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# AP Shines in Swachh Survekshan 2025

President Murmu Presents National Cleanliness Awards



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a moment of immense pride for Andhra Pradesh, five municipal corporations from the state have received national recognition for their outstanding performance in urban cleanliness under the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 initiative. The prestigious awards were presented by Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu, at a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Dr. P. Narayana, received the awards along with senior officials and civic body representatives.

## Swachh Super League Awards for Top Cities

Andhra Pradesh stood out as one of the leading performers across the country with three of its cities securing Swachh Super League Awards—an honour reserved for cities that have consistently ranked among the top 20 nationally for three consecutive years.

• **Vijayawada: Honoured in the**



- category of cities with a population above 10 lakh**
- **Guntur: Recognized among cities with population between 3 to 10 lakh**
  - **Tirupati: Selected in the 50,000 to 3 lakh population category**

These awards place Andhra Pradesh in the league of cleanest cities in India, alongside consistent national performers like Indore, Navi Mumbai, and Surat.

## Ministerial-Level Recognition for GVMC and Rajahmundry

Further highlighting the state's sanitation excellence, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) secured 1st place under the Ministerial Special Category for Safai Mitra

Surakshit Shehar, a category that recognizes cities ensuring safety for sanitation workers. Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation also earned state-level recognition in the ministerial awards segment.

## Vision and Support from Leadership

Dr. Narayana attributed this success to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's strong focus on cleanliness and continuous monitoring of municipal operations. He emphasized the government's commitment to making Andhra Pradesh a "dump-yard-free" state and lauded municipal staff and sanitation workers for their efforts. The Minister urged all urban local bodies to work with renewed spirit and healthy competition to win more national accolades in future editions of Swachh Survekshan.



# Chandrababu Flags Off HNSS Water Flow, Ends Rayalaseema's Wait

TPN Correspondent | Nandyal

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the release of water from the Handri-Neva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) Phase-1 main canal on Thursday, marking a major milestone in addressing irrigation and drinking water needs in the Rayalaseema region. The inaugural event was held at the Malyala Pumping Station in Nandikotkur mandal of Nandyal district, where the Chief Minister switched on two motors to commence the pumping of Krishna river water from the Srisailem backwaters.

Ministers Nimmala Ramanaidu, Payyavula Keshav, BC Janardhan Reddy, and MP Baireddy Shabari were present at the ceremony. Sharing his joy on social media, the Chief Minister stated, "It is a moment of immense satisfaction to provide water to Rayalaseema farmers. We've expedited the expansion works of the HNSS main canal, increasing its capacity from 2,200 to 3,850 cusecs. This will bring significant relief to the region."

The Phase-1 expansion, completed in record time, ensures more than 40 TMC of water is now available to tackle drinking and irrigation

needs in Rayalaseema. Water will be pumped from Malyala in Nandyal to Jeedipalli Reservoir in Anantapur district. The project aims to benefit over 6 lakh acres and provide safe drinking water to 33 lakh people across the four Rayalaseema districts.

The Chief Minister also revealed that the state has spent ₹3,890 crore on this project. He praised the efforts of the coalition government for completing the works within 100 days of assuming office, stating it was a significant step toward solving Rayalaseema's long-standing water woes. Chandrababu emphasized that water brings prosperity. "By delivering water to every acre, we can turn the region into a land of abundance," he said, thanking all officials and stakeholders who contributed to the project's swift completion. Phase-2 works are also planned to commence shortly, he added.

Officials noted that the release of water from HNSS Phase-1 will help fill reservoirs like Gollapalli, Marala, and Cherlopalli, and support water diversion to the Pennar-Ahobilam Balancing Reservoir from Jeedipalli. The project is expected to be a game-changer for Rayalaseema's irrigation and water security landscape.



# Gandikota Murder Mystery..

TPN | Nagaraju

Kadapa: The sensational murder case of an intermediate student at Gandikota in Kadapa district has taken a dramatic twist. What initially appeared to be a mysterious killing is now showing signs of being a possible honour killing, according to emerging leads. The student, who skipped college to visit the Gandikota tourist spot with her boyfriend Lokesh, was found dead the next morning in the same area. Following this, Lokesh was taken into custody and questioned by the police. According to Lokesh, the girl's relatives allegedly arrived at Gandikota and forcibly took her away. He claims to have returned alone after the incident. However, medical reports suggest that the girl was murdered sometime after midnight — raising serious doubts about the timeline and Lokesh's version. Importantly, forensic reports ruled out sexual assault, confirming that neither Lokesh nor others had committed any such act.

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# They Offered ₹30 Lakh to Stay Silent...



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The murder of Jana Sena Party Kallahasti in-charge Kota Vinutha has taken a new turn, with the victim's close aide Rayudu's younger sister, Keerthana, coming forward seeking

protection and justice. In an emotional plea at the Kallahasti DSP office on Thursday, Keerthana claimed that her family is under serious threat and urged police officials to provide security. Keerthana alleged that they were offered ₹30 lakh to remain si-

lent about her brother Srinivasulu alias Rayudu's death but refused to take it. "They tried to buy our silence. We didn't accept the money. Now our lives are in danger," she told the DSP. She dismissed the rumours circulating on social media about an illicit relationship between her brother and Kota Vinutha, calling them baseless and defamatory. "My brother was not that kind of person. These allegations are false, and we request action against those spreading such lies," she said. In a direct appeal to Jana Sena Party Chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Keerthana questioned his silence on the matter. "Why is Pawan Kalyan not speaking on this issue? He reacts to small matters, but now he's silent. Please give us a chance to meet him and tell the truth," she appealed.

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# "Rappa Rappa" Controversy..

TPN | Purna Chandra

A fiery dialogue from the upcoming film Pushpa-2 — "Rappa Rappa" — has now become the hottest phrase in Andhra Pradesh politics. But it's not being used to discuss development or governance. Instead, it's sparking debate over political rhetoric and the limits of free speech. During his recent visit to Rentapalla in Palnadu district, former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was seen endorsing a placard carried by a supporter that read: "Rappa Rappa narukutham" (we'll hack them down). Cases were reportedly filed against the supporter. But what raised eyebrows

further was Jagan himself later using the same phrase in two or three public interactions. In a press conference held Wednesday, Jagan gave a strong warning to the TDP and its supporters, reiterating the "Rappa Rappa" line. He questioned why dialogues popular in movies can't be used in real life. "If we like the line in films, why not in reality?" he asked, even questioning why the censor board allows such content if it's problematic elsewhere. While this line of reasoning may find favor with fans, legal and political analysts caution otherwise.

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# People Need Projects, Not Publicity: Ambati

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former Minister and senior YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu came down heavily on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the ongoing foundation ceremonies for irrigation projects in Rayalaseema are nothing more than political drama. Addressing a public meeting near Lavameshwaram, Ambati said Naidu is making grand announcements without any actual work on the ground.

## "No Progress in 14 Years"

Ambati questioned why, despite holding power for over a decade, Chandrababu Naidu failed to deliver on critical irrigation needs. He highlighted the contradiction in Naidu's claim to lift water from Lavameshwaram (at 42 TMC level) to Banakacharla (at 41 TMC), calling it technically and practically flawed. "Why did he not even initiate proper groundwork during his previous tenure?" he asked, adding that Naidu is now simply recycling old promises to mislead voters

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## "Rappa Rappa" Controversy..

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Leaders holding influential positions — especially current or former Chief Ministers — are expected to maintain restraint in public remarks. The Indian Penal Code, and now the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, clearly outlines boundaries for speech. Section 351(2) of the BNS criminalizes threats made with the intent to cause harm or fear. Punishment can include up to seven years of imprisonment, a fine, or both. Additionally, Section 152 addresses incitement of violence that disrupts peace or national integrity, making such statements even more serious. So while the dialogue may light up the screen, using it in real-life political discourse — especially with a violent undertone — is legally and ethically problematic. Analysts argue that all leaders, whether from YSRCP, TDP, or Jana Sena, must think before they speak. Many netizens felt that instead of defending the “Rappa Rappa” line, Jagan could have condemned it — setting a more responsible example for political conduct.

## People Need Projects...

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### Real Estate Over Rayalaseema?

Ambati accused the TDP government of giving priority to Amaravati real estate while neglecting key backward regions like Yalamanchili. “Naidu’s focus is not on resolving drinking water issues or lift irrigation but on staging events and promoting hype,” he said. He also questioned the rationale behind planning a massive Rs 1.6 lakh crore project when feasibility studies indicate the current lift requirement is just Rs 0.9 lakh crore.

### Selective Silence on Dalit Atrocities

Taking a sharp dig at the CM’s selective outrage, Ambati asked why Naidu remains silent on SC/ST atrocities, Dalit murders, and the Guntur rape incident. He accused the TDP of ignoring social justice and failing to provide protection to the marginalized.

### Public Must Remain Alert

Ambati warned the public not to fall for Naidu’s “foundation-stone theatrics.” He alleged that the CM is reappearing before elections with staged events and false claims. “People should demand real progress, not just stage shows,” he said, urging voters to question the TDP’s track record and seek genuine solutions.

## Gandikota Murder Mystery..

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This adds further weight to the theory that the girl was not killed immediately after reaching Gandikota, but later — possibly after being confronted by family. Kadapa SP Ashok Kumar confirmed that police are now actively investigating the case under the angle of honour killing. He also said that crucial evidence, including the girl being found partially undressed in the bushes, is being thoroughly examined. Key forensic clues have been collected, and further details will be released soon. Despite the intensified investigation, the case remains unsolved since the incident on July 14. Lack of solid evidence has forced the police to revisit the crime scene. SP Ashok Kumar has been stationed in Jammalamadugu for three days, leading the probe. Police have started re-interrogating all suspects from the beginning. Technical teams are scanning CCTV footage from the area again. Though officials hinted at a breakthrough on Wednesday, confirmation is still pending. Lokesh is being questioned again, and guest house owners at Gandikota who rent private rooms are also under the scanner.

## Home Minister Anitha Lays Foundation for Police Academy



TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Krishna District: The foundation stone for Andhra Pradesh’s most advanced police training centre was ceremoniously laid in Krishna district thursday. State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha inaugurated the event, marking a significant milestone for the state’s police infrastructure. The facility is coming up across 46 acres of land, aimed at becoming a model training hub. The ceremony witnessed the participation of Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra, APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana, Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao, Eluru Range IGP GVG Ashok Kumar (IPS), Krishna SP R. Gangadhara Rao (IPS), MLAs Venigandla Ramu, Varla Ku-

mar Raja, Muda Chairman Matta Prasad, AP Warehousing Corporation Chairman Ravi Venkateswara Rao, and other public representatives and officials. Home Minister Anitha said that Krishna district, known for its cultural legacy, will now host a state-of-the-art training centre that not only focuses on general police training but also prepares officers to tackle rising cybercrime. The new centre replaces the old one taken over for port development and will set a benchmark in training quality. She added that under the TDP-led government’s focus on public safety, 1 lakh CCTV cameras have been installed across the state. Advanced technologies such as drone surveillance are being used to monitor public spaces and prevent

crimes like drug use and harassment. Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra highlighted the need to strengthen marine policing to prevent smuggling along coastal areas. He stressed on providing separate training facilities for men and women. IGP Ashok Kumar praised the initiative, stating it would bridge the gap in quality training infrastructure. He confirmed that the new facility will include latest surveillance tools and cybercrime investigation modules. SP R. Gangadhara Rao said the centre will regularly conduct physical and mental skill development sessions to motivate personnel. He affirmed that construction works will proceed swiftly to make the centre operational at the earliest.

## Coalition Harassing Employees: YSRCP



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Tadepalli: YSRCP has taken strong objection to remarks against former Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s pointed questions, and instead of giving answers, the coalition government and police officers’ association have been taking sides, while unrest among the employees is growing with every passing day.

Speaking to media here on Thursday, YSRCP Employees and Pensioners State Wing President, Nalamaru Chandra Sekhar Reddy said the police officers’ association condemning YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s remarks on numerous officers be-

ing harassed without postings has merit, as right from the rank of DGP to constable, many officers are kept waiting under VR.

Brushing aside the meek defence of the association, he said those officers who served the state are suddenly being declared inefficient after the change of government, which only shows the vindictive nature of the coalition. Senior officers like PSR Anjaneyulu, PV Sunil Kumar, Sanjay, Vishal Gunni, Kranti Rana Tata and others being ill-treated by the government only makes their intentions clear, and it wants the police force to work one-sided, which was not the case when YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

was in office.

Registration of cases has also been one-sided, and in the recent attack on the residence of Prasanna Kumar Reddy, it was clear as the complaint was taken only after TDP had lodged its complaint. The same is happening elsewhere.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has raised the issue of the attack on a woman BC leader and ZP Chairperson where police bias was crystal clear.

It has been the nature of Chandrababu Naidu to be anti-employee since long. He failed to give the interim relief, DAS are due, leave encashment was not given even to police, and medical bills are pending, which shows his apathy towards employees.

