

# AP to Be Global Energy Hub

## Says CM at Hydrogen Summit

TPN Correspondent | Amaravathi

Amaravati witnessed a significant step toward a sustainable future as Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu participated in the Green Hydrogen Summit – 2025 held at SRM University. Addressing the gathering, which included CEOs and MDs of major energy and tech firms, the CM emphasized Andhra Pradesh's ambition to become a national hub for green hydrogen innovation and production. Chandrababu stated that the summit is not just a platform for discussion, but a place for learning, sharing innovations, and building collaborative solutions. "I am here to listen to your ideas and understand the innovations driving green hydrogen. This technology holds the key to clean and affordable energy," he said. Reflecting on his past reforms, Naidu remarked, "I was the first to initiate power sector reforms in India. Though I lost power at the time, those reforms have now become a national model." He stressed the importance of producing and storing green energy at lower costs, especially in the context of global warming and climate change. "Green hydrogen is no longer an option; it is a necessity. We must act swiftly and



smartly," the CM said. Calling on electricity generation companies and research institutions, Naidu urged them to explore green hydrogen technologies. He highlighted that even the Central Government and NITI Aayog are prioritizing green hydrogen, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi aiming for 500 GW of green energy capacity. "As Andhra Pradesh, we are determined to transform into a green hydrogen valley. The state will provide the best platform and ecosystem for this transformation," he declared, in-

cluding global and national stakeholders to collaborate. The Chief Minister also acknowledged that this transformation requires state-of-the-art technology. "We invite all of you to bring the best of your technologies and innovations to AP. The state is your best place to invest and innovate." He concluded by encouraging participants to use the two-day summit to share, explore, and shape the future of energy. "Together, we can create a clean, green future for the next generation," he said.



## Pawan's Push Brings Central Nod for Uppada Project

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a major step towards coastal protection, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has announced a ₹323 crore project aimed at providing a permanent solution to the long-standing sea erosion problem in Uppada, Pithapuram constituency. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Pawan Kalyan said the NDA government is actively working on a detailed project proposal submitted through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The plan involves constructing a strong sea wall in Uppada, where the coastline has been receding at an alarming rate of 1.23 meters annually for the past five years, resulting in a total erosion of nearly 12 meters. This continuous erosion has caused serious damage to local fishing communities, washing away homes and endangering livelihoods. "The people of Uppada have suffered for too long. This project is our commitment to them," Pawan stated. The proposal, prepared under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has already been forwarded to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Pawan Kalyan expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will extend full support

to the project, considering its urgency and importance for coastal Andhra. "This is not just a project. It's a promise we made and one we intend to keep," he emphasized. During the 2024 elections, Pawan had assured Uppada residents of immediate action against sea erosion if elected. Staying true to his word, he pushed for the preparation and submission of the ₹323 crore proposal soon after the formation of the coalition government. He also noted that Andhra Pradesh continues to enjoy strong support from the Central government, especially in disaster management and infrastructure development. Once the final approvals come through, the construction of the sea wall will begin without delay. The proposed sea wall is expected to act as a long-term barrier against storms, tidal surges, and further erosion, finally offering a sense of security to the vulnerable population in Uppada. Local residents have welcomed the move, calling it a long-overdue lifeline for their villages and livelihoods. The announcement marks a significant political and infrastructural milestone for the coastal belt, demonstrating the government's resolve to act on promises and protect communities facing environmental threats.

## Mithun Reddy to Face SIT Tomorrow..

TPN | Purna Chandra

In a major development in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, former YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy faces imminent arrest after the Supreme Court dismissed his anticipatory bail petition. The court questioned the basis for pre-arrest protection, especially in a case involving serious allegations of corruption and criminal conspiracy. This decision follows a similar rejection by the Andhra Pradesh High Court. With the legal route closed, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has stepped up efforts to apprehend Mithun, who has reportedly gone into hiding. The SIT had already issued a lookout circular. Teams are actively searching for him as he is now officially listed among the key accused.

### SIT: Mithun Orchestrated Bribe Network

The SIT has identified Mithun Reddy as a prime conspirator in the liquor scam, describing him as the second-most powerful figure during the previous YSRCP regime—next only to the chief beneficiary. As the son of senior YSRCP leader Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and a close associate of former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, Mithun wielded extraordinary behind-the-scenes influence. Investigators say Mithun handled party funds, managed election finances, and facilitated high-level operations in Delhi on Jagan's behalf. He allegedly partnered with Raj Kesireddy to set up a bribe collection and distribution network involving distilleries and liquor distribution firms.



### Strategic Appointments Enabled Scam Flow

Mithun is accused of engineering the appointment of key officers like IRS officer Vasudeva Reddy as Beverages Corporation MD and Distilleries Commissioner. Another official, Assistant Commissioner Satyaprasad, was reportedly promised IAS promotion for his cooperation. SIT found that Mithun ordered the transition to manual liquor orders to manipulate the system, set bribe rates per consignment, and ensured the money reached designated political leaders. His instructions were central to every major financial transaction in the scam. With court protection denied, the SIT is preparing to bring the former MP into custody soon.

## Talli Ki Vandanam' Turns Boon for Pvt Schools

TPN | Devadas

Despite the well-meaning goals behind schemes like Ammavodi and Talli ki Vandanam, a concerning trend is unfolding in Andhra Pradesh—more parents are choosing private schools over government-run institutions. The new coalition government's expansion of Talli ki Vandanam, offering ₹13,000 per child regardless of the number of children, has led to an unintended consequence: a silent migration towards private and corporate schools. While official claims suggest a rise in enrolment, ground-level data paints a different picture. The student strength in government schools has declined from 32.50 lakh to 29.65 lakh in the current academic year—a dip of nearly 3 lakh. Among the 43,922 government schools in the state, many primary classes now have just 10–15 students. This sharp drop is attributed to class mergers, especially for grades 3 to 5, forcing students to travel several kilometers. Parents are understandably hesitant to send their young children such distances when private schools offer convenient door-to-door transport. The problem deepens as Talli ki Vandanam applies equally to students in private schools. This undermines the attractiveness of government institutions. Field data indicates that 4,750 government schools recorded zero enrolment this year. As of now, 29.65 lakh students attend government schools, while private



school enrolment has surged to 38.90 lakh—a complete reversal from 2021–22, when government schools had 45.60 lakh students. Youth leader and Education Minister Nara Lokesh has begun focusing on education reforms. With a mega DSC recruitment drive to fill teacher vacancies, the government is also under pressure to address the infrastructure gap. Experts and activists are suggesting that schemes like Talli ki Vandanam should be reserved exclusively for students enrolled in government schools to stem the outflow. However, such a move could trigger political backlash.

Long-term reform requires more than monetary schemes. To bring students back, government schools must match private institutions in quality. Facilities like robotics, English language labs, craft design, music, sports, and self-defense training for girls should become standard. When parents believe that government schools offer everything private ones do—free of cost—they may reconsider their choices. Ultimately, reversing the trend depends on restoring public confidence. For that, real transformation—not just financial incentives—is the need of the hour.

## Tensions Flare Again in Tadipatri



TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Tadipatri witnessed dramatic scenes and heightened political tension on Friday as police blocked senior YSRCP leader and former MLA Ketireddy Peddareddy from attending the party's "Chandrababu Recalling" pro-

gram. Organized by the YSRCP, the event was aimed at exposing what the party claims are broken promises by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in the Tadipatri constituency. Peddareddy, who began his journey from his native village Timmampalli, was intercepted by police mid-route. Citing law and order concerns, officials informed him that his entry into Tadipatri could incite unrest and denied him permission to proceed. Interestingly, while other YSRCP leaders were allowed to participate in the program, the restriction applied solely to Peddareddy, sparking accusations of selective targeting. In a show of defiance, the former MLA staged a protest on the roadside, declaring that no matter how many hurdles were placed in his way, he would reach Tadipatri. He slammed

the police for what he called undemocratic and biased behavior, especially when the High Court had cleared his participation. "Why am I being singled out when others are allowed? This is political suppression," Peddareddy alleged. As tension escalated, police deployed heavy forces in both Tadipatri and Timmampalli to prevent any outbreak of violence. Peddareddy's supporters gathered in significant numbers, raising slogans and demanding the restoration of their leader's democratic rights. The protest created a tense atmosphere, turning both locations into security hotspots.



# GoM Proposes Cut in Paddy Fee, Boosts Food Safety Measures



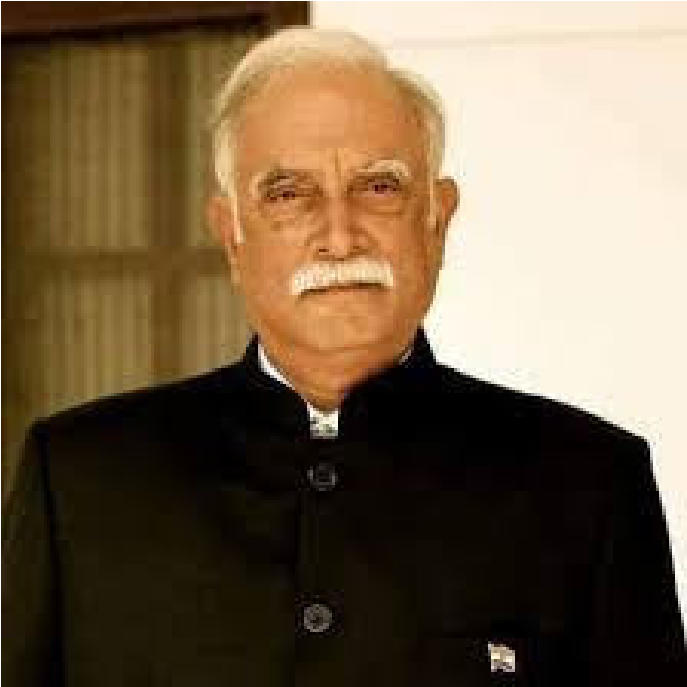
TPN | B Madhusudhanarao

A crucial meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on market regulation was held at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on Thursday. The meeting, chaired by Civil Supplies Minister Nara Nadendla Manohar, brought together Finance Minister Payyavula Kes-hav, Agriculture Minister K. Achchenna-idu, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, and top departmental officials to discuss strategies for market price control and food safety improvement. The GoM reviewed daily fluctuations in prices of essential commodities and explored new policy tools to address inflation. Minister Nadendla Manohar reiterated the coalition government's focus on delivering quality food at affordable prices. He emphasized that systematic price reviews and timely in-

terventions are crucial for market stability. One of the key proposals put forward was the reduction of market fee on paddy from 2% to 1%. This initiative is expected to benefit both farmers and consumers by easing procurement costs and encouraging fine variety paddy cultivation. The ministers recommended immediate implementation of procurement mechanisms, especially for vegetables like tomatoes, which are prone to price volatility. In a significant move toward food safety, the GoM directed officials to strengthen the Food Safety Wing by recruiting qualified staff from other government departments. These recruits will undergo proper training to conduct inspections and monitor food quality standards. Joint awareness drives and food inspections will be carried out by the Food Safety and Weights and Measures depart-

ments in key cities including Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Tirupati. To enhance farming practices, the GoM instructed the Agriculture Department to educate farmers about fine paddy varieties to improve both productivity and profitability. Awareness sessions will be conducted at the village level with technical support. Minister Manohar concluded the meeting by stressing the importance of close coordination among departments and timely ground-level monitoring. He also called for weekly reviews on essential commodity prices and the effectiveness of regulatory measures. Senior officials from Civil Supplies, Agriculture, and Marketing departments presented their progress reports and field strategies, reinforcing the state's commitment to market discipline and food safety enhancement.

## Ashok Gajapathi Raju Quits TDP Ahead of Goa Role



TPN | Narasimhulu

In a key political shift, senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former Union Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju has officially stepped down from the party. His resignation follows his appointment as the Governor of Goa. Raju tendered his resignation from both the TDP's primary membership and his position in the party's Polit-buro through a formal letter addressed to TDP Andhra Pradesh President Palla Srinivasa Rao. In an emotionally worded letter, Raju expressed his gratitude for the decades-long association with the party. He termed his journey with the TDP a matter of pride and privilege and thanked the Central Government for entrusting him with the constitutional responsibility of a gubernatorial role.

### TDP Loyalist Since 1982

Ashok Gajapathi Raju has been part of the TDP since its inception in 1982. Hailing from the royal Pusapati family of Vizianagaram, he served seven terms as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Andhra Pradesh and once as a Member of Parliament (MP). Over the years, he held key ministerial roles in both the state and central governments. In 2014, he was elected to the Lok Sabha and appointed as the Union Minister for Civil Aviation in the Narendra Modi-led NDA government. Though he stayed away from the 2019 electoral race, Raju remained a respected senior within the TDP, even fielding his daughter as a candidate during that election.

