



Will YCP's Strategy Pay Off or Backfire?

- Aggression, drama, and deflection — can Jagan’s formula work again?
- YCP repeating post-2014 defeat tactics with renewed aggression
- Cadre morale boosted, but public perception remains skeptical
- Political analysts warn of voter fatigue and diminishing returns

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Andhra Pradesh: Following its shock defeat in the 2024 elections, the YSR Congress Party (YCP) seems to have hit the reset button — not to reflect, but to relaunch its aggressive political style reminiscent of its post-2014 opposition phase. No filters, no restraint, no apologies — that appears to be the new tone, driven by a strategy that thrives on audacity, disruption, and media noise, even if it involves symbolism through movie-style posters and confrontation through lower-rung and senior leaders alike.

The party’s narrative is clear: “Fear no cases, worry about no deserters. We’re here to fight.” This renewed aggression, according to political observers, has had partial success, especially in reassuring a demoralized cadre base.

“After the 2024 loss, nearly 70 percent of the YCP cadre had slipped into uncertainty, worried about legal challenges, defections, and the collapse of grassroots support,” one analyst notes. “But Jagan’s defiant public tone — his veiled threats and confident posturing — has reignited belief among the faithful. There’s a visible mood of ‘our time will come again.’”

Same Script, again?

Interestingly, this aggressive model is not new. After the 2014 defeat, YCP had amplified small issues, twisted narratives, and controlled the social media game to build anti-incumbency against the then TDP government. It worked — in 2019, Jagan swept to power.

But 2024 is not 2019.

Analysts point out that voters today are more alert and less tolerant of theatrics. “In 2014-19, the public gave Jagan the benefit of the doubt. Now, after experiencing his governance,



they’ve changed their minds. That’s why the voting pattern shifted.” Even though YCP received about 40% vote share in 2024, political strategists argue that repeating the same playbook — focusing on optics, ignoring governance flaws, attacking for the sake of relevance — might not help bridge the 10% swing required to return to power.

“People are beginning to say, ‘Jagan hasn’t changed... If he returns, he’ll create chaos again.’ That sentiment is growing,” one senior political observer remarked.

What Could Work?

Analysts believe that constructive op-

position, not high-voltage dramatics, is what could rebuild YCP’s image. “Highlight genuine failures of the NDA-led state government, point to gaps in governance, offer credible alternatives — that’s the path back.” Crucially, YCP must also accept its own mistakes, take accountability for leaders’ missteps, and show a genuine shift in attitude. Otherwise, the public irritation with aggressive politics could continue to snowball.

Will Jagan evolve his political strategy to suit the changed public mood — or will he stick to his combative ways? That, many believe, will define not just YCP’s fate in the opposition, but also its chances in 2029.

Tension Grips Gudivada as TDP-YSRCP Face-Off Escalates

- Heavy police deployment after clash at Nagavarappadu Center
- TDP leaders tear YSRCP banners, chant slogans
- Attempt to storm Kodali Nani’s K. Convention sparks confrontation
- ZP Chairperson Uppala Harika’s car vandalized by TDP supporters



TPN | Adam Smith

Krishna: Gudivada turned into a high-voltage political hotspot on Saturday as a tense clash erupted between TDP and YSRCP cadres at Nagavarappadu Center, prompting the deployment of heavy police forces to control the situation.

The flashpoint emerged as YSRCP held a constituency-level meeting at K. Convention in Lingavaram, a venue owned by senior leader Kodali Nani, while TDP MLA Venigandla Ramu launched a massive door-to-door campaign in the same region as part of the ‘First Step in Good Governance’ initiative.

ZP Chairperson Harika’s Car Attacked



In a shocking development, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Uppala Harika’s vehicle was attacked by TDP activists. As she attempted to pass through Nagavarappadu Center to attend the Lingavaram meeting, protesting TDP cadres blocked her route. The police initially managed to escort the vehicle away safely, but on her return attempt, her car was pelted with stones. Police eventually managed to disperse the attackers and remove the vehicle from danger.

The sudden eruption of violence has raised concerns over increasing political hostility in Gudivada,

Wait For Final Report On Crash: Rammohan Naidu



- Civil Aviation Minister responds to AAIB’s preliminary findings
- Fuel switches turned off moments after takeoff: AAIB
- Rammohan urges not to jump to conclusions
- Technical aspects still under investigation

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has urged the public and media not to draw premature conclusions regarding the tragic Ahmedabad plane crash. Responding to the 15-page preliminary report submitted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), the minister emphasized the need to wait for the final and detailed report before making any decisions or assumptions.

“We must be careful and patient. Aviation involves several technical layers, and it would be hasty to make any remarks based solely on the preliminary findings,” Rammohan Naidu said. He reassured the nation that India has some of the most skilled pilots and aviation crews in the world, calling them the “backbone of the aviation sector.”

His remarks come in the wake of a shocking revelation by the AAIB that the aircraft’s fuel control switches were mysteriously turned off within seconds of takeoff. According to the report, one pilot questioned the other

about the switch-off, only to receive a reply that he had not done it. These words were recorded as the final cockpit communication before the crew issued a Mayday call.

The AAIB report noted that although air traffic control responded to the distress signal, there was no further reply from the pilots and the aircraft crashed shortly afterward. Investigators stated that both engines have now been removed for further examination. The preliminary findings also confirmed that the aircraft had no hazardous materials onboard, and that its fuel and weight were within prescribed safety limits.

Rammohan Naidu reiterated the government’s commitment to ensuring aviation safety and the welfare of all aviation personnel. He appealed to the public, experts, and political leaders to allow the investigation to conclude fully before attributing fault or causes.

“The focus must be on facts, not speculation. The final report will give us a complete understanding,” he said.



Janasena Suspends Kota Vinuta...

TPN | C. Shekar

Tirupati: In a significant move, the Jana Sena Party has suspended Sri-kalahasti constituency in-charge Kota Vinuta, following her arrest in connection with the murder of her former driver, Srinivasulu alias Rayudu. The case, which has sent shockwaves through political circles, has prompted the party’s top leadership to distance itself from Vinuta and her activities.

The party, in a press release issued today, said that her behavior was found to be in complete violation of Jana Sena’s principles, and that she has been removed from all party responsibilities with immediate effect. The announcement comes after the Chennai police arrested Vinuta, her husband Chandrababu, and three others — Shrivakumar, Gopi, and Dasar — in the case.

From Suspension to Arrest

The investigation began when the body of an unidentified man was found in Chennai’s Coovum river three days ago. Shockingly, the deceased had the Jana Sena symbol and Vinuta’s name tattooed on his hand, which helped police trace the case back to her.

CCTV footage and local investigation revealed that the victim, Rayudu, had been tortured and murdered, allegedly by Vinuta and her associates. The motive is yet to be formally established, but the case took a serious turn



Chandrababu’s Regime Violating Democratic Rights: Jagan

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has strongly criticized the ruling coalition, alleging that the state is witnessing a continuation of Chandrababu Naidu’s oppressive regime. He accused the government of using the police system to stifle dissent and violate the fundamental rights of citizens.

Speaking on the recent developments, Jagan said, “Voices that question the government are being silenced. Democratic rights are being openly violated in Andhra Pradesh.” He cited several examples to support his claims, stating that those who protest lawfully are being slapped with illegal cases.

He pointed out that when he visited farmers at the Guntur Mirchi Yard, a case was registered against him. Similarly, a case was filed against YCP leader Topudurthi Prakash Reddy for visiting the family of Lingamayya in Ramagiri. “When I met tobacco farmers in Podili, 15 people were arrested and three cases were registered. When I visited the family of Nagamalleswara Rao, who died by suicide due to police harassment in Palnadu, five cases were registered and notices were issued to 131 people,” Jagan stated.



Tension Grips Gudivada as...

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As Telugu Desam Party workers rallied in large numbers towards Nagavarappadu Center, they shouted slogans like "Jai Telugu Desam", and proclaimed "Gudivada Gadda – Ramanna Adda". They anointed MLA Ramu’s portrait with milk, a symbolic act of reverence. In a show of defiance, some TDP members tore down banners put up for the YSRCP event, escalating tensions on the ground. The situation spiraled as TDP cadres attempted to storm into the K. Convention Hall, drawing immediate resistance from YSRCP supporters inside the venue, who tried to step out in retaliation. However, police led by DSP Dheeraj Vinil intervened quickly and stopped them, averting a potential confrontation.

ZP Chairperson Harika’s Car Attacked

especially as both major parties gear up for upcoming electoral battles. While YSRCP cadres condemned the attack as a deliberate provocation, TDP leaders alleged misuse of public programs for political showmanship. Authorities have now intensified police presence in the area to prevent further clashes, and senior officials are said to be monitoring the situation closely. With both sides refusing to back down, Gudivada remains on edge.

Chandrababu’s Regime Violating...

Continued from page 1

He further revealed that a young man was sent to jail simply for displaying a movie poster. “In Bangarupalyam, when I visited mango farmers, five cases were registered again and 20 people were taken into custody. They were not shown as arrested and weren’t produced in court,” he said, expressing outrage at what he described as undemocratic conduct by the government. Jagan accused the government of filing cases during every single one of his visits, alleging that even check posts were being used to prevent farmers from meeting him. He condemned the use of police force to block public interaction and peaceful protest, stating such actions were unacceptable in a democracy.

Janasena Suspends Kota Vinuta...

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when police confirmed the accused had attempted to dispose of the body in the river. Vinuta, who reportedly had disputes with Rayudu and had dismissed him just two weeks ago, was detained along with the other accused and brought to Srikalahasti for further questioning. Party’s Strong Reaction Reacting swiftly, Jana Sena Party’s district leadership in Tirupati, led by Pasupuleti Hariprasad, held a media briefing stating that Kota Vinuta had already been inactive due to earlier disciplinary issues, and this arrest further validated the need for her suspension. “Jana Sena has zero tolerance for such anti-party and criminal behavior,” said Hariprasad. “The high command has taken this decision to uphold the values and credibility of the party.” The case has stirred political discourse in the region, with critics pointing to the need for stricter vetting of leaders at constituency levels. Meanwhile, Jana Sena leaders have reiterated their commitment to transparency and swift disciplinary action, as reflected in Vinuta’s expulsion. The accused are expected to face court proceedings soon, while the police investigation is still ongoing to uncover further details and potential motives.

Centre Honours 5 AP Cities in Swachh Survekshan Awards

- Visakhapatnam bags ‘Special Ministerial’ award for cleanliness
- Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tirupati, Rajahmundry recognised
- Cleanliness, waste management, and citizen participation key factors

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh, five major cities from the state have been honoured with the Centre’s prestigious Swachh Survekshan Awards for their outstanding performance in urban cleanliness and sanitation. The awards, part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, were announced recently by the central government after a comprehensive national-level assessment. The cities that have been recognised include Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Tirupati, and Rajahmundry. Among them, Visakhapatnam stood out by receiving the ‘Special Category Ministerial’ award, reflecting its consistent and innovative efforts in ensuring urban hygiene, sustainable waste management, and public engagement in sanitation initiatives.



Vijayawada, Guntur, and Tirupati were named under the ‘Swachh Super League Cities’ category, highlighting their commitment to urban cleanliness and effi-

cient solid waste systems. Meanwhile, Rajahmundry received the State-Level Ministerial Award, recognising its notable contributions at the state level.