Chandrababu went back on all his poll promises. There is no job creation, and no relief to employees has been announced despite so many cabinet meetings. Employees are growing restless. There is no job creation, no unemployment stipend, and anganwadi workers are in distress while TDP leaders are minting money in the name of transfers, and agricultural land is being given away on a platter.

## Don’t Seize Phones and Gadgets for Social Media Posts: SC

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday came down heavily on the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for seizing the phone and electronic gadgets of Haryana-based Professor Alikhan Mahmudabad, stating that such actions are unnecessary when the case is related only to his social media posts.

Expressing displeasure, the apex court asked, “Why have you taken his devices when the investigation is about what he posted online? All

you have to do is examine his posts — the language used, the manner of expression, and whether anything amounts to an offence under the FIR.”

The SIT had earlier seized Professor Alikhan’s electronic devices and sent them for forensic examination. However, the court found this action unjustified. “You don’t need his phone or gadgets to investigate social media content that’s already in the public domain,” the bench remarked, adding that the SIT must explain the reason behind confis-



cating his personal devices. The court emphasized that investi-

## They Offered ₹30 Lakh to Stay Silent...

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Keerthana also said there is suspicion among locals about a possible role of the MLA in the case, though she did not name anyone specifically. “We don’t know for sure, but people are talking,” she added.

She stated that when they went to lodge a complaint, the police insisted on specific details before accepting it. “They told us they’ll register it only if we provide names. We want justice, but we also need protection to come forward,” she said.

With the case drawing political and public attention, her emotional plea is expected to raise more questions about the handling of the investigation and the silence of key political figures.



## Govt Appoints Chairmen for 66 AMCs Across AP

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh coalition government has taken a significant step in revamping the state’s agricultural market administration by finalizing the appointment of chairmen to 66 Agricultural Market Committees (AMCs). The move is seen as part of the government’s broader strategy to ensure effective leadership in rural agri-marketing and improve services for farmers. Of the total appointments, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) secured the lion’s share with 53 chairman posts, followed by Janasena Party with 9 and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with 4. The appointments were reportedly made in alignment with coalition strength and seat-sharing arrangements. The government also ensured fair representation of various social groups in the process. A total of 17 chairmen belong to Backward Classes (BCs), 10 from Scheduled Castes (SC), five from Scheduled Tribes (ST), and another five from minority communities. Officials said the decision was made keeping social balance and regional representation in mind. The coalition government stated that these appointments will help strengthen agricultural market operations across different parts of the state and provide an opportunity for grassroots leadership. By empowering these committees, the government hopes to enhance transparency, efficiency, and farmer-centric functioning in the agricultural sector.

# TDP activists faced hardships under YCP rule: Home Minister Anita

TPN | B Madhusudanrao

The first step in the administration of the Vemuru constituency was held on Thursday night in the villages of Chundur Mandal and Vedapalem villages. State Home Minister Wangalapudi Anita was the chief guest and participated in the launch of the heavenly NTR statue of the Vedapalem Telugu Desam Party. Veemoor Legislators Nakka Anandababu, State Home Minister Wangalapudi Anita and Krishna-Guntur district MLC Alapati Rajendra Prasad welcomed. When the alliance government came to power, there was a massive rally from Dundipalem to Vettapalem as part of the first step in the governance. Veemuru constituency Chundur



Mandal, Penukurupadu, went to the house in the village of Vedapalem, and explained to the public the development of the

village in a year. In the last YCP government, the people were suffering from a lot of difficulty and reminded them that they

had to live without freedom. Jagannathan Reddy is still trying to maintain the demon rule. Home Minister Anita said that the illegal cases filed against Telugu Desam Party activists are remembered and that the YCP leaders are committing murders and committing murders. Chief Minister Jagannathan Reddy has called for the people to chase the YCP leaders.

The event was held under the supervision of TDP member Nakka Anand Babu and Allapati Rajendra Prasad. The two said that it was the responsibility of the party workers to take the first step in the administration of the government when the alliance government came to the authorities and completed the year.

## Jagan's Psychos Plotting Chaos in AP: Buddha Venkanna

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Vijayawada: TDP leader Buddha Venkanna launched a scathing attack on YSRCP leaders, accusing them of plotting unrest in Andhra Pradesh under Jagannathan Reddy's direction. Addressing media in Vijayawada, he alleged that Jagan is in constant contact with "psycho leaders" from Krishna district — Perni Nani, Kodali Nani, Valabhaneni Vamsi, and Jogi Ramesh — to provoke violence across the state. He stated that due to Chandrababu Naidu's efforts, many investors are regaining trust in AP and are willing to set up industries. "But YSRCP's cheap politics and conspiracies are threatening the law-and-order environment, which could drive away these investors," he warned. Venkanna strongly criticized Perni Nani, calling him "a disloyal dog," and questioned his moral right to speak about others. "Weren't you the one who once praised Chandrababu for protecting your wife? Now you shamelessly attack him on Jagan's orders," he said. He accused YSRCP leaders of looting crores through illegal commissions and extortion from the public. He warned them against using derogatory language against Chandrababu or Lokesh, saying TDP cadres are ready to confront any such insult with equal intensity. "Calling Chandrababu an old man won't hide your incompetence. Do any of you have the guts to work like him?" he asked. He also questioned Jagan's fake concern for BCs, highlighting the silence after attacks on BC leaders like himself and the murder of Chandrayya. Venkanna concluded by warning that any move to disrupt peace or block investments will not be tolerated. "If Jagan and his gang continue this path, we are ready to give a fitting reply — both legally and politically," he said.

## Golden Chance for Millers to Supply 10% Broken Rice: Nadendla



TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Vijayawada: Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has urged rice millers in Andhra Pradesh to seize the golden opportunity of supplying Custom Milled Rice (CMR) with up to 10% broken rice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) under a central scheme. In a high-level meeting with rice millers' representatives held at the Civil Supplies Bhavan in Kanuru, Vijayawada, the Minister announced that the pilot project conducted in East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, and Konaseema districts was a success, with 10,000 metric tonnes of paddy procured in line with central norms. The Centre has decided to procure 50 lakh metric tonnes of rice from five states — Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha — permitting up to 10% broken rice. Minister Manohar appealed to Andhra Pradesh millers to formally submit their proposals expressing readiness to participate in this opportunity. He emphasized the importance of competing with other states and showcasing "Brand Andhra Pradesh" through quality and timely delivery. Millers were advised to ensure that the broken rice percentage does not exceed 10% and to follow all necessary testing, packing, and transport norms as per FCI requirements. The Minister instructed that preparations be completed well in advance and the rice be supplied within stipulated deadlines to avoid any delays. Timely, quality supply to the Centre would not only boost the state's reputation but also create more avenues for future procurement contracts. The Civil Supplies Department stressed coordinated efforts between officials and rice millers to ensure a smooth supply chain. The meeting was attended by Civil Supplies Corporation Commissioner Saurabh Gaur IAS, Managing Director Manaveer Jelani IAS, senior officials, and rice miller representatives.

## Minister Parthasaradhi Slams Jagan for Misleading on Welfare Schemes



TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Bapatla District In-charge Minister Kolusu Parthasaradhi strongly condemned YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagannathan Reddy's remarks against the ruling coalition, accusing him of launching a false campaign against the government's developmental and welfare initiatives. Speaking at a wide-ranging meeting of coalition leaders and party workers in Chirala, the Minister said Jagan's statements are baseless and aimed at misleading the public. The event saw the participation of Bapatla MP Tanneti Krishna Prasad and Chirala MLA Kondayya, along with a large gathering of alliance cadre. The Minister stated that after five years of "destructive, corrupt, and misgoverned" rule under the YSRCP, the new coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is committed to putting the state back on the path of progress. He accused Jagan of deliberately creating unrest and fear among the people by spreading misinformation. "No other leader in democratic history has acted as destructively as Jagannathan Reddy. He continues to provoke the public and destabilize the state through lies and aggressive behavior," said Parthasaradhi. Highlighting the coalition's early steps in development and welfare, the Minister appealed to the public to recognize the efforts being made and support the alliance. He said that while the government is focused on rebuilding and serving all sections of society, the opposition is trying to stall this momentum through negative tactics. "People have started realizing Jagan's true character. We urge every citizen to stand by the coalition for a better and more prosperous Andhra Pradesh," the Minister concluded.

## Banakacharla Will Push AP into Darkness: BCY Chief



TPN Correspondent | Ambedkar Konaseema District

BCY party chief Bode Ramachandra Yadav launched a scathing attack on Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of promoting the ₹82,000 crore Banakacharla project for kickbacks rather than public benefit. Speaking at a BC community meeting in Ravulapalem, Yadav questioned the urgency behind Banakacharla when several major projects like Polavaram, Veligonda, Galeru-Nagari, and Handri-Neeva remain incomplete. Yadav warned that the Banakacharla project would push Andhra Pradesh into darkness, requiring 4,100 MW of power for lift irrigation — equivalent to four Polavaram-scale plants. He asked how Naidu plans to arrange such power when the state already faces electricity shortages. He also slammed the coalition government for failing all sections in its first year and ridiculed Y.S. Jagannathan Reddy for avoiding real issues as opposition leader. "Instead of questioning governance failures, Jagan is busy with movie dialogues," he said. Yadav demanded clarity on the promised BC Protection Law, warning of intensified protests if legislation isn't introduced within a month. "If coalition leaders and BC ministers remain silent, we'll show what BCs are capable of," he warned, adding that both TDP and YSRCP have failed to protect people's interests.



## Stop Banakacharla, Save Polavaram: Sharmila

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Rajahmundry: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President YS Sharmila launched a scathing attack on the state's coalition government, accusing Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of prioritizing the Banakacharla link project over the crucial Polavaram project for vested interests and kickbacks. Speaking to the media, Sharmila said, "Are they trying to bury Polavaram and push Banakacharla just for corruption? Everyone—engineers, experts, even the Polavaram Project Authority—opposes the Banakacharla link, yet the CM is obsessed with it." She said there's no clarity on which water source is being tapped for the link and demanded transparency. Sharmila accused both TDP and YSRCP of failing the people. "For five years, Jagannathan Reddy ignored Polavaram, and in 2022, his government reduced the dam height to 41.15 meters. Now he cries foul? This is pure hypocrisy," she said. She questioned why, despite being YSR's son, Jagan couldn't move even a handful of soil on the iconic Polavaram project. Citing data, Sharmila claimed that nearly 39 irrigation projects launched under YSR's Jalayagnam are pending. "If ₹40,000 crore is allocated, we can irrigate 50 lakh acres and provide drinking water to a crore people," she added. She demanded that Banakacharla plans be immediately scrapped and the Polavaram project be executed as per the original DPR at a height of 45.7 meters. "Stop misleading people with new projects when older ones are still incomplete," she warned. Calling Jagan a "foster son of BJP," she accused him of mortgaging Andhra's interests to PM Modi. "This coalition has no sincerity. They're playing politics over water," Sharmila concluded, demanding immediate funding and completion of the Jalayagnam projects, starting with Polavaram.

# Minister Gottipati Highlights Agri Reforms at Kisan Mela

TPN | B Madhusudanarao

Palnadu: Andhra Pradesh Minister of Power, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, emphasized the state government's commitment to revitalizing the agriculture sector during his visit to Palnadu district on Thursday. The Minister, along with MP Lau, Gurajala MLA Yarapathineni Srinivasa Rao, and District Collector Arun Babu, took part in the "Kisan Mela Mahotsav," a farmers' exhibition held to promote modern agricultural practices. As part of the event, Minister Gottipati inspected the latest agricultural ma-

chinery, including high-tech drones, smart cultivation equipment, and automated farming tools. He lauded the advanced technologies, stating they could significantly improve productivity and reduce labor for farmers. In his address, the Minister strongly criticized the previous YSRCP government, accusing it of neglecting the farming community. "YCP leaders left central government schemes untouched and failed to even clear crop canals. There was no distribution of essential farming equipment under subsidy," he alleged. To reverse this trend, Minister Gottipati announced that the coalition government would provide additional support prices for mango and cocoa growers, helping them secure better returns. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to purchasing every leaf of tobacco produced in the state, ensuring that no farmer is left behind. "This coalition government stands with farmers. Our aim is not just to promise but to deliver — right from field equipment to marketing support," he added. Collector Arun Babu, MP Lau, and MLA Yarapathineni also echoed the government's resolve to empower the

farming sector. Farmers attending the event welcomed the demonstrations and the state's proactive approach to solving agrarian challenges.





## TDP scared to answer YS Jagan’s questions

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Tadepalli: Yerragondapalem MLA and YSR Congress Party State Official Spokesperson Tatiparthi Chandrasekhar slammed the TDP-led coalition for failing to respond to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's questions and instead resorting to personal attacks. Speaking at a press meet at the party central office in Tadepalli, Chandrasekhar said the opposition was undeterred by false cases and yellow media propaganda and would continue to question the government's failures.