### Honoured With Gubernatorial Role

Despite maintaining a low public profile in recent years, Raju's integrity and long service earned him continued admiration within political circles. Recognizing his contributions, the TDP proposed his name for the Governor's post, which was swiftly approved by the NDA government at the Centre, underlining the party's strategic importance. With this transition, Ashok Gajapathi Raju moves from active party politics to a constitutional role. His vast experience in governance is expected to add value to his new responsibilities as the Governor of Goa. His departure marks the end of an era for the TDP but also signals a dignified new chapter in public service.



## Mystery Deepens in Gandikota Murder

TPN | Nagaraju

Kadapa: The mysterious murder of 17-year-old Intermediate student Vaishnavi in Gandikota continues to confound police, even four days after the incident. Despite CCTV evidence confirming her boyfriend Lokesh dropped her off at the historic site, police ruled out his involvement. DIG Koya Praveen stated clearly that Lokesh had no role in the crime. The investigation has since shifted focus to Vaishnavi's brother, Surendra, and other family members, who were questioned multiple times. Kadapa SP Ashok Kumar is personally overseeing the investigation, directing a team to explore all angles, including the possibility of an honor killing. Vaishnavi's body was found in suspicious condition behind the Madhavaraya Swamy temple in the forested area of Gandikota. Her injuries, as per preliminary postmortem, included trauma to the liver, chest, eyes, and legs. However, the complete report is still awaited. The police believe the murder may have stemmed from personal conflicts, not sexual assault. Surendra, who reportedly went searching for Vaishnavi on the day of the incident, has become a key figure in the probe. His call records and location data are under scrutiny. The police suspect that more individuals could be involved and are gathering



digital evidence. Meanwhile, the case has sparked statewide debate and local outrage. The Students' Federation of India (SFI) organized a protest at Kamalapuram Girls' High School demanding strict punishment for the culprits. SFI leaders Raghavendra and Goutham condemned increasing violence against women in the name of love and honor. They urged the Home Minister, herself a woman, to act swiftly. With tourism also being impacted due to the incident, pressure continues to mount on police to crack the case. As the investigation progresses, the public awaits answers and justice for Vaishnavi.

## Minister Narayana Visits Asia's Largest Convention Centre in Delhi



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Municipal Administration Minister Dr. P. Narayana, along with Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar, visited the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Dwarka Sector 25, New Delhi—hailed as the largest convention centre in Asia. The minister reviewed the facilities and infrastructure at the centre, constructed by the Central Government to host large-scale international and national events. During the visit, representatives of the convention centre showcased the ultra-modern amenities, vast meeting halls, smart seating arrangements, and globally acclaimed architectural design. They explained how the space integrates cutting-edge technology to accommodate high-profile gatherings efficiently. The visit is part of the Andhra Pradesh government's efforts to draw inspiration for upcoming infrastructure projects in Amaravati. The state has already decided to construct four major convention centres across different strategic locations in Amaravati to boost tourism, host global summits, and promote business opportunities. Minister Narayana expressed that the design and planning of Yashobhoomi would serve as a reference point for the proposed centres in Amaravati. He stressed the need to bring world-class facilities to the capital region, making it a destination for global conventions and exhibitions. The proposed convention centres are expected to play a key role in positioning Amaravati as a hub of commerce, governance, and innovation. The state government is keen to replicate such iconic infrastructure to meet future demand and support the vision of "Swarandhra" under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

## Tensions Flare Again in Tadipatri

Continued from page 1

Peddareddy demanded a clear explanation from the authorities about why he alone was barred. He warned that these tactics would not deter him from reaching the public or engaging in political activities. "This is my democratic right. Denying me entry while allowing others shows clear political motive," he said. The YSRCP has sharply criticized the police action, calling it an attempt by the ruling coalition to stifle opposition voices. Party leaders have vowed to escalate the matter through legal and political channels. The incident once again highlights the deepening political divide in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in hotspots like Tadipatri. With police presence still high and tempers flaring, the coming days may see further confrontation as YSRCP leaders assert their political rights and question what they claim is misuse of state machinery.



## Pawan to Fully Focus on Jana Sena from September

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Amaravati: Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has announced that he will fully focus on strengthening his party from September onwards. While continuing in the NDA coalition government, he plans to dedicate his time to building Jana Sena’s organisational structure and enhancing its grassroots presence across Andhra Pradesh. Currently, JSP is conducting internal surveys in 60 additional constituencies, apart from the 21 Assembly seats it won in the recent elections. Initial results indicate that the party has strong influence in nearly 50 constituencies, which will serve as focal points for future political strategies. To boost leadership at the district level, Pawan Kalyan is expected to appoint district-wise party presidents soon. This move is aimed at decentralising decision-making and creating a responsive local leadership structure. Additionally, the party is preparing to launch a mass outreach program titled “Intintiki Jana Sena” (Jana Sena to Every Household). The campaign aims to build a personal connection with voters, address local concerns, and strengthen the party’s booth-level presence. Pawan Kalyan’s decision is viewed as a long-term strategy to consolidate JSP’s role in state politics, and party cadres are gearing up for an intensive, people-focused political phase.

## Chandrababu Delivers, Jagan Distracts: Tiruvuru MLA



TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

NTR District: Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao held a press conference in NTR district, sharply criticizing former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for allegedly promoting chaos over development. He claimed that despite not being in opposition status, Jagan frequently surfaces only to incite unrest and mislead the youth and party cadres. “While Jagan focuses on violence and provocation, Chandrababu Naidu is steering the state towards progress and stability,” the MLA asserted. He added that Jagan’s recent public meetings were aimed at disturbing peace and radicalizing the youth. “If the ‘Rappa Rappa’ dialogue were inappropriate, why didn’t the censor board intervene?” he questioned, calling Jagan’s stance hypocritical. Highlighting the state’s current progress, Srinivasa Rao noted that the Andhra Pradesh Investment Promotion Board (IPB) held its 8th meeting recently under CM Naidu’s leadership, securing investment proposals worth ₹39,500 crore. These proposals are expected to generate 39,800 new jobs, creating hope among unemployed youth across the state. He stressed that these investments reflect Chandrababu’s consistent efforts in creating an investor-friendly environment post-bifurcation. Referring to Nara Lokesh’s vision, the MLA reiterated the goal of creating 20 lakh jobs, emphasizing that such progress is impossible unless Jagan Mohan Reddy changes his mindset. “Jagan needs to stop glorifying violence and start supporting initiatives that benefit the youth. It’s time to move beyond rhetoric and focus on real employment opportunities,” Srinivasa Rao concluded.

# TDP Women’s Wing Meet Slams YSRCP's "Crude Politics"

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Mangalagiri: The Telugu Desam Party’s state-level Telugu Mahila extended meeting was held at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri on Friday. The event saw participation from Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, TDP state president Palla Srinivas, and Kovvur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy. Speaking at the meeting, Home Minister Anitha criticized the previous YSRCP rule for weakening every institution in the state. She emphasized that under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s leadership, the coalition government is systematically implementing welfare schemes like “Super Six,” reintroducing Anna Canteens, and expanding benefits under the “Talli Ki Vandanam” scheme. Highlighting the government’s focus on women’s welfare, she said free bus services for women will begin from August 15, and pensions have been raised from ₹3,000 to ₹4,000. She also pointed to the crackdown on cannabis through the EAGLE



task force. Referring to opposition attacks, Anitha alleged that YSRCP is targeting women leaders with vulgar language. She demanded party workers take these welfare measures to the people and counter the opposition’s political conspiracies. MLA Prashanthi Reddy condemned recent derogatory remarks made against her by YSRCP leader Prasanna Kumar Reddy. She questioned why Jagan Mohan Reddy supports

leaders who demean women and pledged to take the issue to the National Commission for Women and the President of India. TDP state president Palla Srinivas said women’s dignity is non-negotiable and any leader who insults them will face people’s verdict. “Leadership is defined by values, education, and conduct—not by how many elections one has won,” he said, calling for strengthening women’s role within the party and in public life.

# MP Purandeswari Inaugurates Development Projects

TPN | Trinadh Rao Garaga

Rajahmundry: MP Daggubati Purandeswari actively participated in several developmental initiatives across Tallapudi Mandal of Kovvur constituency, East Godavari district on Friday. Accompanied by Kovvur MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao and Eluru Zilla Parishad Chairperson Ganta Padma Shri Prasad, the MP’s visit included foundation stone ceremonies and distribution of agricultural equipment to farmers. Purandeswari began her day at Malakapalli village with a warm interaction at the residence of Sri Maddipati Prakasham. Later in Peddevam village,

she laid the foundation stone for a CC Road-cum-Drain project estimated at ₹30 lakh under NREGS funds. She also distributed subsidized drones and power tillers to farmers through the Agriculture Department. In Vegeswarapuram village, the MP laid the foundation stone for a 40KL Overhead Service Reservoir (OHSR) tank funded under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with an allocation of ₹34.60 lakh. She also initiated CC road works worth ₹26 lakh and inaugurated newly completed CC roads costing ₹25 lakh under NREGS. Tallapudi village saw the foundation stone laid for another 40KL OHSR tank (₹31.60 lakh,

JJM funds) and CC road works worth ₹55 lakh (NREGS). In Annadevarapeta, she initiated the construction of a large 120KL OHSR tank under JJM with a sanctioned amount of ₹65.40 lakh and inaugurated CC roads costing ₹30 lakh. At Surayyapeta village, Purandeswari laid the foundation stone for a 20KL OHSR tank valued at ₹24.30 lakh, also funded through JJM. Throughout the day, the MP emphasized the government’s commitment to rural infrastructure, drinking water accessibility, and agricultural support. The visit was marked by active community participation and support from local leaders.



## Sriram Urges TDP Leaders to Accelerate Governance Program

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Dharmavaram in-charge Paritala Sriram has urged party leaders from Atmakur mandal to expedite the implementation of the “Supaari Palana - Tholi Adugu” (First Step of Good Governance) campaign. He emphasized the importance of taking the government’s welfare and development initiatives directly to the people. In a review meeting with Atmakur mandal KSS members, booth-level, unit, and cluster in-charges at his camp office, Sriram expressed dissatisfaction over the low registration levels in several booths. He questioned the commitment of booth in-charges and sought explanations for the delays. Sriram highlighted that TDP came to power after enduring five tough years in opposition and that despite financial constraints, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu

has initiated several welfare programs in his very first year. He reminded leaders that failure to effectively communicate development achievements between 2014–2019 led to the party’s 2019 defeat. “We must not repeat that mistake,” he warned. The party has now mandated that all local leaders inform people about the development work and engage in community-level outreach. “We have a valuable opportunity to reconnect with citizens and understand their needs. This campaign also gives us the leverage to ask the government for what’s required in each area,” he said. Sriram urged the TDP cadre to treat this initiative with seriousness, avoid complacency, and meet the set targets within the stipulated timeframe. “This is not just a campaign—it’s our duty to the people and our party,” he added.

# YSRCP Holds Key Constituency-Level Meeting



TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Tadipatri: The YSR Congress Party conducted a crucial constituency-level meeting in Tadipatri, Anantapur district. The meeting saw participation from district party president Anantha Venkatarami Reddy, party observers Naresh Reddy, former minister Shailajanath, ZP Chairperson Girijamma, Harshitha Reddy (daughter-in-law of Kethireddy Pedda Reddy), and other leaders including Ramesh Reddy, Fayaaz Basha, Peram Swarnalatha, Venkatram Reddy, Bombay Ramesh, and more. The leaders launched the “Recalling Chandrababu Manifesto” campaign by unveiling posters and QR codes, aiming to expose alleged deceptions by CM Chandrababu Naidu over the past 13 months. “Babu’s assurance means guaranteed betrayal,” said Venkatarami Reddy, accusing the coalition government of failing to deliver on promises. Despite electoral loss, 40% of vot-

ers still supported YSRCP, and it is the party’s duty to fight for their cause, he stated. Highlighting welfare schemes under Jagan Mohan Reddy’s previous term, he mentioned that ₹2.82 lakh crore was disbursed. In contrast, he said the new government already owes ₹82,000 crore to the public in just a year. Venkatarami Reddy alleged that under TDP, the government has turned into a regime of “Super Six evils”: corruption, anarchy, murders, rapes, false cases, and propaganda. He criticized the role of IAS and IPS officers, claiming they’ve become subordinate to ruling MLAs. “The rule of law is being violated in Tadipatri,” he said, demanding that leaders like Pedda Reddy be allowed to operate freely per court orders. Concluding the meeting, he urged YSRCP workers not to fear political pressure or police threats, and asserted that “we will return to power” and will always remain indebted to the cadres of Tadipatri constituency.