German Training, Jobs Abroad for SC Nursing Youth

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced a major initiative to empower Scheduled Caste (SC) youth who have completed nursing education. State Social Welfare Minister Dr. Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanyaswamy revealed that the government will provide free German language training to SC students who have completed nursing and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) courses, with assured job placements abroad. As part of this special program initiated under the auspices of the State SC Corporation, 150 unemployed SC youth will be selected in the first phase for German language training. Once trained, the government will facilitate employment and job opportunities for them in Germany, where skilled healthcare workers are in high demand. “This is a decisive step by the coalition government to ensure that no educated SC youth is left behind without a job,” said Minister Dola. He emphasized that the government is committed to the social, economic, and political empowerment of Scheduled Castes, and that this initiative is a reflection of that vision. He added that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s goal is to create a system where education directly leads to employment, especially for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Chandrababu Naidu to Visit Delhi on July 15–16

CM to meet Union Ministers, attend PV Memorial and CII meet

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will be on a two-day official visit to New Delhi on July 15 and 16 to pursue crucial state development matters with the Union Government. The visit includes a packed schedule of meetings with senior Union Ministers and participation in important events focused on national leadership and industry collaboration. The Chief Minister is expected to push for pending central funds, review progress on key projects such as the Polavaram–Banakacharla connectivity, and discuss infrastructure, employment, and welfare schemes including MGNREGA. He will also request enhanced central cooperation in accelerating Andhra Pradesh’s ongoing and upcoming development initiatives. Naidu will depart from Amaravati on July 15 morning, and his first high-level engagement will be a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the afternoon. The day will also include discussions with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, IT and Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil, Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, NITI Aayog Member Dr. V.K. Saraswat, and the MD of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. Later in the evening, the Chief Minister will attend a memorial service for former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao at 4:30 PM at the Prime Ministers’ Museum and Library in Delhi. On July 16, CM Naidu will continue his engagements, including a detailed discussion with the Finance Ministry at North Block. He will also participate in a business conference hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), where investment and industrial opportunities for Andhra Pradesh will be a key agenda. The Chief Minister is scheduled to return to Amaravati on the morning of July 17 at 9:30 AM.



Govt Releases ₹600 Cr for Fee Reimbursement Arrears

Colleges warned against harassing students over pending fees

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has released ₹600 crore towards fee reimbursement arrears, bringing relief to thousands of students and educational institutions across the state. This is part of the phased payment for the academic year 2024–25. Education Secretary Kona Shashidhar stated that the government had already disbursed ₹788 crore in the first installment of the current academic year. He added that another ₹400 crore would soon be released to clear further arrears. The government emphasized that all dues will be settled in phases, and educational institutions must not pressurize students to pay fees under any circumstances. “It has come to our notice that some colleges are demanding fees from students despite the government’s commitment to cover their reimbursement. Strict action will be taken against such institutions,” the Education Department warned.

Flood Rises At Polavaram, Water Level Reaches 31.50 Meters



TPN | Kishore

Eluru: Flooding at the Polavaram project continues to intensify as water levels rose to 31.50 meters by Saturday evening, triggered by persistent rainfall in upstream Maharashtra and swelling inflows from Bhadrachalam in Telangana. The floodwaters at the Polavaram spillway are now gushing through 48 gates, releasing nearly 7.50 lakh cusecs of water into the Godavari River. The increased water levels have pushed the Godavari to the steps of the Bhadrakali Sametha Veereshwara Swamy temple, located on an island in the river, drawing large crowds to

Pattiseema dock to witness the flood spectacle — popularly called “Flood Godaramma.” Given the volume and velocity of the water, authorities have halted the ferry service between Polavaram and Purushottapatnam as a precautionary measure. The growing flood situation is being closely monitored by irrigation and disaster management officials. The Polavaram area, which is already vulnerable due to its proximity to the river, is on high alert as inflows are expected to remain high for the next few days. Authorities have advised local residents to stay vigilant and avoid venturing into low-lying and riverbank areas.

Janasena Leader Among Five Held in Chilling Murder Case

Driver Killed Over Leaking Political Secrets: Police Party Suspends Vinutha Kota Over Serious Allegations

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu
In a sensational twist, Chennai City Police Commissioner Arun disclosed major developments in a suspected murder case after a body was found near a canal within Seven Hills Police Station limits. The body was recovered four days ago, and police initially registered it as a suspicious death case. Upon investigation, CCTV footage revealed a car suspected to have been used to transport and dispose of the body. This lead helped the police ar-

rest five individuals, including Vinuth, identified as a known associate of the Janasena Party. During interrogation, all five accused reportedly confessed to the murder. According to Commissioner Arun, the killing was politically motivated. The victim, a driver named Rayudu, was allegedly leaking sensitive political information to rival factions, prompting the accused to eliminate him. The investigation also revealed that Rayudu frequently trav-

eled to Chennai for medical purposes. His familiarity with the route led the accused to choose Chennai as the place to dump the body, assuming it would divert attention from their region. They believed the remote location would help them escape detection. However, police cracked the case using technical evidence and surveillance. The Commissioner said the murder was a premeditated act aimed at misleading law enforcement. The case has now taken a po-

litical turn, with suspicions of deeper internal conflict and factionalism within the Janasena Party. Police are further probing political affiliations and potential conspirators. Commissioner Arun confirmed that the investigation is ongoing and warned that more arrests are likely. In response to the case and growing public scrutiny, the Janasena Party has taken disciplinary action. The party officially suspended Vinutha Kota, one of the accused, following



her alleged involvement in the murder case. In a statement released on 12th July 2025, the party declared that her actions were in violation of Janasena's core values and discipline. Given the seriousness of the charges and the potential damage to the party's reputation, she has been relieved from all responsibilities. The decision was signed by Dr. Devabhaktuni Radhakrishna, Head of the Disciplinary Committee.

Violence, Intimidation Won't Work Anymore, TDP Warns YSRCP

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
TDP MLA Bode Prasad and APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana strongly condemned YSRCP leader Perni Nani's recent comment, "Behead them in the dark," calling it a direct threat to democracy and an incitement to violence. Addressing a press meet at the TDP state headquarters in Mangalagiri, they accused the YSRCP of encouraging lawlessness and political hatred. MLA Bode Prasad stated that while CM Chandrababu Naidu advocates development and welfare, YSRCP leaders are promoting fear and aggression. "When a party worker held a placard shouting 'Rappa... Rappa...', Jagan justified it on camera. What message does this send from a former CM?" he questioned. He added that such statements are reflective of YSRCP's dark political culture rooted in the so-called 'Raja Reddy Constitution.' Konakalla Narayana highlighted past YSRCP misdeeds, including arson of beachside huts and attacks on police stations, warning that the party is now unable to digest the coalition government's transparent governance and public support. He also accused Perni Nani of illegally occupying lands in Machilipatnam and demanded accountability for missing ration rice stocks. Both leaders warned that such violent rhetoric only damages democracy and called for the state government to act against Nani's inflammatory language. "Under Jagan's regime, opposition was silenced through threats. But today, in Chandrababu's leadership, we uphold Ambedkar's Constitution—not fear," they asserted. They also criticized Sakshi media's silence on derogatory remarks against Amaravati women and the verbal abuse faced by a woman MLA in Kovur by former MLA Prasanna Kumar Reddy.



One Policy for Advani, Another for Modi?

Tulasi Reddy Questions BJP's Moral Standards



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa
Congress senior leader and Andhra Pradesh official spokesperson Dr. N. Tulasi Reddy has demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi step down from active politics and the Prime Minister's post before September 17, 2025, when he turns 75. Citing BJP's own statements and policies, Dr. Reddy questioned whether different moral standards apply to different leaders within the party. Addressing the media at Vempalle in Kadapa district on Saturday, he recalled that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had clearly stated in 2019 that no BJP leader above the age of 75 would be given electoral tickets. Furthermore, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, during a recent address in Nagpur on July 9, reiterated that political leaders should retire upon reaching 75. Dr. Tulasi Reddy pointed out that BJP stalwarts such as L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Venkaiah Naidu, and Jaswant Singh had respected this principle and stepped away from active politics. "If BJP truly believes in its principles and if Modi upholds moral values, he should voluntarily resign before turning 75," he said. He questioned whether the BJP would apply the same standards to Modi as it did to Advani and others. "Will Modi follow the path of Advani or create a new precedent by staying on? Time will reveal whether BJP practices double standards," he remarked. Dr. Tulasi Reddy accused the BJP of selectively applying ethics and demanded consistency in its principles. He concluded by saying that the public is watching closely, and any deviation from the party's stated moral line would expose its duplicity.

Farmers Insulted, Drugs Rise in Vizag: Botsa Slams Govt

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam
Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, launched a sharp attack on the ruling coalition government, accusing it of plunging the state into administrative disorder within just one year of governance. He alleged that Andhra Pradesh is experiencing anarchic rule under the current leadership, with all sectors—agriculture, industry, and welfare—crippled due to poor governance. Botsa strongly condemned the government's derogatory reference to farmers as the "Dandupalyam gang," calling it deeply insulting and shameful. He reaffirmed that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) will continue its fight against this government's alleged injustices. Referring to former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visits to farmers in Chittoor and mirchi yard visits, Botsa highlighted how the ruling coalition, including Chandrababu Naidu and his ministers, conveniently announced support prices but failed to deliver. "They promised to buy produce at ₹11,000 per tonne, but haven't purchased even a kilo," he said. Botsa further criticized the lack of fair prices for crops like cocoa and aqua products. Botsa claimed that the cabinet itself is rife with chaos, with ministers looting public resources and the Chief Minister reportedly raising concerns within the cabinet. He alleged widespread exploitation in sand, soil, and liquor trades, along with land grabs wherever vacant spaces are found—all within just a year of governance. Accusing the public of being misled by the alliance's false promises, Botsa remarked, "People were deceived by the coalition's sweet talk." He also lashed out at the government's failure to control drug abuse, saying, "Instead of becoming a global development hub, Visakhapatnam is now being transformed into an international drug hotspot." Botsa recalled that he had earlier written a letter demanding the SIT report on Vizag land scams be made public.



YSRCP Leaders Echo Jagan's Hate-Filled Agenda: Devineni Uma

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu
NTR District: TDP leader and former minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao launched a scathing attack on YSRCP leadership, stating that the people have taught them a fitting lesson for their conspiracies and misdeeds. Speaking during the "First Step Towards Good Governance" programme at Srinivasa Mansion and Abhinandana Apartments in Gollapudi, NTR district, Uma highlighted the coalition government's welfare and development initiatives. He stated that with the arrogance of winning 151 seats, Jagan Mohan Reddy indulged in undemocratic actions and was brought down to 11 seats by the people. He accused former minister Perni Nani of making reckless statements aimed at provoking YSRCP workers into conflict, claiming the government would later take silent revenge. He also said that Vijayasai Reddy, now quoting Bhagavad Gita slokas, is facing



the consequences of their past actions. Uma alleged that YSRCP, under Jagan's leadership, conspired against the state's interests by sending fake emails to institutions like the Prime Minister's Office and Bombay Stock Exchange to block investments. Yet, he said, industrialists are showing renewed confidence in CM Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. He further accused Jagan of orchestrating the murder of his own worker Singayya and later forcing Singayya's wife to issue a false statement. Referring to objectionable remarks made by MLA

Prasanna Kumar Reddy against a female MLA, Uma said Jagan failed to condemn such behavior, proving these leaders are simply echoing Jagan's inner thoughts. Uma demanded that authorities take suo motu action and file a case against Perni Nani for his inciting remarks. He warned that disrespecting the Constitution and democratic institutions would not be tolerated by the people. He concluded by saying that while YSRCP's conspiracies are hindering the state's progress, Andhra Pradesh is steadily advancing under the leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu.

'Cheating Guaranteed' Campaign Targets TDP's Failed Promises: YSRCP

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District
As per the directions of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the "Babu Surety - Cheating Guaranteed" public awareness campaign was actively held in the Avanigadda Assembly constituency under the leadership of local YSRCP in-charge Simhadri Ramesh Babu. The initiative aimed to educate the public about the alleged unfulfilled promises and misleading assurances made by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Chief N. Chandrababu

Naidu and to reinforce public trust in YSRCP's welfare agenda. Prominent YSRCP leaders participated in the event, including Krishna District YSRCP President Perni Nani, Krishna Zilla Parishad Chairperson Uppala Harika, Gudivada constituency coordinator Dukkupati Shashibhushan, Pamaru in-charge Kaile Anil, Penamaluru in-charge Devabhaktuni Chakravarthi, and Krishna Parliamentary constituency observer Jetty Gurunatham. The leaders accused Chandrababu Naidu of



cheating the people with hollow promises during his earlier rule and claimed that he had failed to implement key developmental and welfare programs. They further alleged that the newly formed coalition government is trying to dismantle the welfare architecture established by YSRCP, which had benefitted lakhs of people across the state. Speaking to the gathering, the leaders criticized the TDP for indulging in misinformation campaigns and for lacking a concrete development plan. Addressing the youth, Krishna District YSRCP Youth Wing President Merugumala Kali urged young party workers to actively counter fake narratives and ensure that YSRCP's commitment to social justice and inclusive growth reaches every voter. He called upon the cadre to remain alert and mobilize public support ahead of the upcoming elections.

