

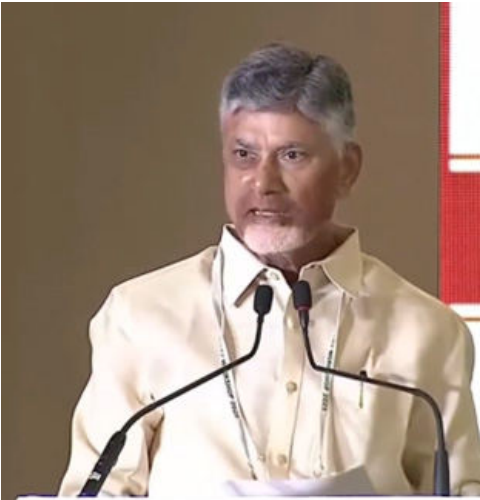


AP to Become a Quantum Tech Hub

- National Quantum Valley workshop held in Vijayawada
- Amaravati to get a dedicated quantum technology park
- AP to lead in future tech innovation, says CM

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a major step towards turning Andhra Pradesh into a future-ready state, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that a dedicated Quantum Park will be established in Amaravati. Speaking at the national-level workshop on ‘Quantum Valley’ in Vijayawada on Monday, CM Naidu said the initiative is aimed at transforming the state into a global leader in quantum computing and advanced technology. Highlighting the government’s ambition to make Amaravati more than just an administrative capital, Chandrababu declared, “We are developing Amaravati into a world-class technology hub. Our focus now is on quantum computing — the technology of the future.” He expressed happiness that tech giants like TCS, IBM, and L&T have extended their support and are partnering with the government in this



ambitious project. The Quantum Park in Amaravati is expected to foster innovation, attract startups, and create a conducive ecosystem for tech-driven development. Reflecting on his earlier contributions to the IT sector, CM Naidu recalled, “During my first tenure as Chief Minister, I met Microsoft founder Bill Gates and promoted the idea of IT in

India. I initiated the High-Tech City in Hyderabad with the PPP model. With the same spirit, we are building the Quantum Valley in Amaravati.” Chandrababu stressed that adopting new technologies is key to development. “Quantum computing will redefine industries like pharma, commerce, and infrastructure. Andhra Pradesh must lead this change,” he said. He also extended an open invitation to the youth and startups across the country, encouraging them to come to Amaravati and be part of this transformative journey. “Technology is our most powerful development tool, and Amaravati will soon be a landmark on the global innovation map,” CM Naidu affirmed. The workshop witnessed participation from top industrialists, academicians, researchers, and central government officials, marking a significant beginning to Andhra Pradesh’s quantum future.



Precautionary Measures Taken to Prevent Budameru Flooding

- 365-meter CC wall built at record speed before monsoon
- Budameru capacity being increased from 4,000 to 20,000 cusecs
- 12 new gates installed at Velagaleru to prevent future blockages

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has announced that critical infrastructure works to prevent flooding from the Budameru drain in Vijayawada have been completed on a record-fast timeline. Speaking after an inspection on Monday, the minister said a 365-meter-long concrete wall connecting three separate embankments has been built, with the goal of avoiding a repeat of the devastating floods that submerged parts of the city last year. Financial clearance for the CC wall was received in April, and tenders were finalized in May. “We ensured that the work was completed before the onset of the season,” Ramanaidu noted, adding that the Budameru’s left embankment is also being elevated by half a meter across a 7-kilometer stretch. The minister strongly criticized the previous government’s negligence, pointing out that the Velagaleru regulator’s gates were inoperable during last year’s floods due to lack of maintenance. “Not even basic greasing was done in five years,” he stated. During the emergency, JCBs had to be deployed to forcefully open the gates, with the help of local farmers. Now, 12 new gates have been installed at a cost of ₹1.8 crore to ensure operational readiness.

2 PAGE

PVN Madhav, Ramachandra Rao Named BJP Chiefs

- PVN Madhav to lead AP BJP; Ramachandra Rao to head TG unit
- Both leaders have RSS roots and calm political image
- Surprise picks despite many strong contenders