## Tulasi Reddy Slams Chandrababu on Handri-Neeva Claims

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Senior Congress leader and former Rajya Sabha member Dr. N. Tulasi Reddy has accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of taking undue credit for the Handri-Neeva project. Speaking to media at Vempalle, Tulasi Reddy mocked that it appears to be a case of “someone else’s money and someone else’s pride.” He stated that while former CM N.T. Rama Rao laid the foundation stone in 1983, only ₹13.75 crore was spent on the project in the 21 years until 2004. It was under the Congress regime, he said, that the project gained momentum. In 2005, then CM Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy relaunched the project under “Jalayagnam,” planning to lift 3,850 cusecs of water daily from the Srisailem reservoir to irrigate 6.02 lakh acres and supply drinking water to 33 lakh people. Tulasi Reddy added that ₹6,948 crore was spent under the Congress to complete the first phase, and 80% of the second phase was also completed. He recalled that the project delivered water to Jeedipalli reservoir in 2012 and released 10.12 TMC by 2013-14. He criticized the current coalition for merely completing minor lining works while making exaggerated claims. Calling Chandrababu’s self-praise “laughable,” he demanded an end to such misleading narratives. On Polavaram-Banakacharla, Tulasi Reddy called the proposal unviable and a financial burden. He cautioned that accepting this could weaken Andhra Pradesh’s stance against Telangana’s illegal projects on the Krishna river, including the 90 TMC Palamuru-Rangareddy and 30 TMC Dindi lift schemes — all built without tribunal or central approvals. He warned that if these continue, key Andhra projects like Telugu Ganga, Galeeru-Nagari, Handri-Neeva, and Krishna delta will run dry, turning Rayalaseema into a desert. He urged the AP government not to trade water rights for political compromise with Telangana.

# Quantum Valley to Boost Youth Growth: MP Kesineni

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Vijayawada: MP Kesineni Shivnath (Chinni) launched a mega job fair at PB Sid-dhartha College, under the joint initiative of Kesineni Foundation and Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC). Over 40 companies participated, offering employment opportunities for candidates with SSC, Inter, ITI, Diploma, Degree, B.Tech, and PG qualifications.

The MP emphasized that the visionary “Quantum Valley” project, championed by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is set to transform not just Andhra Pradesh but the image of India itself. He said the government’s efforts are not only to create employment but to groom entrepreneurs under the “One Family–One Entrepreneur” mission. He added that large-scale, free residential skill development programs would be implemented through SEEDAP. Stressing the importance of youth as the driving force behind “Viksit Bharat” and “Swarnandhra,” the MP urged youngsters to become job creators, not just seekers. He praised Vijayawada’s legacy of entrepreneurship and cited local leaders like MLA Gadde Rammohan and District Col-



lector Dr. G. Lakshmisha as role models for aspiring youth.

Collector Dr. Lakshmisha, speaking at the event, said Vijayawada is full of talent and opportunities. He encouraged youth to register at NTR Vikas centers and assured that job fairs would be held in every constituency.

MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao announced

that the state aims to create 20 lakh jobs in the next five years, aided by major policy reforms and industrial investments. He called the job fair a valuable platform for youth to secure good employment.

The event also saw participation from college principal Dr. M. Ramesh, local representatives, officials from APSSDC, DRDA, SC Cell, TNSF, and others.



## JAC Urges Govt to Regularise 1 Lakh Outsourced Staff

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh State Government Contract and Outsourcing Employees Federation has submitted a detailed representation to the government, urging immediate action on the long-pending demands of over one lakh contract and outsourcing workers. The memorandum was formally handed over on July 17, 2025, to Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu by JAC Chairman A.V. Nageswara Rao, Co-Chairman B. Kantha Rao (Mrs. Indivara), and Treasurer D. Dayamani. The federation emphasized that lakhs of workers, employed across departments like education, health, municipal administration, and electricity, have been serving the state diligently for years without proper recognition or regularisation. The federation highlighted that many of these employees have completed more than ten years of service and are still working under insecure, temporary terms despite multiple assurances by previous governments. They called upon Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to fulfil promises made during his earlier tenure, particularly the 2019 GO issued for minimum wages and job protection. They also demanded that Andhra Pradesh implement Supreme Court orders ensuring “Equal Pay for Equal Work” for all temporary employees working alongside permanent staff. Further, the JAC stressed the urgent need for job security and the formulation of clear service rules for outsourcing employees. They pointed out that most departments—including hospitals, schools, and municipal bodies—depend on outsourced employees to manage critical services like sanitation, record-keeping, and maintenance. Despite this reliance, these employees continue to face wage disparities and lack basic employment benefits like EPF and ESI. The JAC requested the reactivation of proposals previously prepared by retired IAS officers and ministers regarding employee regularisation.

## EO Orders Urgent Steps to Manage Indrakeeladri Rush

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In view of the rapidly increasing number of devotees visiting the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple on Indrakeeladri, Executive Officer V.K. Srinanayak held an emergency meeting with all departmental staff on Friday. The EO stressed the need to provide improved facilities in a planned manner, especially during peak days—Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays—when over 65,000 to 70,000 devotees have been visiting the temple.

The meeting was attended by officials from engineering, administration, main temple operations, accounts, and the festival departments. EO Srinanayak directed engineering officials to expedite development of Durga Ghat, ensure proper maintenance of the ghat road, and provide uninterrupted drinking water in queue lines. He ordered the immediate establishment of sufficient toilet facilities across the premises.

Special focus was placed on easing difficulties faced by senior citizens, people with disabilities, and mothers with infants. The EO instructed the deployment of battery-operated vehicles, development of adequate resting areas, and construction of additional prasadam counters atop the hill. To reduce congestion, he ordered the setup of information centers, prasadam counters, and cloak-rooms at the foothill within a week.



## Union Minister, MP Seek Blessings at Kanaka Durga Temple

TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Vijayawada: Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath offered prayers at the Indrakeeladri Kanaka Durga temple on Friday. They credited the ongoing prosperity and development of Andhra Pradesh to the divine blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga and the dedicated efforts of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Temple authorities gave the dignitaries a traditional welcome with temple honours and musical instruments. After the darshan, Vedic scholars offered blessings in the Ashirvachan Mandapam, presenting the guests with prasadam, a portrait of the goddess, and silk garments as a token of the visit.

Speaking to the media, the Union Minister remarked that the rapid progress of Amaravati’s capital development projects is a result of CM Chandrababu Naidu’s determined leadership and the blessings of the goddess. He expressed hope that the people of the state would continue to live in peace and prosperity under this divine and administrative guidance.

During the temple visit, renowned music director S.S. Thaman also arrived for darshan. He met with Ram Mohan Naidu and Kesineni Sivanath, and the three engaged in a light-hearted conversation within the temple premises. Their interaction added a cultural flavour to the spiritual visit, drawing attention from devotees and visitors alike.

## Fire Near Gannavaram Airport Sparks Panic

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District

A potentially disastrous incident was narrowly averted on Friday when Panchayat staff allegedly set fire to a pile of garbage near the National Highway adjacent to Gannavaram Airport.

The blaze quickly produced thick plumes of smoke that spread across the highway, causing severe visibility issues and disrupting vehicular traffic. The smoke also posed a significant risk to nearby air traffic, raising serious concerns over flight safety. Despite multiple previous warnings, the Gannavaram Gram Panchayat reportedly continued its careless practice of burning waste in open areas, triggering criticism for its negligence. The situation grew tense as motorists on the highway struggled with reduced visibility, and the proximity to the airport increased the danger manifold. Emergency services responded swiftly, and a fire engine was dispatched to the scene. The fire was eventually brought under control, and the spreading smoke was contained before any accidents occurred.



## Ministers’ Committee Discusses Rule of Reservation in Promotions



TPN | V V S Madhu Babu

Amaravati: A key meeting of the Ministers’ Committee was held at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on July 17, 2025, to discuss the implementation of the Rule of Reservation in promotions for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) employees. The meeting focused on reviewing current policies, understanding legal frameworks, and comparing practices across various states.

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, BC Welfare Minister Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanyaswamy, Women and Child Welfare Minister Gummadi Sandhyarani, Labour Minister Anagani Satyaprasad, and Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav participated in the discussion. The ministers collectively examined the existing state policy and the challenges faced in effectively implementing reservation in promotions within government departments.

The committee also reviewed similar models adopted by other Indian states, evaluating their impact and effectiveness. A major part of the discussion involved analyzing recent judicial pronouncements, especially those by the Supreme Court and various High Courts, to understand the legal validity and constraints surrounding reservation in promotions. The ministers acknowledged that several judgments had shaped the current approach and stressed the need to comply with constitutional provisions.

Recognizing the issue’s complexity, the committee decided that further study is required before making final recommendations. It plans to consult legal experts, review administrative data, and analyze best practices from across the country. Another meeting will be convened soon to continue the deliberations and move towards a policy resolution. The committee reiterated the government’s commitment to protecting the rights of SC/ST employees while ensuring administrative efficiency and legal compliance. The ministers agreed that any future steps would aim to balance social justice with operational integrity in government service promotions.



## AIIMS Launches PICU and NICU Services

TPN | Mangalagiri

In a major boost to pediatric healthcare in Andhra Pradesh, AIIMS Mangalagiri has inaugurated Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) services on the third floor of its inpatient block. These advanced facilities were launched on Thursday by AIIMS Executive Director and CEO Dr. Ahanthem Shanta Singh. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Singh stated that the newly established PICU and NICU units are equipped with cutting-edge medical technology and staffed by trained healthcare professionals to provide round-the-clock emergency and critical care for newborns and children. These units are designed to manage life-threatening illnesses and offer specialized care for the most vulnerable pediatric patients.

Dr. Singh emphasized that the launch of these intensive care units is a significant step in enhancing healthcare access for underprivileged families in the region. “Timely and high-quality care during emergencies can save lives, especially for infants and children who require specialized treatment,” he said. He also encouraged parents and caregivers to make full use of the comprehensive pediatric services available at AIIMS Mangalagiri.

This development reflects AIIMS Mangalagiri’s continued commitment to expanding its infrastructure and addressing the growing healthcare demands in the state. The inaugural event witnessed participation from medical staff, administrators, and local representatives, all of whom welcomed the addition as a vital milestone in improving pediatric health outcomes in the region.

## Dhavaleswaram ITI Faces Neglect

TPN | Ch Raju

**East Godavari:** The Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) near East Godavari district collectorate in Dhavaleswaram is under scrutiny for administrative negligence and long-standing allegations of corruption. Despite its purpose to offer skill development and employment opportunities to unemployed youth, the institute reportedly lacks basic equipment for practical training and has failed to conduct proper exams.

One of the key issues is the absence of a functioning Institute Management Committee (IMC), which is mandated for every government ITI to oversee development and training. Though an IMC was constituted in 2006 with local industrialists and department officials, it became inactive after leadership changes and financial irregularities. During its initial phase, the committee had Rs 2.5 crore funds sanctioned for development. However, only Rs 1 crore was spent while the remaining was reportedly placed in fixed deposits. Serious allegations emerged during the tenure of former Regional Deputy Director (RDD) R.V. Venkata Ramana,



who acted as IMC Chairperson. He was accused of misappropriating funds, facing vigilance and departmental inquiries, along with forest violation cases. Attempts to cover up these irregularities led to hurried reappointments of new committee members and a fresh Chairperson, allegedly to divert attention from past misuse. However, no development projects were executed in the last five years, and the ITI remains functionally crippled.

Currently, the institute operates without an IMC. Principal

Sunil confirmed there is no existing management committee and no record of recent IMC activities. Despite Minister Nara Lokesh's focus on skill development, officials appear to have ignored the worsening state of this government-run ITI. Local youth have demanded immediate intervention from the Minister and Skill Development Department. Without proper oversight, the institute's existence is in jeopardy, risking the future of hundreds of aspiring trainees depending on public skill infrastructure.

## Vizianagaram Gets ₹2.84 Crore for Air Quality Projects

TPN | Narasimhulu

**Vizianagaram:** Vizianagaram district officials have been directed to work towards transforming the city into a pollution-free zone, with a strong focus on green development. District Collector Dr. B.R. Ambedkar issued the directive during a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) district-level committee meeting held at his chamber on Friday. The Collector emphasized that various projects are being taken up under the NCAP to reduce air pollution in the city. Out of 14 proposed works submitted under the program, the central government has sanctioned ₹2.84 crore. Of this, ₹71 lakh has been released for 12 development projects under the 2024-25 financial year. These funds will be utilized to develop four urban parks within Vizianagaram Corporation limits and to improve BT roads, enhance greenery, expand drainage systems, and upgrade footpaths. The ten-



dering process for these works is already underway, the Collector said. To control vehicular emissions, he suggested introducing mobile pollution testing vehicles through MEPMA. He further stressed the need to promote electric vehicles and strictly prohibit the open burning of waste, which contributes to harmful smoke emissions. The Collector also directed the creation of a city-wide green belt and advised officials from

the Electricity Department not to cut down trees completely while clearing power lines—only branches should be trimmed. Officials from the Pollution Control Board, Municipal Commissioner Nallanayya, Industries Department GM Karunakar, SE (Electricity) Lakshmana Rao, Civil Supplies Officer Madhusudhan Rao, Agriculture Officer Taraka Rama Rao, and Horticulture DD Chandrasekhar attended the meeting.