Krishna Police Hold Half-Yearly Crime Review Meet

Best-performing officers receive commendation, awards
IGP, Collector, SP, key officials attended

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu
Krishna District: The Krishna District Police Department conducted its Half-Yearly Crime Review Meeting under the leadership of District SP R. Gangadhar Rao, IPS, at Anne Kalyana Mandapam in Tadigadapa. The meeting was attended by Eluru Range IGP G.V.G. Ashok Kumar, IPS, District Collector D.K. Balaji, IAS, CID Cyber Crimes SP Srinivasa Rao, Deputy Director of Prosecution K. Vijayalakshmi, Regional Medical Officer Niranjan Rao, Forensic Sciences Additional Director Vamsi, PPs, APPs, officials from Revenue, Medical, and Bank departments, among others. During the review, officials discussed crime trends, progress in investigations, resolution of public complaints, and crime

prevention measures over the past six months. IGP Ashok Kumar expressed satisfaction with the investigation outcomes and urged the police to continue their efficiency. He emphasized collaboration among Police, Judiciary, Forensics, and other departments to ensure timely justice. He stressed modernizing investigative approaches, promoting community-friendly policing, and enhancing public trust. SP Gangadhar Rao highlighted satisfactory performance across all police stations and urged sustained efforts to ensure justice for victims. He directed strengthening beat duties, monitoring suspicious individuals and areas, and improving surveillance with mandatory CCTV installations in crime-prone



zones. SP urged coordination with local traders to install cameras voluntarily. The SP called for special drives against drugs, gutka, and banned substances, with strict legal action against offenders. He stressed women's safety, calling for expanded awareness programs through Shakti Teams and intensified monitoring of vulnerable areas. On cybercrime and white-col-

lar crimes, the SP advised use of modern technology and raised awareness among officers. He instructed identification and prevention of juvenile delinquency near schools and colleges, including special drives and counseling for parents and minors. Officials also discussed enhancing public engagement, strengthening early response mechanisms, and improving the Palle Nidra program.

Court Clears Seizure Of Assets In AP Liquor Scam

Vijayawada court permits attachment of ₹32 crore worth properties

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In a crucial development in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, a Vijayawada court has permitted authorities to seize properties belonging to the accused. The court has approved the attachment of assets worth ₹32 crore in connection with the ongoing investigation into financial irregularities

tied to the scam. The order includes the seizure of ₹8 crore in cash that was previously confiscated in Chillakallu during the election period. In addition, the assets linked to distillery operations and suspicious transactions involving the accused individuals are also included in the court's attachment directive. The court has instructed

the investigating officer to serve notices to all the accused in the case by August 1, marking a significant step forward in the legal proceedings. Officials believe that the seized assets may be crucial in uncovering the full extent of the financial misconduct and establishing accountability in the high-profile case.



Certified Gardeners to Drive Green Amaravati Plan

TPN | Mahesh
Amaravati: With a vision to transform Amaravati into a lush and vibrant capital, the Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) has intensified its greening initiatives by training and certifying gardeners from across the capital region. ADC Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmiparthasarathi emphasized that every gardener must contribute to making Amaravati a "Green Gateway" for Andhra Pradesh. As part of this effort, women from 29 villages underwent a 21-day intensive training program in greenery development, organized under the aegis of Andhra Pradesh Greenery and Beautification Corporation (APGBC). The certificate distribution ceremony was held at the AP CRDA Nursery in the State Secretariat campus on Saturday, where Lakshmiparthasarathi served as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, she noted that nearly three lakh saplings are required to achieve the capital's green vision. She encouraged trained gardeners to identify suitable locations for plantation within their villages and coordinate with officials. She also called on them to help realize Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision of expanding Amaravati's green cover with innovative plant species. She stressed the need for a future where every resident of the capital owns at least one tree, highlighting the community's role in achieving this environmental goal. The trained gardeners also presented handcrafted floral bouquets to senior officials, showcasing their skills. Certificates were handed over by CMD Lakshmiparthasarathi to all successful trainees. Key officials present included AP Urban and Beautification Corporation MD M.K.V. Srinivasulu, AP CRDA Horticulture Additional Director M. Hariprasad, Deputy Director B. John Benny, and other horticulture department staff.



Blow the Whistle on Tobacco! Call 1972: EAGLE Director Ravi Krishna



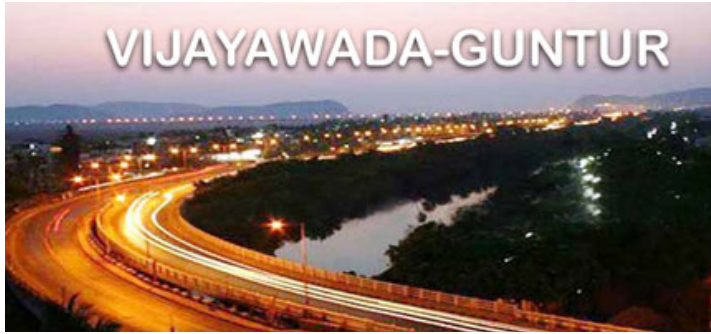
TPN | V V S Madhu Babu
Vijayawada: In a joint initiative by the state police and EAGLE teams, "Operation Safe Campus" has been launched across Andhra Pradesh to curb the illegal sale of tobacco products near educational institutions. EAGLE Director A.K. Ravi Krishna, IPS, stated that the mission aims to create tobacco-free zones around campuses and protect youth from falling prey to harmful habits. As part of the week-long operation, raids were conducted on pan shops and retail outlets across various districts. During these inspections, several shopkeepers were issued warnings for violating tobacco control norms. Offenders were fined a total of ₹7.5 lakh for non-compliance, particularly for selling tobacco products within prohibited areas. Ravi Krishna highlighted that

according to the COTPA Act (Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act), specifically Section 6(b), sale of tobacco products is strictly prohibited within a 100-meter radius of educational institutions. However, many vendors continue to violate these norms, putting young students at risk. The official emphasized that several youth are getting addicted to tobacco, leading to dangerous consequences, including untimely deaths. Citizens are urged to report any suspected illegal tobacco sales by calling 1972. The operation's core objective is to establish tobacco-free educational campuses across the state. The Director further appealed to all schools and colleges to actively support and participate in this campaign, ensuring a healthier and safer environment for students.

Vijayawada, Guntur Shine in Swachh Survekshan 2025

TPN | Mahesh

Vijayawada: In a significant recognition of Andhra Pradesh's urban sanitation achievements, Vijayawada and Guntur Municipal Corporations have been selected for the prestigious Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025. The awards, presented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, honor cities demonstrating excellence in cleanliness, solid waste management, and citizen engagement. The official award ceremony will be held in New Delhi on July 17, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the honors. Representing the state, Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana will attend the ceremony. Vijayawada Municipal Corporation was chosen for the Super Swachh League Award in the category of cities with a population exceeding 10 lakh. This recognition is a testament to the city's consistent performance in sanitation rankings, robust solid waste management practices, and proactive involvement of citizens in cleanliness drives. Guntur Municipal Corporation emerged as a winner in the 3 to 10 lakh population category, receiving praise for its upgraded infrastructure, community-led cleanliness campaigns, and sustainable waste management initiatives. The city's efforts in adopting smart solutions and promoting public awareness contributed significantly to its selection. Both cities have played a key role in advancing the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission, setting high standards for urban hygiene, greenery, and public participation. Their achievements underscore the importance of collaborative governance between citizens and local bodies. These accolades bring pride to Andhra Pradesh and highlight the state's leadership in building cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable urban spaces, serving as a model for other cities across the country.



ADC Chief Mandates Safety in Amaravati Works

TPN | Mahesh

Amaravati: In a move to enhance safety and accelerate progress in the ongoing capital construction works, Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmiparthasarathi has issued strict directives to contractors to ensure the safety of both workers and the general public. During a detailed inspection conducted on Saturday, the CMD visited several key roadworks being undertaken by RVR Company, including routes N-14, E-8, E-6, N-7, 10, and 11. She examined the pace and quality of the infrastructure projects and stressed that all work must be carried out in adherence to safety standards without causing risk to any person on-site or nearby. Earlier, she visited the RVR workers' camp in Thullur, where she instructed officials to provide proper food, drinking water, sanitation, and accommodation facilities for labourers in line with World Bank guidelines. These measures are aimed at ensuring the well-being of the workforce engaged in the massive construction efforts. CMD Lakshmiparthasarathi also conducted an on-ground review of occupational health and safety measures along the construction corridors. She directed officials to install clear signboards at all critical locations and ensure radium-marked barricading near open pits and excavation sites to avoid accidents, especially at night. She further asked contractors to take preventive steps during the monsoon, including timely drainage arrangements and covering exposed areas. She emphasized that ongoing and upcoming works during the rainy season must be fast-tracked without compromising safety or quality. Accompanying the CMD during the inspection were Chief Engineer R. Gopalakrishna Reddy, Superintending Engineers Narasimhamaurthy, Narasimharao, and V. Srinivas, along with Executive Engineers Basaveshwar Rao, Ramesh, Vaikunth Rao, and other senior engineering staff.



Madhav Defends Cultural Map, Slams BRS Over Criticism

AP BJP chief says Telugu unity is above political lines

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh BJP chief Dag-gubati Purandeswari Madhav hit back strongly at the BRS leaders after they criticized a cultural map of India he had earlier presented to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The controversy stemmed from the fact that the map showed a united Andhra Pradesh, without a separate Telangana, prompting BRS leaders, including party working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), to react sharply.

Amid the criticism, Madhav met Telangana BJP president G. Ramchandra Rao and presented him with the same 'Indian Cultural Glory' map — this time clearly depicting Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as separate entities. Responding to the backlash, Madhav accused BRS of politicizing a cultural artifact and spreading regional hatred. "Those who draw lines on photographs for political mileage and incite regional hatred will be remembered by the people,"



he said, adding that such actions are proof of narrow political thinking aimed at dividing Telugu society. Calling himself a "nationalist and proud Telugu," Madhav reiterated his commitment to the Telugu language, culture, and unity. "I have worked actively in the Legislative Council to protect and promote the Telugu identity. Telugu unity cannot be damaged by those who see only political boundaries," he said. He also hit out at BRS for allegedly praising the Razakars

and being soft on the legacy of the Nizam. "People who bow down to the descendants of the Nizam cannot understand the spirit of Indian nationalism and Telugu pride," Madhav remarked. He concluded by affirming his respect and love for Telangana, describing it as a brotherly state. "My meeting with Telangana BJP president Ramchandra Rao was respectful and constructive. I proudly presented a cultural picture that represents the shared legacy of India," he added.

Minister Solves Public Issue in 2 Hours During Padayatra

Satyakumar Yadav says health of people is top priority

TPN Correspondent | Dharmavaram

In a striking example of prompt public service, State Medical and Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav resolved a long-standing sanitation issue within two hours during his padayatra in Ward 18, Gandhinagar of Dharmavaram town on Saturday.

As part of his ongoing public outreach program, Minister Satyakumar walked through the locality, directly interacting with residents. During the visit, local women and colony residents brought to his attention the health hazards caused by the accumulation of trees and garbage near the railway gate, which was emitting a foul smell and increasing mosquito infestation. The residents expressed that children and the elderly were particularly suffering due to the neglect of the area. Reacting swiftly, the Minister arranged for a JCB vehicle to clear the garbage within two hours, much to the sur-



prise and appreciation of the locals. The sanitation issue, which had persisted for a long time, was resolved on the spot through his direct intervention. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Satyakumar Yadav stated, "People's health is my first priority. No problem, however small, will be ignored. We are committed to resolving public issues immediately." He also announced plans to develop a park in the area to improve the living environment.

