



A Chandra Shekhara Reddy Media Adviser Southern States)UTS BEE MOP GOI briefing Shri.Jishnu Dev Varma Hon'ble Governor of Telangana on the impact of Energy Efficiency in Southern States including Telangana..

What Is Kavitha's Big Connect with HCA?



TCA accuses Kavitha of shielding HCA ex-chief Jagan Mohan Rao

Alleges misuse of funds and stifling of rural cricket talent

New arrest in SRH ticket scam intensifies HCA corruption row

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) has once again landed in the spotlight as Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) Secretary Gurava Reddy made explosive allegations involving BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha. He questioned Kavitha's alleged association with former HCA president Jagan Mohan Rao and accused her of remaining silent on large-scale corruption during the BRS regime. Speaking at a press meet, Gurava Reddy claimed that Kavitha and Jagan Mohan Rao shared a close working relationship and together influenced HCA decisions. "If Kavitha is not involved in the financial irregularities, she

should demand a forensic audit of HCA accounts and seek action against Jagan Mohan Rao. Otherwise, we will assume she had a role," Reddy warned. He further alleged that during the 10-year BRS rule, Kavitha, KTR, and Rao held a tight grip over HCA, which severely hindered opportunities for rural cricket talent. He demanded an immediate CID and ED investigation into what he called a "well-planned misuse of public funds and cricket governance." Adding to the controversy, Hyderabad police recently arrested an individual involved in the illegal sale of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) IPL tickets. The accused is said to have links with HCA insiders who supplied bulk tickets that were sold at inflated prices, bypassing official sale channels. Authorities suspect a wider racket and have not ruled out the involvement of HCA officials.

2 PAGE

BC Associations Thank CM Revanth for 42% Local Body Quota

R. Krishnaiah leads delegation, hails cabinet decision as historic

BC Welfare Association leaders meet CM Revanth Reddy

Praise government's move to implement 42% reservation in local polls

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant development, leaders from various Backward Classes (BC) associations, led by BC Welfare Association National President and Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnaiah, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to convey their gratitude for the state cabinet's decision to implement 42 percent reservation for BCs in local body elections. During the meeting, the BC leaders hailed the cabinet's decision as a "historic step" towards social justice and inclusive governance. They appreciated the Chief Minister's commitment to empowering BC communities politically and ensuring their rightful representation in democratic in-



stitutions. Krishnaiah was joined by Telangana Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Eravatri Anil and other prominent BC association leaders. The delegation conveyed their appreciation, noting that this move reflects the government's sincerity towards upliftment and equality. Speaking after the meeting, R. Krishnaiah said, "This is not just a policy decision; it

is the fruit of decades of struggle for BC rights. The CM has shown true leadership by standing with us in this important cause." The BC associations also assured their full support to the government in ensuring the successful implementation of the new reservation framework and called upon all sections of society to support inclusive representation in local governance.

Fee Hike Plea Rejected by High Court

Engineering colleges told to approach committee again

HC says only TAFRC can decide on fee hike

Court slams delay, says trend repeats every year

11 private colleges had filed urgent petition



TPN | V. Krishna Kumar

Telangana: Engineering colleges in Telangana, particularly private institutions, have faced a setback as the High Court rejected their appeals seeking a fee hike. In a significant development, the High Court ruled that only the Telangana Admissions and Fees Regulatory Committee (TAFRC), appointed by the government, has the authority to decide on fee revisions for engineering colleges. This decision comes as a blow to the colleges that were expecting a fee increase this academic year.

2 PAGE

Nigerians Ran The Drug Network...



Surya had full support from Nigerian women, say police

2 Nigerian women arrested, 4 still at large

Drug links traced to Delhi and Goa

Doctors, businessmen on customer list

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar
Hyderabad: Another major twist has come to light in the Malnadu Kitchen drug case. The investigation is throwing up startling revelations, with authorities now confirming that the entire drug network was being run with the help of Nigerian nationals. Sources say the network operated from Delhi and Goa, with young Nigerian women working as agents for hotel owner Surya. According to the latest reports, out of 60 Nigerians residing in the city, most were deported by the police following the bust, but six managed to evade capture. Investigators believe all six were directly working for Surya.

2 PAGE

Harish Rao Defends BRS, Slams Congress Over Irrigation Claims

- Submitted key documents to PC Ghosh Commission
- Revanth's ignorance hurting Telangana's water rights
- Accuses Congress of misleading people with false data

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Former Minister Harish Rao came out strongly against the Congress government on Friday after appearing before the PC Ghosh Commission, where he submitted additional information related to the Kaleshwaram project. Addressing the media, he accused the Revanth Reddy-led government of distorting facts and misleading the public on Telangana's irrigation history and water rights. "We submitted additional data to the Commission to-



day after being given time. As we are not in power now, the documents are with the government, but we compiled what we could access and provided it in full," Harish Rao said. He added that the former government took six cabinet decisions and secured three Assembly approvals

2 PAGE

Raja Singh reacts after BJP accepts his resignation

- Says he didn't quit for position or power
- Vows to serve Hindutva and Sanatana Dharma till his last breath
- Thanks BJP for trusting him with Goshamahal MLA ticket three times

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Goshamahal MLA Raja Singh has responded publicly after the BJP high command officially accepted his resignation. Taking to the social media platform 'X', Raja Singh said that his resignation was not aimed at gaining any position or power and reiterated that he would continue his social service and fight for the rights of the Hindu community until his last breath.

2 PAGE





Telangana Governor Lauds PM's Green Mission

Focus on afforestation, energy efficiency, and youth engagement in green mission

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a bold push to tackle climate change, Telangana Governor Shri Jishnu Dev Varma on Thursday laid out a three-pronged strategy aimed at significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing the state's environmental sustainability. Highlighting the importance of coordinated action, he stressed that this approach would benefit the economy, environment, and society alike.

Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership on global climate action, the Governor called for active participation across departments such as Energy, Transport, Buildings, Urban and Rural Development, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to fast-track renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency. "Energy efficiency alone can account for over 40% of the solution in mitigating climate change impacts," the Governor stated. He called for joint institutional, policy-level, and grassroots efforts to drive the transformation. Key elements of the Governor's climate roadmap include:

Afforestation push: A call to the Forest and Environment Department to increase the state's green cover to 50% by 2047 through aggressive



Shri. Jishnu Dev Varma Hon'ble Governor of Telangana receiving a report of BEE on the impact of Energy Efficiency in addressing Climate Change from A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy Media Adviser Southern States, BEE, MOP GOI & Adesh Saxena, GM. EESL in Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad.

plantation drives.