## Bapatla Collector Frees 102 Acres After Decades

TPN | B Madhusudhanarao

**Bapatla:** In a major relief to farmers in Muthupalli village, Bapatla District Collector J. Venkata Murali on Friday announced full ownership rights to 87 farmers over 102 acres of land that had been caught in administrative limbo for decades. The decision was made during a review meeting held at the Bapatla Collectorate with the affected farmers of Nizampatnam mandal.

The land in question, though under cultivation for decades, was mistakenly registered as poramboke (government wasteland) in revenue records by earlier officials. As a result, these farmers were denied rightful ownership, with their lands included in the prohibited category under Section 22-A for the past several years.

Following a petition submitted



20 days ago, the Collector ordered a detailed investigation. The review revealed that in 1987, the lands were wrongly categorized as government property, and no corrective measures were taken thereafter. Upon re-examination of revenue records and land documents, it was confirmed that the 102 acres rightfully belonged to the 87 farmers.

Speaking at the meeting, Collector Venkata Murali stated that the administration had decided to recognize these lands as le-

gitimate patta (assigned) farmland. The farmers will now receive patta passbooks, granting them full legal ownership and rights over the land. This decision brings to an end decades of uncertainty and hardship for the farmers.

He assured that entries would be updated in the revenue records accordingly and pledged that the farmers would face no further obstacles regarding their land.

Also present at the meeting were Repalle RDO Ramalakshmi, Nizampatnam Tahsildar M. Srinivasa Rao, and several farmers from Muthupalli.

The move was hailed by the farming community as a long-awaited justice and a major step forward in correcting historical administrative errors that had left generations in distress.

## Food Commission Chairman Reviews Welfare Schemes Implementation



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh State Food Commission Chairman Chitta Vijay Pratap Reddy chaired a key review meeting on Friday at the commission office in Vijayawada. The meeting included officials from departments responsible for Public Distribution System (PDS), ICDS (Anganwadi), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, welfare hostels, and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). During the session, Chair-

man Vijay Pratap Reddy emphasized the importance of ensuring timely delivery of ration goods to cardholders. He directed officials to strictly follow government guidelines in distributing nutritious food, eggs, Bal Amrutam, and Bala Sanjeevini to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children at Anganwadi centers.

He also instructed that meals, eggs, and snacks be served according to the prescribed menu in schools and welfare

hostels. Regarding PMMVY, the Chairman reminded officials that the Central Government provides ₹5,000 for the first childbirth, while the State Government contributes ₹1,000 in rural areas and ₹600 in urban regions. For a second childbirth with a girl child, an additional ₹6,000 is provided.

The Chairman warned that any lapses in implementing these schemes will be dealt with strictly. He said corrective actions must be taken wherever irregularities are found. If needed, suo motu cases would be filed, fines imposed, and negligent officials would face disciplinary action through higher authorities.

Food Commission Members Bakkamuntala Kantha Rao, Lakshmi Reddy Indela, Jakampudi Krishna Kiran, and Ganjimala Devi, along with Deputy Director A. Srinivasa Rao and departmental officials, participated in the meeting.

## Minister's Walk Leads to Life-Saving Aid for Heart Patient



TPN Correspondent | Dharamavaram

A heartfelt plea during Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav's recent Praja Sankalpam Padayatra in Geethanagar, Dharamavaram, has led to swift action and medical aid for a distressed heart patient.

During the padayatra, local resident Kancha Kommala Saroj met the Minister and shared her health concerns. Saroj, a heart patient who recently underwent stent surgery, explained that her financial condition made it extremely difficult to afford the daily medicines she needs to survive.

Moved by her situation, Minister Satyakumar Yadav responded with compassion and directed his office to provide immediate assistance. On Friday, constituency in-charge Harish Babu, along with BJP leaders Kunchepu Narappa and Ravi, personally handed over the essential medicines to Saroj at the Dharamavaram Minister's Office.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Babu said, "This is the true intent behind our Minister's padayatra – to reach people directly and

respond to their needs with urgency. What we offered Saroj today is not just medicine, but a reassurance that the government stands by every citizen in need."

He added that Minister Yadav's padayatras are not just symbolic walks, but sincere efforts to bring real change in people's lives. The government, he affirmed, remains committed to transforming lives through welfare-driven governance. The prompt medical assistance reflects the government's resolve to address public grievances swiftly and meaningfully, especially for the underprivileged who trust in the system's compassion.

## RDO Heads Gender Law Campaign

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

**Guntakal:** A special awareness meeting was held under the leadership of Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Srinivas to educate gynecologists and radiologists from private nursing homes and diagnostic centers about the PCPNDT Act and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act.

Addressing the participants, RDO Srinivas emphasized that gender determination of the fetus is strictly prohibited under the PCPNDT Act, 1994. If any attempt or act of gender determination is identified, legal action including im-



prisonment, fines, and cancellation of licenses will be enforced against the concerned scan centers and medical practitioners.

Dr. Yugandhar, District Immunization Officer, instructed that Form-F must be mandatorily uploaded with full details and RCH ID before each scan. He

also stated that abortions can only be conducted under specific conditions by qualified doctors as per the amended MTP Act, 2021. Abortions performed due to gender bias are punishable by law. Officials warned that regular inspections of scanning centers will continue. All centers must maintain proper registers and documentation in compliance with the law. The event was attended by Dr. Gangadhar, Dr. Haritha, Dr. Riyaz (AMO), and DY Health Educator Officer Venugopal, who also provided legal guidance to the medical community.

## 'ReCalling Manifesto': YSRCP Targets CM

TPN | Correspondent

**Chittoor:** The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) staged a strong protest against the ruling TDP-led coalition through its 'ReCalling Chandrababu's Manifesto' program in Srikalahasti on Friday. Led by former MLA Biyyapu Madhusudhan Reddy, the meeting took aim at Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for failing to deliver on his 2024 poll promises.

Speaking at the event, Madhusudhan Reddy accused the TDP government of launching political vendettas against YSRCP supporters. He alleged that 45 houses in MPedu were demolished and families from Khandriga forced to flee. "If they write a Red Book, I write names in blood. I won't spare anyone who troubles my cadre," he said, warning of



a fierce political return.

Chittoor district YSRCP president Bhupana Karunakar Reddy said that Naidu misled people with false promises and that none of the welfare schemes promised for June 2024 had been implemented. "TDP betrayed the public.

This program is to remind people of that betrayal," he said.

MLC Sipayi Subrahmanyam lauded Madhusudhan Reddy's public service during the pandemic and said the TDP was removing banners out of fear. He questioned Pawan Kalyan's silence on attacks against women, particularly in cases involving ruling party members.

Leaders vowed to expose the failures of the coalition government and continue reaching out to the public. Several key leaders including Anjur Taraka Srinivasulu, Oduru Gridhar Reddy, and others from Tirupati and Chittoor districts participated in the meeting.

# India’s Global South Leadership Under Strain Amid Foreign Policy Contradictions



Recent developments suggest that India’s leadership role in the Global South is steadily eroding, raising concerns about its strategic positioning and credibility in multilateral forums. From the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to BRICS and even the long-dormant SAARC, India appears increasingly isolated as other nations in the region and beyond explore alternative alliances — often with China’s support. India has long aspired to be the voice of the Global South, championing the concerns of developing nations. However, its selective advocacy and reluctance to take firm stances on contentious global issues have created a credibility gap.

India’s abstentions on several United Nations resolutions calling for ceasefires in Gaza, its muted responses to US and Israeli attacks on Iran, and its silence on issues like the Dalai Lama’s succession and Tibet’s autonomy raise questions about the consistency of its moral compass. These choices point to a foreign policy driven more by realpolitik than by principle — a stance increasingly viewed with skepticism across the Global South. In the SCO, India’s influence appears to be waning. At the recent Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Tianjin, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar pushed for a condemnation of the Pahalgam

terrorist attack, highlighting the SCO’s foundational aim to combat terrorism. However, member states — led by China and backed by Pakistan — offered only platitudes about regional cooperation. India’s refusal to sign the joint statement after the attack was ignored reveals its diminished sway in the organisation. Similarly, India’s role in BRICS is under scrutiny despite its upcoming presidency in 2026. While there are bold ambitions to reshape BRICS around themes like resilience and sustainability, India’s mixed signals are undermining trust. Its continued support for Israel, hesitancy on endorsing a common BRICS currency, and

silence on US-led efforts that destabilize global trade have led to questions about its commitment to genuine multipolar cooperation. Closer to home, in SAARC, India’s longstanding strategy of isolating Pakistan has lost traction. Frustrated by the lack of regional progress, neighbouring countries are now leaning toward Chinese-backed platforms, leaving India further marginalized. Unless India reassesses its diplomatic approach, especially its balancing act between strategic autonomy and bloc commitments, it risks further alienation within the very group of nations it once sought to lead.

# Indian Sports Administration: Living in a Fool’s Paradise, Urgent Reality Check Needed



India’s sports administration seems trapped in a dreamland where everything appears promising on the surface, but beneath lies a mess of conflicts, doping scandals, and declining performance. The government’s ambitious plan to host the 2036 Olympic Games is touted as a symbol of India’s sporting progress and organizational capabilities. However, a recent visit by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) officials to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters in Switzerland brutally exposed India’s deep-rooted problems.

The IOC bluntly told the Indian delegation: “Get your house in order before you think of hosting the Olympics.” This wake-

up call highlighted three critical concerns.

First, the IOA is marred by internal power struggles. IOA President P.T. Usha is locked in conflict with executive council members over key appointments, such as CEO Raghuram Iyer and her executive assistant Ajay Kumar Narang. This friction has stalled meetings and created a toxic environment. Furthermore, the IOA and the sports ministry clash over the recognition of the Indian Golf Union, with both bodies backing rival factions. This chaos severely undermines the apex sports body’s credibility.

Second, doping is rampant among Indian athletes. Ac-

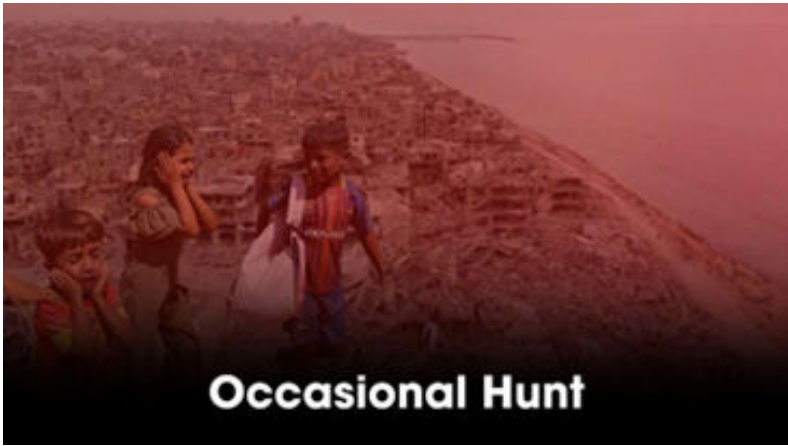
cording to the Athletics Integrity Unit of World Athletics, 62 Indian athletes, including juniors, have been caught using banned substances, making India second only to Russia in doping cases worldwide. The doping crisis is widespread and entrenched, tarnishing India’s image internationally. Despite this, the sports community often turns a blind eye to drug use as long as medals keep coming.

Third, India’s overall Olympic performance is on a steady decline. The IOC’s data reveals that India’s rank in the last five Olympics has dropped from 50th in Beijing 2008 to a low of 71st in Paris 2024, with only a slight improvement in Tokyo 2020 due to Neeraj

Chopra’s gold medal. The scarcity of gold medals hurts India’s global standing.

Compared to nations like Jamaica, which produces world-class athletes despite limited infrastructure, India’s progress is sluggish. If things don’t change, India risks being ranked 100th by 2036—the year it plans to host the Olympics—making it the only host nation with such poor sporting credentials.

The IOC’s advice is clear: India must first strengthen its sports ecosystem and improve athlete performance before dreaming of hosting the world’s biggest sporting event. Otherwise, the nation risks humiliation on the global stage.



# Palestine’s Silent Tragedy: Daily Deaths Become the New Normal

What we are witnessing in Gaza today is not just a conflict—it is a relentless, daily decimation of a people. The killings have become so routine that they no longer shock the world. The silence is deafening, the inaction overwhelming. It seems the world, and perhaps humanity itself, has become numb to the tragedy unfolding in Palestine.

A recent report by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics paints a grim picture. Since October 2023, Gaza’s population has declined by nearly 10%. More than 57,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks, including 18,000 children and 12,000 women. This staggering number represents 2.4% of Gaza’s population—erased in less than two years.

The violence shows no signs of abating. On average, around 60 civilians are being killed daily, many of them women and children. The scale of human suffering is almost beyond comprehension, yet there is no visible effort to stop the carnage. The international community, often quick to condemn other crises, remains largely passive—reduced to a mute audience.

Even within the Islamic world, there is little more than rhetoric. The 57 Arab-Muslim nations, who often express solidarity with the people of Gaza, appear paralysed—neither raising their voice effectively nor taking any meaningful action. They call Gazans their brothers and sisters in faith, yet many remain silent out of fear—fear for their regimes, their personal safety, and the massive wealth they sit upon.