Residents thanked the minister for his quick response and praised his commitment to on-ground problem-solving. The padayatra has turned into a productive public grievance forum, where real-time solutions are being provided for long-pending civic issues. Minister Satyakumar reaffirmed that such direct engagement with the people will continue across Dharmavaram and other towns, aiming to improve public health, sanitation, and overall quality of life.

Special Measures to Enhance Devotee Services: Minister Anam



TPN | C Shekhar

Tirumala: State Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy announced that the government is taking special measures to improve services for devotees, particularly at Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple. Speaking to the media, he said that a review meeting is being held today to address the issues of employees working under various departments of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), as per the instructions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Anam said the suggestions and decisions emerging from this meeting will be submitted to the Chief Minister and implemented upon his approval. He emphasized that the welfare of employees and seamless services to devotees

are top priorities for the government. He stated that darshan facilities have been made easier across 160 temples in the state, ensuring smoother access for devotees. Additionally, he said quality prasadam are now being provided as part of efforts to enhance the overall temple experience. The minister also informed that funds have been sanctioned for incense sticks, lamps, and offerings in over 300 temples. Moreover, financial support has been approved from the Common Welfare Fund for the renovation and reconstruction of more than 200 temples. Minister Anam assured that these measures are part of a long-term commitment to uphold temple traditions while ensuring the comfort and satisfaction of devotees statewide.

22-Year-Old Gets New Life with Rare Lung Procedure

Doctors in Nellore successfully stent main airway for first time in district

TPN | Seshu

Nellore: In a medical breakthrough for Nellore district, doctors at Medicovert Hospitals have successfully performed a rare airway treatment to save the life of a 22-year-old woman. The girl, hailing from the Badvel area of Kadapa district, was suffering from a severely blocked main bronchus in her left lung, a complication that developed after tuberculosis. Addressing the media at Chintta Reddypalem Medicovert Hospital on Saturday, Consultant Interventional Pulmonologist Dr. Katamreddy Kaushik Red-

dy explained that the patient was admitted with persistent cough and breathing difficulties. Upon diagnosis, it was found that her left lung's main airway was almost entirely obstructed. The medical team performed a complex recanalization procedure to reopen the blocked duct, followed by the careful insertion of a silicone stent to maintain the airway. "As soon as the stent was placed, she was able to breathe freely again. Her condition improved immediately," said Dr. Kaushik Reddy. He added that this was the first



time such an advanced lung treatment was conducted in Nellore, a procedure typically available only in metro cities due to the need for specialized equipment and precision. With this success, Medicovert Hospitals has emerged as a

trusted centre for cutting-edge lung and respiratory treatments in the district. Cluster Head G. Ranjith Reddy, Hospital Head Lavanya, Cancer Hospital Head Pawan, and Dr. Ranganaathan were present at the media conference.

Huge Ganja Haul in Sullurpet, Two Chennai Men Held

70 kg ganja seized, accused linked to murder and drug cases

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati: In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, Sullurpet police seized over 70.560 kg of ganja and arrested two notorious criminals from Chennai at Kotaprolur T Junction on National Highway NH-16 early Saturday. The seized contraband is estimated to be worth around ₹14.11 lakh. The arrested accused are T. Bibin Nath (38) of Mount Road, Chennai — previously involved in ganja and property-related offences. J. Rohan alias Rogan (36) of Puliyathope, Chennai — with a history of two murder cases, three ganja cases, and six assault cases, according to the police. Along with the ganja, the police also seized



a Volkswagen Polo car (AP 09 CB 2966) and two mobile phones used in the transportation of the narcotics.

The operation was led by CI M. Muralikrishna, Sis Brahmanaidu and Kondapanaidu, ASI Srikumar Reddy, and Constables Raghavaraju and Suresh. Their swift and precise action received commendation from District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju (IPS) and Naidupeta DSP G. Chenchubabu.

A case under NDPS Act Cr.No. 156/2025 u/s 8(C) r/w 20(b)(ii)(C) has been registered and the accused were remanded to judicial custody.

This arrest highlights the tight vigilance and zero-tolerance policy of Sullurpet police against narcotics smuggling.

PDS Rice Smuggling Foiled at AP-Odisha Border

TPN | Narasimhulu

Parvathipuram Manyam: In a major bust, vigilance officials seized 700 bags of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice being illegally transported to Odisha at the P. Konavlasa check post in Pachipenta mandal of Parvathipuram Manyam district. The lorry (AP39-UU-4289) was intercepted while en route from Kaduma village in Kothur mandal to Navarangapur in Odisha. Upon inspection, officials found that the lorry was carrying 34,800 kg of PDS rice, with an estimated value of ₹15,83,400. The rice was reportedly procured from white ration card beneficiaries in Kaduma and nearby villages and was being smuggled into



Odisha for illegal sale. The accused has been identified as Govinda Rao, a rice mill owner from Kaduma village. During interrogation, lorry driver Manepalli Venkatesh confessed to the smuggling operation and revealed the source and intended destination of the rice. Following the seizure, the lorry and rice were handed over to the Civil Supplies Department Task Force (CSDT). Vigilance

officials have recommended booking cases under Sections 6(a) and 7(1) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, against both the lorry driver and Govinda Rao. The inspection was conducted by Vigilance Inspector Simhachalam, SI Rama Rao, Constables Purushottam and Tirupati Rao, and Revenue Officer Hemalatha, in coordination with the Pachipenta CSDT team.

Tobacco Farmers Will Be Protected: Collector

18 new procurement centres to open

TPN | B. Madhusudhanarao

Bapatla: District Collector J. Venkata Murali and Parchur MLA Eluri Sambasiva Rao assured tobacco farmers that the government is committed to ensuring fair procurement and support. In a teleconference held on Saturday, the Collector emphasized that no farmer should feel discouraged, and the government will purchase tobacco from every farmer without fail. To further strengthen the process, 18 new procurement centres are being established across Bapatla district. Three centres will open on July 14 at Chinnaganjam, Martur, and Adusuvally, followed by five

more on July 16 at Santhamaguluru and Thammavaram. Seven additional centres are expected to begin operations next week. With all 18 centres functional, the district will aim to procure 600 tons of black burley tobacco per day. The Collector instructed officials to communicate procurement schedules to farmers via phone messages a month in advance and ensure adequate warehouse facilities, 24-hour security, CCTV surveillance, and strict supervision by police and revenue officials. To curb malpractice, the Collector warned of criminal action against private traders who illegally resell to the govern-

ment, and action against any complicit officials. A meeting will be held on July 16 to discuss procurement of festival leaves, where a price between ₹30-₹40 per kg may be finalized. Officials from agriculture, marketing, and revenue departments participated in the session.



A Course on Love – Why Not?

There are courses to become an engineer, doctor, or teacher. But what about becoming a lover? While it might sound strange, it's actually quite necessary. If education equips us for careers, a course on love can prepare us for life. Recognizing this, Delhi University has introduced a course on love for students with a special syllabus. In today's context, where youth often struggle with emotional confusion, such a course is not only relevant but urgent.

Love – A Timeless and Powerful Force

Love is an eternal subject. Every individual experiences it—whether in friendship, family, or romance. It is essential for enduring relationships and marriage. Love transforms people's lives, but when misunderstood, it can cause pain and loss. Sadly, the true essence of love is not well understood. Misconceptions dominate young minds, leading to confusion, emotional turmoil, and misguided choices.

Generation Z and Their Language of Love

Modern love comes with its own dictionary: “situationship,” “ghosting,” “benching,” “breadcrumbing”—terms coined by Generation Z. Each term reflects a kind of emotional detachment. Love today is often reduced to physical or financial exchanges, sidelining emotional and mental connection. The

lack of real understanding leads many young people down paths of distress.

Love as a Driving Energy

True love has the power to motivate and transform. Consider the story of a young village man who aspired to become an IPS officer after being inspired by a police officer's respect. A girl he met during coaching became his emotional anchor. Realizing their economic difference, he worked harder, succeeded, and married her—an inspiring story portrayed in 12th Fail. Another example is a man who carved a road through a mountain in memory of his late wife. These stories reflect how love can be an energy source that drives one to overcome obstacles and reach goals. Harvard research supports this: those with strong, loving relationships live happier, healthier lives. The tragedy today is that youth are misusing this energy for fleeting needs rather than building meaningful lives.

The Pitfalls of Immature Love

College students often fall into superficial relationships that start with flattery, songs, and gifts, but end in betrayal once one's needs are met. This toxic pattern, known as love bombing, leaves victims heartbroken. Another trap is catfishing, where fake social media personas are used to exploit others.



B Krishna
Psychologist
National Working
President, Advanced
Psychological services
Association (APA India)

Even people over 40 fall victim due to a lack of understanding of slow-burn relationships. Then there's gaslighting, where one partner controls the other emotionally, isolates them, and constantly belittles them. These psychological patterns often go unrecognized, leading to broken lives and toxic marriages. Awareness of these behaviors is critical.

So, What is Love Really?

Love has puzzled psychologists for years. Why do humans fall in love? What is true love? Theories like the Liking Theory, Color Wheel Theory, Attachment Theory, and Triangle Theory attempt to explain the phenomenon. But the sad truth is that today's generation lacks even a basic understanding of these

foundational ideas, leading to repeated mistakes in relationships.

The Urgent Need for Awareness

With the rise of dating apps and digital communication, relationships have grown more complex. Issues like online stalking, emotional manipulation, and casual breakups plague today's youth. Unfortunately, there is no open space—either at home or in colleges—to discuss these matters. The lack of guidance results in misguided choices and emotional damage. As emphasized in the movie Court, it is not enough to make laws—we must teach them. The same applies to love. Instead of merely warning youth about love, we must teach what love truly is, how to nurture it, how to deal with its failures, and how to identify selfish or toxic intentions.

Teaching Love Like We Teach Life Skills

We teach children how to walk, talk, eat, and interact socially. So why not teach them how to love? Educating the youth about healthy love can prevent emotional disasters and allow them to use love as a source of strength, motivation, and success. A structured course on love could be the first step toward building a more emotionally intelligent and resilient generation.



From 129 Million to 75 Million: Understanding India's Poverty Recount

India continues to hold the unenviable distinction of having the largest number of poor people in the world, even as it competes with nations like Japan and Germany to become the third-largest economy globally. The World Bank's latest poverty update has significantly revised India's poverty numbers, sparking widespread discussion on the accuracy and implications of these figures.

In its 2024 report, the World Bank estimated that India had 129 million people living in extreme poverty, defined as surviving on less than \$2.15 per day (2017 PPP). However, the recent 2025 update drastically lowered this figure to 75.2 million, based on a higher poverty line of \$3 per day (2021 PPP). This sudden drop of nearly 54 million poor people within a year raises questions about the methodology and assumptions behind these statistics. The key reason for this revision is the World Bank's acceptance of India's new consumption survey conducted in 2022-2023, which replaced the previous 2016-2017 survey deemed unreliable. India's updated methodology, known as the Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP), significantly reduces reported poverty levels compared to the older Uniform Recall Period (URP) method.

While the government has touted this drop as a major success, the World Bank cautions that the traditional extreme poverty benchmarks of \$2.15 and \$3 per day are not fully applicable to middle-income countries like India. Instead, a more realistic poverty threshold for such nations is \$6.85 per day (2017 PPP), which accounts for modern essentials like electricity, healthcare, and digital access.

At this higher poverty line, India's poor population remains staggering—over 1.17 billion people or 82% of its population in 2022. This means India still has the highest absolute number of poor people globally, surpassing even Sub-Saharan Africa. In summary, while India's extreme poverty figures have been revised downward, broader poverty challenges remain immense, underscoring the complexity of measuring poverty in a rapidly developing nation.