Mass awareness campaigns: Mobilizing public and private stakeholders, particularly women and students, through educational institutions to promote energy conservation and sustainability.

Institutional energy leadership: Initiatives to implement energy-efficient technologies at key institutions.

Appreciating the initiatives of the Ministry of Power—particularly the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)—the Governor praised their ef-

posed comprehensive energy audits at Raj Bhavan and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad. The goal is to transform them into model energy-efficient campuses in coordination with the state's Energy Development agency.

"This is the time to act—not just plan. Telangana must lead by example," the Governor emphasized.

EESL General Manager Mr. Adesh Saxena and Mr. Jaya Prakash Vuduta assured the Governor that the energy audit reports will be completed within a fortnight.

forts in enabling states to deploy global best practices. He also lauded Telangana's initiatives to empower women in the solar energy sector.

During a briefing by BEE's Southern Regional Media Adviser A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy and senior EESL officers, the Governor was apprised of developments under BEE's Standards and Labelling (S&L) programme. The initiative currently covers 39 appliances—16 of them mandatory—including fans, refrigerators, and air conditioners, and contributes to 60% of India's CO₂ savings from energy efficiency measures.

Recognizing the need for institutional action, the Governor pro-

Eco-Friendly Constructions Key to Telangana's Growth: Sridhar Babu



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu emphasized the importance of eco-friendly construction methods as a strategic response to climate change, rapid urbanization, and rising carbon emissions. Speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day national conference on "Next-Gen High-Rise Buildings – Advancements in Composite and Steel Structures," the Minister urged civil engineers to embrace sustainable practices and innovative thinking.

Organized by the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (Hyderabad Center) at the Engineering Staff College of India, Rayadurg, the event brought together key stakeholders in the construction industry to discuss emerging trends in structural design.

Highlighting Telangana's progress, Sridhar Babu revealed that the state's construction sector recorded a robust growth rate of 11.97% in 2024–25, contributing over ₹80,000 crore to the state economy. The sector accounted for 24.9% of the Gross Value Added (GVA) within the services sector, underscoring its vital role in the state's economic development.

"These structures reduce pollution and contribute to a circular economy. Telangana is not just envisioning innovation; we are executing it. Our steel bridges in urban areas are proof of this commitment," he added.

The Minister also spoke on integrating Artificial Intelligence in the construction process and highlighted the success of the state's 'Build Now' portal, which streamlines building approvals through transparency and efficiency. He proposed working with the Central Government and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to establish unified national codes for steel-based high-rise buildings.

Addressing young civil engineers, Sridhar Babu urged them to "abandon outdated ideas and think innovatively," assuring them of the state's full support in their professional journeys. He expressed confidence that through sustainable housing, smart cities, and resilient infrastructure, Telangana's economy would achieve the \$3 trillion mark by 2047.

Notable attendees at the event included SGS Murthy, Mahender Reddy, Seshadri, Kashiram, Narmada, Ramesh, and Bheem Rao from the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers.

No Tolerance for Injustice in SC/ST Promotions

Bakki Venkataiah directs Excise Department to ensure fair treatment

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

SC and ST Commission Chairman Bakki Venkataiah made it clear on Thursday that the commission will not remain silent if injustice is done to SC and ST employees in promotions or transfers. He warned that any obstruction by upper-caste officials in the promotion process will be taken seriously, and strict action will be recommended.

Venkataiah conducted a detailed review with officials of the Prohibition and Excise Department at the Commissioner's office conference hall. He was received with protocol honors and a simple welcome led by Excise officials. The review meeting was attended by Commission members, Excise Department ED Charan Das, Commissioner C. Hari Kiran, Additional Commissioner Syed Yasin Qureshi, and nodal officers from various Telangana districts. During the meeting, the Chairman highlighted several issues affecting tribal communities



and SC/ST employees. He expressed concern that in many villages, especially ST-dominated areas, women were being pushed into prostitution due to rampant belt shops and alcohol consumption. He also noted a worrying increase in deaths due to illicit liquor, or natu sarah.

Venkataiah instructed officials to crack down on adulterated toddy and illegal liquor sales. He demanded that ex-gratia be paid to families affected by illicit liquor and that proper reports be sent to the government. The Com-

mission will also file a complaint with the state on the matter.

He also directed that the birth and death anniversaries of Babu Jagjivan Ram and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar be observed in all government offices with due respect. He raised concerns over liquor being sold at rates above MRP and demanded immediate corrective action.

The Chairman emphasized the need for timely promotions and fair postings for SC and ST employees, stating their self-respect must be protected and upheld in every way.

Additional Commissioner Syed Yasin Qureshi assured full cooperation from the Excise Department and promised to implement all recommendations made by the Commission. Commission Members Zilla Shankar, N. Rambabu Naidu, ED Charan Das, Deputy Commissioners Dasarath, Anjan Rao, David Ravikanth, A. Srinivasa Reddy, Somi Reddy, and other officials were also present.

Harish Rao Defends BRS, Slams Congress Over Irrigation Claims

1st Page Cont..

for Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages—details which were shared with the commission.

He criticized the Congress government for not responding to his letters seeking official documentation. "If they truly believe in transparency, why are they withholding this information from us?" he questioned.

Harish Rao then tore into CM Revanth Reddy's recent remarks, branding his presentation on water allocation as a "cover point presentation" that hid decades of Congress betrayal. "Revanth is confusing water consumption with water distribution. Consumption changes yearly, while distribution is done permanently by tribunals. Claiming a permanent agreement for 299:512 is a lie," he said.

He blamed past Congress leaders like Jana Reddy, Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Komatireddy for allowing injustice by remaining silent when Telangana was allocated just 299 TMC in Krishna. "KCR fought hard to achieve Section 3 for Telangana's rightful share. He met Union ministers and even approached the Supreme Court," he added.