Children are dying not just from bombs but from hunger and thirst. Basic necessities are scarce. Human dignity is vanishing in plain sight.

Meanwhile, Israel, undeterred by the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, has also launched attacks on Iran, allegedly targeting its nuclear program. Backed by its long-time ally, the United States, Israel’s military ambitions continue unabated, though they’ve failed to achieve key objectives.

In cities like Hyderabad, Urdu newspapers continue to document the daily toll of death and destruction in Gaza. But what impact do these grim updates have on their readers? Do they move people to demand action—or have even the most empathetic grown accustomed to the news?

How long will this massacre go on? Who will stop it? The world has no answers. The tragedy of Palestine continues—unfolding silently, tragically, and seemingly without end.



# Retail Inflation Hits Six-Year Low: What the Numbers Reveal Beyond the Headlines

India’s inflation rate continues its downward slide, with the latest data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) confirming a significant moderation. Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), dropped to a six-year low of 2.1% in June, down from 2.82% in May. This marks the fifth consecutive month in which inflation has remained below the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) target of 4%.

The average inflation for the first quarter of the fiscal year now stands at 2.7%, lower than the RBI’s own projection of 2.9%. The last time inflation was this low was in January 2019, when it reached 1.97%. Notably, rural inflation was even lower than the national average at 1.72%, while urban inflation was slightly higher at 2.56%.

The primary factor driving this downward trend is the sharp moderation in food prices. The food and beverages category, which constitutes around 46% of the CPI basket, recorded a deflation of 0.2%. Vegetables and pulses in particular saw substantial price declines. This drop was further aided by a favourable base effect. Given the positive outlook for agriculture—thanks to a strong southwest monsoon and increased kharif crop acreage—food prices are expected to stay low in the near future. The monsoon, which had a slow start, has since picked up pace, delivering rainfall 9.5% above the long-period average. This has significantly improved agricultural prospects. Additionally, the resolution of the Israel-Iran conflict has eased concerns over a potential spike in global oil prices, further reinforcing optimism about inflation control. However, the picture isn’t uniformly positive. While food inflation has declined, prices in other CPI categories—such as education, healthcare, and daily-use goods—have seen increases. This suggests that despite easing food costs, the overall cost of living may not have dropped significantly for the average household.

## Justice Yashwant Varma Challenges Panel Report in Supreme Court Over Alleged Cash Scandal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Justice Yashwant Varma, a sitting judge of a High Court, has approached the Supreme Court challenging the findings of an in-house inquiry committee that linked him to unaccounted cash found in a gutted storeroom at his official residence following a fire on March 14-15.

The inquiry panel, formed by then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, had submitted its report on May 3, concluding that large amounts of half-burnt currency notes were found in suspicious circumstances, and indicated that the money was likely removed from the storeroom by trusted staff of Justice Varma during the early hours of March 15. Justice Varma has now moved the apex court to challenge both the report's findings and a subsequent communication sent by Justice Khanna to the President and Prime Minister, recommending his removal. He argued that the committee had no constitutional or statutory authority to recommend the ousting of a sitting judge and termed the report unconstitutional and procedurally flawed.



The judge contended that he was denied a fair hearing and not given an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses. He also raised objections over the absence of direct evidence, stating the panel based its conclusions on inference and speculation.

## PM Modi Unveils ₹7,200 Crore Projects in Bihar, Promises Jobs, Empowerment, and Growth

TPN Correspondent | Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple development projects worth ₹7,200 crore during his visit to Motihari, Bihar. Aimed at accelerating the region's progress, these multi-sectoral initiatives cover infrastructure, education, transportation, housing, and women's empowerment.

During the event, PM Modi handed over keys to 12,000 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, marking a significant push toward rural housing. He also flagged off four new Amrit Bharat trains, giving a major boost to the region's transport connectivity.

Addressing a large public gathering, the Prime Minister took aim at the previous RJD-Congress governments in the state, accusing them of neglecting development and prioritizing corruption. "Funds meant for the poor were looted. The word 'vikas' (development) was unheard of," he said.

PM Modi highlighted the contrast in governance since 2014, noting that Bihar had received just ₹2 lakh crore under UPA rule, while his government has allocated ₹9 lakh crore in the last 10 years. "We ended the politics of revenge against



Bihar and ushered in real development," he stated.

Emphasizing women's empowerment, he lauded the Jeevika Didi initiative, which has helped thousands of women become financially independent. "These women have become 'Lakshpati Didis', showing the way forward for social transformation," he said.

Looking to the future, Modi promised to develop Motihari like Mumbai and Gaya on par with

Gurugram, offering better infrastructure and job opportunities to the youth. He also announced plans to establish a special Makhan Board, ensuring fair prices for farmers and modernization of the agricultural sector.

Declaring that "If Bihar develops, India develops," PM Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment to jobs for the youth, dignity for the poor, and economic empowerment for women.



## Bomb threats hit over 45 Schools In Delhi&Bengaluru, turns out to be hoax

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

New Delhi witnessed chaos and panic on Friday as more than 45 schools across the city received bomb threats via email, sending students, parents, and staff into a state of alarm. Authorities swiftly launched emergency protocols, with police, bomb disposal squads, fire services, and dog squads rushing to affected locations to carry out evacuations and security sweeps. The schools targeted include institutions in Rohini, Dwarka, Paschim Vihar, South Delhi, Janakpuri, Ashok Vihar, and other areas. Notable schools like Delhi Public School (DPS), The Heritage School, GD Goenka, and Amity International were among those threatened. This marks the fourth such incident in the national capital in just one week.

Delhi Police have confirmed that investigations are underway, and search operations at the affected schools are ongoing. So far, no explosives have been found, and authorities are working to trace the source of the hoax messages. Former Delhi minister Atishi criticized the BJP-led central government over the repeated security lapses, calling it "shocking" that no safety assurance could be provided despite full control over Delhi's administration.

## US Declares The Resistance Front a Foreign Terrorist Organization

The US State Department on Friday officially designated The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group linked to Pakistan-based terror organization Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). TRF had claimed responsibility for the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.



Kashmir, causing instability and violence.

India warmly welcomed the US decision, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar calling it a "strong affirmation of India-US counter-terrorism cooperation." The designation highlights the deepening partnership between the two countries in tackling cross-border terrorism and shared security threats.

The move comes amid ongoing concerns about terror groups operating from across the border targeting Indian civilians and security forces. The Resistance Front, known for its covert operations and links to Lashkar-e-Taiba, has been active in Jammu and

The US action adds international pressure on Pakistan to curb terror groups operating within its territory and disrupt their networks. New Delhi views this step as a significant boost to India's efforts in combating terrorism and safeguarding regional peace.

Both nations continue to strengthen collaboration in intelligence sharing and counter-terror measures to prevent such attacks in the future. The designation of TRF is seen as a critical milestone in the global fight against terrorism.

## AAP Bids Goodbye to INDIA Bloc, Declares Alliance Limited to Lok Sabha Polls

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a political twist that has sent ripples across opposition ranks, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has officially distanced itself from the INDIA bloc, declaring that its alliance with the Congress and other parties was limited only to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. AAP MP Sanjay Singh confirmed this stance while addressing the media on Wednesday.



"The INDIA bloc was a strategy for the Lok Sabha elections. After that, we fought the Delhi and Haryana assembly elections independently. Our position is clear," Singh said, indicating a formal end to the collaborative opposition platform that once aimed to challenge the BJP at the national level. He emphasized that AAP will continue to raise people-centric issues in Parliament, particularly the alleged misuse of bulldozers in demolitions in states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and the Purvanchal region. "We are committed to exposing the anti-poor policies being implemented under the guise of development," he said.

Singh also accused the BJP-led Delhi administration of targeting slum dwellers. Referring to the ongoing demolition drives, he claimed that homes and shelters of the poor were being razed during extreme weather con-

ditions. "Slums are being demolished in 50-degree heat while the poor are left to suffer on the streets," he added.

Backing Singh's statements, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal had earlier voiced strong criticism of the BJP during a protest at Jantar Mantar, alleging that land-grabbing motives were behind the slum demolitions. He warned voters ahead of the Lok Sabha polls that such actions would increase if BJP remained in power—remarks that have resurfaced after large-scale demolitions within just five months. With this official declaration, AAP's exit from the INDIA bloc marks a significant shift in the opposition landscape ahead of future state and national elections.

## Former CM Bhupesh Baghel's Son Chaitanya Arrested by ED in ₹2,100 Crore Liquor Scam



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major development in the ongoing liquor scam investigation, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday arrested Chaitanya Baghel, son of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, in connection with a massive ₹2,100 crore money laundering case. According to sources, ED officials carried out early

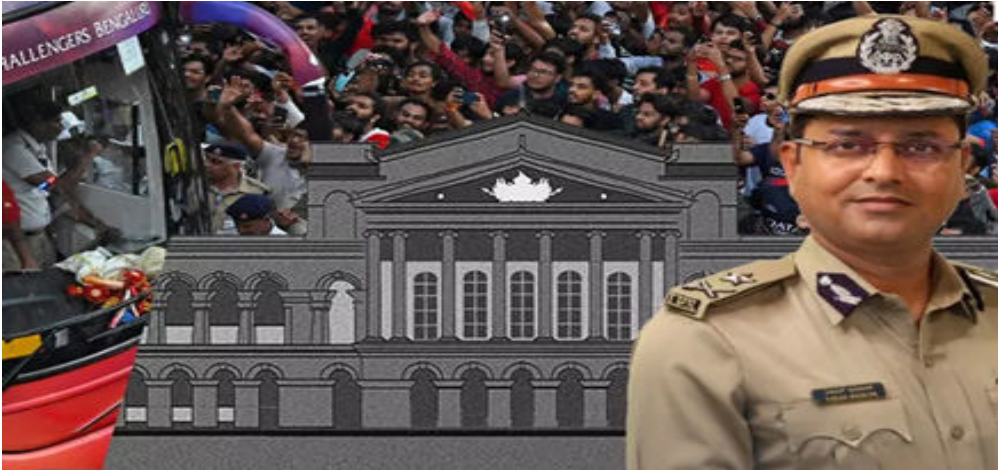
morning searches at Chaitanya Baghel's residence in Bhilai, located in the Durg district. After concluding their inspection and verifying new evidence, they detained him for further questioning and subsequently placed him under arrest.

The arrest has sparked political tensions in Chhattisgarh. Former CM Bhupesh Baghel has strongly criticized the ED's actions, accusing the central agency of acting with political bias. Speaking on the final day of the state assembly session, Baghel claimed that such raids and arrests are part of a broader political vendetta orchestrated by the ruling party at the Centre.

"It's no coincidence that this action comes just as key political discussions are underway. The ED is being misused to target opposition leaders and their families," Bhupesh Baghel said.

It is worth noting that the ED had previously raided Chaitanya Baghel's premises on March 10 as part of its ongoing investigation into the alleged scam. Today's arrest adds to the growing list of high-profile figures under the ED scanner as it deepens its probe into financial irregularities in Chhattisgarh's liquor business.

## Bengaluru Stampede: State Calls IPS Officer 'RCB's Servant' in Defense of Suspension



In the Bengaluru stampede case, the Karnataka State Government defended the suspension of IPS officer Vikash Kumar Vikash before the Karnataka High Court. Senior Counsel PS Rajagopal, representing the state, argued that the suspended officers acted like "servants" of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) cricket team, leading to embarrassment for the government. The state blamed the officers for failing to manage the situation properly during the incident, which resulted in chaos and tragedy. This defense came as the government justified its decision to suspend Vikash and others responsible for the law and order lapse. The case highlights concerns over the handling of security and crowd control during high-profile events in Bengaluru. The Karnataka High Court is currently hearing the matter to decide on the validity of the suspension and accountability for the stampede.

# Donald Trump Demands Release of Epstein Grand Jury Transcripts, Denies Writing Controversial Letter

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former US President Donald Trump on Friday called for the release of grand jury transcripts related to Jeffrey Epstein’s case, labeling the situation a “scam” allegedly driven by Democrats. Posting on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump urged Attorney General Pam Bondi to produce all relevant grand jury testimony, pending court approval, to “end this scam right now.”

The demand followed a Wall Street Journal report revealing a note purportedly from Trump among a collection of letters given to Epstein on his 50th birthday in 2003. The letter reportedly included Trump’s name alongside a crude outline of a naked woman. The documents cited by the report have reignited public scrutiny of Epstein’s connections to powerful figures. Epstein died in jail in 2019 while awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charges.