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

BJP has once again proved that it thrives on surprises when it comes to leadership choices. In a move that caught many off guard, the party high command appointed former MLC PVN Madhav as the Andhra Pradesh BJP President and senior leader N. Ramachandra Rao as the Telangana BJP President. Though many leaders were in the race for both posts, the BJP opted for calm, experienced leaders with deep RSS backgrounds. **PVN Madhav to lead AP BJP** In Andhra Pradesh, names like Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Bhanuprakash, Dr. PV Parthasarathy, Sujana Chowdhury, and Adinarayana Reddy were widely discussed. Yet, the party chose PVN Madhav—a second-generation leader with strong RSS ties and a clean public image. His father, PV Chalapathi Rao,



led the BJP in the state for six years. Madhav’s BC background and non-controversial nature also weighed in his favor. With the coalition government in AP, the party likely believes he can handle coordination smoothly. **Ramachandra Rao to head Telangana BJP** In Telangana, leaders like Etala Rajender, Dharmapuri Aravind, DK Aruna, and M. Raghunandan Rao were in the running. But the party picked N. Ramachandra Rao, known for his



gentle image and grassroots connect. A former MLC with an active ABVP and RSS past, he is seen as someone who can unite all sections of the party and handle internal dynamics with maturity. By picking Madhav and Ramachandra Rao, the BJP has opted for soft-spoken yet strategically sound choices, indicating that experience, loyalty, and ideological alignment continue to be key factors for the party’s top decisions in Telugu states.

Amaravati to Become South Asia’s First Quantum Valley: Minister Lokesh

- 1 lakh jobs to be created in 5 years through Amaravati Quantum Valley
- Over 50 unicorns targeted as part of the innovation ecosystem
- India’s most advanced IBM Quantum System-2 to be set up in Amaravati

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh announced an ambitious roadmap to transform Amaravati into South Asia’s first Quantum Valley, marking the next phase of Andhra Pradesh’s technological transformation. Speaking at the Amaravati Quantum Valley workshop held at the Novatel Hotel in Vijayawada alongside Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Lokesh unveiled the government’s long-term vision to lead the global quantum technology revolution. Lokesh stated that this initiative represents the “second chapter” of CM Chandrababu’s technological revolution—the first being the rise of IT in united Andhra Pradesh. “This is not a one-day event; it’s a movement. The Amaravati Quantum Valley will become the epicenter of India’s quantum future, and Andhra Pradesh will soon be recognised as a brain capital,” Lokesh asserted. He outlined plans to generate over one lakh jobs in the next five years and develop more than 50 unicorn startups through a strong innovation ecosystem. From building expertise in qubit architecture to cryoelectronics, from algorithm development to setting international quantum standards, Amaravati will house comprehensive quantum capabilities.



A key highlight of the announcement was that India’s most advanced 156-qubit IBM Quantum System-2 will soon be installed in Amaravati. In addition, Asia’s first quantum standards testbed will be established in collaboration with NPL, IEEE, SEAC, and AWS. Lokesh emphasized strategic collaborations with global and national institutions including IBM, TCS, HCL, Tech Mahindra, IITs, IISc, and even international universities such as Tokyo University.

2 PAGE

Point News Director Arrested Following MLA Balaraju’s Complaint

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

A major development unfolded in Jeelugumilli mandal of West Godavari district on Monday as the Jeelugumilli police arrested Point News Director Murthy Naidu following a complaint lodged by Polavaram MLA Chirri Balaraju. The arrest comes in connection with the publication of allegedly false and defamatory news in the Point English daily, which, according to the MLA, carried baseless allegations aimed at maligning his reputation. The police, acting swiftly on MLA Balaraju’s complaint, took Murthy Naidu into custody. Celebrating the arrest, leaders of the ruling coalition, including Janasena cadres, organized a rally in Jeelugumilli and expressed their support for



the police action. Later court sent Moorti Naidu into remand. Ravikumar praised the police for taking swift action and stated that the arrest upheld the principles of democracy and protected the dignity of elected representatives. He further appealed to media professionals to uphold the values of responsible journalism and avoid indulging in character



assassination without evidence. Several local Janasena leaders including Adapa Nagaraju, Munisetty Yugandhar, Saripalli Satyanarayana Raju, Gudelli Lakshminarayana, Budiputi Chiranjeevi, and Rai Subbarao participated in the rally, voicing strong condemnation of what they termed “malicious and irresponsible journalism.”

Janasena, coalition leaders rally in support of arrest

Speaking at the event, Janasena District Secretary Gaddamanugu Ravikumar accused a section of the media of trying to distort the public perception of MLA Balaraju. “It is shameful to write fabricated stories against a leader who has brought unprecedented development to the Polavaram constituency,” he said. “MLA Balaraju’s work speaks for itself, and this kind of baseless journalism does injustice to both the people and the press,” he added.