Is Airbus Safer Than Boeing? The Truth Behind the Debate



Last week's crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Ahmedabad shook the aviation world and reignited fears about Boeing's safety. For Air India, it was a devastating blow to their brand revival. For Boeing, it reopened painful wounds from the 737 MAX disasters, which severely damaged its reputation due to flawed software and safety shortcuts. But does this mean Airbus is safer?

Globally, Boeing and Airbus dominate the aircraft manufacturing industry, shaping air travel for decades. Between 2013 and 2022, Boeing had 60 accidents and Airbus 50, but Boeing operates more planes. When adjusted for flight numbers, their fatality rates are almost identical. Aviation expert Richard Aboulafia sums it up: statistically, flying on either is equally safe. The plane itself is rarely the problem.

Boeing's recent troubles are not just technical—they're moral. The 737 MAX crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, caused by faulty software, revealed a corporate culture prioritizing profits over safety. Airbus hasn't been perfect either, with incidents like the 2009 Air France A330 crash and a \$4 billion corruption settlement. As one insider put it, "Airbus sins in boardrooms; Boeing sins in cockpits." Beyond safety, Boeing and Airbus are geopolitical rivals tied to the US and Europe respectively, fueling trade disputes and lobbying battles. Despite Boeing's rough decade, including the 737 MAX crisis and other incidents, its 2023 record was strong, with just 11 non-fatal accidents in over 31 million flights.

Flying remains incredibly safe: in 2023, there was one major accident for every 5.3 million flights. Most accidents stem from pilot error, not plane design. Modern aircraft, including Boeing's Dreamliner and Airbus's A320, are marvels built with multiple redundancies. So while emotions flare after crashes, data shows commercial aviation is safer than ever. The choice between Boeing or Airbus is often less about safety and more about perception. In reality, flying any modern aircraft means trusting an industry that's a technological wonder, despite its flaws.



Is America Still Worth It? Indian Students Begin Looking Elsewhere

For decades, American universities have been the gold standard for Indian students seeking world-class education and global career opportunities. Names like Sundar Pichai, Raghuram Rajan, Indra Nooyi, and Amartya Sen owe a part of their global success to the academic grounding they received in the US. Indian students have not only studied at top American institutions, but also contributed to them through philanthropy and research. However, that long-standing appeal is now under pressure. The Trump administration's crackdown on academic insti-

tutions—citing antisemitism, “anti-white racism,” and political activism—has created a hostile environment for both universities and international students. Elite campuses like Harvard and Columbia are facing political heat, while US embassies have halted student visa interviews, citing enhanced social media scrutiny. Indian applicants must now disclose years of online activity, leaving many uncertain about what could jeopardize their future. For Indian families, where sending a child to the US is often a long-term investment,

this is more than a policy change—it's a dream deferred. The US had over 3.3 lakh Indian students in 2023, making them the largest international student group. They contribute significantly to STEM fields and university funding. But the political message is clear: global talent is no longer welcome without conditions. This has already sparked a shift. A 28% drop in Indian student enrolments is forecast for 2025, with more turning to the UK, Canada, and Australia. These countries may not offer the same prestige, but they aren't undermining their uni-

versities or politicizing student mobility. India, in turn, finds an opportunity in this disruption. With institutions like IITs, IIMs, and emerging private universities like Ashoka, India can become an academic hub—if it invests in research, academic freedom, and global partnerships. The world may see fewer Indian success stories shaped in America in the coming years. But if India seizes this moment, it could become the new destination for intellectual ambition—not just for Indians, but for global talent disillusioned with America's shifting values.

DK Shivakumar’s Chair Comment Sparks Buzz Amid Power Debate

“When you get a chair, sit,” says Karnataka Dy CM

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar made a witty but politically loaded remark on Friday, which is being widely interpreted as a subtle reference to the ongoing power tussle with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah within the Congress-led state government. Speaking at Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations organized by the Bangalore Advocates Association, Shivakumar said, “Getting a chair is not easy. When you get the opportunity, you must sit and not let go of the chance.” While the comment drew laughter from the audience, many saw it as a veiled nod to his aspirations for the Chief Minister’s post. Adding to the moment, he remarked, “It seems many of you are very sacrificial by nature. Such a good building has been made with great chairs, make use of the opportunities when you get them.” This comment comes at a time when speculation is rife about an alleged power-sharing formula



between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, dating back to when the Congress formed the government in May 2023. According to unconfirmed reports, Siddaramaiah was to serve for the first 2.5 years, after which Shivakumar would take over as CM. However, Siddaramaiah recently put such speculation to rest, stating, “The Chief Minister’s post is not vacant. I have the full support of the Congress high command and will serve the full term.” Asked for a reaction, Shivakumar was measured, saying, “The CM

has already spoken. There’s no point in repeating things. I don’t know why people are in such a hurry about me. I’m not in a hurry.” Meanwhile, State Home Minister G Parameshwara noted that the confusion might have been avoided had party general secretaries addressed the matter more clearly earlier. While both leaders maintain a public stance of unity, Shivakumar’s comment has once again brought the Congress’s internal power dynamics into the spotlight.

Operation Shiva Launched to Secure Amarnath Yatra

8,500 troops deployed, drone threat neutralization in place



TPN Correspondent | Jammu

The Indian Army has launched Operation Shiva as part of an extensive security arrangement to ensure the safe and uninterrupted conduct of the Amarnath Yatra, which commenced on July 3. The 38-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine is being held via the Nunwan-Pahalgam (48 km) and Baltal (14 km) routes. The yatra will conclude on August 9. A defence spokesperson said the operation, conducted in coordination with civil authorities and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), has been launched in response to potential threats from Pakistan-backed proxies post Operation Sindoor. Over 8,500 troops

have been deployed, supported by a wide array of technological and operational assets. To neutralize aerial threats, the Army has installed a counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS) grid, comprising 50+ C-UAS and electronic warfare systems. High-resolution PTZ cameras and drone surveillance provide real-time monitoring of yatra convoys, cave shrine activities, and vulnerable zones. The operation includes a robust disaster management and medical support framework. Over 150 doctors and medical staff, two advanced dressing stations, nine medical aid posts, a 100-bed hospital, and 26 oxygen booths supported by 2 lakh litres of oxygen have

been set up along the routes. Additional support systems include signal companies for communication, EME detachments for technical repairs, bomb disposal squads, QRT teams, and emergency rations for 25,000 pilgrims. Tent cities, water points, bulldozers, and excavators have been arranged to address contingencies. Engineer task forces have been assigned to strengthen infrastructure through track widening, bridge construction, and flood mitigation efforts. Indian Army helicopters remain on standby for any emergency evacuation or relief operations. The Army has implemented live tracking of yatra convoys from Jammu to the shrine. Seamless co-ordination among multiple agencies is ensuring effective response to potential threats and maintaining situational awareness at all times. So far, more than 1.40 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the cave shrine. Over 4 lakh devotees have registered online for the yatra this year. Last year, the total number of pilgrims stood at 5.10 lakh. The spokesperson added that Operation Shiva reflects the Indian Army’s unwavering commitment to ensuring a safe, smooth, and spiritually fulfilling yatra for all devotees.

Bihar Electoral Roll Revision...

TPN Correspondent | Bihar

With nearly two weeks remaining before the July 25 deadline, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday announced significant progress in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. Over 80% of enumeration forms have already been collected, reflecting direct contact with nearly all electors in the state. According to the ECI, more than 6.32 crore enumeration forms — amounting to 80.11% — had been submitted as of 6 p.m. on Saturday. The poll body expects that the majority of forms will be collected well before the July 25 cut-off. To accelerate the process, the commission has deployed an additional 20,603 booth-level officers



(BLOs), taking the total number of BLOs on the ground to 77,895. Alongside them, around 1.5 lakh booth-level agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties are conducting door-to-door visits to ensure every eligible voter is covered. “Special efforts are being made to assist senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PwD), and other vulnerable groups through over four lakh volunteers,” the commission stated. The ECI said printing and near-to-

tal distribution of Enumeration Forms (EFs) to those present at their addresses has been completed. These efforts are part of the SIR process mandated ahead of the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court, in a recent hearing, allowed the ECI to continue with the SIR but asked the poll panel to consider accepting Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and voter ID cards as valid documents for verification. The court said the ECI may decide on the admissibility of these documents and justify any rejections. The bench, comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi, refrained from staying the revision process, thereby allowing the electoral roll update to proceed unhindered.



Maratha Forts Enter UNESCO World Heritage List

Shah calls it a proud moment for the nation

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the inclusion of the ‘Maratha Military Landscapes of India’ in the UNESCO World Heritage List, calling it a moment of immense pride for the country. With this, India now has 44 properties inscribed on the prestigious list. In a post on X, Shah said, “It is a moment of immense pride for all countrymen that UNESCO has included 12 forts associated with Maharajadhiraj Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the UNESCO World Heritage list.” He added that these forts served as the pillars of Hindu Swaraj and have continuously inspired generations with their deep cultural and linguistic significance. The announcement was made during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Paris, France, marking a major milestone in global recognition of India’s architectural and military legacy. The inscribed forts include Maharashtra: Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi,

Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg and Tamil Nadu: Gingee Fort. Among them, Shivneri, Lohgad, Raigad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg, and Gingee are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), while Salher, Rajgad, Khanderi, and Pratapgad fall under the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra. The nomination was made under criteria (iv) and (vi), highlighting the forts’ architectural significance, military engineering, and association with historic events led by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the Maratha Empire. India, a World Heritage Committee member (2021–25), is committed to preserving and promoting its cultural assets under the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) framework adopted by 196 countries. The move ensures global protection and promotion of these iconic Maratha strongholds, further enriching India’s diverse heritage portfolio.



Massive Eviction Drive Underway In Assam's Goalpara Forest Area

TPN Correspondent | Assam

A major eviction drive is underway in Goalpara district of Assam to remove illegal settlements from the Paikan Reserve Forest, with officials targeting over 140 hectares (1,040 bighas) of encroached land. The operation, aimed at curbing human-elephant conflict and restoring ecological balance, began following a High Court directive and a final deadline issued to encroachers on July 10. The eviction is focused on two major zones—Bidyapara and Bethari—falling under the Krishnai range of the forest, where hundreds of families have allegedly been residing unlawfully for years. District Forest Officer Tejash Mariswami confirmed, “We are clearing 149 hectares. About 2,070 concrete structures are to be dismantled. We gave notices twice, the first one in December. This is a legally protected forest land, and the eviction is crucial due to frequent human-animal conflicts in this region.” Goalpara district has reportedly the highest number of human-elephant conflicts in the country, prompting the court’s decision to clear forest encroachments. The eviction operation involves multi-

ple JCBs, heavy police deployment, and joint teams from the Forest Department and Assam Police. Officials have been patrolling the area, using loudspeakers to urge residents to vacate peacefully. However, the drive has sparked political tension, with opposition AIUDF leaders alleging high-handedness. Eight MLAs from the party staged a demonstration near the site, accusing the government of displacing legitimate residents. AIUDF MLA Hafiz Rafikul Islam questioned the eviction, saying, “These villages have existed since before the NRC of 1951. People have voter IDs, there are government schools, roads, electricity, and water supply. How can this be forest land?” In a tragic moment during the eviction, one resident allegedly attempted suicide but was stopped by a family member and rushed to hospital. Despite the opposition, authorities maintain that the eviction is part of a larger conservation effort. The administration is determined to complete the process within a day, reinforcing its commitment to protecting wildlife corridors and reducing encroachment-driven conflict in ecologically sensitive zones.

‘Pragmatism and Vibrancy’

India's Diplomatic Strategy in 2024 Marked by MEA Report

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday released its Annual Report for 2024, painting a comprehensive picture of India's active and pragmatic engagement on the global stage. The report emphasizes how India's foreign policy has exhibited vibrancy and pragmatism, positioning the country as a reliable partner and a key global influencer.