Trump swiftly denied authoring the letter and accused the media of a coordinated smear



campaign. In a series of posts on Truth Social, he threatened to sue The Wall Street Journal, its parent company News Corp., and media mogul Rupert Murdoch over the story. “The Wall Street Journal, and Rupert Murdoch, personally, were warned directly by President Donald J. Trump that the supposed letter they printed by President Trump to Epstein was a FAKE,” Trump wrote. He accused the Journal’s editor Emma Tucker of ignoring warnings

from both himself and White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt. Trump insisted the letter is “false, malicious, and defamatory,” and confirmed legal action would be taken soon. Leavitt also criticized the Journal on X (formerly Twitter), calling the article a “hatchet job” featuring a “FAKE ‘birthday letter’ supposedly from 2003.” The controversy adds to ongoing debates surrounding Epstein’s legacy and his ties to influential individuals.



# Gaza Crisis Deepens: Over 90 Killed in Israeli Strikes, Child Malnutrition Doubles Amid Blockade

TPN Correspondent | Washington

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has worsened drastically, with more than 90 Palestinians killed in the past 24 hours due to intensified Israeli airstrikes, health officials reported. Many of the dead include women and children, while severe food shortages and growing malnutrition among children continue to plague the region.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), child malnutrition in Gaza has doubled since March, when Israel resumed military operations and tightened its blockade, cutting off essential food and medical supplies. UNRWA’s latest screenings show that over

10% of children under age five are acutely malnourished, up from 5.5% just three months ago.

In one of the deadliest incidents, a strike in Gaza City’s Tel al-Hawa district killed 19 members of a single family, including six children and eight women. Another strike on a tent shelter in the same area claimed four more lives. The bodies were taken to the war-torn Shifa Hospital, which continues to operate under overwhelming conditions.

The strikes also claimed the life of Mohammed Faraj al-Ghoul, a Hamas legislator, along with a family sheltering in the same building. Gaza’s Health Ministry said a total of 93 people were killed and 278 injured in the last

day, although it did not specify how many were civilians.

The UN and aid groups warn of an impending famine, with aid severely restricted. UNICEF reported nearly 6,000 malnutrition cases in June—triple the number recorded in February.

Israel maintains that it targets militants, blaming Hamas for civilian casualties due to its presence in populated areas. However, humanitarian agencies say the aid distribution is hampered by Israeli military restrictions and ongoing violence. To date, Israel’s military campaign has killed over 58,400 Palestinians and injured more than 139,000, with more than half of the fatalities being women and children.



# Delhi Says No RIC Meeting Planned as China Pushes for Troika with Russia

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As tensions rise over the ongoing Ukraine conflict and increasing pressure from the US and NATO on Russia, China has expressed willingness to strengthen trilateral cooperation between Russia, India, and China—commonly referred to as the “RIC format.” This proposal comes amid mounting US threats of secondary sanctions on India if it continues purchasing Russian oil.

However, government sources in New Delhi, speaking on condition of anonymity, clarified that no official meeting of the RIC format has been scheduled or agreed upon yet. China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jiang had recently stated that China is ready to maintain communication with

Russia and India to advance trilateral cooperation, but New Delhi remains cautious.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that the RIC format is a consultative platform where the three countries discuss global and regional issues of mutual interest. Jaiswal added that any revival of the format would be worked out by the countries at a mutually convenient time.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko had earlier indicated Russia’s positive stance on restoring the RIC mechanism and confirmed ongoing negotiations with Beijing and New Delhi. Despite Russia’s enthusiasm, India appears measured, mindful of its close ties with the United States and pend-

ing trade discussions with the Trump administration.

When asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s potential visit to China for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, Jaiswal said the event is months away, and participation will be finalized based on mutual convenience.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently visited China, meeting his counterpart Wang Yi to discuss sensitive issues such as the border dispute, signaling India’s focus on bilateral engagement amid broader regional dynamics. Meanwhile, the RIC format remains stalled, reflecting lingering distrust and complexities rooted in the 2020 Sino-India standoff.

# Coldplay Concert ‘Kiss Cam’ Sparks Alleged Affair Controversy Involving Astronomer CEO and HR Head



TPN Correspondent | Damascus

A seemingly innocent moment at a Coldplay concert in Boston turned into a viral controversy after the venue’s ‘kiss cam’ zoomed in on two corporate executives — Astronomer CEO Andy Byron and Chief People Officer Kristin Cabot — who were caught hugging on the big screen.

The clip, widely circulated on social media, shows Byron and Cabot embracing during the concert. The mood quickly shifted when they realized they were being broadcast live on the jumbotron. Cabot immediately turned her face away and covered it with her hands, while Byron awkwardly ducked down in an attempt to avoid the camera.

The viral footage has triggered widespread speculation about an alleged extramarital affair between the two, as both are reportedly married. The situation was further amplified

when Coldplay frontman Chris Martin acknowledged their awkward reaction, quipping from the stage, “Oh, look at these two. You’re all right. You’re OK. Oh, what? Either they’re having an affair or they’re just very shy.”

Both Byron and Cabot are senior executives at Astronomer, a prominent AI and software company. Their appearance together at the concert — and the nature of their interaction — has sparked intense scrutiny online, leading to speculation about the nature of their relationship.

To add to the confusion, a fake apology letter allegedly written by Byron began circulating hours after the incident. The letter referred to the event as a “deeply personal mistake” and included an apology to his wife and company. Astronomer has since confirmed that the letter is not authentic and did not come from their CEO.

# SpaceX VP Lauren Dreyer Applauds Bangladesh’s Swift Support for Starlink Launch



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

SpaceX Vice President Lauren Dreyer praised the Bangladeshi government’s efficient and decisive support in facilitating the launch of Starlink services in the country, calling it among the best globally.

During a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna, Dreyer said, “We operate in 150 countries and territories, but the level of coordination and effectiveness here is

unmatched. On behalf of everyone at SpaceX, I thank you and look forward to deeper collaboration.”

Professor Yunus welcomed Dreyer and emphasized the importance of dependable connectivity, especially during Bangladesh’s monsoon season. “While the landscape is lush and beautiful, we also face challenges like flooding and waterlogging. These situations highlight the need for robust technology solutions like Starlink,” he said. He outlined initiatives to improve connectivity in remote and un-

derdeveloped regions, especially in the hill tracts, where schools, doctors, and infrastructure are scarce. “We aim to launch online education programs in 100 remote schools. Reliable internet will ensure children in isolated areas have access to quality learning,” Yunus stated.

He also emphasized the importance of digital healthcare. “We are enabling remote consultations, particularly beneficial for pregnant women and those in rural areas. Medical histories will be digitally stored, improving

continuity of care.”

Highlighting a broader vision, Professor Yunus noted that Bangladeshi expatriates would benefit from telemedicine services, especially those uncomfortable seeking medical help abroad due to language barriers.

Dreyer praised these initiatives and Professor Yunus’s anti-corruption efforts. “Your work to bring services directly to the people using technology is inspiring. Many countries can learn from Bangladesh’s model,” she said.

# Sensex Crashes 501 Points on Global Weakness, Disappointing Q1 Results

Domestic stock markets were in a tailspin on Friday. Sectoral indices including the benchmark were volatile. They ended with huge losses. The reasons for this are negative signals from global markets, foreign institutional investors withdrawing investments, local investors taking profits, and lack of clarity on the trade deal with the US. In addition to these, it is noteworthy that the Q1 results of companies are not promising. Despite bullishness in the medium term, bearishness is visible in the short term. Defense stocks lost heavily today. Overall, Nifty lost 143 points and Sensex lost 501 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,259 in the previous session, started at 82,259 on Friday. It touched an intraday low at 81,608. It reached an intraday high at 82,334. It ended at 81,757, down 501 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,108, touched a low of 24,918 and a high of 25,144. It closed at 24,968, down 143 points. The Nifty Bank ended at 56,283, down 545 points. In Nifty50, 15 companies gained and 35 lost. Wipro, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, ONGC, Nestle India were the top gainers. Axis Bank, Shriram Finance, BEL, HDFC Life, and Bharti Airtel were the biggest losers. Media and metal indices rose today. The IT index



ended flat. Private bank, bank, consumer durables, finance, PSE, PSU bank, healthcare, auto, pharma and oil sector indices were mixed.

Market breadth on NSE today is in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 3038 stocks traded, 1134 gained and 1820 lost. 69 shares touched their 52-week high and 19 shares touched their 52-week low. The upper circuit was 66

and the lower circuit was 33. The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.15. CLSA has given an Outperform rating to Tata Communications with a target price of Rs. 2100. Nuwama has given a Buy rating to HDFC AMC with a target price of Rs. 6530. Axis Bank reduces target price to Rs 1180 and downgrades rating to Nu-ama Hold. BEML receives order worth Rs 185 crore from Ministry

of Defence. HSBC maintains buy rating on LTI Mindtree with target price of Rs 6000. Citi maintains buy rating on Polycab India with target price of Rs 7700. South Indian Bank approves Rs 1000 crore in bonds. Inox Wind approves Rs 1250 crore through rights issue. Route Mobile Q1 consolidated profit falls 27%. HDFC, ICICI, Union, RBL and Yes Bank are scheduled to release Q1 results on Saturday.

# Reliance Jio Q1 FY26 Results: ARPU Rises to RS.208.8, Net Profit Touches RS.6,711 Crore



Reliance Jio, the telecom arm of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), posted a steady performance for the first quarter of FY26. The company reported a net profit of ₹6,711 crore, a slight increase from ₹6,642 crore in the preceding March quarter.

This growth, though modest, reflects continued strength in operational performance.

One of the key highlights was the improvement in Average Revenue Per User (ARPU), which grew 1.3% quarter-on-quarter to

₹208.8. This rise was attributed to better subscriber mix and growth in high-value customers, including 5G users and Jio-AirFiber subscribers.

Revenue from operations stood at ₹30,088 crore, marking a 3% sequential growth. The company's EBITDA also witnessed a rise to ₹16,690 crore, with a healthy EBITDA margin of 54.0%.

Jio's subscriber base continued to expand, with the telecom giant adding 9.9 million new users, taking its total mobile subscriber count to 498 million. Importantly, the company announced that it now has over 200 million 5G users, indicating rapid adoption of its next-gen services. Jio also surpassed 20

million fixed broadband users, with JioAirFiber leading the growth in home connectivity.

Data consumption per user remained robust at 37 GB/month, contributing to a 24% year-on-year growth in data traffic. The ongoing digital transformation and affordable high-speed connectivity continue to fuel Jio's growth engine. The Q1 results reinforce Reliance Jio's position as a telecom leader in India. With continued network investments and increasing uptake of its 5G and broadband services, Jio is well-positioned for future growth, especially as it prepares to roll out advanced digital platforms and AI-driven services across the country.

# India Needs \$1.5 Trillion by 2030 to Meet Climate Goals: Deloitte Report

India must attract an estimated \$1.5 trillion in investments by 2030 across various sectors to effectively address the climate challenge, according to a new report from Deloitte India. Titled "The Climate Response: Tapping into India's Climate and Energy Transition Opportunity", the report outlines the scale of financial and policy action needed to align with global sustainability goals.

Key investment drivers include the country's growing commitments to renewable energy, biofuels, decarbonisation technologies, and sustainable infrastructure. India's ambitious target of reaching 500 GW of renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030 alone will require \$200–250 billion, Deloitte estimates. This will involve major spending on advanced manufacturing, grid

integration, and expansion of transmission systems.

Currently, India must add 300 GW of RE capacity to close the gap between its installed capacity and the 2030 goal. The report identifies critical focus areas for climate investments, including:

Water security  
Sustainable agriculture  
Circular economy  
Waste management  
Green transport infrastructure  
Digital climate platforms

Deloitte emphasizes that these areas not only help in mitigating climate risks but also unlock long-term economic opportunities, create jobs, and build resilience.

The report calls for policy support, public-private partner-



ships, and the scaling of climate finance mechanisms to enable this transformative shift. Without such large-scale investment, India's ability to meet its net-zero ambitions and climate obligations under the Paris Agreement could face serious roadblocks.

As the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, India's transition holds immense global significance. The report underlines that timely action and capital inflow will be critical in determining the country's role in the global climate response.

## RBI Governor Hints at Possible Rate Cut Amid Cooling Inflation and Growth Concerns



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has signaled that a cut in the repo rate could be considered in the coming months if inflation continues to moderate or if economic growth shows signs of weakening. His comments come just a day after India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation dropped to a 77-month low of 2.1% in June, down from 2.82% in May.

Speaking in Mumbai on Tuesday, Malhotra acknowledged the continued downtrend in inflation and said that the central bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) would evaluate the evolving macroeconomic conditions before taking any decision on the policy rate.

“There is an expectation that inflation may not remain at 3.7% as projected earlier—it could be even lower. That possibility is on the cards. If inflation remains subdued or if growth momentum weakens, we will assess the situation carefully,” Malhotra said.

The sharp decline in inflation is being viewed as a positive development, especially as global commodity prices have stabilized and domestic food inflation has softened. Meanwhile, concerns around slower growth have also resurfaced, with some economists flagging weakening consumer demand and sluggish investment activity in certain sectors.

The RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the past few policy meetings, adopting a “wait and watch” approach amid global uncertainties and the need to ensure price stability. However, with inflation easing closer to the lower band of the RBI's 2–6% target range, pressure may mount to shift toward a more accommodative stance.