Precautionary Measures Taken to Prevent Budameru Flooding

Continued from page 1

In a major upgrade, the current 4,000 cusecs capacity of the Budameru old channel and Enikepadu UT is being expanded to 20,000 cusecs. Simultaneously, desilting work is ongoing along the entire 57-kilometer Budameru stretch, from Enikepadu to Kolleru, to enable smoother water discharge. Additionally, ₹9 crore has been allocated for dredging at Upputeru, to ensure floodwater from Kolleru reaches the sea efficiently. Minister Ramanaidu stated that a comprehensive and permanent solution under 'Operation Budameru' will take another 3-4 years, but emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is making determined efforts to accelerate the project with central government and disaster management collaboration. "As per the CM's directions, we've completed all essential flood prevention work for Vijayawada on a war footing," he affirmed. Irrigation Advisor M. Venkateswara Rao, ENC Narasimhamurthy, Krishna Delta CE Rambabu, and other senior irrigation officials accompanied the minister during the site inspection.

Amaravati to Become South Asia's First Quantum Valley: Minister Lokesh

Continued from page 1

These partnerships will be aligned with the National Quantum Mission announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He described the Amaravati Quantum Valley Park as a future launchpad for start-ups and innovations, positioning Andhra Pradesh at the forefront of the quantum computing era. "In class VII, I saw the rise of IT through Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. Today, we're stepping into the future with his vision once again. Amaravati will become the Silicon Valley of Quantum," Lokesh said. Prominent figures like Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy, IT Secretary Bhaskar Katamaneni, IBM India MD Sandeep Patel, IBM VP Scott Crowder, TCS President V. Rajanna, and IIT Madras Director Prof. Kamakoti were present at the workshop, affirming industry-wide support for the project.

AP Mega DSC: Hall Ticket Alert for July 1, 2 Exams

Postponed exams from June 20, 21 to be held this week

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Education Department has issued an important update for candidates appearing in the Mega DSC exams now rescheduled to July 1 and 2. These exams, originally slated for June 20 and 21, were postponed due to International Yoga Day celebrations. With changes made to exam centers and dates, candidates must now download fresh hall tickets from the official website apdsc.apcfss.in. Authorities have advised candidates to carefully verify the details printed on the newly issued hall tickets and ensure they report to the correct exam center on time. Meanwhile, the Principal and School Assistant (Telugu) exams held on Sunday witnessed a turnout of 18,231 out of 19,750 registered candidates. Chittoor district recorded the highest attendance at 97.81%, followed by Nellore with 88.04%. Officials continue to monitor the exam process to ensure smooth and fair conduct across centers. Candidates are reminded to carry valid ID proof along with their updated hall ticket to the examination venue.

CM Chandrababu Naidu to visit Malakapalli Today

- Minister Kandula Durgesh conducts review with officials and coalition leaders
- Emphasis on helipad, security, route map, and weather-based backup plans

TPN Correspondent | Kovvur

In preparation for Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's scheduled visit to Malakapalli village in Tallapudi mandal of Kovvur constituency on July 1, State Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh conducted a thorough inspection of the event venue and reviewed the arrangements. On Monday, Minister Durgesh visited the premises of the RDO Karthidhatma Sabha and supervised the arrangements personally. He held a key review meet-



ing with senior district officials including District Collector P. Prashanthi, Joint Collector S. Chinaramudu, Rajahmundry RDO Krishnanayak, Kovvur RDO Rani Susmita, Additional SP M. Muralikrishna, DSP G. Devakumar and other district police and administrative officers. Later, the Minister also met with Kovvur MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao and local NDA coalition leaders to coordinate efforts for the Chief Minister's visit. Addressing the gathering, Minister Durgesh instructed officials to perform their responsibilities with commitment and

ensure the program's success without any shortcomings. With unpredictable weather conditions in the region, the Minister stressed the need for alternative arrangements to be in place. He suggested that special attention be paid to helipad setup, security deployment, traffic route planning, and public safety protocols. The Minister's review indicates the importance the government is placing on the visit, ensuring that the Chief Minister's interaction with the public and inspection programs proceed smoothly.

World Bank, ADB Review Amaravati Project Progress

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A joint delegation from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (WB/ADB) visited the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) office in Vijayawada to review the ongoing developmental activities in Amaravati, the upcoming capital city of Andhra Pradesh. The visiting team held detailed discussions with APCRDA Commissioner K. Kannababu, IAS, and Additional Commissioners G. Suryasai Praveen Chand, IAS, and Mallarapu Naveen, IAS, who presented an in-depth overview of the progress made so far. Officials explained the status of the tender process, the Letter of Award (LOA) issued for recent projects, and deployment of labor and resources. The WB/ADB delegation was



also briefed on flood management initiatives and efforts to enhance urban greenery. Updates were provided on urban governance, inclusive housing projects, and the involvement of Program Management Consultancy (PgMC) and Project Management Consultancy (PMC) teams in streamlining Amaravati's development. Officials emphasized the government's commitment to inclusive growth by detailing social welfare initiatives, such as women's representation, skill

training programs for youth and women, rehabilitation efforts, and the grievance redressal mechanism for farmers and agricultural laborers affected by land pooling. The delegation posed several queries related to project implementation, and officials addressed each question in a detailed and satisfactory manner. The meeting saw participation from senior officers and department staff of both CRDA and Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL).