Key Allegations by Harish Rao:

- Congress misled the people by including tanks from the Nizam and Kakatiya eras in ayacut figures.

- The BRS government created 17 lakh acres of new ayacut and stabilized 31 lakh acres—totaling 48 lakh acres.
- Congress gave only 6 lakh acres in ten years.
- Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy signed for 299 TMC in 2025 despite knowing Telangana's entitlement is higher.
- Revanth offered AP 1000 TMC in Godavari and 500 in Krishna—"a move born of ignorance," he said.

On the decision to shift the project location from Tammidihatti to Medigadda, Harish Rao cited expert reports and official constraints. "There was no availability of 160 TMC at Tammidihatti—only 44 TMC could be used due to wildlife restrictions. CWC did not clear it. VAPCOS itself suggested Medigadda, where 282 TMC is available," he explained.

He accused the Congress of deliberately trying to damage BRS's legacy and questioned if Uttam Kumar Reddy, now Irrigation Minister, even understood the state's water rights. "How can he say 573 TMC is enough when we are fighting for 763 TMC in Krishna?" he asked.

"Revanth is acting out of arrogance and ignorance. Is he working for Telangana or following Chandrababu's directions?" Harish Rao questioned, concluding that the current government's narrative is damaging Telangana's future in irrigation.

Nigerians Ran The Drug Network...

Two of them have now been arrested, while the hunt is on for the remaining four.

It has come to light that these women, though forcibly deported to Delhi and Goa earlier, were supplying drugs back to Surya's inner circle and earning commissions on each sale. Alongside the city's Eagle team, officials from H New Police have also joined the investigation.

The two Nigerian women currently in custody have reportedly given crucial statements. They revealed that Surya sold drugs to prominent doctors and businessmen in Hyderabad, offering high commissions based on the sales volume. Shockingly, they also claimed they were sent by two police officers to regular customers, made to engage in prostitution,

and collect money from them.

Eagle officials have now shifted focus to tracking the Nigerian network in Delhi and Goa. Call records from the arrested suspects' phones are being examined to identify more users, including high-profile clients. The authorities are reportedly planning arrests of the drug consumers as well.

The Eagle team, aware that several people had gone underground after the Malnadu Kitchen case broke, has ramped up the investigation with the help of new officers. Every day, fresh layers of this organized drug racket are being uncovered. Efforts are now being made to shut down the network entirely by nabbing its kingpin Surya and all those associated with the drug supply and consumption chain.

Raja Singh reacts after BJP accepts his resignation

Recalling his political journey, Raja Singh noted that he joined the BJP around 11 years ago with the objective of serving the country and safeguarding Hindu rights. He thanked the party for the trust it placed in him, particularly for nominating him as the BJP candidate from Goshamahall in three consecutive Telangana Assembly elections.

He clarified that the decision to resign was not driven by personal or political ambitions. "I did not resign for position, power or any selfish motive," he stated in his message. Emphasizing his ideological stance, Raja Singh affirmed his commit-

ment to Hindutva, nationalism and Sanatana Dharma. "I was born to serve Hindutva and I will dedicate my life to it," he wrote.

Raja Singh also extended his best wishes to the BJP cadre across Telangana, stating that lakhs of workers were striving to bring the party to power in the state. He said he would continue to be a voice for Hindus and remain active in social service. His resignation and the subsequent statement come at a time when political alignments are being closely watched in the state, particularly in constituencies with strong ideological support bases.

What Is Kavitha's Big Connect with HCA?

The ticket scam, coupled with the fresh financial allegations, has intensified calls for accountability. Cricketing circles and opposition leaders are urging the government to clean up HCA and eliminate political interference that has

plagued the association for years.

The developments come as HCA prepares for the upcoming domestic season, with pressure mounting on current administrators to act swiftly and transparently.

Fee Hike Plea Rejected by High Court

The High Court made it clear that the pending appeals regarding the hike must be dealt with solely by the TAFRC.

During the hearing held yesterday, the High Court expressed displeasure at the TAFRC's inaction regarding fee regulation. It noted with concern that this lack of clarity and delayed decision-making had become an annual occurrence. The bench was addressing a lunch motion petition filed by 11 private engineering college managements, who sought urgent permission to raise fees before the academic session commenced.

The court criticized the committee for failing to act on fee hike proposals even after conducting inspections of the colleges every three years, as mandated. However, the bench also questioned the colleges for remaining passive and approaching the court only after the counseling process had concluded. It was revealed during the proceedings that the colleges had submitted a voluminous 5,000-page proposal to support their demand, which the court observed would understandably take time for the committee to evaluate.

Concluding the hearing, the High Court reiterated that the decision-making responsibility rests entirely with the TAFRC. Following the court's order, the colleges are now preparing to resubmit their proposals to the committee in the hope of getting a favorable decision.

Bhatti Demands Action in Rohith Vemula Case

BJP must apologise for promoting accused, says Deputy CM Rohith Vemula Act to be brought in Telangana soon

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu came down heavily on the BJP on Friday, accusing the party of promoting individuals allegedly responsible for the suicide of Hyderabad Central University PhD scholar Rohith Vemula. Speaking at a press conference at the AICC SC Department's central office in Delhi, Bhatti demanded a national apology from the BJP and announced that the Telangana govern-

ment would soon introduce a stringent Rohith Vemula Act. "This is not just a tragedy—it's a national shame," Bhatti said. "Instead of taking action against those who drove Rohith to death, the BJP rewarded them with promotions and top posts." He highlighted that Rohith Vemula's heart-wrenching suicide note—suggesting that Dalit students be given poison and a rope along with admission—shocked civil society and exposed the toxic environ-

ment created within the university system. Bhatti alleged that the then ABVP leader at the university, Sushil Kumar, deliberately portrayed Rohith and four other Ambedkar Students' Association members as anti-nationals and influenced the university Vice-Chancellor and BJP leadership to act against them. He also accused then MLC Ramachandra Rao of pressuring police to register false cases. "It was institutional murder,"



Bhatti said. "The university expelled them under pressure from the Human Resource Ministry and local BJP leaders. Rohith was left with no choice but to take his life." He further condemned the BJP for appointing Ramachandra

Rao as Telangana BJP President and Sushil Kumar as an assistant professor in Delhi. "This proves the BJP encourages those who target Dalits and tribals. They are rewarded, not punished," he said. Deputy CM Bhatti stated that

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had personally visited HCU after the incident, met student groups and Rohith's mother, and assured the community that such tragedies would not be repeated. "Rahul Gandhi stood with Dalits and promised protection for all seeking equality," he added. He confirmed that the Telangana government has formally requested the reopening of the Rohith Vemula case in court. He assured that the state would not rest until justice is served and that a strong Rohith Vemula Act would soon be introduced, as promised by Rahul Gandhi.