He criticised the TDP government for twisting facts and spreading misinformation, especially after YS Jagan exposed their poor governance. He said that the ruling coalition had no answers to basic public issues raised by Jagan and was hiding behind personal abuse and diversion tactics. Chandrasekhar alleged that some Dalit MLAs were being used to attack Jagan, while the same government failed to deliver any welfare schemes to the community. Chandrasekhar lashed out at MLA Nakka Anand Babu for making baseless allegations against Jagan and questioned whether Anand Babu ever had the opportunity to dine with Chandrababu the way Dalit leaders dined with Jagan in their homes. He added that insulting one's own community to please political masters was disgraceful and exposed Anand Babu's character.

He also said that honest officers like IPS Siddharth Kaushal were being harassed for refusing to act illegally, showing the government's vindictive nature. Chandrasekhar made it clear that YSRCP would continue to fight on behalf of the people and would not fear cases or repression while exposing Chandrababu's failures, lies, and financial mismanagement.



## Historic First Council Meet Held in Kondapalli

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Vijayawada: A golden chapter unfolded in Kondapalli's history with the municipality conducting its first-ever council meeting on Thursday. Chairman Chennaboyina Chittibabu presided over the session, which saw enthusiastic participation and unanimous approval for development works worth ₹5.92 crore.

The newly built Kondapalli Municipal Council Hall was inaugurated by Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad. TDP State Secretary Jampala Seetharamayya and Jana Sena constituency in-charge Akkala Gandhi congratulated Chairman Chittibabu on the historic occasion. As it was the first meeting, agenda papers were presented as table agendas. Municipal employee Arlaya read out the agenda items while Chairman Chittibabu gave a brief explanation.

YSRCP councillor Mogili Daya raised a query about discussing specific points in the agenda. The chairman asked members for their opinion, and 19 councillors gave consent for immediate approval without further discussion. The session was then adjourned.

Earlier in the day, a huge rally was taken out from Ibrahimpatnam Ring Centre to the municipal office. MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad, Seetharamayya, and Chairman Chittibabu were welcomed with flower garlands and cheers from TDP supporters. The atmosphere was festive, with a large crowd participating in the celebrations.

Residents, supporters, and well-wishers honoured Chairman Chittibabu and his wife with shawls and garlands. Vice chairpersons Chuttukuduru Srinivas and Srilakshmi were also felicitated. The first council meet not only marked a governance milestone for Kondapalli but also reflected strong public enthusiasm and participation.

## Yonex-Sunrise Krishna District Badminton Championships 2025 Inaugurated

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Vijayawada: The Yonex-Sunrise Krishna District Badminton Championships 2025 was formally inaugurated thursday at Chennupati Ramakotaiah Indoor Stadium, Vijayawada. The event began on a grand note with Sri B. Srinivasarao, IAS, State Project Director (SPD), Samagra Shiksha Andhra Pradesh, serving as the Chief Guest and declaring the championship open.

In his inaugural address, Sri Srinivasarao emphasized the importance of sports in a student's life and encouraged youth to take inspiration from national icons like PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth. He assured continued support from the government towards improving sports infrastructure in government schools and providing sports kits to encourage student participation.

Several dignitaries participated in the event, including Dr. P. Ankamma Choudary, President of KDBA and Secretary of APBA, Arjuna Awardee and PV Sindhu's father Sri P.V. Ramana, Sri Srinivas Singh (AD, IT Dept), M.S.N.



Prasad, Secretary, KDBA, Parasa Srinivas, Vice President, and other members of the Krishna District Badminton Association. The day's events featured multiple matches in the Girls U11 and Boys U13 singles categories. In the Girls U11 second round and Boys U13 first round, intense competitions were held between players from various schools and academies across the district. The

results of these rounds were officially declared, and winners were presented with appreciation and will receive their prizes at the concluding ceremony. The championship aims to nurture local talent and promote a competitive spirit among budding badminton players. Organizers expect enthusiastic participation in the upcoming rounds over the next few days.

## Minister Satya Kumar Orders Crackdown on Food, Drug Adulteration

TPN B. Madhusudhanarao

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav directed immediate strengthening of surveillance mechanisms to curb the supply of adulterated food products and substandard medicines in the state. Reviewing the functioning of key departments under the Health Ministry for over two and a half hours on Thursday at the AP Secretariat in Velagapudi, the Minister emphasized the urgency of filling vacancies in the Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM) and Drugs Control Administration (DCA). He noted that these two critical enforcement bodies lacked reg-

ular heads, which has hindered their performance. He instructed the appointment of a Director General-level officer for DCA and the creation of a new Director post for IPM by restructuring vacant sanctioned posts. The Minister stressed the need for routine inspections to create fear among offenders and control adulteration effectively. He also called for a comprehensive recruitment plan to fill vacant posts across medical services to ensure better public health delivery. Minister Satya Kumar directed officials to expedite hybrid-model Universal Health Insurance implementation, PPP-mode medical colleges, and 100-bed specialty hospitals in every assembly constitu-

ency. He reiterated that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision includes integrating cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in healthcare delivery. He instructed that real-time health data collected from the field must be critically evaluated for quality and reliability and steps be taken to enhance their accuracy and usefulness. Health Secretary M.T. Krishna Babu and other senior officials were present during the review meeting. The Minister concluded by stating that efficient surveillance and digital transformation would pave the way for a robust healthcare system in Andhra Pradesh.

## MDU Association Demands Justice and Compensation

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh MDU Operators Association has strongly condemned the state government's action of removing 9,260 MDU operators, calling it vindictive and baseless. Association State President Kuducheti Kishore and Honorary President Rauthu Suryanarayana addressed a press conference in Vijayawada on Thursday, flanked by other state representatives.

They alleged that Minister Nara Nadendra Manohar's remarks labeling MDU operators as part of a "ration mafia" were deeply insulting and demoralizing. They also expressed distress over TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu's critical statements, saying both leaders were targeting them to gain political mileage.

The leaders claimed that over 18,500 families have been affected by the government's move, and accused the coalition of rendering around 3 lakh people jobless after promising 20 lakh jobs. Despite borrowing heavily to sustain livelihoods, operators said the government has failed to respond compassionately.

They demanded immediate alternative employment opportunities, release of pending dues including insurance, mid-day meal balances, and flood relief payments. They also reminded that MDU operators had donated ₹56 lakh during Vijayawada floods.

The association has approached the court for justice. Former High Court judge Sravan Kumar will argue the case. Key demands include reimbursement of 90% vehicle subsidy collected over 52 months at ₹3,000 per month, and unpaid salaries for the remaining 20-month contract period.

They also requested the reclassification of vehicles back from mobile canteen status to goods carriers and fitness clearance without penalties.

Representatives from 16 districts including Tirupati, Srikakulam, Palnadu, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, and others were part of the press meet. Prominent attendees included Chunduru Sambasiva Rao, Satish, Sudhakar Reddy, Venkat Deva, and Purushottam, who all echoed their commitment to continue the legal battle until justice is served.



## NCBC Chief Reviews OBC Welfare in AP

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Chairman Hansraj Gangaram Ahir emphasized the need for strict implementation of reservations and roster systems for OBCs during his review meetings held in Vijayawada. He urged officials to focus on extending self-employment schemes and bank loans to weaker sections.

As part of his state tour, the Chairman conducted review sessions at Vivanta Hotel and State Guest House, examining OBC reservation policies, backlog post recruitment, and the functioning of institutions like CIPET. He enquired about training programs, placement support, and the utility of issued certificates. CIPET Director Dr. C.H. Sekhar briefed him on their operations.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav explained the implementation of OBC reservations in health sector recruitments. He said CM N. Chandrababu Naidu is committed to OBC welfare, with 56 BC corporations active across the state to execute welfare and development programs.

The Chairman also reviewed OBC reservation implementation in Union Bank and sought details on backlog posts and loan disbursements. Zonal Head C.V.N. Bhaskar Rao and regional managers presented figures and policies in place. OBC union leaders shared practical challenges faced in banks.

At AIIMS Mangalagiri, Executive Director Dr. A. Shantha Singh detailed OBC representation and roster implementation in recruitment. Principal Secretary (Health) M.T. Krishna Babu and officials from medical colleges elaborated on MBBS seat reservations and admission processes.

## CRDA Holds 3-Day Awareness Meet on ESM Measures

TPN | Mahesh

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) conducted a series of public awareness meetings from July 15 to 17, focusing on the Environmental and Social Management (ESM) measures being implemented during the construction of Amaravati, the people's capital. These meetings were held across key locations in Amaravati and witnessed significant participation from local residents. The sessions were led by CRDA Special Deputy Collectors, the Social Welfare Division, and ESM personnel, who explained the safety norms, environmental protection protocols, and welfare measures being adopted for migrant and women workers engaged in capital construction activities. CRDA officials also encouraged pub-

lic participation by receiving suggestions, addressing doubts, and assuring prompt action on any inconvenience caused due to ongoing development works. Locals were urged to report concerns to the respective CRDA facilitators in their villages. Residents raised issues regarding the movement of heavy vehicles creating dust pollution and requested that water sprinkling be done regularly. They also demanded strict speed control measures along the Seed Access Road to prevent accidents. Officials assured that these concerns would be addressed immediately.

Another major request from villagers was to provide employment opportunities to locals. CRDA responded by stating that job fairs and skill development programs are already being organized to ensure that youth and women from the region benefit from the capital's growth.



# Bapatla to Expand Aqua Farming: Collector Approves



**TPN | B Madhusudhanarao**  
**Bapatla:** To promote sustainable aquaculture in Bapatla district, Collector J. Venkata Murali has approved the expansion of aqua farming zones. He chaired the District Level Committee (DLC) meeting at the Collectorate on Thursday to review proposals related to aquaculture development. The Collector directed fisheries department officials to identify new lands suitable for expanding aqua production beyond the current area. Officials informed that aquaculture is presently practiced on 17,603.80

acres in the district. They also briefed the Collector that the state government had issued guidelines to re-survey eligible aqua zones, especially in non-notified regions. Based on those directions, a re-survey was conducted in the district. The department reported that 3,067.16 acres are currently unsuitable for aqua farming, while 3,361.14 acres have potential for future expansion. The Collector enquired into the land classifications and confirmed that the proposed aqua zones comprise only patta lands owned by farmers. He

emphasized that aqua zoning will prevent unauthorized conversion of fertile agricultural land into aqua farms, promoting only sustainable and legal practices. Fisheries officials explained that low-lying areas, water-retentive lands, and less-productive agricultural soil would be considered ideal for aquaculture. They added that aqua zones will benefit from better infrastructure such as transportation access, electricity, roads, and drainage systems. Collector Murali stated that expanding aquaculture would lead to increased

production, higher foreign exchange earnings, and contribute to GDP growth. It would also enhance livelihood opportunities for local farmers. The Collector approved the DLC's proposals for expanding aqua zones in Bapatla. The meeting was attended by Joint Director of Fisheries Srinivas Naik, Deputy Directors Gali Demudu and Krishna Kishore, Assistant Directors Saida Naik and Kishore Reddy, aqua farmers, and technical experts. The session was conducted through a virtual review involving district-level stakeholders.

## Seasonal Flooding Puts Thousands of Acres at Risk



**TPN | Trinadh Rao Garaga**  
**Undrajavaram:** With every monsoon, the swelling waters of the Yanamadurru Drain (locally called Uyyeru Kalava) continue to breach embankments, damaging crops and threatening livelihoods. The situation has become a routine disaster for villages along the canal, particularly in Undrajavaram mandal. Despite past floods, particularly the devastating one in July 2024, irrigation officials have limited their actions to temporary restorations

only after the rains begin. This year too, they initiated repair work in the middle of heavy showers. Breaches were reported between Nandamuru Aqueduct and Duvva Regulator in Kalidari, Pasalapudi, and Suryaraopalem villages, affecting thousands of acres. As part of the flood damage review, Ministers K. Atchannaidu, Vangalapudi Anitha, and Kandula Durgesh visited affected farmers. Burugupalli Sesharao, TDP in-charge of Nidadavolu and current AP Skill Development Chair-

man, explained the recurring losses faced by farmers due to the Erra Kalava floods. He urged the ministers to initiate permanent flood control measures. Minister Kandula Durgesh recently announced that a long-term flood mitigation plan and budget estimates are under preparation. Irrigation AE Harikrishna stated that temporary repairs are underway under the District Project Committee's supervision. From 2 to 5 km and 5 to 8 km stretches along the left bank near Kalidari and Suryaraopalem, Rs. 3.91 lakh and Rs. 3.93 lakh, respectively, are being spent to plug 200 meters of embankment breaches using earth dug from within the canal. Farmers criticized the approach, stating that plugging breaches with loose canal-side soil instead of gravel is ineffective. They fear that removing soil from the inner canal wall to plug breaches could lead to fresh damage elsewhere.

## Family of Four Jumps into Well: Two Dead, One Critical

**TPN | Sekhar**

**Tirupati:** A major tragedy struck Maddi Nayanapalli village of Pakala mandal, Chandragiri constituency, as a family of four allegedly attempted suicide by jumping into a well near Kommi Reddigari Palli road. The victims belong to Peda Harijanawada village. According to locals and police, mother Hemalatha and younger daughter Tejasri were found dead and recovered from the well. Father Giri, found alive but in critical condition, was shifted to the hospital in a 108 ambulance. The elder daughter, Tanushri, is still missing,

and police along with local teams are searching the well for her body. Severe financial difficulties are suspected to have driven the family to take this extreme step. Locals mentioned that the family had been struggling for a long time, and no support had come their way. Pakala police have registered a case and launched an investigation. They are collecting further information about the family's background and the circumstances that led to this mass suicide attempt.