In a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainties, climate emergencies, and social upheaval, India managed to push forward with strategic autonomy while ensuring its role remained proactive in both bilateral and multilateral fora. The MEA report underlines India's key focus areas including reforms in multilateral bodies, promotion of Global South interests, and strengthening national security within a rules-based international order. The report states that India's diplomacy in 2024 yielded significant achievements, particularly in enhancing global goodwill and strategic partnerships. India played a key leadership role in forums such as the UN, G20, G7, SCO, BRICS, and Quad, while maintaining strong bilateral relationships. The year also witnessed India's continued role as part of the G20 Troika (India, Brazil, South Africa), carrying forward the legacy of India's G20 presidency. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in major global summits stood out. His human-centric and development-oriented approach at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro was appreciated by leaders across developed and developing nations. The summit was notable as the African Union participated as a permanent member for the first time, an inclusion India had championed during the New Delhi G20 Summit in 2023.



In August, India hosted the third edition of the Voice of Global South Summit, under the theme "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future", with participation from 173 dignitaries representing 123 countries. PM Modi also proposed a Global Development Compact, focusing on technology, trade, capacity-building, and financial support for sustainable growth in developing countries.

The MEA stressed India's unwavering stand against terrorism, highlighting cooperation with countries like France, Kazakhstan, Australia, and members of the Quad. India's FATF Mutual Evaluation concluded positively, with high compliance on anti-money laundering, terror financing, and counter-proliferation obligations. Another major area where India excelled in 2024 was Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). India undertook three major HADR operations:

- **Operation Indravati in Haiti, to evacuate Indian nationals amid civil unrest.**
- **A special humanitarian airlift in Kuwait, to repatriate bodies of 45 Indians.**
- **Operation Sadbhav in Myanmar, to aid flood-hit regions after Typhoon Yagi.**

India also extended support to more than 20 countries, including anti-cancer drugs to Syria and 30 tons of humanitarian aid to Palestine through UNRWA. In the G7 Outreach Summit in Italy, PM Modi reiterated India's vision of "AI for All", emphasizing human-centric digital transformation and pressing for Global South interests. Significant diplomatic milestones were celebrated throughout the year, reflecting India's longstanding and growing relationships with various countries. The MEA noted that India's role as a "first responder" in crises, and its constructive leadership in shaping a fairer global order, continue to earn it global respect.

In conclusion, the MEA's annual report for 2024 reflects a confident and responsive India, adapting to global shifts while asserting leadership, promoting equitable growth, and protecting its sovereign interests through pragmatic diplomacy.

Donald Trump Unleashes Tariff Fury: What Unfolded This Week

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

In a move that has reignited global trade tensions, US President Donald Trump on Saturday announced sweeping tariffs, including a 10% universal levy on all imports and targeted hikes on products from key trade partners such as China, Brazil, Mexico, and the European Union. The declaration, made under a national economic emergency announced on July 10, allows the president to bypass Congress in implementing the new trade rules. Under the policy, imports from countries with high trade surpluses against the US—like Brazil and China—will face steeper duties. Notably, Trump proposed a 50% tariff on Brazilian goods such as coffee and orange juice. The administration also levied a 30% tariff on products from the EU and Mexico. The White House stated that these steps aim to narrow the trade deficit, revive domestic manufacturing, and fund additional tax cuts. "This is about fairness and reciprocity," Trump said. "If they tax us, we'll tax them more."

However, global markets and US businesses have reacted with concern. The American Action Forum estimates that the new tariffs could increase annual household expenses by \$1,700 to \$2,350. Major retailers, including Walmart and Nike, are already warning of price hikes.

On the diplomatic front, the response has been swift and sharp. The European Union and China have both vowed retaliatory measures, potentially sparking a fresh trade war. EU officials are already drawing up lists of American products to target, while Beijing warned of "consequences" and hinted at new tariffs on US agricultural and tech goods.



Reuters reported that Trump's proposal includes "reciprocal tariffs," allowing the US to match or exceed tariffs imposed by other nations on American exports. Specific materials like copper and automotive components may also face increased duties, raising alarm within construction and manufacturing sectors.

CNBC noted that this strategy adds significant uncertainty to the global economy, especially at a time when supply chains are still recovering from pandemic disruptions and geopolitical conflicts. While the Trump administration insists these steps will restore trade fairness and strengthen the US economy, critics argue the plan could backfire, hurting consumers, weakening alliances, and risking job losses in sectors reliant on global imports. As of now, there is no word on whether Congress will attempt to intervene. With the 2026 midterm elections on the horizon, trade and inflation are set to become major political flashpoints once again.

X Slashes Subscription Fees in India by Up to 48%

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Social media platform X (formerly Twitter) has reduced its subscription prices in India by up to 48%, significantly lowering the cost for users opting for Premium, Premium Plus, and Basic plans. The revised pricing applies to both mobile and web users. As per the updates on X's official portal:

- **The monthly mobile Premium subscription has been cut by 48%, now costing ₹470, down from the previous ₹900.**
- **The Premium web subscription now costs ₹427, a 34% reduction from the earlier ₹650.**
- **Basic plan subscribers will now pay ₹170/month, a 30% drop from ₹243.75.**
- **The annual Basic plan has been re-**

duced by 34%, now priced at ₹1,700, compared to the earlier ₹2,590.48.

The Premium subscription includes a verified checkmark, the ability to post longer content, and editing features. In a major move, the Premium Plus plan, which offers an ad-free experience, article publishing, and access to SuperGrok (powered by Grok 4), has also seen price cuts:

- **The web version is now ₹2,570/month, reduced by 26% from ₹3,470.**
- **The mobile Premium Plus plan now costs ₹3,000, down from ₹5,100.**

X clarified that mobile subscription rates are slightly higher due to app store fees. These aggressive price revisions come as the platform seeks to expand its paid user base in India, one of the fastest-growing digital markets globally.



Iran Open to Resuming Nuclear Talks if Assured of No Further Attacks

TPN Correspondent | Tehran

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday signalled Tehran's willingness to resume nuclear negotiations with the United States — but only if clear assurances are given that no further military attacks will be carried out against the country. His statement follows the recent joint assault by Israel and the US on Iranian nuclear facilities, which Araghchi said has made diplomatic solutions "more difficult and complicated."

Speaking at a diplomatic gathering in Tehran, Araghchi stressed, "Iran has always been ready, and will be ready in the future, for talks about its nuclear programme. But a guarantee must be provided that such talks will not



lead to war." On June 22, the US launched coordi-

nated strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities, joining an ongoing 12-

day Israeli offensive. While former US President Donald Trump claimed the operation "obliterated" Iran's nuclear infrastructure, Iranian officials have stated that while the sites were "badly damaged," they were not destroyed. In retaliation, Iran launched missiles at a US military base in Qatar. The strikes prompted Iran to suspend cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), resulting in the withdrawal of UN inspectors from the country. Araghchi said any future inspections would now be considered "case by case" and aligned with Iran's national security priorities.

"The risk of radioactive contamination and unexploded munitions at the attacked sites is serious," he said,

defending Iran's decision to restrict access to the damaged locations. The Foreign Minister also reiterated Tehran's longstanding position on uranium enrichment, asserting that enrichment on Iranian soil would continue despite objections from the US. President Trump has repeatedly insisted that Iran must halt all uranium enrichment, while Israel has justified its attacks by claiming Iran was nearing the threshold of building a nuclear weapon. Although the US and IAEA previously concluded that Iran ceased its structured nuclear weapons programme in 2003, Tehran had been enriching uranium up to 60%, just short of the 90% required for weapons-grade material.

Commercial LPG Cylinder Price Slashed by ₹58.50, Jet Fuel Sees 7.5% Hike



Oil marketing companies revised fuel prices on July 1, 2025, delivering mixed news for consumers. While the cost of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was reduced by ₹58.50, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices saw a sharp increase of 7.5%, driven by global oil market trends.

Following the price cut, commercial LPG cylinders now cost ₹1,665 in Delhi, ₹1,616.50 in Mumbai, ₹1,769 in Kolkata, and ₹1,823.50 in Chennai. This marks the fourth consecutive reduction in commercial LPG rates, totaling a ₹138 cut per cylinder since April. The earlier cuts were ₹41 in April, ₹14.50 in May, and ₹24 in June. The decline in prices has come as a relief for commercial establishments such as hotels, restaurants, and catering services, especially as LPG demand typically dips during the summer months.

In contrast, the ATF price was raised by ₹6,271.50 per kilolitre in Delhi to ₹89,344.05 per kl, reflecting a surge in international crude oil prices following geopolitical tensions, particularly Israel's at-

tack on Iran last month. The hike reverses some of the price relief offered in previous months: ATF prices had been reduced by 6.15% in April (₹5,870.54/kl), 4.4% in May (₹3,954.38/kl), and 2.82% in June (₹2,414.25/kl).

This latest increase in ATF prices is likely to impact airlines significantly, as fuel accounts for nearly 40% of their operational costs. In other metro cities, ATF prices now stand at ₹83,549.23 per kl in Mumbai, ₹92,526.09 per kl in Chennai, and ₹92,705.74 per kl in Kolkata. These rates vary across cities due to differences in local taxes, including VAT.

While no immediate response came from airlines regarding the price hike, the increase could translate into higher airfares if sustained. Meanwhile, the continued easing of LPG prices provides some cushion to small businesses grappling with inflation and fluctuating energy costs. The diverging trends in ATF and LPG pricing highlight the volatile nature of global energy markets and their domestic implications.

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.

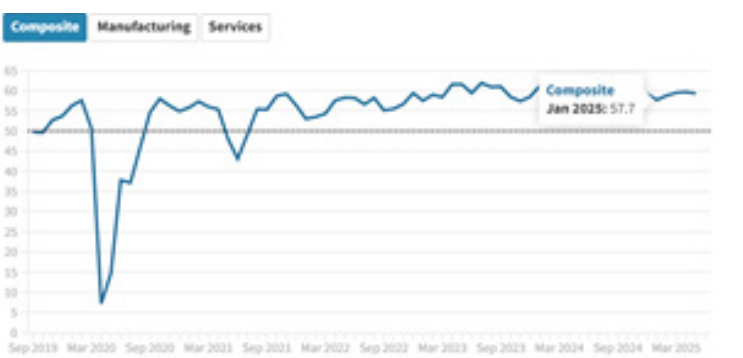
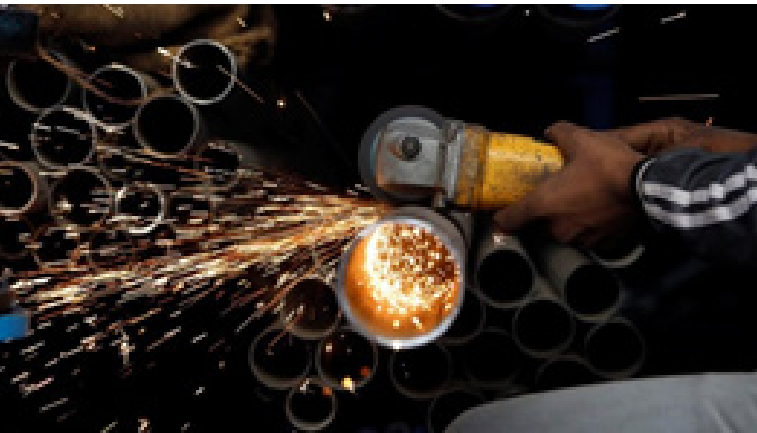
According to the bank's report, the main driver of the growing trade deficit is the weak performance of India's non-oil exports, which have struggled to keep pace with rising imports. On the other hand, strong domestic economic growth is expected to sustain high import levels, further widening the gap 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.

Manufacturing PMI Hits 14-Month High in June on Strong Export Demand



India's manufacturing sector saw its strongest performance in over a year, with the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rising to 58.4 in June 2025, up from 57.6 in May. This marks the highest PMI reading since April 2024 and remains well above the long-term average of 54.1, indicating robust expansion in factory activity.

According to the survey, the surge in manufacturing was driven primarily by a sharp increase in export orders, leading to improved production output, job creation, and order volumes. The report highlighted a record upturn in employment, as manufacturers responded to buoyant demand both domestically and internationally.

"June marked a strong end to the first fiscal quarter, with noticeable gains in output and new orders," the report stated. "External demand rose at one of the fastest rates recorded in over two decades of the survey's history."