Congress Slams Kavitha Over BC Quota Claims

Mahesh Kumar Goud hails 42% reservation as Rahul Gandhi's vision fulfilled

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday strongly defended the Congress government's decision to implement 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections, calling it a "historic move for social justice" and dismissing BRS leader K. Kavitha's claims over the decision. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the move reflects the clear vision of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. "The Congress party once again proves that social justice is only possible through its leadership," he stated. He praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, BC Welfare Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, and the cabinet for taking bold steps to implement Rahul Gandhi's agen-



da for BC empowerment. "CM Revanth Reddy, despite coming from an upper-caste background, has stood firmly for BC upliftment," he added. Taking a direct swipe at Kavitha, Mahesh Kumar Goud questioned her sudden interest in BC issues. "What does Kavitha have to do with BC reservations? No Kavitha, No Bavita. People are laughing at her false claims," he said. "Doing minor protests and claiming 'I made it happen' is laughable." He accused the BRS and its

leaders of doing little for BCs during their decade-long rule. "After 10 years of KCR's government, what was achieved for BCs? Now suddenly Kavitha is singing the BC song as if she was the one who brought change. People are not fooled," he said. Reaffirming the Congress party's commitment, he concluded, "This is Rahul Gandhi's agenda and Revanth Reddy's commitment. We are delivering results for the BC community—not slogans, but action."

BRS BC leaders question Congress on 42% quota ordinance

Demand elections only after legal reservation assurance

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Senior BC leaders from the BRS party, including former ministers Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Gangula Kamalakara, Srinivas Goud, and MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan, launched a scathing attack on the Congress government at a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan on Friday. The leaders expressed serious doubts over the legality and intent behind the Congress government's ordinance to implement 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav stated that the Congress government is under pressure due to the ongoing BC movement and warned that elections should not be held until the 42% reservation is legally ensured as promised in the Kamareddy Declaration. "Even though the bill was sent to the Centre through the Governor, they now talk of bypassing the process with an ordinance. Given past betrayals, we have no faith," he said. Leader of Opposition in the Council, Madhusudanachari, accused the Congress of



cheating the BC community. "They made promises just to secure BC votes. Now, they've created a constitutional mess without applying any pressure at the national level. There's a clear betrayal visible," he said. Former Minister Srinivas Goud pointed out the government's failure to engage the Centre effectively. "They didn't put any real effort to get the Centre's nod. In other states, similar GOs didn't hold in court. How can they implement 70% reservations without placing it in the Ninth Schedule?" he questioned. MLC Dasoju Sravan said the Congress government has

mishandled the entire issue. "There are loopholes everywhere. They didn't even present the report in the Cabinet. Revanth Reddy staged a drama in Delhi. Bringing an ordinance while a bill is pending with the President is a constitutional crisis," he warned. The BRS BC leaders unanimously demanded that elections to local bodies must be postponed until 42% BC reservations are made fully legal and placed in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. They cautioned that if the Congress government fails to take proper legal steps, it will have to face serious public backlash.

Eatala Slams Govt Over Poor Double Bedroom Facilities

MP visits Murari village, assures quick resolution of issues

TPN Correspondent | Malkajgiri
Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender on Thursday expressed strong dissatisfaction over the condition of the double bedroom houses in Murari village, questioning the government's prolonged delay in providing basic amenities to beneficiaries. During his visit to the housing colony, Eatala interacted with the residents and listened to their grievances. Many of them expressed disappointment, saying that while they received the houses with hope, they were now struggling due to lack of livelihood opportunities and essential services. "Everyone here used to work and earn a living," Eatala said. "They



came here celebrating just by having a double bedroom. But now, you are all worried you've lost your jobs after moving here. This is not what a housing scheme should lead to." He further added that people prefer their own homes because they are denied dignity even in death when living in rented spaces. "If you die in a rented

house, your body won't even be allowed back home. That's why everyone dreams of owning a house," he remarked. Recalling his time as a minister, Eatala revealed that he had suggested building the houses in a more suitable location but the authorities did not heed his advice. He assured the residents that efforts are being made to provide fresh water, although forest and revenue permissions are pending. "I even called the revenue officials today regarding the matter," he added. "This is not a farewell visit. I've come here to listen and act. Your problems will be resolved as soon as possible," Eatala assured the residents.

42% Reservation for BCs a Victory for Long Fight: R. Krishnaiah

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Rajya Sabha member and National President of the BC Welfare Association, R. Krishnaiah, hailed the Telangana cabinet's decision to implement 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies as a historic victory for the decades-long struggle of the BC community. He was speaking at a meeting held at Basheer Bagh Press Club on Thursday, chaired by BC Welfare Association National Vice President Gujja Satyam and State Executive President Neelam Venkatesh. Addressing the gathering, Krishnaiah expressed heartfelt congratulations to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Telangana government for taking the bold decision. He emphasized that while the Assembly had passed the BC Bill back in March, had the government is-



sued a Government Order (GO) and announced elections at that time, the process would have already been in motion. He urged the Chief Minister to act with urgency and sincerity to implement the 42% reservation without further delay. "The law has been passed. If a GO is

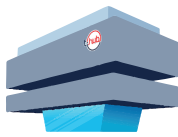
issued now and elections are held, any legal challenge from opponents can be handled in the Supreme Court. I am confident there are no constitutional hurdles in this case," Krishnaiah stated. Highlighting the historical injustice faced by BCs for over 76 years, he stressed that the community has been denied a fair democratic and constitutional share in governance. "When BCs are finally given representation, a few upper caste voices start showing impatience," he said, criticizing those who oppose the reservation. Krishnaiah further called upon the BC community to be vigilant and prepare for united and large-scale democratic protests if necessary to safeguard the newly granted reservation. He reiterated that this 42% share is not a concession but a rightful constitutional demand.