## Journalists Need Better Medical Access: APWJU



**TPN | B Madhusudhanarao**  
**Tenali:** Journalists, who work tirelessly for the welfare of society, must have access to better healthcare facilities, said Sheikh Nagul Meera, Guntur District President of APWJU (Andhra Pradesh Working Journalists Union). He addressed the full-member meeting of the Tenali constituency unit held at Nukala Rama Koteswara Rao Kalyana Mandapam in Bosu Road on Thursday. During the event, Lalitha Super Specialty Hospital distributed health cards to 63 journalists. Constituency President Chandu Subbarao presided over the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, leaders said that the health cards provided by Lalitha Hospital will significantly help journalists, especially those suffering from chronic ailments and financial burdens. They extended special thanks to the hospital management for recognizing the problems faced by journalists and offering medical support through discounted healthcare services. District Secretary Rambabu, Treasurer Phanindra, Vice Presidents Choppala Sudhakar, senior leader Bollimunta Krishna, State leader Bhaktavatsalam, IJU member Markandeyulu, Electronic Media District President Sunil Sandeep, Tenali Constituency Secretary M. Gopichand, Treasurer Deepala Taraka Sainath, Organizing Secretary Siddula Sainath, Vice Presidents T. Sharath Babu and Shyamala Prasad Reddy, Assistant Secretary Battula Kamalakar, and many union members and senior leaders participated in the event.

## Illegal Charcoal Kiln Busted by Forest Officials

**TPN | Jeevan Kumar**

**Anantapur:** Forest officials conducted a surprise raid on an illegal charcoal kiln being operated near Yarramallepalli in Palluru Panchayat of Kambadur Mandal, Anantapur district. Acting on a tip-off, Forest Beat Officer Suryanarayana inspected the site on Thursday and confirmed that charcoal production was taking place without official permissions. According to the officer, precious tree species like neem and tamarind were being used in violation of forest laws. Approximately 150 bags of ready-to-transport charcoal were seized, and a heavy penalty is being considered. The kiln has allegedly been active for 2-3



years despite a previous ₹8,000 fine imposed by forest authorities following local complaints. Those named in the operation—Nagaraju, Bala Yogi, and Pedayya—are accused of continuing operations without obtaining the necessary envi-

ronmental clearances. Officials expressed serious concern over the rampant felling of valuable trees, stressing that charcoal kilns are not permitted within a 5 km radius of forest areas. Beat Officer Suryanarayana stated that further legal action,

including registration of cases and court proceedings, will follow if such unauthorized activities persist. He warned that transporting and producing charcoal using forest wealth without permits would attract strict legal consequences as per orders from the District Forest Officer. Meanwhile, kiln operators claim they've been running the setup solely for livelihood. They allege they are being harassed and extorted by various individuals. "We are being forced to pay between ₹3,000 to ₹5,000 to some people," they said. They further alleged that Palluru Panchayat Sarpanch Lakshmi Devi had collected up to ₹35,000 from them.

## Rajahmundry to Host Entrepreneur Summit: MLA Adireddy

**TPN | Sri Ch**

**East Godavari:** MLA Adireddy Srinivas (Vasu) announced that the Rajahmundry Entrepreneur Summit-2025 will be held on August 21, aiming to empower youth from East and West Godavari districts. Speaking at a press meet on Thursday, he unveiled the summit's poster alongside education officials and representatives from academic institutions. The summit is being organized by the Bhavani Charitable Trust on a self-funding basis, coinciding with World Entrepreneur Day. MLA Vasu stated that the summit will feature idea pitch competitions, and three winners will receive cash prizes, while another three will earn incubation opportunities at the upcoming Ratan Tata Incubation Centre in Rajahmundry. Highlighting recent youth empowerment efforts, he cited the success of the ABCD and Skill Development programs under the coalition government. The first batch helped 23 out of 43 youth secure jobs with ₹6 lakh packages. Skill-on-Wheels and mock tests for DSC aspirants have also been conducted. Addressing law and order, Adireddy



warned of strict action against youths misbehaving with women on bikes. Referring to a recent complaint from a girl during the 'Good Governance Door-to-Door' campaign in Mallikarjun Nagar, he confirmed the miscreant's bike was seized and his parents were counseled. He cautioned that repeat offenders will face severe consequences. On civic matters, Adireddy expressed delight that Rajahmundry secured 2nd place in AP and 19th nationally in the Swachh Survekshan rankings. He credited public support, municipal workers, and year-long sanitation efforts including de-silting drains and upgrading infrastructure.

## Major Electrical Wire Scam Busted in Tadipatri

**TPN Correspondent | Anantapur**

A significant haul of stolen electrical wires worth nearly ₹2,00,000 was uncovered in Tadipatri town. Acting on credible information, AP SPDCL Tadipatri DEE Prabhakar Rao and his team conducted a surprise inspection at a shop near the Anjaneya Swamy statue circle. They found large quantities of electrical wires being loaded into lorries from a shop owned by a person named Gujiri. The officials immediately seized the wires, unloaded them from the lorry, and shifted them to the electricity department office in an SPDCL vehicle under the supervision of vigilance officials. This seizure comes in the backdrop of several wire thefts recently reported in Brahmanapalli and nearby villages. Following the seizure, a complaint was lodged at the Tadipatri Rural Upgraded Police Station. The incident has triggered concern among local residents, who fear a larger network behind the theft. Further investigation is underway.



# Journalist Is A Soldier Sans Weapons

When we think of a soldier, we often imagine someone equipped with physical weapons and training to confront immediate threats—whether on the battlefield or in a more symbolic sense, fighting for a cause. A journalist, in contrast, is not armed with guns, but with knowledge, words, and a deep understanding of how information can influence the world. But here's where the analogy gets more layered: both soldiers and journalists are often in the field—literally and metaphorically—dealing with the frontlines of their respective domains. While soldiers may be fighting to protect a nation or cause, journalists are fighting to protect the truth, democracy, and the integrity of information.

### The Battlefield of Truth

A soldier's mission is clear: neutralize the enemy, protect allies, and secure territory. A journalist's mission, while less tangible, is no less vital: uncover the truth, hold power accountable, and inform the public. In war zones, journalists have to navigate the same physical risks as soldiers, but they also face the additional challenge of ensuring that the information they gather and disseminate is accurate and not manipulated by political agendas or propaganda. In both cases, the "battleground" involves the stakes of power, and those who control the narrative—whether through arms or words—shape the course of events.

### Tools of Influence

Soldiers use weapons to engage in direct physical conflict, but journalists use the tools of their trade—pen, camera, microphone, and the internet—to influence the perceptions of



the public. The right report, the right photo, or the right documentary can spark social movements, bring down governments, or change the course of history. For example, images like the 1972 "Napalm Girl" photo or video footage of police brutality can shift public opinion in ways that armies, politicians, and even the media themselves might not anticipate. These moments serve as a reminder that words and images can be weapons in their own right, and journalists often find themselves on the frontlines of public conscious-

ness.

### Casualties of War

Both soldiers and journalists can become casualties of their respective "wars." Soldiers risk their lives on the battlefield; journalists, particularly in conflict zones, risk imprisonment, torture, or death. Think of the high-profile journalists like Jamal Khashoggi, Daphne Caruana Galizia, or Marie Colvin, who paid the ultimate price for their commitment to truth-telling. These "weaponless soldiers" may not have the armor of a soldier, but they



Subbarao Pokkuluri,  
Freelancer

carry with them an unwavering commitment to documenting the truth—even at great personal risk. In the same way that soldiers may be seen as heroes for their sacrifices, journalists who face these risks are often celebrated for their courage in challenging oppressive systems or revealing uncomfortable truths.

### Moral and Ethical Frontlines

Another way the analogy holds is in the moral and ethical decisions both soldiers and journalists must make. A soldier must weigh the cost of their actions—what are the ethical implications of warfare, and when does self-defense become aggression? Similarly, a journalist faces the moral question of "What is the responsibility of reporting the truth?" Is it enough to just report the facts, or should they work to challenge injustice, hold power accountable, and perhaps even become advocates for those who can't speak for themselves?

### Larger goal matters

Both must contend with difficult choices in the face of adversity—whether that's pulling a trigger or deciding whether to publish a sensitive story that could put lives at risk. The line between objectivity and activism can be a thin one for both, but it's often walked in the pursuit of a larger goal.

### Resistance and Resilience

Like soldiers in resistance movements, journalists can be agents of change, even if they're not directly fighting with weapons. Think of investigative journalists who expose corruption, expose environmental hazards, or bring attention to human rights abuses. They're not always appreciated by the powers they challenge, and often face retaliation, yet their work remains crucial for the health of democratic societies.

### Scribes enjoy more freedom

In countries where freedom of the press is under threat, journalists often face systemic suppression—just like soldiers in authoritarian regimes might be forced to fight battles they don't believe in. However, the resilience of these "weaponless soldiers" can sometimes be even more powerful because the very tools they use to fight are the most difficult to take away: the pen, the voice, and the truth. So, in sum, the "weaponless soldier" analogy captures how journalists, though unarmed with conventional weapons, engage in a high-stakes battle that requires courage, resilience, and often personal sacrifice. Their power lies in their ability to shape narratives, challenge the status quo, and ultimately, shift the course of history.

## How Europe Got Rich with Trade Deficits: Piketty's Study Reveals Surprising Global Wealth Patterns

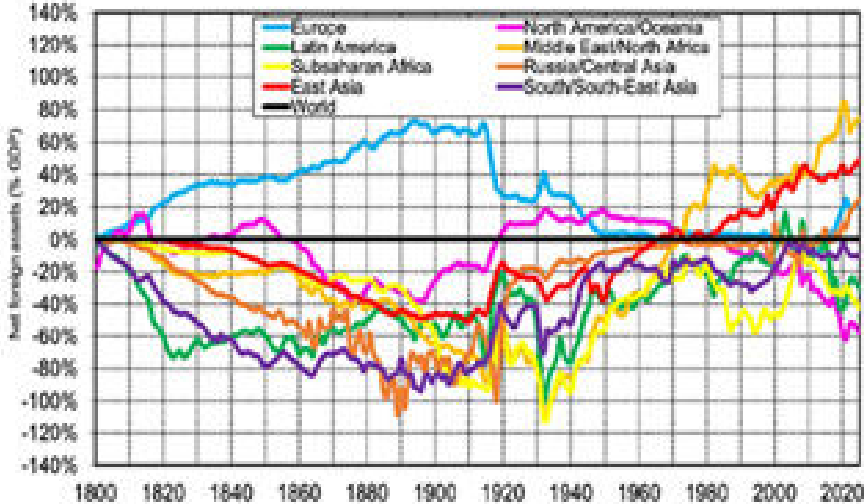
When former U.S. President Donald Trump complained about America's trade deficits and called for "big, beautiful trade deals," he wasn't the first global leader to focus on trade imbalances. But are today's deficits truly unique in history? A groundbreaking study by economists Gaston Nievas and Thomas Piketty, published by the World Inequality Lab, shows that they are not — and in fact, today's global wealth flows have striking historical echoes.

Their research builds a global balance of payments dataset from 1800 to 2025, revealing how past economic powers, especially Europe, accumulated vast foreign wealth without trade surpluses. During the first wave of globalization (1800–1914), major European powers like Britain, France, and the Netherlands ran consistent trade deficits in primary commodities like food and minerals — up to 4% of world GDP annually. Meanwhile, their trade surpluses in manufacturing were smaller, meaning they imported more than they exported overall.

Despite this, Europe built immense foreign wealth. How? Through invisible flows in the balance of payments: massive income from dividends, interest, royalties, and profits from their colonies. These flows created current account surpluses, allowing Europe to accumulate foreign assets equivalent to 70% of its GDP (30% of world GDP) by 1914 — even without a trade surplus.

Colonial extraction played a central role. Countries like Haiti were forced into punishing debt repayments, while colonies like India and Indonesia sent vast tax revenues back to their European rulers. These financial transfers, rather than trade performance,

Foreign Wealth by World Region, 1800-2025



built Europe's global dominance.

In contrast, the post-1970 "Pax Americana" era, led by the U.S., mirrors the structure but lacks the same financial outcomes. The U.S. has enjoyed "excess yield" — earning more on its foreign investments than it pays on debt — but this hasn't offset its chronic trade deficits. Unlike Europe in the colonial era, the U.S. cannot extract vast foreign income to balance its trade shortfall.

The economists argue this disparity may explain the growing assertiveness of U.S. foreign policy — pressuring allies to bear military costs or seeking direct control over resources. But the world is no longer structured for such one-sided transfers.

Without colonialism, Nievas and Piketty suggest, wealth distribution today would look drastically different — with countries like India and Indonesia owning parts of Europe, not the other way around.