The growth in production was largely attributed to intermediate goods manufacturers, while both consumer and capital

goods segments experienced a slowdown. Respondents cited increased operational efficiency and favourable demand conditions as key contributors to higher output levels.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, noted, "To meet strong international demand, manufacturing firms drew down on inventories, leading to a continued decline in finished goods stock."

Interestingly, even as manufacturing accelerated, input price inflation eased to a four-month low, despite persistent cost pressures from materials like iron and steel. However, average selling prices rose sharply as companies passed on increased freight, labour, and material costs to customers. Some firms also raised prices in response to strong demand.

The report signals a positive outlook for the manufacturing sector, though it also highlights the uneven nature of growth across segments. With global demand playing a critical role in driving output, Indian manufacturers appear poised to benefit further from favourable export conditions, even as input cost pressures and inventory concerns remain on the radar.

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 re-

corded in the same month last year, indicating persistent 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.

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.

What Is the ‘Pizza Index’ Theory, and Why It’s Trending After Israel’s Strikes on Iran

As global attention turns to the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, an unusual theory known as the “Pizza Index” is once again making waves on social media. The theory proposes a strange yet intriguing connection: a spike in pizza orders near the Pentagon could indicate an impending military action or global crisis.

The theory gained renewed attention after reports emerged that pizza orders from three restaurants near the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., saw a sudden surge just before Israel launched airstrikes on Iran. The information was shared by a popular X (formerly Twitter) account called Pentagon Pizza Report, which has been tracking unusual food delivery patterns around the Pentagon.

The idea behind the Pizza Index is simple: when major decisions or operations are underway, staff and analysts working late at defense-related offices tend to order food—often pizza. Therefore, a noticeable uptick in orders could hint at high-level activity or imminent action.

While this theory might sound far-fetched, it’s not entirely new. Similar trends were observed before past international military operations, though the data has always been anecdotal and never officially confirmed.

The recent spike in deliveries before Israel’s reported airstrikes has led to a flurry of speculation and memes online. While some treat it as a humorous conspiracy theory, others view it as a quirky but possibly insightful indicator

of military movement.

In a world increasingly driven by open-source intelligence and unconventional data tracking, the Pizza Index adds an unexpected slice of speculation to the way we interpret geopolitical signals. Whether coincidence or pattern, it’s once again caught the internet’s attention in a big way.



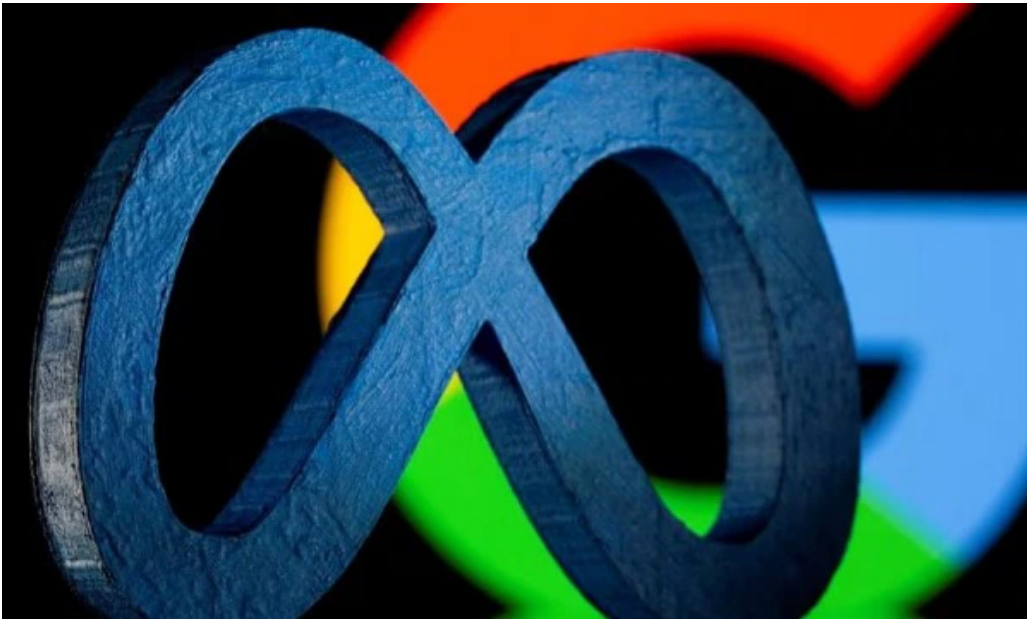
Meta Sues Developer Behind AI ‘Nudify’ Apps Amid Surge in Misuse

Meta has taken legal action against Joy Timeline HK Limited, a Hong Kong-based company behind AI-powered “nudify” apps, in a bid to halt the spread of unethical content generated using artificial intelligence. These apps are designed to create fake, sexually explicit images of individuals—often without their knowledge or consent—by digitally removing clothing from photos.

The lawsuit, filed by Meta, is part of the company’s broader campaign to combat the abuse of generative AI, particularly tools that violate privacy and promote harmful or exploitative behavior. Meta stated that Joy Timeline’s CrushAI app and others like it were using its platforms—Facebook and Instagram—to advertise such services, which directly violate Meta’s community standards and advertising policies.

In its complaint, Meta accuses the company of leveraging deceptive practices and targeting users through misleading advertisements, posing significant risks to individuals’ privacy and dignity. The tech giant emphasized that it is not only removing the offending content and ads but also pursuing legal action to set a precedent for responsible AI usage.

The rise of nudify apps has sparked growing concern worldwide, with AI-generated deepfake content



becoming increasingly realistic and accessible. Lawmakers and tech leaders have voiced alarm about the psychological and reputational damage caused by such tools, especially when used to target women and minors.

Meta’s move reflects an increasing urgency among major platforms to implement stronger safeguards against AI misuse. The company also called for collaboration across the tech industry to combat the harmful use of generative technologies and to hold developers accountable.

This lawsuit may mark a turning point in how companies approach the legal and ethical responsibilities surrounding AI, as the lines between innovation and exploitation continue to blur.

Air India Crash: Netizens Spot Possible RAT Deployment as Investigation Probes What Went Wrong

The tragic crash of Air India Flight AI171, en route from Ahmedabad to London, has left the world in mourning after all 241 passengers on board were confirmed dead. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner went down shortly after takeoff, marking the first fatal accident involving this aircraft model and triggering an urgent investigation into what caused the disaster.



While authorities continue to examine the aircraft’s black box, theories are swirling online as netizens and experts alike analyze video footage of the crash. A prominent theory gaining traction involves the suspected deployment of the RAT (Ram Air Turbine) — a small emergency turbine that activates automatically in case of critical system failures.

A YouTube analysis by Captain Steve Scheibner, a former US Navy pilot and aviation analyst, has fueled the RAT theory. Initially skeptical of an engine failure due to the absence of smoke, fire, or sparks, Scheibner revised his stance after reviewing new visual and audio cues from crash footage.

On the Boeing 787, the RAT deploys in three extreme situations: electrical system failure, hydraulic system failure, or dual engine failure. Scheibner now

strongly leans toward the dual engine failure theory, stating, “The RAT’s presence points to a catastrophic systems breakdown — most likely both engines failed.”

He also previously considered other possibilities, including fuel contamination, bird strike, or incorrect flap settings, but now cites multiple indicators that suggest a more serious emergency took place.

As social media debates intensify, officials urge patience, emphasizing that the final cause will only be determined through black box data and a detailed technical investigation. Meanwhile, Air India and aviation authorities have yet to officially comment on the RAT theory.

The crash has sparked renewed focus on air safety, and the world waits for clarity on what went wrong aboard Flight AI171.

Father’s Day Cake Listed for Rs 5 Lakh Sparks Internet Frenzy: Glitch or Gourmet?

As Father’s Day turned into an online sensation when a food delivery platform seemingly priced a 500-gram Hazelnut Chocolate Cake at an eye-watering Rs 5 lakh. The now-viral screenshot, which made rounds on social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and Reddit, left users stunned and amused. While most cakes on the same page were priced normally—such as a Butterscotch Cake at Rs 400 and a Red Velvet Cake at Rs 599—the Hazelnut Chocolate Cake stood out for its absurd cost. Many netizens believe the pricing was either a typo or a technical glitch, but that didn’t stop a flurry of hilarious online reactions. One user joked, “Do not complain. At least they gave you 40% off!” Another quipped, “For Rs 5 lakh, I could buy an entire bakery in my village!” Social media was flooded with comparisons—ranging from buying iPhones to starting a business—instead of



splurging on one small dessert. Some users rationalized it as a clear system error, while others couldn’t help but poke fun at the situation, even pointing out that the delivery charge listed alongside was Rs 8000+. The listing has since become a humorous case study in e-commerce mishaps, reminding users and developers alike how a simple error can take the internet by storm. Whether it was a test item, a backend mistake, or someone having a bit of fun, the Rs 5 lakh cake has certainly earned its moment of viral fame—just not for its flavor. As Father’s Day approaches, this odd pricing saga proves once again that the internet never misses a crumb of absurdity.

Believe It or Not: This French Restaurant Charges ₹1,500 Fine for No-Shows and Surprise Guests

A French restaurant’s strict new policy is stirring debate online after the owner announced fines for customers who don’t show up as expected. L’îlot, a cozy 20-seat restaurant in Amboise, is run by chef and owner Olivier Vincent, who recently introduced a ₹1,500 (15 euros) fine for any guest who arrives with a different number of people than stated in their reservation.

Vincent explained that this policy came about due to repeated frustrations caused by no-shows and unexpected extra guests turning up without prior notice. Such changes disrupt the restaurant’s smooth operation, seating arrangements, and food preparation, which are all carefully planned for each reservation.

In a Facebook post, Olivier Vincent made it clear that any change in party size without warning would result in a fine of €15 per missing or extra person. His caption read simply: “Without warning obviously.....”

Despite this strict stance, L’îlot en-



joys an impressive 4.7-star rating on Google, reflecting the high quality of its dining experience and the respect many customers have for the restaurant.

The fine aims to encourage responsibility and better communication from diners, helping the small restaurant avoid last-minute disruptions and losses. It also reflects a growing trend among popular eateries worldwide that face similar challenges with no-shows and unpredictable guest numbers.

While some patrons have supported the decision as fair and necessary, others have criticized it as too harsh. Still, Vincent remains firm, emphasizing that the policy ensures the restaurant can continue to provide excellent service to all guests without the stress of unexpected changes.

In a world where dining spots are in high demand, especially intimate ones like L’îlot, clear communication and respect for bookings have become essential — and this French chef is making sure his guests understand that.

APL Season-4 Begins August 8...

All 25 matches to be held in Vizag; auction on July 14 at Radisson Blu

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Andhra Premier League (APL) Season-4 is set to begin on August 8, and this edition promises to be grander and more competitive than ever before, said APL Governing Council Chairman Sujay Krishna Ranga Rao and ACA Secretary, Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish Babu during a press conference at the ACA-VDCA International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. Calling it a major opportunity for cricket players from rural and remote areas, the Chairman emphasized that the APL is becoming a powerful platform for unearthing grassroots talent, with players even making the leap from APL to national and IPL levels. This year's tournament will see 25 matches—all hosted at Vizag Stadium, with 21 league games and 4 playoffs. The player auction will be conducted on July 14 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, where 520 players, classified into four grades, will go under the hammer 21 in Grade A, 112 in Grade B, 378 in Grade C and 9 players with national and IPL experience are expected to feature in the top tier. The number of participating franchises has increased from 6 to 7, and the franchise fee has risen from ₹75 lakh to ₹2 crore, reflecting the growing stature of the tournament. In comparison to APL-3, which hosted 15 matches and 430 players, APL-4 marks a significant scale-up. "The same professional team that managed IPL matches will organize APL-4," said ACA Secretary



Sana Satish Babu. He added that the tournament will be telecast live on a prominent channel, increasing visibility for upcoming players. He also revealed that new award categories will be introduced to encourage and reward young talent. The ACA is also preparing to host 5 ICC Women's World Cup matches, the India vs South Africa ODI in December, and the India vs New Zealand T20 in January, all at the Vizag Stadium. Given the positive feedback from IPL players who competed in Vizag this March, more IPL matches are likely to be allotted to the city. In another major announcement, ACA will soon launch the Women's T20 League, funded entirely by ACA, to boost opportunities for women cricketers in Andhra Pradesh. The league's schedule will be released shortly. "We are working towards sending 15 players from ACA to IPL next year," said Satish Babu, noting that 7 to 8 ACA players have already featured in this year's IPL. He reiterated that ACA is committed to nurturing talent by providing top-class infrastructure, exposure, and tournaments. The event was also attended by ACA Vice President P. Venkata Rama Prashanth, Treasurer Dandamudi Srinivasa Rao, Councilor Dantu Gouru Vishnu Tej, and other officials.