SC Classification Case Will Deliver Justice to Mala Community

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
State Labour and Employment Minister Vivek Venkata Swamy expressed confidence that justice will be delivered to the Mala community in the ongoing legal battle over SC classification. Speaking at a key gathering of Mala Mahanadu Telangana leaders at Vasavi Seva Kendra in Lakdikapul, the Minister emphasized that only unity among the Mala people will secure their rightful place in society. The event, organized under the leadership of Mala Mahanadu National President Chennaiyya, saw senior community leaders

and activists come together to discuss the ongoing challenges facing the community. Minister Vivek participated as the chief guest and was felicitated with high honors by the association. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said, "Some voices have gone silent after hearing the roar of the Mala lion. This unity has shown our strength. Let us move forward with the same spirit." He criticized attempts to undermine the community's rights through political distractions and highlighted that only a united Mala front can effectively fight the in-

justices inflicted for decades. He stated that a careful look at empirical data reveals the extent of loss and discrimination faced by the Mala community in various sectors due to a historical lack of unity. "If I have the support of my community, I have the strength to fight for the nation's betterment and for our people," he declared. Minister Vivek also assured that he would stand by any individual from the community facing injustice. "I am committed to ensuring that justice is done to every Mala person. If anyone is wronged, I will personally fight for their rights," he pledged.



Governor Visits Ujjaini Mahankali Temple Ahead of Bonalu

TPN Correspondent | Secunderabad
Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and his wife were warmly welcomed at the historic Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Ammavari Temple in Secunderabad by Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday. The Governor and his wife offered Bonam and silk clothes to the Goddess and participated in special pujas alongside Minister Ponnam Prabhakar. The occasion marks the lead-up to the grand Bonalu festival being celebrated across the twin cities. District Collector

Dasari Harichandan, Deputy Mayor Mote Srilatha, Endowments Department Commissioner and several other senior officials also took part in the ceremonial program. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Ashadha Bonalu festivities are being organized with grandeur and devotion throughout Hyderabad and Secunderabad. "The first Bonalu at Golconda Jagadamba began on June 26, and Balkampet Yellamma Kalyanam was held on July 1. The grand Lashkar Bonalu at Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad will



take place this Sunday, July 13," he announced. He confirmed that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will offer the traditional Lashkar Bonam on behalf of the Telangana government. Elaborate preparations have been made to en-

sure a smooth and safe celebration for devotees. "All departments including the Endowments Department, GHMC, police, and district administration have completed the necessary arrangements. Public cooperation is vital for the success of these historic festivities," the Minister added. Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized that Bonalu is not just a festival but a powerful symbol of Telangana's culture and faith. He said prayers are being offered statewide for timely rains and abundant crops, and that the Goddess's

blessings are sought for the welfare of all people. Governor Jishnu Dev Varma also inquired about the temple's history during his visit and expressed admiration for the rich traditions of the Bonalu festival. The Minister also shared that the traditional Bhavishyavani Rangam ceremony will be held on July 14, the day after the Lashkar Bonalu. "Let us celebrate Ashadha Bonalu with devotion and joy, praying for the well-being of Telangana," Ponnam Prabhakar concluded.

GHMC Commissioner Offers Prayers at Lal Darwaja Mahankali Temple



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner R.V. Karnan visited the historic Lal Darwaja C Simha Vahini Mahankali Temple in the old city on Friday morning and performed special pujas, seeking the blessings of the presiding deity. Commissioner Karnan was welcomed with Poornakumbha honors by the temple priests upon his arrival. The special rituals were carried out according to temple traditions, marking the Commissioner's long-awaited spiritual visit to one of Hyderabad's most revered temples. "I had been wanting to visit the Lal Darwaja Mahankali Temple for many days, and visiting the Goddess today gave me great spiritual satisfaction," he said. "This

temple in the old city has historical importance as well as uniqueness. I hope that the blessings of the Goddess protect all the people of Hyderabad city." Following the puja, the Commissioner held a brief review meeting with temple committee members regarding the ongoing development works and infrastructure improvements within and around the temple premises. He stressed the need for better amenities for devotees and directed officials to ensure smooth movement, cleanliness, and proper traffic management during the upcoming festive season. He also instructed the concerned departments to take necessary measures to provide a pleasant and safe experience for visitors to the temple, particularly as the Bonalu festival approaches.

Encroachments Demolished on Nala in Kukatpally

Hydra deployed as boundary walls of function halls razed in Habib Nagar

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Authorities in the Balaji Nagar division of Kukatpally constituency carried out demolition operations in Habib Nagar on Thursday to remove illegal encroachments on a local Nala (stormwater drain). Acting on complaints and after a preliminary survey, officials found that the boundary walls of several function halls had been constructed on the Nala, obstructing the natural water flow. In a swift and coordinated move, demolition personnel using Hydra machinery brought down the illegal structures. The operation was conducted under tight police security to prevent any untoward incidents during the process. Officials emphasized that the action was taken in the interest of public safety and flood prevention, especially as the city braces for heavy rains during the monsoon season. They warned that any similar encroachments will also face strict action in the coming days. The demolition drive received support from local residents who had previously complained about frequent waterlogging and drainage issues caused by such unauthorized constructions.



Newborn dies due to alleged negligence in govt hospital



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A case of alleged medical negligence has come to light in Mallapur's Suryanagar Government Hospital under Nacharam Police Station limits, after a newborn baby died shortly after birth. The infant's family staged a protest in front of the hospital, holding the doctors accountable for what they described as reckless and careless treatment. According to family members, Gudise Kavitha (20), a resident of Babanagar in Mallapur, was taken to the Suryanagar Government Hospital for delivery around 5:30 pm on Thursday. However, instead of receiving care from a qualified obstetrician, she was allegedly made to undergo delivery under the supervision of only a staff nurse, with no experienced

doctor present during the critical procedure. Soon after the delivery, the hospital referred the baby and mother to Gandhi Hospital. Tragically, upon examination there, doctors informed the family that the newborn had already been dead for some time — suggesting that the child may not have received the necessary care immediately after birth. Grieving and angry, the relatives gathered in front of the Suryanagar Hospital and staged a protest late into the evening, accusing the hospital staff and on-duty doctors of severe negligence that led to the baby's death. They demanded strict action against those responsible and called for better medical facilities and accountability in government hospitals, especially in critical cases like childbirth.