## Why Returning to the Moon Is More Than Just Rocket Science

The phrase, "If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we..." has largely faded from popular use. Perhaps that's because it's not clear that 21st-century America can easily send astronauts back to the lunar surface. The Wall Street Journal revived this question in 2018 with a headline that bluntly asked, "If We Can Put a Man on the Moon, Why Can't We Put a Man on the Moon?"—highlighting the challenges facing NASA's Artemis program amid cost overruns and bureaucratic delays.

The first moon landing—Apollo 11 in 1969—was a monumental achievement, realized through President John F. Kennedy's ambitious vision. Since then, technology has advanced dramatically. For perspective, a modern USB-C charger holds more computing power than the entire Apollo 11 onboard computer. Yet, the last crewed moon mission was Apollo 17 in 1972, and despite repeated promises by several presidents, the United States has yet to return.

There are compelling reasons to go back: establishing a scientific base on the moon, answering unresolved questions about lunar geology, and using the moon as a stepping stone for crewed Mars missions. Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush both advocated returning to the moon, aiming for Mars as the ultimate goal, but both struggled to secure sustained congressional support. President Barack Obama shifted NASA's focus, while President Donald Trump revived the Artemis program, which now faces heavy criticism for delays, technical problems, and ballooning costs—projected to reach \$93 billion. By comparison, the Apollo program cost nearly \$26 billion between 1960 and 1973, about \$260 billion today when adjusted for inflation.

The Apollo era was unique—not just technologically but politically. The space race was a high-stakes contest with the Soviet Union for global prestige and strategic dominance, rallying Americans and Congress alike behind NASA's mission. NASA also benefited from inheriting expert talent from its predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), established during World War I.

"The U.S. and the Soviet Union were competing for the hearts and minds of the world," explains Teasel Muir-Harmony, curator of the Apollo Collection at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum. Kennedy's 1961 moonshot announcement closely followed the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, underscoring how space exploration was entwined with Cold War politics. Today, NASA faces more competition for talent, with private companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin attracting skilled engineers and innovators. Returning to the moon is no longer just about rocket science—it's about navigating political will, funding, and a competitive, evolving space industry.

# PM Modi Meets South Korean Special Envoys, Celebrates 10 Years of Strategic Partnership

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

New Delhi, July 17, 2025 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed a high-level delegation of Special Envoys from South Korea on Thursday, marking the 10th anniversary of the India–Republic of Korea (ROK) Special Strategic Partnership. The delegation was led by former South Korean Prime Minister Kim Boo Kyum.

During the meeting, PM Modi emphasized the importance of the decade-long partnership, noting that it has evolved into a vital pillar of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. He praised the growing collaboration between the two democracies, especially in key sectors such as defence, innovation, shipbuilding, and skilled workforce mobility.

In a post shared on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi wrote, “Delighted to receive the delegation of Special



Envoys from the Republic of Korea led by Mr. Kim Boo Kyum. Recalled my positive meeting with President @Jaemyung\_Lee last month.”

Highlighting the expanding scope of bilateral ties, he said,

“India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership, which completes 10 years, continues to grow from innovation and defence to shipbuilding and skilled mobility. Close collaboration between the democracies contributes to peace, stability, and prosperity

in the Indo-Pacific region.”

The Special Strategic Partnership, established in 2015, has seen deepened cooperation in areas including trade, technology, energy, and cultural exchange. Thursday’s meeting reaffirmed both countries’ shared commitment to regional peace and a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific.

The South Korean delegation’s visit follows recent diplomatic momentum, including PM Modi’s meeting with South Korean President Lee Jaemyung on the sidelines of a global summit last month, where both leaders reaffirmed their desire to enhance bilateral cooperation across multiple domains.

The interaction reflects the shared strategic vision of India and South Korea to work together on regional and global challenges, underpinned by their strong democratic values and economic complementarities.



## Indian nurse on death row in Yemen: India in touch with some ‘friendly countries’, says MEA

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is actively pursuing diplomatic channels, including outreach to “friendly countries,” in a bid to save Nimi-sha Priya, an Indian nurse on death row in Yemen. The government confirmed on Thursday that it is providing all possible support to her family, as her scheduled execution—originally set for July 16—has been temporarily postponed.

“This is a sensitive matter,” said Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a press briefing. “The Government of India has extended legal assistance, appointed a lawyer, arranged regular consular access, and remained in close contact with Yemeni authorities and the family.”

Priya, a native of Kollengode in Kerala’s Palakkad district, was convicted for the murder of a Yemeni national and sentenced to death. Her execution was approved by Yemen’s President in December 2024. The case has attracted significant attention and appeals from civil society groups, who argue that mitigating circumstances warrant clemency.

Jaiswal declined to name the foreign governments involved but confirmed that diplomatic efforts in recent days have focused on gaining more time for the family to negotiate with the victim’s relatives, as is permitted under Yemeni law through the practice of blood money or diyya.

“This includes concerted efforts to facilitate a mutually agreeable resolution,” he said. “We are also in contact with some friendly governments who have influence in the region.”

India has no diplomatic mission in Yemen due to the ongoing conflict there, and operates its affairs in the country through its embassy in Djibouti. Officials continue to closely monitor the situation and provide support to Priya’s family.

The case remains under delicate negotiation as the Indian government pushes for a humanitarian resolution to prevent Priya’s execution.

# Those Who Mess With India Will Face Consequences: Amit Shah

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday declared that India has sent a clear global message that any threats to its citizens, armed forces, or borders will not be tolerated and will be met with decisive retaliation.

Speaking at an event marking International Cooperatives Year 2025, Shah referenced Operation Sindoor — the recent cross-border strike targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for transforming India’s national security posture.

“From the Uri surgical strike to the Pulwama airstrike, and now Operation Sindoor — the Modi



government has shown that India will no longer remain passive in the face of terror,” Shah said. He contrasted this with the previous Congress-led governments, alleging that terror incidents were frequent under their rule. “Modi ji has made India secure, prosperous, and respected,” he added.

Shah highlighted India’s economic progress, noting that the country has become the fourth-largest economy and lifted 22 crore people out of poverty under Modi’s leadership.

He praised the Rajasthan BJP government led by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, especially for tackling the paper leak scandal by forming an SIT and pro-

moting investment. The state signed MoUs worth ₹35 lakh crore, with ₹3 lakh crore already in execution, Shah said.

As Minister for Cooperation, Shah emphasized the role of cooperatives in rural India. He announced that 40,000 of the proposed 2 lakh new PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) have already been set up and computerization efforts are underway.

The event also included virtual inaugurations of 24 food grain storage facilities and 64 millet outlets. Shah noted Rajasthan’s agricultural contributions and new research on preserving camel breeds and exploring the medicinal properties of camel milk.

## Amid threats of sanction on Russian oil supplies, India guided by ‘best offer’: MEA

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

India pushed back firmly against U.S. threats of secondary sanctions on Russian oil imports, asserting on Thursday that meeting the country’s energy needs remains a top priority. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) emphasized that India would continue to be guided by the best offers available in the global market, while cautioning against “double standards” in the enforcement of sanctions.

Responding to questions about the U.S. and NATO’s warning of punitive tariffs, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, “Securing the energy needs of our people is understandably an overriding priority for us. In this endeavour, we are guided by what is on offer in markets, and by the prevailing global circumstances.”

His remarks come amid growing U.S. pressure on countries like India, China, and Brazil to cut ties with Russian oil, with U.S. President Donald Trump announcing potential secondary sanctions that could take effect within 50 days if Russia does not agree to a peace deal in Ukraine.

India currently imports around 2.08 million barrels of Russian crude oil per day, which accounts for 42% of its total crude imports. Much of this oil is refined by Indian facilities and exported, including to G7 nations. However, proposed U.S.



tariffs—potentially as high as 100% on products derived from Russian-origin oil—could make Indian exports uncompetitive.

India also questioned the fairness of the proposed sanctions, highlighting that several NATO members and European Union countries plan to remain reliant on Russian gas until 2027. “It’s double speak...so will Europe face these additional tariffs too?” said an Indian official.

India has consistently maintained a position of strategic autonomy and insists that its crude oil decisions are based on affordability and availability, not geopolitical alignment. With over 85% of its oil requirements imported, New Delhi warned that any disruption could spike domestic fuel prices and strain the economy.

## Ahmedabad Declared Cleanest City as Indore, Surat Move to ‘Super Swachh League’



In a significant shift in the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 rankings, Ahmedabad has been named the cleanest city in India in the category of cities with over 10 lakh population. The announcement was made at an awards ceremony in New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu presented the top honours. The recognition comes as Indore and Surat, both consistent winners in past years, were elevated to a newly created ‘Super Swachh League’, a category that honours cities that have maintained top-tier cleanliness standards for three consecutive years. As a result, they

were excluded from this year’s main rankings to allow newer cities to be recognized. Ahmedabad secured the ‘Swachh Shehar – Rank 1’ title, with Bhopal and Lucknow taking second and third places respectively in the 10 lakh-plus population category. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal and MoS Tokhan Sahu were also present at the event, applauding the achievements of the winning cities. This year’s survey placed strong emphasis on sustainability, waste segregation, public feedback, and technological innovation in urban

sanitation. Over 4,500 cities participated in the assessment — the world’s largest urban cleanliness survey. President Murmu lauded the cities for their dedication to maintaining hygiene and public health and praised the creation of the Super Swachh League as a means to push long-term performance over short-term rankings. The Swachh Survekshan awards continue to be a key component of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, driving competitive spirit among cities while encouraging citizen engagement in cleanliness efforts.

# Trump Rakes in \$50 Billion as Global Powers Hold Back on Tariff Retaliation

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Four months into U.S. President Donald Trump's aggressive new tariff regime, the U.S. has reaped nearly \$50 billion in revenue — while much of the world has hesitated to retaliate, opting instead for restraint amid fears of economic escalation.

New U.S. Treasury data reveals a dramatic surge in customs revenue to \$64 billion in the second quarter of 2025 — a \$47 billion jump from the same period last year. This comes as Trump's sweeping trade policy — featuring a 10% global tariff baseline, 50% duties on steel and aluminum, and 25% tariffs on automobile imports — took full effect.

Despite fears of a global trade war, only China and Canada have responded with significant countermeasures. China's response, while the most robust, has yielded limited results; customs revenue in Beijing rose only 1.9% in May 2025 year-on-year. Canada imposed C\$155 billion in retaliatory tariffs but rolled many back under domestic economic pressure.

“Many countries learned from the 2018–2019 trade war that retaliation often leads to counter-retaliation rather than resolution,” said Marta Bengoa, an economics professor at City University of New York.

Major economies including the Europe-



an Union, Mexico, and Japan have so far avoided tit-for-tat responses. The EU has readied a €72 billion retaliatory package but is holding off until after Trump's August 1 deadline for trade negotiations, with geopolitical issues — such as U.S. backing for Ukraine — playing a role in its delay. Meanwhile, global corporations like Apple, Mercedes-Benz, and Adidas are

shifting supply chains or absorbing tariff costs to maintain U.S. market stability.

With tariff rates at levels not seen since the 1930s Smoot-Hawley era, Trump's trade strategy is reshaping global economics — with most allies treading carefully rather than confronting Washington head-on.

# Syria, Druze Leaders Agree to Fragile New Ceasefire

TPN Correspondent | Damascus

Syrian government officials and Druze minority leaders announced a renewed ceasefire on July 16, 2025, following days of intense clashes in the southern city of Sweida. The violence threatened Syria's fragile postwar political transition and drew military intervention from neighboring Israel. While government convoys began withdrawing from Sweida, the durability of the ceasefire remains uncertain, especially after a previous truce announced just a day earlier collapsed, with prominent Druze leader Sheikh Hikmat Al-Hijri rejecting the agreement.

The conflict escalated from tit-for-tat attacks between local Sunni Bedouin tribes and Druze armed factions, compounded by clashes between Syrian government forces and Druze militias. Civilians have also suffered amid the unrest. The situation worsened with Israeli airstrikes targeting military sites in Damascus and near the presidential palace, part of Israel's campaign to push Islamist militants away from its border and protect the Druze community, which is significant both in Syria and Israel. Interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa condemned the Israeli strikes, calling for unity among Syria's diverse communities and vowing to protect Druze rights. He tasked local factions and Druze spiritual leaders with maintaining security in Sweida to prevent further violence.

The conflict has resulted in heavy casualties. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported over 300 deaths by July 16, including civilians, security forces, and children. Reports of atrocities, including field executions and destruction of homes, surfaced amid ongoing violence. Druze communities in Syria and the Golan Heights protested the violence, while the U.S. expressed concern and urged calm. The fragile ceasefire signals a critical moment for Syria's stability, as tensions between ethnic and religious groups, alongside foreign interventions, continue to challenge the country's recovery.