A potential rate cut could provide a boost to borrowing and investment activity, especially as the country gears up for the festive season and the second half of the financial year.

## Adani Group Exits Agri Business, Sells Stake in AWL to Wilmar for RS.10,874 Crore

In a significant strategic shift, the Adani Group has decided to exit the agri-business space by selling its entire stake in AWL Agri Business (formerly Adani Wilmar Ltd) to its joint venture partner Wilmar International of Singapore for a consideration of ₹10,874 crore. This move ends one of India's longest-standing joint ventures, originally established in 1999, and signals Adani's intent to streamline its focus on core sectors.

Under the original joint venture agreement, both Adani and Wilmar held 44% each in the company. With this transaction, Wilmar's ownership will rise to 64%, giving it majority control over the company. The remaining stake is held by public shareholders, as the firm was listed on the stock exchange in 2022.



The decision to divest comes amid Adani Group's efforts to consolidate and realign its business portfolio toward infrastructure, energy, logistics, and digital services. Industry experts see this as a logical move in the group's broader deleveraging strategy following recent expansions in capital-intensive sectors.

AWL Agri Business is known for popular consumer brands like Fortune edible oil, rice, atta, and other staples. The company has a significant market presence and wide distribution network across India. With Wilmar now in the driver's seat, the company is expected to deepen its focus on food processing and FMCG segments, leveraging its global expertise.

In a statement, Adani Group said the exit will help them “focus on areas that align better with the group's long-term vision.” Wilmar, on the other hand, expressed confidence in further scaling the business in India.

The deal is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close by the end of the current fiscal year.

# Plants Talk, Insects Listen: Israeli Study Reveals Groundbreaking Communication



A groundbreaking study from Tel Aviv University has revealed that plants may be communicating through sound — and insects are listening. Published in the journal *eLife*, the research provides compelling evidence that female moths can detect ultrasonic distress signals emitted by dehydrated tomato plants and use these cues when choosing where to lay their eggs. Led by researchers Rya Seltzer and Guy Zer Eshel, under the guidance of professors Yossi Yovel and Lilach Hadany, the study shows that this form of acoustic interaction could be a crucial survival strategy for both plants and insects. Moths typically lay eggs on tomato plants, providing a food source for their larvae. However, when presented with two identical healthy tomato plants — one paired with a speaker playing ultrasonic sounds previously recorded from stressed (drying) plants, and the other silent — female moths consistently avoided the sound-emitting plant. This suggests they inter-

pret the plant’s distress signals as a sign of poor conditions for their offspring. “We revealed the first evidence for acoustic interaction between a plant and an insect,” the researchers said in a joint statement. This discovery builds on earlier findings from the same team, which showed that plants emit high-frequency sounds when under stress — sounds that are inaudible to humans but detectable by various insects and mammals such as bats. The implications of this research extend beyond basic science. Understanding how insects respond to plant-generated sounds could transform agricultural practices, offering new, eco-friendly methods to influence pest behavior and monitor crop health. “We’ve seen that animals are capable of making sense of these sounds,” said Hadany. “We believe this opens an entirely new channel of plant-animal communication to explore.”



# AI Could Soon Help You Talk to Your Pet, Says Groundbreaking Research Initiative

In a major step toward bridging the communication gap between humans and animals, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is launching the world’s first dedicated research centre for animal consciousness — the Jeremy Collier Centre for Animal Sentience. Set to open on September 30, the £4 million centre will explore how technologies like artificial intelligence could help humans better understand and even “talk” to their pets. According to *The Guardian*, one of the centre’s core aims is to use AI to decode the behavioural cues of animals, potentially allowing pet owners to interpret what their pets are feeling or trying to express. This would mark a significant advancement in human-animal interaction, especially for domestic pets like dogs and cats. However, researchers are also placing a strong emphasis on the ethical challenges such innovations could bring. Professor Jonathan Birch, the centre’s inaugural director, warned of the risks associated with

AI-generated “translations” of animal emotions. “We like our pets to display human characteristics,” Birch explained, “and with AI, the ways in which your pet will be able to ‘speak’ to you could be taken to a whole new level.” However, he cautioned that AI systems often produce outputs designed to please users, rather than reflect reality — a concern that could have serious implications for animal welfare. For instance, pet owners worried about separation anxiety might rely on AI tools for reassurance that their dog is fine — even if that’s not true. “That could be a disaster,” Birch said. The centre plans to involve experts across neuroscience, philosophy, veterinary science, AI, and ethics to explore not only the potential but also the limitations of AI-animal communication. Birch emphasized the urgent need for global ethical standards, stating, “There’s currently a total lack of regulation. We need responsible frameworks to guide AI use in relation to animals.”

# Virtual Companions for Psychedelic Trips: The Rise of AI Chatbots as Trip-Sitters

In a surprising new trend, people are beginning to use AI chatbots as digital “trip-sitters” while under the influence of psychedelic substances—sparking concern among mental health experts and technologists alike. Traditionally, a trip-sitter refers to a sober, trusted individual who supports and monitors someone during a psychedelic experience. Now, some are turning to artificial intelligence for that role instead. According to a recent report from MIT Technology Review, users are increasingly seeking out AI chatbots—ranging from well-known tools like ChatGPT to niche platforms like “TripSitAI” and “The Shaman”—to provide virtual companionship and guidance while tripping on substances like psilocybin mushrooms or LSD.



This unconventional use of AI appears to be an extension of a broader trend: people turning to chatbots for emotional support and therapeutic conversations, often citing the high cost and limited availability of mental health services. However, using AI in such a vulnerable and altered state of consciousness is largely uncharted territory, raising ques-



tions about safety, ethics, and psychological stability. The report highlights a striking case from 2023, involving a man named Peter, who consumed an extremely high dose—eight grams—of psilocybin mushrooms. During his trip, Peter turned to ChatGPT for support. The chatbot responded by suggesting a soothing music playlist and

offering words of reassurance, mimicking the role of a human trip-sitter. Peter later described the experience as emotionally transformative. Still, experts caution against using AI as a substitute for a real, present, and sober individual during psychedelic use. The combination of hallucinogenic drugs and machine-generated dialogue could create unpredictable and potentially harmful outcomes. One researcher called it a dangerous “psychological cocktail,” emphasizing that AI cannot replace trained professionals or human intuition during altered states of consciousness. As the trend grows, it’s raising urgent discussions about responsible AI use in deeply personal and risky settings.

# Netflix Confirms Use of Generative AI in Argentine Series

Netflix has revealed that it employed generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) to create visual effects in one of its original Argentine TV series—marking a first for the streaming platform. The announcement, made on Thursday, highlights Netflix’s growing interest in leveraging AI technologies to support content production and improve user experience. The company did not disclose the name of the specific series but confirmed that GenAI was used to develop on-screen visuals, demonstrating how artificial intelligence is gradually being integrated into mainstream entertainment. The move comes amid ongoing debates in Hollywood about the role of AI in creative industries, with concerns ranging from job displacement to ethical boundaries in storytelling. Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos emphasized that AI presents a “tremendous opportunity” for the entertainment world. “It’s not just about making production cheaper, but about helping creators bring their visions to life more effectively,” Sarandos said. He framed GenAI as a tool that could enhance the quality and creativity of content, rather than replace human ingenuity. Fellow Co-CEO Greg Peters added that the company is exploring additional ways to incorporate generative AI to improve the viewer experience. One possibility, he noted, is allowing users to find content using spoken commands—such as asking Netflix directly what to watch based on mood, preferences, or voice queries. The adoption of GenAI in content creation signals a shift in how the entertainment industry may evolve. While the use of AI has sparked debates across creative fields, Netflix’s move suggests that major players are beginning to embrace the technology not only for cost efficiency, but also for expanding the boundaries of storytelling and interactivity.



# CBSE Urges Schools to Display ‘Oil Boards’ to Promote Healthy Eating Among Students



In a continued push toward promoting healthier lifestyles among students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued a new circular directing schools to install “oil boards” on campus. These boards are intended to raise awareness about the health risks associated with high

oil consumption, particularly from common foods consumed by children and adolescents. The circular, issued by CBSE Director (Academics) Dr. Praggya M Singh, urges school heads to take proactive measures to combat the rising rates of obesity and poor dietary habits

among students. This initiative follows a similar directive issued in May 2025, which required schools to display “sugar boards” outlining the dangers of excessive sugar intake. Citing data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), the circular highlights that over 20% of urban adults in India are overweight or obese. A 2025 report from *The Lancet*’s Global Burden of Disease study projects that the number of overweight and obese adults in India will increase from 18 crore in 2021 to nearly 45 crore by 2050, making India the second-largest contributor to global obesity rates. Childhood obesity, the circular notes, is largely driven by poor eating habits and sedentary lifestyles.

The CBSE has asked schools to take specific actions, including:

- Displaying Posters in cafeterias, lobbies, and other public areas to highlight the dangers of oily and fatty foods.
- Adding Health Messages to school stationery, such as notebooks, folders, and envelopes.
- Encouraging Healthy Practices like offering fruits and vegetables, cutting down on junk food, and promoting physical activities.

The initiative is also being extended to government offices and institutions, with the Union Health Ministry recommending similar boards in public spaces to raise awareness on healthier food choices.



## Arjun Erigaisi Advances to Semifinals

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has stormed into the semifinals of the USD 750,000 Freestyle Grand Slam Tour in Las Vegas after defeating Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov 1.5-0.5 in the quarterfinals. However, fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa bowed out of the title race following a narrow 3-4 loss to the USA's Fabiano Caruana.

Arjun showed dominance in both games against Abdusattorov. In the second game, playing with the white pieces, he secured a significant material advantage early on by winning a rook for a bishop and soon overwhelmed his opponent, leaving no doubts about his control. Though Arjun made some unforced errors in the first game that allowed Abdusattorov to claim a half-point, he still maintained the upper hand throughout. Meanwhile, Praggnanandhaa and Caruana engaged in a thrilling seven-game battle. The Indian led three times during the match, winning the first game but losing the second. The back-and-forth tussle continued until Caruana pulled ahead, clinching the final and decisive seventh game. Despite the loss, Praggnanandhaa's tournament is not over as he moves to the lower bracket for another knockout round alongside seven other players.

Other quarterfinal winners include the American duo Levon Aronian and Hans Moke Niemann. Aronian defeated compatriot Hikaru Nakamura 2.5-1.5, while Niemann overcame Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov 4-2. In the semifinals, Arjun will face Aronian, and Niemann is set to take on Caruana.

In the lower bracket, world number one Magnus Carlsen returned to form with a 2-0 win over India's Vidit Gujrathi. American Wesley So and Leinier Dominguez Perez also advanced, along with Germany's Vincent Keymer, who defeated Robson Ray 2.5-1.5.

The Freestyle Grand Slam continues to showcase intense competition and exciting matchups as the tournament moves toward its climax.



## T20I Tri-Series: Conway, Henry Star as New Zealand Crush Zimbabwe by 8 Wickets

New Zealand continued their dominant run in the ongoing T20I Tri-Nation Series with a comprehensive 8-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the third match, held at the Harare Sports Club on Friday.

Winning the toss, Kiwi skipper Mitchell Santner opted to bowl first — a decision that quickly paid off. Spearheaded by Matt Henry, who returned impressive figures of 3 for 26, New Zealand's bowling attack restricted Zimbabwe to a modest 120 for 7 in their 20 overs.

The Zimbabwean batting unit

struggled to find rhythm, with none of the top-order batters making a significant impact. New Zealand maintained tight lines and capitalized on the sluggish pitch to keep the hosts under pressure throughout the innings.

Chasing 121, Devon Conway led from the front with a brilliant 59 off 40 balls\*, anchoring the innings with composure and control. His knock included several stylish strokes that kept the scoreboard ticking. New Zealand reached the target in just 13.5 overs, sealing a dominant win and strengthening their po-

sition in the tri-series.

This win marked New Zealand's second straight victory in the tournament, placing them firmly at the top of the points table. The Kiwis now look ahead to their next challenge in what has been a promising build-up to the T20 World Cup later this year.

**Brief Scores:**

*Zimbabwe – 120/7 (Matt Henry 3/26)*  
*New Zealand – 121/2 in 13.5 overs (Devon Conway 59\*)*  
**Result: New Zealand won by 8 wickets.**



## India Women Eye Series Win Against England Ahead of ICC Women's ODI World Cup

India Women's cricket team will look to seal their dominance in the ongoing ODI series against England when they take on the hosts in the second and penultimate match at Lord's on July 19, 2025. Riding high on their four-wicket win in the series opener at Southampton, India aim to secure an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. This victory would extend India's winning streak in the ODI format, adding to their recent tri-series success involving Sri Lanka and South Africa. These matches are crucial for India as they serve as a key preparation platform for the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, which India will host later this year starting September 30. With multiple match-winners in the squad, coach Amol Mumtaz and captain Harmanpreet Kaur face the pleasant challenge of managing an in-form and deep pool of talent.