Interstate Ganja Gang Busted in Rajendranagar

Over 108 kg of marijuana seized; gang linked to multiple criminal cases

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a major crackdown, the Rajendranagar Police in coordination with the Special Operations Team (SOT) of the Rajendranagar Zone busted an interstate ganja smuggling racket and arrested seven accused, including one woman. The police seized a total of 108.797 kilograms of ganja, two vehicles, six mobile phones, and ₹9,700 in cash from the accused. Acting on credible intelligence, the joint team intercepted two vehicles near Exit No. 17 of Outer Ring Road (ORR) on July 10, 2025, around 6:00 PM.



A thorough search of a Maruti Swift and a Maruti Ignis revealed ganja packets hidden inside — 60 kg in the Swift and 48 kg in the Ignis. The arrested individuals in the interstate ganja smuggling case have been identified as Prashant Ganesh Pasalkar alias Nana (29), a repeat offender involved in NDPS and IPC cases; Lata Ganesh Jadhav (40), who has no prior criminal record; Sachin Dilip Ranavare (37), accused in multiple robbery and assault cases; Rohan Pan-

durang Pawar, with no known criminal background; Rahul Baburao Dhavre (28), who has been involved in robbery and assault cases across Satara; and Gaurav Natekar (26), implicated in group violence and extortion. The key supplier, Pawan Deep alias Jeevan from Odisha, is currently absconding. According to police, the accused procured the ganja from Odisha-based supplier Pawan

Deep and were transporting it to Pune via Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Suryapet, and Hyderabad, using ORR to avoid checkpoints. The operation was part of a larger interstate smuggling network operating across eastern and western India. Deputy Commissioner of Police Ch. Srinivas, IPS, praised the combined efforts of the SOT and Rajendranagar Police for the swift and effective bust. He urged the public to remain alert and report drug-related activities.

Wife Dies by Suicide After Quarrel with Husband

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A woman identified as Shamina Begum died by suicide following a domestic dispute with her husband in the Allapur police station limits. The tragic incident occurred around 6 a.m. on Friday when she was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her home. According to police, Shamina Begum had been married to



Sadiq Ali for the past 10 years.

The couple had three children. However, family members alleged that for the past eight years, Shamina was subjected to mental and physical harassment by her husband, who was reportedly addicted to alcohol. On the night of July 10, Sadiq Ali allegedly came home inebriated and had a serious quarrel with Shamina. Unable to bear the continued abuse, she is believed to have taken the

extreme step early the next morning while her husband was away at work. Family members and relatives of the deceased have accused Sadiq Ali of being responsible for her death, citing prolonged domestic violence. Police from the Allapur station reached the spot after being informed around 9 a.m. and have registered a case. An investigation is currently underway.

Trader caught smuggling ganja

4.5 kg marijuana, ₹20,000 cash, and vehicle seized by Secunderabad DTF

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a joint operation, the Secunderabad Division Task Force (DTF) Excise officials arrested a usury trader turned drug peddler with 4.5 kilograms of marijuana at YMCA X Road, Narayanguda. The accused, Chenna Ramesh Goud (27) from Mallapur, who was already engaged in moneylending across multiple localities, reportedly turned to drug trafficking for higher income. Ramesh Goud, who owned four to five buildings and was running a usury business involving lakhs, began secretly transporting ganja

from Odisha. According to officials, he was distributing the contraband to local consumers using his Royal Enfield motorcycle. Acting on credible information, Secunderabad DTF Circle Inspector Savitri Soujanya, along with Head Constable Satyanarayana, Khalim, Constables Raju, Ravi, Shilpa, Sunitha, and Ramesh, intercepted Ramesh while he was en route from Mallapur to Koti. The team seized 4.5 kg of marijuana, ₹20,000 in cash, and the Royal Enfield used in the transportation. After the arrest, Additional Excise Superintendent (AES) Srinivasa Rao, Excise



Superintendent (ES) Panchakshari, and Sub-Inspector Sivakrishna coordinated with the CI and the team to hand over the accused, along with the seized contraband and property, to the Narayanguda Excise

Station for further legal action. Officials stated that the accused will be booked under appropriate sections of the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway to identify his supply chain and clientele.

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 govern-

ments 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 without 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 preserved 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.”

Ministers Launch Key Projects in Mahabubnagar and Nagarkurnool



TPN Correspondent | Mahabubnagar
As part of their tour of the joint Mahabubnagar district, Telangana Ministers Damodar Rajanarsimha, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and Jupally Krishna Rao, along with local

MLA Kasireddy Narayana Reddy, laid the foundation stone for a 22-kilometer BT (Double Lane) road from Kalvakurthi to Kotra Gate and from there to Talakondapalli. The road project is being undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹65 crore.

In Kalvakurthi town, the ministers also laid the foundation stone for a 100-bed government hospital, which will be constructed at a cost of ₹45.5 crore. Addressing a public gathering after the event, the ministers reaffirmed the state government's commitment to improving infrastructure and healthcare facilities across the region. Continuing their tour into Nagarkurnool district, the ministers, along with local MLAs including Dr. Rajesh Reddy, inaugurated the newly constructed government medical college building in Nagarkurnool. Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha addressed the students, highlighting the significance of

quality medical education and the government's role in providing it to rural districts. In a symbolic green initiative, the ministers participated in a sapling plantation drive under the Telangana Haritha Haram program within the college premises, emphasizing environmental sustainability. Additionally, the foundation stone was laid for a new Primary Health Center (PHC) at Thudithurthi village in Nagarkurnool mandal by local MLA Dr. Rajesh Reddy. MLC Kuchikulla Damodar Reddy, MLAs Dr. Vamsi Krishna and Kasireddy Narayana Reddy also joined the events, marking a significant push for development in the region.