# Pakistan Declares Rain Emergency in Punjab after 30 Dead in 24 Hours

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

Torrential monsoon rains have wreaked havoc in Pakistan's Punjab province, claiming at least 30 lives within a span of 24 hours, prompting authorities to declare a "rain emergency" across multiple districts, officials said on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

The most severely impacted area was Chakwal, located in the Salt Range about 300 km from Lahore, where a staggering 423 mm of rainfall led to severe flash flooding. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) confirmed that military units

and local administration are engaged in rescue operations to evacuate residents trapped by rising waters.

Rainfall is forecasted to continue across Punjab, heightening fears of river and stream overflows. An official alert has been issued for possible flooding in low-lying and riverine areas.

Since the beginning of the monsoon season on June 26, at least 170 people have lost their lives due to rain-related incidents across Pakistan, with Punjab bearing the brunt of the devastation. In the last 24 hours alone,

more than 300 people were injured in accidents caused by the extreme weather, with most casualties reported from Lahore, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Okara, and Chakwal.

Over 125 houses have been reported damaged, displacing dozens of families and adding to the humanitarian toll.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz imposed a province-wide "rain emergency" and directed all emergency services to remain fully mobilised. She urged residents to stay indoors and avoid flood-prone zones.



# UK To Lower Voting Age To 16



TPN Correspondent | Washington

The British government, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, has announced plans to lower the voting age to 16 before the next general election—marking a significant reform in the country's democratic system. The proposal, which still requires parliamentary approval, is part of a broader initiative to improve fairness and encourage political engagement among younger citizens.

Currently, 16- and 17-year-olds are permitted to vote in devolved elections in Scotland and Wales. If approved, this move would bring consistency across the United Kingdom. Supporters argue that many 16-year-olds already contribute to society by working or serving in the military and therefore deserve a say in shaping the nation's future.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said in a statement, “We are taking action to break down barriers to participation that will ensure more people have the opportunity to engage in UK democracy.”

The reform package also includes changes to

voter ID laws. Acceptable identification would be expanded to include UK-issued bank cards and digital versions of existing IDs like driving licences and Veteran Cards. The goal is to make voting more accessible, particularly for young people and other underrepresented groups.

In addition to expanding voting rights, the government plans to address the issue of political transparency and security. New rules will tighten oversight of political donations, including enhanced scrutiny of contributions over £500 from unincorporated associations and restrictions on shell company donations to prevent foreign interference.

This move comes as the UK grapples with declining voter turnout—only 59.7% participated in the 2024 general election, the lowest since 2001. Research cited by the House of Commons Library indicates that countries with a lower voting age have seen no change in election outcomes, but that 16-year-olds tend to vote at higher rates than first-time voters at 18. Labour had pledged to lower the voting age during its campaign and appears determined to follow through despite recent declines in popularity.

# "Where Is Phase 2": Musk Stirs Epstein Pot Again After Trump Fires Prosecutor

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Billionaire Elon Musk has reignited controversy surrounding the Jeffrey Epstein case by publicly criticizing the Trump administration's refusal to release key documents. Musk's remarks appear to suggest that President Donald Trump's name might be mentioned in the sealed files, raising concerns about transparency and political motivations.

The outspoken Tesla and SpaceX CEO responded to a post on X (formerly Twitter) asking, “What happened to all the evidence against Epstein?” Musk replied, “Yeah, where is it?” He followed up by questioning the delay in “Phase 2” of the declassified Epstein files, initially released by Attorney General Pamela Bondi in February 2025.

This renewed scrutiny comes after the Trump administration abruptly fired federal prosecutor Maurene Comey, who played a significant role in prosecuting Epstein and his accomplice, Ghislaine Maxwell. The dismissal has intensified suspicions about the administration's intentions, especially as Trump faces mounting pressure from within his own MAGA base to

fully disclose Epstein's alleged ties to powerful individuals.

Epstein, a disgraced financier and convicted sex offender, was charged with sex trafficking minors before dying by suicide in jail in 2019. Maxwell is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence after being convicted in 2021 for aiding Epstein's abuse.

Trump's past social ties to Epstein, including documented instances of flying on Epstein's private jet, have fueled conspiracy theories. However, Trump has denied any involvement, and no charges have been brought against him.

The backlash intensified after the administration reversed its earlier promise to release more Epstein-related files. According to Reuters, Trump officials are now considering damage control measures, including unsealing additional documents and appointing a special prosecutor.

As public frustration grows, even pro-Trump influencers have begun criticizing the administration's handling of the case, forcing a recalibration of strategy to maintain support within the MAGA movement.



# Markets Decline on Profit Booking, FIIs Outflow; Nifty Slips Below 25,150



Domestic stock markets fell on Thursday as investors remained cautious, profit-taking in some sectoral stocks and uncertainty over the India-US trade deal. Benchmark indices rose on profit-taking in banking, finance and IT sectors. The release of first-quarter results for the current fiscal also contributed to this. On the other hand, the outflow of foreign institutional investors is hurting the sentiment. Overall, the Nifty 100 and Sen-

sex fell by 375 points. The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,634 in the previous session, opened at 82,753 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 82,219. It reached an intraday high of 82,757. It finally closed at 82,259, down 375 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,230, touched a low of 25,101 and a high of 25,238. It closed at 25,111, down 100 points. The Nifty Bank lost 340 points and settled at 56,828.

In the Nifty50, 19 companies

gained while 31 lost. Tata Consumer, Tata Steel, Hindalco, Trent, Titan were the top gainers. Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Infi, SBI Life, HCL Tech were the biggest losers. Today, realty, metal, consumer durables, pharma, FMCG, energy, healthcare, and commodities sector indices rose marginally. IT, PSU bank, private bank, finance, infra, auto and oil sector indices rose.

Market breadth on NSE today is in favor of sellers. Out of a

total of 3023 stocks traded, 1433 gained and 1503 lost. 71 shares touched their 52-week high and 19 shares touched their 52-week low. The upper circuit was 89 and the lower circuit was 40.

The rupee weakened by 13 paise against the dollar to settle at 86.07. Wipro's Q1 revenue fell 1.6% to Rs 22,080 crore. EBITA fell to Rs 3813 crore from Rs 3927 crore. Axis Bank's net profit was recorded at Rs 5806 crore. Net interest income was Rs 13,560 crore. The USFDA team that conducted inspections at Zydus Life Sciences said that there were no problems. Heritage Foods' net profit fell 30.7% to Rs 40.5 crore from Rs 58.4 crore. Morgan Stanley maintained its underweight rating on Tech Mahindra with a target price of Rs 1555. Polycab India's net profit rose 49.4% to Rs 600 crore from Rs 401 crore. Wari Renewable's net profit rose 24% to Rs 86.4 crore from Rs 28.2 crore. HDFC AMC's net profit rose 24% to Rs 748 crore. Revenue grew 25%. South India Bank's net profit rose 10% to Rs.322 crore from Rs.294 crore.

**Prestige Estates Projects:** The company has a strong position in the realty sector. With 150 completed residential projects and 37 ongoing projects, the market cap is Rs. 74,357 crore. These shares should be bought in the range of Rs. 1,750-1,780. You can hold them by following the buy on dips method. These shares closed at Rs. 1783 on Thursday.

**Berger Paints:** These shares should be accumulated in the range of Rs. 550-580. There are opportunities for steady growth in this counter due to strong demand in the paints sector. These shares closed at Rs. 579 on Thursday.



**Escorts Kubota:** This company has a good market in the automobile and agriculture sectors. Investors should buy and hold these shares with a target of Rs. 3,550. These shares



closed at Rs. 3,410 on Thursday.

**Welspun Corp:** These shares can be bought in the Rs. 900 range on a dip and held with a target of Rs. 1,150. In Q1 2025, net profit rose 3.5% to Rs. 648 crore and revenue rose 8.49% to Rs. 3,966.86 crore. These shares closed at Rs. 931 on Thursday.



**Tata Steel:** Investors should enter this counter in the Rs. 150 range. You can hold up to a target of Rs. 190-210. Strong demand and price stability in the steel sector have made this stock attractive. These shares closed at Rs. 159 on Thursday.



## Adani Group Sells 20% Stake in Adani Wilmar for ₹7,150 Crore to Wilmar International

Adani Group has sold a 20% stake in AWL Agri Business Limited (formerly Adani Wilmar Limited) to Singapore-based Wilmar International for ₹7,150 crore, according to a recent stock exchange filing. This move aligns with Adani's earlier announcement in December 2024 to divest its entire 44% stake in Adani Wilmar to focus more on its core infrastructure businesses.

The transaction was executed between Adani Commodities LLP (ACL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), and Lence Pte Limited, a Wilmar International subsidiary. Both parties agreed on a share purchase agreement that allows them the option to buy or sell shares at an agreed price, capped at ₹305 per share. Together, ACL and Lence held approximately 88% of AWL, split evenly between them.

Earlier in January 2025, Adani sold 13.5% of its stake in AWL at ₹276.51 per share to comply with minimum public shareholding regulations and increase

public ownership. After that sale, ACL and AEL's combined holding stood at around 30.42%.

With this latest deal, Adani Group sold an additional 20% stake at ₹275 per share, part of its strategic exit from the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. Following the sale, Wilmar International becomes the majority shareholder in AWL Agri Business, holding 64% of the company, surpassing Adani's stake.

In a separate development, Adani Enterprises also announced the launch of a second public non-convertible debenture (NCD) issue worth up to ₹1,000 crore.

This stake sale highlights Adani Group's ongoing strategy to streamline operations and focus investment on infrastructure, while Wilmar International strengthens its position in the agribusiness sector through majority ownership of AWL Agri Business.

## Warning Signs? India's High-Frequency Economic Indicators Point to Slowdown

Recent data from high-frequency economic indicators reveal signs of a slowdown in the Indian economy, according to a report by Nuvama. Despite the Reserve Bank of India's efforts to boost growth through interest rate cuts and liquidity measures, key sectors are showing weakening momentum.

The report highlights that many economic indicators which recorded double-digit growth a year ago have now slipped into single digits—levels similar to those seen before the COVID-19 pandemic. It notes, "India's high frequency data are now slowing with most of them moving to single digits," signaling a loss of economic momentum.

Bank credit growth, an important gauge of borrowing and demand, has fallen sharply from 16% a year ago to just 9% in June 2025. This decline reflects weaker borrowing by businesses and consumers. Sim-



ilarly, GST collections, a proxy for consumption and business activity, have slowed from 11% growth to only 6.2% in June, indicating reduced economic spending.

Export growth remains subdued as well, with goods and services exports rising just 6%—a sharp drop from the double-digit growth experienced in fiscal year 2023.

Other consumption indicators also show signs of weakness. Passenger vehicle sales slowed to 2% growth,

down from 7% last year, while property sales value in the top seven cities dropped from 28% growth to just 4%. Wage growth, as measured by BSE500 companies, has halved from 12% to 6%.

Industrial growth is similarly affected. Growth across eight core sectors declined to 3% from 8% last year. Diesel consumption grew by just 1%, and medium and heavy commercial vehicle sales fell by 3%. Profit growth for BSE500 companies (excluding oil marketing) has dropped from 21% to 10%.

Overall, the report concludes that most high-frequency indicators have returned to pre-pandemic single-digit growth rates, signaling a broad economic slowdown. This trend persists despite ongoing policy support, suggesting the need for further stimulus measures to revive growth across sectors.

## Reliance Industries to Boost Market Value by \$50 Billion Through New Energy and AI Infrastructure

Reliance Industries Ltd is poised for significant growth, with investments in new energy and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure expected to drive a \$50 billion increase in its market value, according to analysts at Morgan Stanley. Currently valued at over \$240 billion, the conglomerate, led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is focusing on scaling its diversified businesses, especially in the rapidly evolving sectors of new energy and AI.

A key part of Reliance's strategy involves transforming its Jamnagar energy complex to integrate next-generation AI technologies. The company is developing generative AI infrastructure at Jamnagar, which is expected to be operational within two years. This initiative aims to overcome one of the major challenges faced globally in scaling AI:

the availability of sustainable and cost-effective energy sources to power AI data centers and related operations.

Morgan Stanley highlights that Reliance's new energy vertical holds the potential to create up to \$60 billion in value. The company plans to leverage renewable energy — referred to as "electrons" — to power its chemical plants, data centers, and refineries, positioning itself as a leader in the green energy transition. This innovative approach allows Reliance to monetize its energy production while supporting the energy-intensive needs of AI infrastructure.

This shift is part of Reliance's broader ambition to transition from a traditional oil and gas business to a diversified technology-driven conglomerate. By capitalizing on its strengths



in energy production and combining them with AI advancements, Reliance aims to unlock new revenue streams and reinforce its leadership in India's industrial landscape.

The investments underline Reliance's commitment to future-proofing its business amid global energy transitions and the increasing demand for AI capabilities. With these moves, Reliance Industries is set not only to enhance its market valuation but also to shape the future of energy and technology integration on a global scale.



# Viral Video of Mizoram’s Clean, Traffic-Free Streets Wins Hearts Online

A recent video showcasing the serene and spotless streets of Mizoram has taken the internet by storm, offering a refreshing glimpse into what an Indian city can look like when urban planning meets civic discipline.

