but manage your expectations.