Mobile hospital inaugurated in remote tribal village

Built with ₹1 crore from LWE fund to save lives in remote border areas

TPN | Anvesh Reddy Bhadradri Kothagudem: In a major development for the remote tribal areas of Bhadradri Kothagudem district, a modern mobile hospital built at a cost of ₹1 crore under the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) Fund was inaugurated at the CRPF camp in Pusuguppa village of Cherla Mandal on Friday. The hospital, equipped with advanced medical facilities and an ambulance system, aims to save lives in interior forest regions that suffer due to lack of timely medical access. Speaking on the occasion, District SP Rohit Raj expressed happiness over the launch of

the mobile hospital in this remote Chhattisgarh-border region. “In areas like Rampuram, Bhimaram, and Ootlapalli, lives have been lost due to lack of medical care during emergencies. This facility is designed to change that,” he said. He emphasized the importance of the golden hour in accident cases and noted that level crossings have been upgraded to ensure uninterrupted ambulance movement during the rainy season. A dedicated ambulance service is now operational to transfer patients from Pusuguppa to Charla within 30 minutes for further treatment. He also mentioned plans to

build a good road connecting this region to Bhijapur in Chhattisgarh. Charla CI Raju Varma congratulated contractors Sarath and Santosh for their role in completing the hospital project. District Collector Jitesh V Patil, who also participated in the event, expressed pride in bringing such a well-equipped hospital to an interior tribal area. He suggested that the scenic road to the village could potentially be developed as a tourist destination. The Collector also encouraged farmers to shift from cotton to tunga cultivation, highlighting the economic and nutritional benefits of the crop, particularly in fighting anemia. He assured that training for fish farming would also be provided to support local livelihoods. Bhadrachalam MLA Dr. Tellam Venkat Rao, who formally inaugurated the facility, said it was a proud moment for the district. “Setting up a modern hospital in such a remote village is historic,” he stated. He assured efforts to appoint a permanent doctor and emphasized the importance of stocking life-saving vaccines, especially for snake bites, which are common in forested areas. He called on villagers to make full use of the new facility and prioritize their children's health.

New Ration Cards Distribution Begins on July 14 in Telangana

CM Revanth Reddy to launch programme in Tungaturthi

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The Telangana state government is set to begin a fresh round of ration card distribution on July 14, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy officially launching the programme in Tungaturthi. This move marks a significant step in addressing long-pending applications and fulfilling the Congress government's promise to extend welfare benefits to more households. After a halt of several years, the issuance of new ration cards resumed following the formation of the new government. In the past six months alone, ration cards have already been issued to around 41 lakh people across the state. Now, with this phase, 2.4 lakh new ration cards will be distributed, which will directly benefit around 11.30 lakh individuals. Officials stated that once the current distribution is completed, the total number of ration cards in Telangana will rise to 94,72,422, covering over 3.14 crore beneficiaries in total. This is expected to significantly enhance access to subsidised food grains and other essential commodities provided under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The large-scale ration card drive reflects the Congress government's emphasis on expanding social welfare, particularly for economically disadvantaged families who were left out of earlier lists. The event in Tungaturthi is expected to be attended by local leaders, officials from the civil supplies department, and large groups of beneficiaries.

MLA Kavampalli Launches Indiramma Housing in Nallagonda

TPN | Srikanth Gurram Karimnagar: Manakondur MLA Dr. Kavampalli Satyanarayana on Friday performed the Bhoomi Pooja for the construction of Indiramma houses in Nallagonda village of Thimmapur mandal. As part of the initiative, residential plots were allotted to 12 eligible families, marking the beginning of the government's commitment to providing homes for the poor. Addressing the gathering, MLA Kavampalli assured that those without houses need not worry, as the government is determined to provide both plots and houses under the Indiramma scheme. He appreciated the sincere efforts of Thimmapur Tahsildar Srinivas Reddy in facilitating the allocation of plots to the beneficiaries. “The Congress government is working with the poor in mind. The Nallagonda initiative is proof that no one will be left behind,” the MLA stated. He reiterated that the state government is actively implementing its six guarantee promises and has already created over 60,000 government jobs within 18 months of coming to power. He also assured that more jobs will be filled in the coming months. The MLA advised people to utilize government health services instead of going into debt by visiting private hospitals. He stressed that the needy will be given opportunities for advanced treatment at NIMS and other government facilities. Several local officials and Congress leaders were present, including Mandal Development Officer Vijayakumar, Mandal Congress President Bandari Ramesh, Block Congress President SL Goud, and senior leaders such as Morapalli Ramana Reddy, Srigriri Ranga Rao, Kunta Rajender Reddy, Mamidi Anil Kumar, and many others.



Seethakka Inaugurates Addakula Plate Manufacturing Unit

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
In a significant step towards rural women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods, State Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, Women and Child Welfare Minister Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka inaugurated the Sammakka Saralamma Adivasi Sahakar Samakhya Addakula Plate Manufacturing Unit on Friday at Motlagudem in Govindaraopet Mandal. The unit was launched in collaboration with Randstad Global Capability Center and Sayodhya Home for Women in Need.

Along with Minister Seethakka, the inaugural event was attended by Additional Collector Local Body Sampath Rao, Market Committee Chairman Rega Kalyani, and Library Organization Chairman Ravi Chander. Before the inauguration, the minister also planted a sapling as part of the Vana Mahotsav celebrations, promoting environmental awareness and greenery in the region. This new unit is expected to provide employment opportunities to tribal women and help promote eco-friendly alternatives to plastic through the production of biodegrad-

able Addakula (Areca nut leaf) plates. The minister appreciated the support from corporate partners and civil society organizations and reiterated the government's commitment to uplift marginalized communities, particularly tribal women, through such sustainable development programs.

Rs. 344 Crore Interest-Free Loans Released for Women's Groups

In a major push for women's empowerment, the Telangana Finance Department has released ₹344 crore towards in-



terest-free loans for self-help groups under the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP). Of this, ₹300 crore has been earmarked for rural women's groups, while ₹44 crore will go to urban women's

groups. The government has announced that the interest reimbursements will be credited to the accounts of women's groups from tomorrow till the 18th of this month. Ministers

and MLAs across the state will take part in distributing these cheques to the women beneficiaries. In addition to this, public representatives will also hand over accident insurance and loan insurance cheques during the same events. This initiative marks a significant turnaround after the backlog under the previous BRS government, which had pending dues of over ₹3,000 crore in interest-free loans. Since the Congress government came to power, the interest reimbursements have been paid on time, greatly benefiting the women's self-help groups.