Originally shared by India Cultural Hub on Instagram, the clip captures a peaceful, walkable city—believed to be Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram—bathed in golden hues of sunset, free from traffic chaos and air pollution. The text overlay in the video proudly declares: “Welcome to Mizoram: A walkable city with clean air, setting the standard for urban planning in India.”

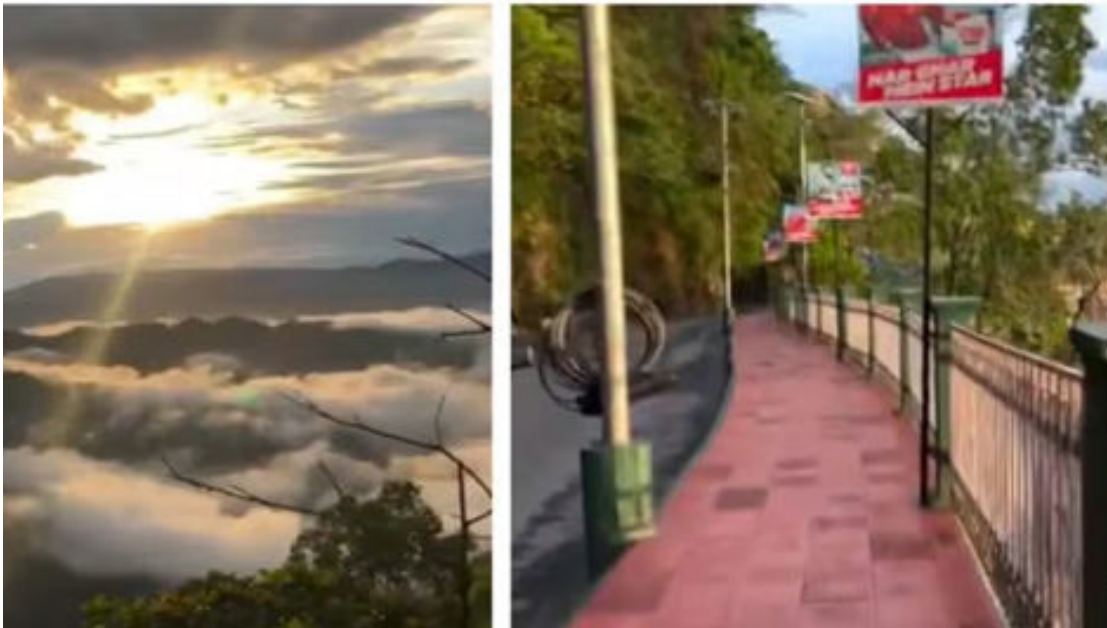
The video has quickly gone viral, garnering thousands of views and triggering an outpouring of admiration from across the country. Many viewers expressed astonishment at the lack of honking, overtaking, and traffic jams, so commonly seen in other major Indian cities. The well-maintained roads, absence of litter, and strict adherence to traffic rules stood out as shining examples of what community cooperation and thoughtful governance can achieve.

“In cities like Aizawl, clean air isn’t a luxury—it’s the norm,” the caption of the video reads. “Public transport is efficient, roads are pe-

destrian-friendly, and citizens follow the rules. While most Indian metros wrestle with smog and congestion, Mizoram offers a vision of hope.”

Beyond its physical beauty, viewers are praising Mizoram’s eco-conscious urban development, community participation, and civic pride—all of which contribute to the city’s reputation for cleanliness and order.

As the video continues to trend, many online users are calling for other Indian states to take inspiration from Mizoram’s model, proving that a clean, calm, and green city is possible with the right priorities.



## Are We Alone? Why the Search for Alien Life Needs Better Questions, Not Just Better Telescopes



Despite decades of space exploration and astronomical breakthroughs, humanity has yet to find direct evidence of life beyond Earth. Since the 1990s, astronomers have identified thousands of exoplanets — some of which lie in the so-called habitable zone, where conditions might support life as we know it. Yet, even with these discoveries and advanced telescopes scanning distant galaxies, the cosmos has remained eerily silent.

**But does this silence mean we’ve failed in our quest to find alien life?**

Not necessarily. Scientists are now urging a more reflective ap-

proach — one that emphasizes asking the right questions as much as gathering the right data. In fact, researchers argue that our understanding of what constitutes life may still be too narrow or Earth-centric. What if life elsewhere is based on completely different biochemistry, or exists in forms we have not yet imagined? A recent reassessment of exoplanet data suggests that while we’ve observed enough planets to estimate an upper limit on how many could be habitable, we still lack the tools — and perhaps the imagination — to interpret subtle signals of life. In other words, it’s not just about scanning the skies, but

about learning how to recognize life when we see it. Projects like the James Webb Space Telescope and future missions to Europa and Enceladus may help, but breakthroughs may also depend on interdisciplinary research — combining astronomy, biology, chemistry, and philosophy. The absence of evidence isn’t evidence of absence. As researchers explore ever-deeper into the universe, they’re also reminding us that science isn’t just about answers — it’s about learning how to ask better, more meaningful questions. In the search for alien life, humility and curiosity might be just as vital as technology.

## UK Chefs Set Guinness World Record with Giant 7.81 kg Scotch Egg

Two UK-based chefs and content creators have officially broken a long-standing Guinness World Record by crafting the largest scotch egg ever made, tipping the scales at a massive 7.81 kilograms—even heavier than a standard bowling ball.

Chefs Phoenix Ross (@shef\_phoenix) and Oli Paterson (@elburritomonster) teamed up to create this colossal version of one of the UK’s most beloved snacks in Enfield, UK, on June 17, 2025. Their creation smashed the previous record of 6.2 kg, which had held strong for nearly two decades.

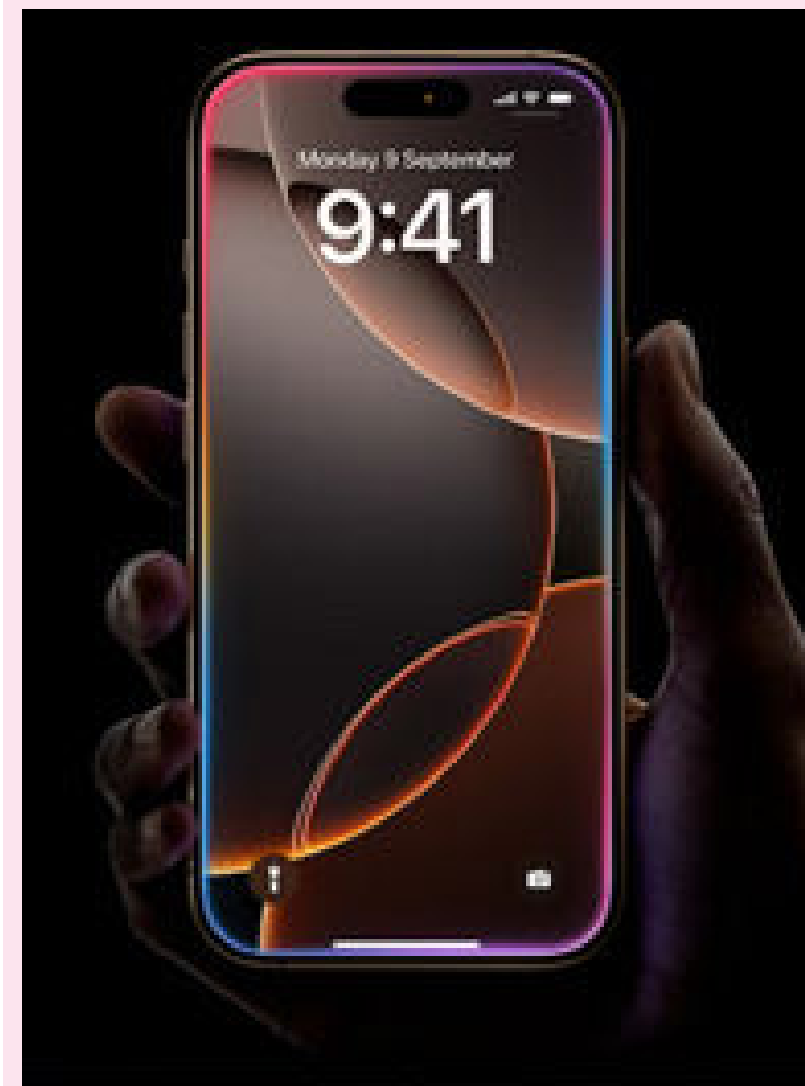
A scotch egg is a classic British snack, consisting of a boiled egg encased in seasoned sausage meat, rolled in breadcrumb crumbs, and deep-fried until golden. But this wasn’t your average snack—the duo took it to a whole new level by using an ostrich egg, the largest egg laid by any bird. For context, one ostrich egg is roughly equivalent to 24 chicken eggs in volume and can withstand the weight of a 115 kg person.

The massive scotch egg required not just creativity but precision and technical skill. Ross and Paterson’s effort was not only about breaking a record but also about celebrating British food culture with a fun and impressive twist.



Images and clips of the giant scotch egg have since gone viral, drawing admiration from food lovers and curious viewers around the globe. The feat has also been officially recognized by Guinness World Records, adding another quirky culinary title to the books.

With this record now in the bag, fans are eager to see what the inventive duo will tackle next in the world of extreme food creations.



## iPhone 17 Series Colour Options Revealed: Base Model May Come in Six Vibrant Shades

As anticipation builds for Apple’s next-generation smartphones, fresh leaks have revealed the expected colour options for the upcoming iPhone 17 lineup, which is expected to debut in September 2025. According to new reports, Apple is planning to offer a bold range of colours across all four variants: iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Air, iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max.

**iPhone 17 & iPhone 17 Air: Colourways Revealed**

The iPhone 17 base model is reportedly set to launch in six colours, including:

Black  
White  
Green (Pantone 2282 U)  
Light Blue (Pantone 658 U)

Purple (Pantone 530 U)  
Steel Gray (Pantone 18-4005-TPG)

The iPhone 17 Air, designed to stand out with a lighter and sleeker look, could be available in four colours:

Black  
White  
Light Blue (Pantone 657 U)  
Light Gold (Pantone 11-0604 TPG Gardenia)

Apple is expected to use less saturated tones for the Air variant to emphasize its lightweight design. The Light Blue shade is rumored to resemble the Sky Blue of the M4 MacBook Air.

**iPhone 17 Pro & Pro Max: Five Sophisticated Colour Options**

The premium iPhone 17 Pro and Pro Max models are likely to launch in five shades: Black (same as iPhone 16 Pro)  
White  
Dark Blue (Pantone 19-4025 TPG Mood Indigo)

Gray  
Orange (Pantone 1501243 TCX Papaya)

The rumored orange variant could feature a fluorescent tint, while the blue may echo the Blue Titanium from the iPhone 15 Pro. Notably, the material shift to aluminium may slightly alter final finishes. With Apple rumored to unveil the iPhone 17 series between September 8–12, excitement is mounting—especially with the A19 and A19 Pro chips powering the standard and Pro models, respectively.

## Lakshya Sen and Satwiksairaj-Chirag Exit Japan Open After Tough Second-Round Defeats

Indian shuttlers faced setbacks at the Japan Open Super 750 tournament as Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out in the second round on Thursday.

In men's singles, world No. 18 Lakshya Sen was unable to maintain his early momentum and suffered a 19-21, 11-21 loss to Japan's Kodai Naraoka in a tightly contested match lasting nearly an hour. Lakshya had started the tournament impressively with a commanding 21-11, 21-18 win over China's Wang Zheng Xing but could not carry the form forward against the Japanese shuttler.

Meanwhile, the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj and Chirag, former world number one pairs themselves, went down 22-24, 14-21 to the fifth-seeded Chinese pair Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang.

The clash between these two top-ranked teams was a high-intensity contest lasting 44 minutes. After a slow start, the Indian pair surged to an 18-14 lead in the first game but were unable to maintain it, allowing their Chinese opponents to snatch a thrilling first game.

The second game saw the Chinese duo, who are currently world number five, dominate proceedings as Satwik and Chirag struggled with their smashes and defensive play. This defeat marks the fourth consecutive loss for the Indian pair against Wei Keng and Wang Chang, who now hold a commanding 7-2 head-to-head record over them. The Chinese team, silver medallists at the recent Paris Olympics, continue to assert their dominance over the Indian shuttlers, leaving Satwik and Chirag with a tough task ahead as they look to bounce back in upcoming tournaments.



## India U20 Women Dominate Uzbekistan 4-1 in Friendly Match



The India U20 women's national football team delivered a commanding performance, thrashing Uzbekistan 4-1 in their second friendly match held at the Do'stlik Stadium in Tashkent on July 16, 2025. After a balanced first half that ended 1-1, the Young Tigresses came out stronger in the second half, showcasing clinical finishing and teamwork to secure a comfortable victory.

The match began with both teams evenly matched, with Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam putting India ahead in the 28th minute by calmly finishing a cross from teammate Neha. However, Uzbekistan's Shakhnoza Dekanbaeva equalized in the 37th minute, leaving the teams level at halftime.