Neeraj Chopra vs Arshad Nadeem: Javelin Titans Set for High-Stakes Clash in Poland on August 16



An electrifying showdown awaits javelin Afans as Olympic champions Neeraj Chopra and Arshad Nadeem gear up for a much-anticipated face-off at the Diamond League in Silesia, Poland, on August 16. This will mark their first meeting since the Paris Olympics on August 8, 2024, where Nadeem stunned the world with a gold-winning 92.97m throw, surpassing Chopra's silver-winning 89.45m effort. The upcoming clash will be a headline event at the Silesia Diamond League, with fans eagerly anticipating a thrilling contest between the two South Asian giants of javelin. "Neeraj Chopra will face Arshad Nadeem. The Indian-Pakistani battle awaiting the Polish fans will be the first opportunity for revenge after the Paris Olympics," the organisers announced. Chopra, now 27, made headlines earlier this year when he breached the 90m mark for the first time with a throw of 90.23m at the Doha

Diamond League in May. Despite finishing second in that event, his consistency this season has been remarkable, participating in multiple top-tier competitions including Chorzow, Ostrava, and his own NC Classic in Bengaluru. Under the guidance of legendary coach Jan Zelezny, Chopra has secured wins at the Paris Diamond League, Ostrava Golden Spike, and the NC Classic, showing strong form ahead of the World Championships in Tokyo this September. Nadeem, now 28, has competed sparingly in 2025, with a notable gold medal performance at the Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea, with a throw of 86.40m. Despite declining an invite to the NC Classic, his decision to face Chopra in Poland is seen as a bold move, reigniting one of the most compelling rivalries in athletics. All eyes will be on Silesia as these two titans prepare to battle it out once again.



Dominant Display: Swiatek Skates Through First Set in Wimbledon Final

Iga Swiatek has taken a commanding lead over Amanda Anisimova in the women's singles final at Wimbledon 2025. The match, unfolding on Centre Court, has kicked off with Swiatek asserting overwhelming dominance — she cleanly swept the opening set 6-0. The scoreline tells the story starkly: Anisimova, competing in her first Grand Slam final, found herself completely overwhelmed. The American struggled to find any rhythm on Swiatek's serve, return game, or baseline aggression. With each passing game, Swiatek's control tightened, turning the first set into

a one-sided affair with little resistance from Anisimova. Swiatek, the reigning world No. 1 and a two-time Grand Slam champion, was imperious. Her deep, spinning groundstrokes and precise serve returns kept the pressure on. She broke Anisimova's serve early, then never let up — blending attacking flair with defensive solidity. Amanda tested a few shots but couldn't string together enough consecutive points to build momentum. Anisimova, 22, fresh off a strong run to her debut final, showed flashes of her trademark power. But today's challenge

is at an even higher level — Swiatek's unwavering consistency, tactical acumen, and vast experience on the biggest stages proved too much. With the first set in the books and Swiatek orders of dominance, Anisimova will need a dramatic shift in strategy and confidence to turn things around. The heat is rising on Centre Court as Swiatek seeks her first Wimbledon crown, adding a third Grand Slam title to her resume. Stay tuned for more updates as this high-stakes showdown unfolds — will Anisimova respond with grit, or will Swiatek cement her authority in straight sets?

Pakistan Pulls Out of Hockey Tournaments in India Over Security Concerns

Pakistan will not send its national hockey teams to India for upcoming international tournaments, citing security concerns in the wake of recent regional tensions, government sources confirmed on Saturday. The decision casts serious doubt over Pakistan's participation in key events, including next year's Men's Hockey World Cup. According to sources in Pakistan's Sports Ministry, the team will not participate in the Men's Asia Cup scheduled to be held in India in August-September 2025. "After the recent war, the security and safety of our hockey players will be at risk," said an unnamed official, explaining the government's stance. The withdrawal extends to the Junior Hockey World Cup, which is also set to be hosted by India in November this year. The decision is a significant blow to Pakistan's already struggling hockey program, which has seen a steep decline in recent years. Once a global powerhouse with three Olympic golds and four World Cup titles, Pakistan is now ranked 15th in the world. Missing out on the Asia Cup could mean that Pakistan fails to qualify for the 2026 Men's Hockey World Cup, set to be jointly hosted by the Netherlands and Belgium. A second government source confirmed the



decision to AFP, while Pakistan's Foreign Office has not issued an official statement. This is not the first instance of sport becoming a casualty of political tensions between India and Pakistan. Cricket, the most high-profile sport in both nations, has already been limited to neutral venues, with bilateral series on hold since 2012. Earlier this year, India declined to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, leading to the final being moved to Dubai. In a reciprocal move, Pakistan's women's cricket team will also not travel to India for the upcoming 2025 ODI World Cup and 2026 T20 World Cup, opting instead to play their matches in Sri Lanka. Pakistan's men's hockey team last visited India for the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy, where they finished fifth out of six teams.

India A Men's Hockey Team Defeats France 3-2, Registers Third Consecutive Win on Europe Tour

The India A Men's Hockey Team continued their winning momentum on their Europe tour by defeating France 3-2 in a closely contested match held at the Hockey Club Oranje-Rood in Eindhoven on Saturday. This victory marks their third consecutive win on the tour. India's performance was once again led by forward Aditya Arjun Lalghe, who scored twice — once from open play and once from a penalty corner. His sharp finishing in the attacking third gave India the early edge. Bobby Singh Dhami added the third goal for the visitors, further strengthening India's grip on the match. Despite a spirited fightback from France, who relied on Clement's double strike, India held firm to secure the narrow win. The match was filled with fast-paced action, with both teams creating several goal-scoring opportunities. However, it was the Indian side that showed more composure under pressure, especially in the final quarter. Coach Shivendra Singh expressed satisfaction with the team's performance. "The India A Men's Hockey Team has been working very hard behind the scenes in preparation for this tour. It is great to see things coming together on the field. We still have a few games left, and I'm confident the team will keep the momentum going," he said in



a press release issued by Hockey India. India A has now won all three of their matches on this European tour. The team will face France once again on Sunday, July 14, at 2:00 PM IST in Eindhoven. With five more matches remaining on the tour, the team will aim to maintain their unbeaten streak and continue building towards future international competitions.



Box Office Report: Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama Turns Out to Be a Disaster

Suhas, known for his unconventional roles and promising performances, returned to the big screen with Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama, following the recent release of his OTT project Uppu Kappurambu, which starred Keerthy Suresh. However, this latest theatrical outing has turned out to be a major disappointment both critically and commercially. Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama released on July 11, 2025, but failed to make an impact with either the critics or the audience. The film opened to overwhelmingly negative reviews, and the initial word of mouth was discouraging. As per trade reports, the movie has suffered from extremely low occupancy across the limited screens it was released in. Industry insiders now predict that the film will not survive beyond the weekend, with theater owners already planning to replace it with other releases. Audience turn-



out has been dismal, and the overall reception suggests a complete rejection from moviegoers. One of the major criticisms has been Suhas's lackluster performance. Viewers noted that the actor appeared disinterested and failed to carry the emotional weight of the film. Despite some initial curiosity around the presence of yesteryear actress Anita, her role could not elevate the film, which was largely criticized for its lack of emotional connection and depth. The film, marketed as a family drama, seems to have missed the mark entirely. With weak storytelling, underwhelming performances, and poor audience engagement, Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama is unfortunately shaping up to be one of the biggest flops in Suhas's career. Unless a dramatic turnaround happens—which seems unlikely—the film is expected to wrap up its theatrical run in just a few days.





Shiva Rajkumar's First Look from Peddi Unveiled: Fierce and Commanding

significantly raises the excitement levels. His role, described as pivotal, appears to be rooted in dominance and gravitas—traits the actor portrays with effortless ease. The first look leaves a strong impression, hinting at a character who is both feared and respected.

Peddi is being produced on a grand scale by Venkata Satish Kilaru and features a powerful musical score by the Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman. The makers have reaffirmed that the film is scheduled for a theatrical release on March 27, 2026, coinciding with Ram Charan's birthday. Ram Charan, who reportedly plays a never-seen-before rustic role, and Shiva Rajkumar sharing screen space is a thrilling combination for fans across languages. With such strong creative forces behind the project, Peddi is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated films in Indian cinema. Stay tuned as more character reveals and updates are expected in the coming weeks.

Kuberaa to Stream on Amazon Prime from July 18 – No Deleted Scenes in OTT Version

After enjoying a successful theatrical run, Sekhar Kammula's critically acclaimed blockbuster Kuberaa is now gearing up for its digital premiere. The much-anticipated film is set to stream on Amazon Prime Video starting July 18, 2025. Starring powerhouse performers Dhanush, Nagarjuna, and Rashmika Mandanna, Kuberaa earned praise for its emotionally charged storytelling, powerful performances, and gripping screenplay. In the lead-up to its OTT release, rumors began circulating that the digital version of Kuberaa might include deleted scenes that were not part of the theatrical cut. However, sources close to the production have now confirmed that no such additions will be made. The version releasing on Amazon Prime will be identical to the one shown in theaters, with no extended or unseen footage included. This confirmation puts to rest speculations that had sparked excitement among fans eager for more content. While some viewers were hoping to explore additional



layers of the narrative through deleted scenes, others appreciate the decision to preserve the film's original structure and pacing, which contributed to its box office success. Kuberaa marks yet another win for director Sekhar Kammula, who is known for his ability to blend strong character development with socially relevant themes. The film's music, composed by Devi Sri Prasad (DSP), also played a significant role in elevating its emotional impact. With its digital release on the horizon, it remains to be seen how Kuberaa performs in the OTT space. Given its strong theatrical reception and star-studded cast, expectations are high that the film will garner equal love from the streaming audience. Fans can revisit the theatrical experience from the comfort of their homes starting July 18.

Rashmika Mandanna to Play a Negative Role in Allu Arjun–Atlee Film?

The buzz in the industry is growing louder — Rashmika Mandanna may be stepping into uncharted territory with a negative role in the upcoming Allu Arjun–Atlee film. While the project is already drawing massive attention due to its stellar lineup and high-profile collaboration, Rashmika's rumored involvement has added a fresh layer of intrigue. This yet-untitled film, directed by Atlee, is shaping up to be a pan-India spectacle. With Deepika Padukone already confirmed as part of the ensemble, the addition of Rashmika Mandanna, especially in a villainous role, could mark a major turning point in her career. Rashmika, widely known for her bubbly and girl-next-door roles in films like Geetha Govindam and Pushpa, has built a strong fan base across languages. If the rumors prove true, this would be her first time portraying a character with grey shades, showing her range and willingness to break typecasting.

While there's been no official confirmation from the team, the mere possibility has fans and cinephiles buzzing with excitement. Social media is already abuzz with speculation about her character and how she might face off against Allu Arjun on screen. Many believe that this bold move could help Rashmika evolve as a versatile performer and open doors to more layered roles in the future. Atlee, known for creating strong, stylized antagonists, might be crafting a powerful negative role that challenges the norms of typical female characters in Indian cinema. If Rashmika is indeed on board, her transformation into an antagonist could be one of the film's biggest highlights. More details about the project are expected soon, and fans eagerly await an official announcement. Until then, the speculation continues to keep the excitement levels high.