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-Vadodara 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. 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.

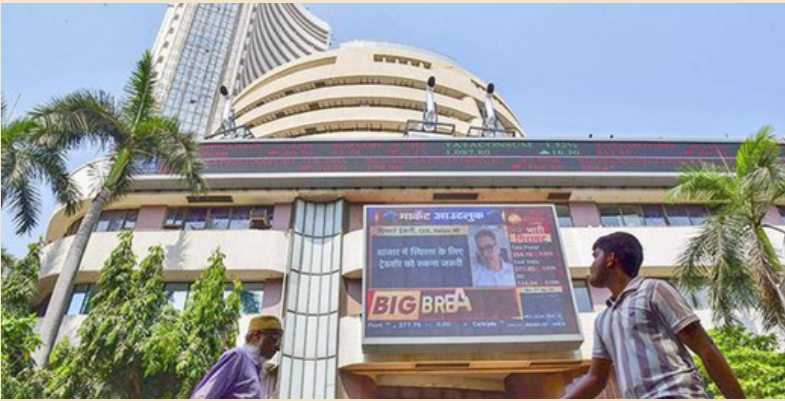
India's Trade Deficit Could Rise to \$300 Billion in FY26 Despite Moderate Oil Prices: ICICI Bank



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.”

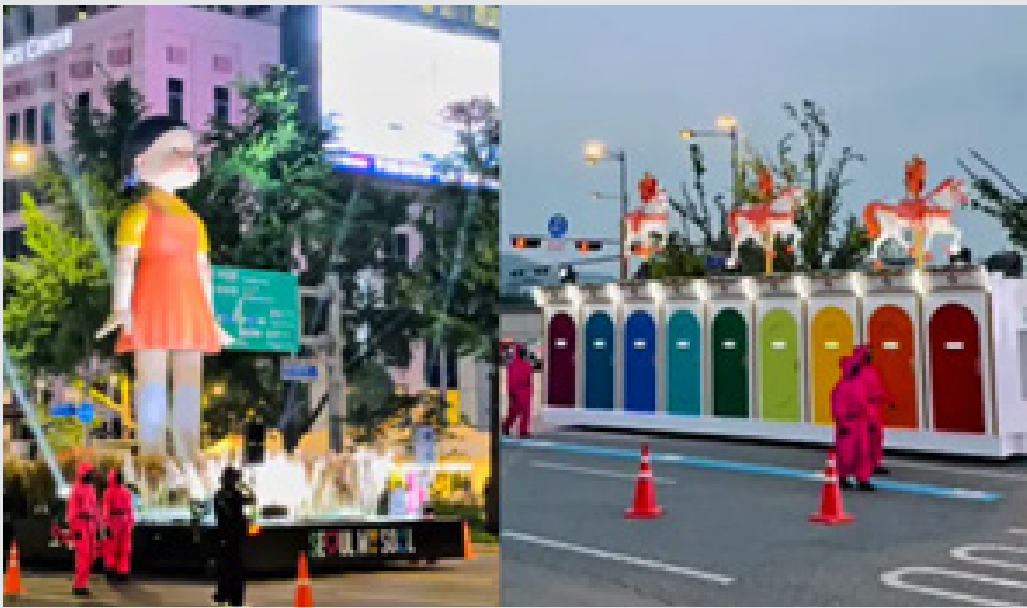
Despite the polarized opinions, Foot Fountain (Pink) has undeniably become a conversation piece. It’s scheduled to remain on display until May 2026—leaving New Yorkers and tourists alike plenty of time to decide: bizarre brilliance or public eyecore?

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 Lalvenpuui (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.

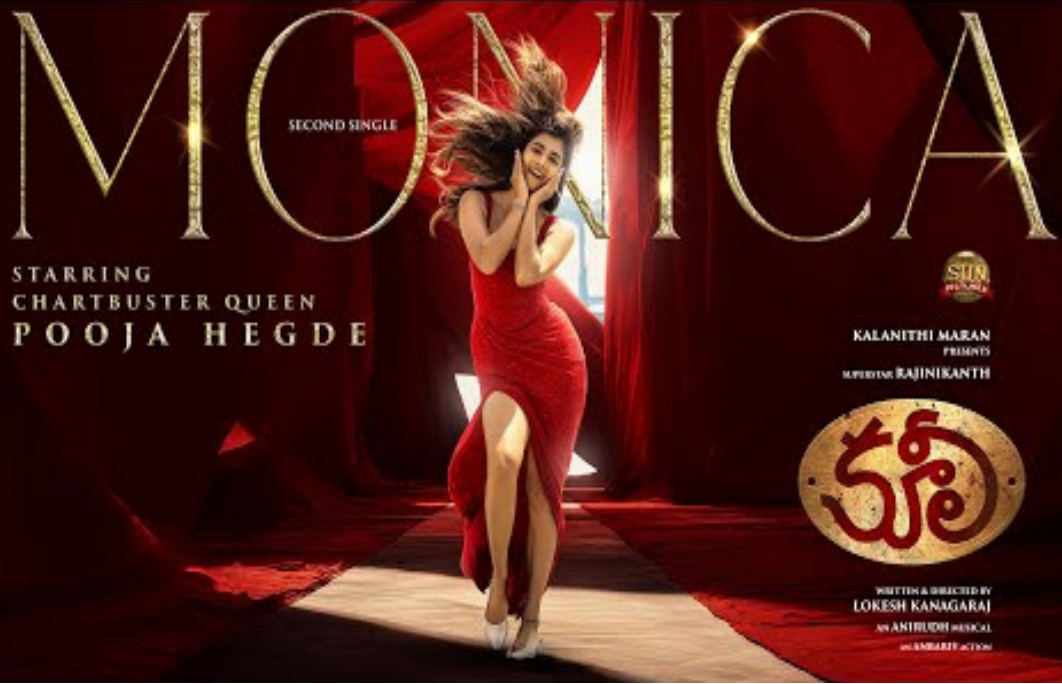
Kireeti Reddy makes a powerful first impression. From light-hearted romance to emotional depth and action-packed moments, his performance is strikingly balanced and mature for a debutant. Sreeleela impresses with her screen presence and emotional depth, while Genelia and Ravichandran bring gravitas and 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 Omarkar 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.