Despite injuries to pacers Renuka Singh Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar, newcomer Kranti Goud impressed by taking two important wickets in the opener. The batting line-up boasts strong contenders like Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, and Shafali Verma, creating healthy competition for spots. The spin department is also well-stocked with players such as Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Radha Yadav, and left-arm spinner N Shree Charani, who was the Player of the Series in the recent T20Is.

## FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B: India Falls to Thailand 93-76 in Semi-Final Qualifiers

The Indian women's basketball team's quest for promotion to Division A at the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B came to a disappointing end after a 93-76 loss to Thailand in the semi-final qualifiers held in Shenzhen, China.

India fought hard but was ultimately unable to overcome Thailand, ranked 12th in the FIBA standings, while India is ranked 15th. Key players for India were Sreekala Rani and Pushpa Senthil Kumar, who both scored 23 points each. Thailand's Rattiyakorn Udomsuk led all scorers with 25 points.

The defeat was a major setback for India, as only the winners of Division B earn promotion to Division A for the next year. India's next challenge will be in the fifth-place classification match, where they will face the loser of the semi-final qualifier between Mongolia and Kazakhstan.

India had secured the second position in Group A to qualify for the semi-final qualifiers, with Chinese Taipei topping the group and advancing directly to the semi-finals. India started the game slowly, trailing by 7 points in the first quarter. However, they bounced back to narrow the deficit to 20-18 by the quarter's end.

Thailand then intensified their efforts, leading 39-33 at halftime and extending their advantage to 68-51 by the end of the third quarter. India fought to erase the 17-point gap in the final quarter but could never seize the lead, ultimately falling short.

This tournament marked India's return to the FIBA Women's Asia Cup after a four-year absence, having missed the 2023 edition due to relegation from Division A in 2021. The team will now look to regroup and come back stronger in future competitions.



## Sujeet Kalkal Clinches Gold at Ranking Series Wrestling After Asian U-23 Triumph

Indian wrestler Sujet Kalkal continued his impressive run by securing the 65kg free-style gold medal at the Ranking Series wrestling event in Budapest. The 22-year-old, who recently won the Asian Under-23 championship, defeated several top contenders en route to his second major gold in just a few weeks.

Sujeet showcased dominant performances throughout the tournament. He opened with a commanding 11-0 victory over Paris Olympics bronze medallist Albanian Islam Dudaev. In the quarterfinals, he again won convincingly, beating European silver medallist Khamzat Arsamerzouev of France by the same 11-0 margin. In the semifinals, Sujet faced tough competition from Armenian Vazgen Tevanyan, a two-time Olympian and 2023 World Championships bronze medallist,

but emerged victorious with a 6-1 scoreline. In the final, Sujet overcame Azerbaijan's Ali Rahimzade, a European bronze medallist, 5-1 to claim the gold. This win marked Sujet's second Ranking Series gold, his first being three years ago in Tunisia. Despite carrying a Grade-3 ligament tear in his ankle sustained during the senior Asian championships in March, Sujet's determination and skill helped him dominate the field.

Sujeet's recent performances underline his rising stature in the wrestling world and promise a bright future ahead.

In related news, Indian wrestler Rahul, competing in the 57kg category, secured a bronze medal by defeating 2023 European Under-23 champion Niklas Stechele of Germany 4-0, adding to India's strong showing at the tournament.



## ‘Sir Madam’ Trailer: Vijay Sethupathi & Nithya Menen Shine in Raw, Witty Marital Drama

The trailer for *Sir Madam*, the Telugu-dubbed version of the Tamil film starring Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen, has been released—and it’s already making waves. Directed by Pandiraj and produced by Satya Jyothi Films, the romantic drama explores the complexities of married life, showcasing both its emotional depth and everyday humor. In *Sir Madam*, Vijay and Nithya play a married couple, portraying the subtle tensions and unsaid truths that creep into relationships after the “happily ever after.” The trailer delivers a compelling mix of truth, sarcasm, vulner-

ability, and relatable human emotion. With characters that feel deeply familiar, the film appears to hold up a mirror to modern relationships and middle-class domestic life. What stands out in the trailer is the grounded, honest tone paired with subtle yet impactful humor. It doesn’t shy away from showing the friction between partners—the ego clashes, the silent misunderstandings, and the small, humorous battles that define married life. All of it is presented with authenticity and charm. Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen’s chemistry is natural and nuanced, and

their performances are poised to be a major highlight of the film. The trailer hints at a fearless storytelling style that strips the glamour from romance and focuses instead on its real, raw edges. Adding to the entertainment quotient are Yogi Babu and Chemban Vinod Jose, who play supporting roles with comic flair. Their presence ensures that while the story is emotional and honest, it won’t be without laughs. *Sir Madam* is set to hit theaters on July 25, promising a refreshing, thought-provoking look at the realities of married life through the lens of love, humor, and emotional depth.

## “Saiyaara” Sensation: Romantic Drama Becomes 2nd Biggest Bollywood Opener of 2025

Bollywood’s latest romantic drama *Saiyaara* has taken the box office by storm, ranking as the second-biggest opener of 2025. Directed by Mohit Suri and starring fresh faces Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, the film is off to a spectacular start, leaving trade analysts and the industry abuzz with its exceptional pre-release numbers.



for its emotional intensity, fresh pairing, and engaging music. Produced by Akshaye Widhani and distributed by Yash Raj Films, *Saiyaara* boasts a rich, soulful soundtrack that has already struck a chord with listeners. Music directors Mithoon, Sachet-Parampara, Vishal Mishra, and Tanishk Bagchi contribute to the film’s romantic mood, creating an audio-visual experience that promises lasting impact.

With a promising start and word-of-mouth growing rapidly, all eyes are now on *Saiyaara*’s weekend box office collections. If early numbers are any indication, the film could be the breakout romantic hit of the year.

of the year’s most anticipated films featuring Bollywood heavyweights — including Salman Khan’s *Sikandar* (1.43 lakh), Akshay Kumar’s *Housefull 5* (94,750), and Ajay Devgn’s *Raid 2* (93,000). The overwhelming response speaks volumes about the film’s popularity, especially among younger audiences who are flocking to theaters

## Bakasura Restaurant’ Set for Worldwide Release on August 8: A Unique Telugu Comedy Entertainer

Telugu cinema fans are in for a special treat as the much-anticipated film *Bakasura Restaurant* is scheduled for a worldwide release on August 8, 2025. The film promises a unique blend of comedy and emotion, making it a “hunger entertainer” that will leave viewers both thrilled and touched. The makers are confident that audiences will walk away feeling as satisfied as after a delicious meal.



The movie stars comedian and character artist Praveen, who has won hearts with his dialogue delivery and acting prowess, playing a pivotal lead role. Popular actor Viva Harsha takes on the title role of *Bakasura*, supported by a talented ensemble cast including Krishnabagawan, Shining Phani (Bamchik Bunty), KGF Garuda Ram, Srikanth Iyengar, Uppena Jayakrishna, Vivek Dandu, Amar, Rampatas, Ramya Priya, Prachi Thakur, and Jabardasth Apparao, among others.

Directed by debutant S.J. Shiva, the film is produced under the banner of S.J. Movies by Lakshmaiah Achari and Janardhan Achari. The recently released songs and trailer have received an encouraging response from the audience, adding to the excitement around the film’s release.

Director Shiva shared that each scene is crafted to both entertain and emotionally connect with viewers. He expressed confidence that the innovative concept and heartfelt storytelling would make *Bakasura Restaurant* a memorable

cinematic experience. Technical contributions include cinematography by Bala Saraswathi, editing by Marthand K. Venkatesh, and music composed by Vikas Badisa. The team is gearing up for the film’s release in a record number of theaters worldwide.

With its fresh narrative and engaging performances, *Bakasura Restaurant* aims to serve audiences a satisfying cinematic feast when it hits the screens on August 8. Fans eagerly await to see how this innovative comedy entertainer fares at the box office.

## Junior Movie Review: A Glossy Debut for Kireeti Reddy, Let Down by a Routine Plot



**Rating:** ¾ (2.75/5)

**Starring:** Kireeti Reddy, Sreeleela, Genelia Deshmukh, V. Ravichandran, Rao Ramesh

**Director:** Radha Krishna Reddy |

**Music:** Devi Sri Prasad

**Release Date:** July 18, 2025

*Junior* marks the cinematic debut of Kireeti Reddy, son of politician Gali Janardhan Reddy. Released in both Telugu and Kannada, the film attempts to be a star-studded launchpad, but leans heavily on familiar tropes and predictable storytelling.

**Plot:**

Abhi (Kireeti Reddy), a spirited college student, lives life to the fullest and dreams of making lasting memories. His father (V. Ravichandran) wants to share those memories, longing to be more involved in his son’s life. Meanwhile, Abhi falls for Spoorthi (Sreeleela) and later begins an internship where he crosses paths with Soujanya (Genelia Deshmukh), a tough corporate figure with a hidden past. When Abhi uncovers a secret about Soujanya, he becomes part of her emotional journey.

**What Works:**

Kireeti makes a promising debut. He dances well, performs confidently, and shows potential, especially in lighter moments. V. Ravichandran

brings emotional weight to the father-son dynamic. Sreeleela lights up the screen in her dance number “Viral Vayyari.” Harsha Chemudu and Rao Ramesh provide some light-hearted moments.

**What Doesn’t:**

The film feels like a safe, overly familiar launch pad. The narrative is packed with formulaic romance, action, and drama, but lacks freshness. Sreeleela’s role is disappointingly brief, and Genelia’s character, though pivotal, fails to leave a lasting impact. Several supporting actors are underused, and the story often feels like a patchwork of seen-before moments.

**Technical Aspects:**

Cinematography by KK Senthil Kumar adds a polished look. Devi Sri Prasad’s music is average, with only a few catchy tracks. Editing feels sluggish in the second half, dragging the emotional pacing.

**Verdict:**

*Junior* is a decent one-time watch for fans of debut-hero films. While Kireeti Reddy shows promise, the film struggles under a predictable plot and lacks emotional depth. A more daring script would’ve made a stronger impact.

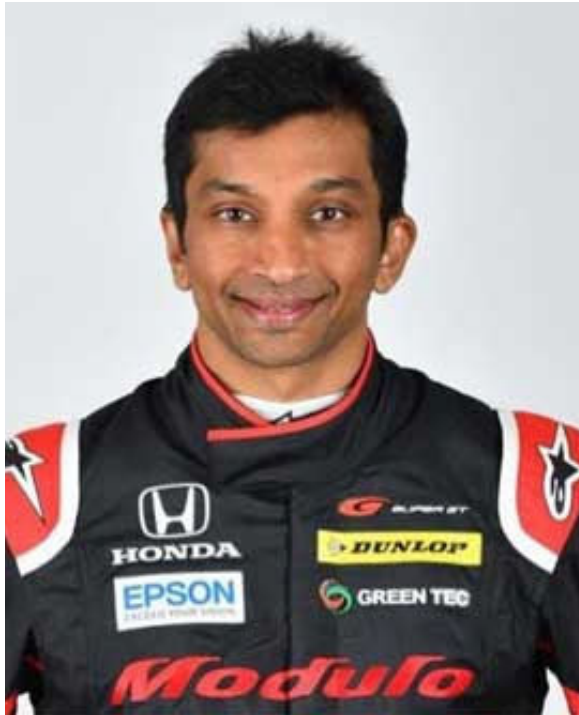
## "NK 370": Biopic on India’s First F1 Driver Narain Karthikeyan Announced

Indian cinema is shifting gears into high-speed storytelling with the announcement of *NK 370* (working title), a biopic on Narain Karthikeyan — India’s first Formula One driver. The film is being helmed by acclaimed director Mahesh Narayanan, known for *Take Off* and *Malik*, and promises an inspiring story of determination, speed, and resilience.

The Tamil-language film is being produced by Blue Marble Films, with the screenplay written by Shalini Usha Devi, the writer behind the National Award-winning *Soorarai Pottru*. With the global success of Brad Pitt’s *F1: The Movie*, *NK 370* is expected to draw both Indian and international audiences into the world of motorsport from an Indian perspective.

The film traces Narain’s journey from a motorsport-obsessed teenager in Coimbatore to the heights of Formula One racing. Trained by his rally champion father, Narain began competitive racing at just 15. His path took him through rigorous training in France, where he confronted racism and cultural challenges but proved his mettle through sheer grit and raw talent.

Among the pivotal moments the biopic will portray are his international race wins, a life-threatening crash in Macau, and the personal love story that offered balance amid a high-octane career. A highlight of Narain’s legacy — his historic debut with Jordan F1 in 2005, where he out-qualified the legendary Michael Schumacher and became the first In-



dian to score F1 championship points — forms the emotional and narrative climax.

“Motorsport gave me everything. This film gives that story to the world,” said Narain Karthikeyan in a statement. With casting currently underway, the makers aim to craft a globally appealing cinematic experience celebrating India’s motorsport pioneer.

Production for *NK 370* is slated to begin soon, with more updates expected in the coming months.