The second half saw India raise the tempo significantly. Sulanjana Raul restored India's lead in the 65th minute by expertly controlling a long ball from Cindy Colney before slotting it past the goalkeeper. Just six minutes later, Sulanjana switched roles from scorer to provider, deliver-

ing a perfect through ball for Neha, who chipped the Uzbek goalkeeper from outside the box to extend the lead to 3-1.

Despite a setback when Cindy Colney was sent off for a tackle, India remained composed. Substitute Bhumika Devi Khumukcham dazzled by dribbling past two defenders before assisting Sibani for her second goal of the match in the 85th minute, sealing the 4-1 win.

Coach Joakim Alexandersson made two changes to the starting lineup from the first match, bringing in Juhi Singh and Arina Devi Nameirakpam. The victory demonstrated India's attacking prowess and resilience, giving the team valuable confidence ahead of future challenges.

The final Indian lineup included Monalisha Devi Moirangthem (GK), Remi Thokchom, Juhi Singh, Cindy Colney, Arina Devi Nameirakpam, Neha, Pooja, Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam, Shubhangi Singh (Captain), Anju Chanu Kayenpaimbam, and Sulanjana Raul.



## INDW vs ENGW 1st ODI: Deepti Sharma's Unbeaten 62 Guides India to Four-Wicket Win

India Women secured a confident four-wicket victory over England Women in the opening ODI of the series at Southampton on July 17, 2025. Chasing a target of 259, India achieved the total with 10 balls to spare, thanks to an unbeaten 62 from Deepti Sharma and a vital 90-run partnership with Jemimah Rodrigues.

England posted a competitive 258 for six, led by Sophia Dunkley's resilient 83 not out off 92 balls, which included nine boundaries. Alice Davidson Richards also played a key role, scoring 53 in a 106-run fifth-wicket stand with Dunkley after England lost early wickets. Young Indian seamer Kranti Goud impressed by taking two crucial wickets (2/55), while off-spinner Sneha Rana also claimed two (2/31), restricting England's scoring.

India's chase got shaky when captain Harmanpreet Kaur was dismissed for 17, leaving the team struggling at 124 for four. However, Deepti

Sharma and Jemimah Rodrigues steadied the innings with their composed batting, rotating the strike efficiently and punishing loose deliveries. Rodrigues fell just short of a half-century, finishing with 48 off 54 balls.

Deepti's innings was particularly noteworthy for her strategic approach, countering previous criticism of her slogging style. The highlight was a stunning one-handed six off Lauren Bell, struck over deep mid-wicket, showcasing her skill and control.

All-rounder Amanjot Kaur provided the finishing touches with an aggressive 20 off 14 balls, hitting some powerful shots to seal the win. Captain Harmanpreet praised Deepti's key performance and the team's bowling effort but emphasized the need to improve fielding after dropping two chances during the match. This victory sets a positive tone for India ahead of their upcoming 50-over World Cup campaign.



## World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka Withdraws from WTA Montreal Event Due to Fatigue

World number one Aryna Sabalenka has officially pulled out of the WTA Canadian Open in Montreal, citing fatigue as the reason for her withdrawal, Tennis Canada confirmed on Wednesday. The 27-year-old Belarusian star, who was runner-up at both the Australian and French Opens this year, recently reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon and the Berlin Open, alongside clinching titles at Madrid and Miami.

Sabalenka expressed her disappointment but emphasized the importance of prioritizing her health for the rest of the season. "I'm looking forward to kicking off the North American hard-court swing, but to give myself the best chance for success this season, I've decided it's in my best interest to skip Montreal," she said. Missing the tournament, scheduled from July 27 to August 7, leaves Sabalenka with only one major warm-up event—the Cincinnati Open in August—before defending her US Open title on the hard courts at Flushing Meadows.

The reigning US Open champion also thanked her Canadian fans for their support, promising to return next year. Sabalenka was ousted in the Wimbledon semi-finals by American Amanda Anisimova earlier this month.

Tournament director Valerie Tetreault expressed regret over Sabalenka's absence, saying, "We're obviously disappointed that Aryna won't be with us this year." Alongside Sabalenka, world number 10 Paula Badosa also withdrew from the event due to injury, paving the way for American Caty McNally and Japan's Moyuka Uchijima to enter the main draw. In other news, Canadian tennis star Eugenie Bouchard announced she will retire from professional tennis following the Montreal tournament.

## Messi's Multi-Goal Streak Snapped as Inter Miami Falls 3-0 to FC Cincinnati



Lionel Messi's historic multi-goal streak came to an end on Wednesday night as Inter Miami suffered a heavy 3-0 defeat to FC Cincinnati in Major League Soccer (MLS). The match, played at TQL Stadium in Cincinnati on July 16, marked the end of Messi's run of five consecutive games with multiple goals — an MLS record.

Despite Messi's presence and previous form, Inter Miami struggled to find rhythm. FC Cincinnati dominated from the outset, registering four shots on target in the first 16 minutes. Gerardo Valenzuela opened the scoring in the 29th minute with a precise strike from the left side of the box — his fifth of the season. Cincinnati extended their lead early in the second half when Evander, one of the league's top scorers, netted his 14th goal of the campaign and 50th in MLS. He later sealed the win in the 77th minute, tapping in a rebound after Luca Orellano's shot was parried away.

Messi, 38, had a relatively quiet night, with his first real attempt coming in first-half stoppage time, which was easily saved by Cincinnati goalkeeper Roman Celentano. In the 78th minute, Messi had another opportunity from close range, but Celentano once again made a crucial stop.

The defeat ends Inter Miami's five-game winning streak and leaves them fifth in the Eastern Conference with an 11-4-5 record. FC Cincinnati, meanwhile, improved to 14-3-6 and sit just one point behind the conference-leading Philadelphia Union, who beat CF Montreal 2-1.



## Stranger Things 5 Teaser Unleashed: Netflix Declares 'Code Red' for Final Showdown

The wait is over—Netflix has just dropped the official teaser for Stranger Things Season 5, and it's every bit as chilling and electrifying as fans hoped. Dubbed "Code Red" by the streaming giant, the teaser marks the beginning of the end for the beloved sci-fi phenomenon created by the Duffer Brothers.

Returning for their final ride are fan-favorites Millie Bobby Brown, David Harbour, Winona Ryder, Finn Wolfhard, and the rest of the core cast. The teaser hints at a haunting conclusion, packed with shadowy creatures, emotional stakes, and a sprawling cinematic scope. As the Upside Down tight-

ens its grip on Hawkins, the stakes have never been higher.

Visually stunning and emotionally intense, the teaser showcases everything from ghostly environments and suspense-driven music to heart-wrenching reunions and dazzling VFX. It's clear that the final season will pull no punches, aiming for a powerful mix of horror, nostalgia, and heartbreak.

**In an exciting twist, Netflix has confirmed that Stranger Things 5 will be released in three volumes:**

**Volume 1 drops on November 26**  
**Volume 2 arrives on December 25**  
**The final volume wraps it all up on December 31, 2025**

This staged release ensures fans will have time to savor each chapter of the epic finale. After years of mystery, supernatural suspense, and character-driven storytelling, Stranger Things is poised to deliver a breathtaking end to its cultural legacy. The countdown to the ultimate face-off has officially begun—so grab your walkie-talkies, cue the synths, and get ready for one last trip to the Upside Down.

## Ram Pothineni's Andhra King Gears Up With Soulful First Single 'Nuvvunte Chaley'

The buzz around Andhra King continues to grow as the film, starring Ram Pothineni and directed by Mahesh Babu, inches closer to release. Touted as a powerful commercial entertainer with emotional depth, the project has already captured attention with its striking title glimpse. Now, the makers have dropped the promo for the film's first single, titled 'Nuvvunte Chaley', further raising excitement.

The full track is scheduled to release on July 18, and the promo is already being praised for its emotional tone and melodic richness. Interestingly, the lyrics for the song have been penned by Ram Pothineni himself, showcasing another side of the energetic star. The music



is composed by the talented duo Vivek & Marvin, while the soulful voice of Anirudh Ravichander brings the song to life. In Andhra King, Ram plays a die-hard fan of a superstar, adding a layer of meta-celebrity charm to his role. The film also features Kannada superstar Upendra in a pivotal role, while Bha-

gyashree Bors plays the female lead. Supporting the ensemble cast are seasoned actors Rao Ramesh, Murali Sharma, Satya, Rahul Ramakrishna, and VTV Ganesh, among others.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film promises to deliver a mix of mass entertainment and emotional storytelling. The early glimpses and now the first song promo suggest a fresh, vibrant approach that blends nostalgia, fandom, and heartwarming moments.

With Nuvvunte Chaley setting the musical tone, Andhra King is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Telugu films of the year.

## Anupama's Paradha Locks August 22 Release Amid Festive Buzz

After navigating a crowded calendar filled with big-ticket film releases, the much-anticipated female-centric drama Paradha has finally secured its release date. The makers have officially announced that the film will hit theatres on August 22, 2025, strategically timed to take advantage of the Vinayaka Chavithi holiday that falls mid-week on Wednesday.

Starring Anupama Parameswaran, Darshana Rajendran, and Sangitha, Paradha is helmed by Praveen Kandregula, best known for Cinema Bandi. The film is backed by producers Vijay Donkada, Sreenivasulu PV, and Sridhar Makkuva under the Ananda Media banner, with acclaimed filmmaker duo Raj & DK presenting the project. Music is composed by the ever-reliable Gopi Sundar.

The latest single from the soundtrack, titled "Yatra Naryasthu", has already made waves. A powerful anthem celebrating womanhood, the song highlights the strength and dignity of women in a society often dominated by outdated patriarchal norms. With Anurag Kulkarni's soulful rendition and Vanamali's evocative lyrics, the track leaves a lasting emotional impact. It speaks to both resilience and resistance, making it more than just a song—it's a statement.

Paradha has managed to generate significant buzz thanks to its emotionally charged promotional material, which showcases the film's intense themes and powerful female narratives. With the release date now locked, the team is expected to roll out a series of updates, teasers, and behind-the-scenes glimpses in the coming weeks to keep the momentum going.

With a strong cast, a relevant message, and a festive release slot, Paradha is shaping up to be one of the most awaited films of the season.



## Rajamouli Lauds Kireeti and Team at Junior Pre-Release Event

The pre-release event of Junior, the debut film of Kireeti Reddy, unfolded in grand style, with the entire cast and crew in attendance. The event's highlight was the presence of visionary director SS Rajamouli, who graced the evening as the chief guest and offered high praise to the team.

Kireeti, emotional and sincere in his speech, shared his deep gratitude to producer Sai Korrapati. "If I wish for 1% success for myself, I wish for 99% for Sai sir," he said. "He placed his trust in me when I was a newcomer. If a director succeeds, it opens doors for many others—it uplifts the entire industry."



He went on to thank his co-stars and crew, especially Genelia D'Souza, whom he called "one of the most divine people" he's ever met. "This isn't your typical bubbly role—it's something unique," he added. He praised cinematographer Senthil Kumar, action choreographer Peter Hein, and the entire team, highlighting a massive 10-minute action sequence involving 1,000 stunt masters. "This film has been three years in the making, and it's been worth every moment," he said, ending his speech with a heartfelt mention of his admiration for NTR.

Rajamouli commended Sai Korrapati for elevating Junior from a modest project into a star-studded venture. "As more names joined—Sreeleela, Genelia, Ravichandran—the film only grew in scale and strength," he remarked. He was particularly impressed by Sreeleela's performance in the Viral Vayyari song and praised Genelia's timeless charm. "Kireeti is lucky to earn praise from people like Senthil and Peter Hein, who rarely give compliments," Rajamouli noted.

Junior is all set to hit theatres on July 18, and expectations are sky-high.

## Nolan's The Odyssey Sparks Global Frenzy as Advance Bookings Open a Year Ahead

There's no denying the global obsession with filmmaker Christopher Nolan, and the excitement surrounding his next cinematic venture, The Odyssey, is already off the charts. Even though the film is set to release on July 17, 2026, fans are wasting no time—advance bookings have officially begun, a full year in advance.

Nolan's name alone is enough to stir anticipation. From the Dark Knight trilogy and Inception to Interstellar, Tenet, Dunkirk, and Oppenheimer, each of his films has left a lasting mark on modern cinema. Now, The Odyssey is all set to add to that legacy.

Starring Matt Damon and Tom Holland in lead roles, the film is expected to be a visually ambitious and emotionally compelling sci-fi epic. While plot details remain under wraps, Nolan's reputation for thought-provoking storytelling and groundbreaking visuals is already enough to fuel massive interest.

In an unprecedented move, the film's team has announced that advance ticket sales are now open—specifically for IMAX 70mm

screenings in the U.S. This early launch of bookings has caught both fans and industry insiders by surprise, highlighting the extraordinary demand for a Nolan film, even this far ahead of release.

Social media platforms have been abuzz with posts from excited fans securing their seats for what is already being called "next year's biggest cinematic event." Many in India and other countries are also expressing hope that similar early booking windows will open internationally.

With a powerful cast, a visionary director, and unmatched fan anticipation, The Odyssey is already creating history—12 months before it hits the big screen.