Govt Releases ₹91.75 Lakh in Sports Incentives to National Winners

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Sports Authority Chairman Animini Ravinaidu has announced that the state government has released ₹91.75 lakh in sports incentives to athletes from the state who secured victories at the 38th National Competition held in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14. In a statement issued on Monday, Ravinaidu expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and the coalition government for the timely disbursement of funds, which he said would boost the morale of athletes and encourage wider participation in national-level sports. He noted that 15 athletes from Andhra Pradesh who excelled at the national event will benefit from this release. Ravinaidu stated, "This timely release of sports incentives reflects the sincere commitment of the state government towards the sports community. CM Chandrababu Naidu continues to prove his dedication to athletes by ensuring that their achievements are recognised and rewarded." He further added that under the coalition government's leadership, Andhra Pradesh will see a strengthening of sports infrastructure, talent development, and athlete welfare. He thanked Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Minister Nara Lokesh, the cabinet ministers, the SAFF, and the players themselves for their contributions in ensuring the release of these incentives. Ravinaidu concluded by reiterating the SAAP's resolve to support and uplift sportspersons across the state, ensuring they receive both recognition and encouragement at every stage of their careers.

We Will Make Agriculture Profitable: Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

TPN | Narasimham

Vizianagaram: State Minister for MSME, SERP and NRI Affairs Kondapalli Srinivas said the government is determined to make agriculture a profitable venture for farmers through sustained support, reforms, and development initiatives. He made these remarks while addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected governing body of the Gajapatinagaram Agricultural Market Committee (AMC) held at the local market yard on Monday. PVV Gopala Raju was sworn in as the chairman of the committee, with Korada Krishna assuming charge as the vice-chairman. Other members of the governing body also took their oaths during the function. Speaking at the event, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas congratulated the newly formed body and highlighted the government's commitment to the welfare of farmers. "Our government has won farmers'



trust by ensuring that grain payments are processed within just two to three hours. We have cleared arrears left unpaid by the previous administration and are offering remunerative prices for agricultural produce," he said. He emphasized the importance of developing the Gajapatinagaram

market yard, which spans nearly 20 acres, into a hub that serves as a backbone for the farming community. The minister assured all necessary support to ensure the market yard becomes a model for other regions. Former Union Minister and Chairman of Manasas Trust, Pusapati

Lalitha Kumari, Assistant Director of Marketing Department B. Ravikiran, former Minister Padala Aruna, Vice-Chairman Korada Krishna, and local leaders including Kondapalli Kondalarao, Makuv Sridhar, Karrothu Narsingarao, Marrapu Suresh, and members of the Palakavarga.

Ashok Gajapathiraju, also addressed the gathering and stressed that elected representatives and officials should work together in harmony, always guided by constitutional values. He urged the new committee to remain conscious of the oath they had taken and serve as an effective bridge between the people and the government.

In his first address as Chairman, PVV Gopala Raju vowed to transform the Gajapatinagaram AMC into one of the finest market committees in the district by making optimal use of available funds and working relentlessly for farmers' welfare.

The program saw the presence of S. Kota MLA Kolla

Previous Govt Drained State Finances: Minister Narayana

- Minister accuses YSRCP of emptying treasury
- ₹3,000 crore diverted from municipal department, says Narayana
- Canal desilting, VR High School, and sanitation works underway in Nellore

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Minister Dr. P. Narayana launched a strong attack on the previous YSRCP government, alleging that it diverted ₹3,000 crore worth of municipal department funds and burdened the state with a staggering ₹10 lakh crore debt. He made these remarks during an inspection of canal desilting works in the 45th division of Nellore city on Monday. Speaking to the media, Narayana said the financial condition of the state had worsened due to the gross mismanagement of the previous administration. “The YSRCP government emptied the treasury and left the people with massive debt. Now, with the experience and leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu, we are working to reverse that damage,” he said. He revealed that the government has resumed numerous development programs stalled by the previous regime. In Nellore city, desilting works have begun on a 6.7 km stretch of canals, with the target to complete the work within 15 days. Narayana instructed municipal officials to strictly maintain quality standards in sanitation and drainage projects, emphasizing the need for clean water and proper infrastructure



across urban areas. The minister also shared that classes have begun at the newly upgraded VR High School, designed to offer international-standard education to underprivileged children. He said this move reflects the government’s focus on im-

proving education access and quality. Narayana reaffirmed the coalition government’s commitment to bringing stalled development back on track. “We are determined to restore the state’s progress and provide better civic amenities to the people,” he concluded.



Chandragiri Sports Centre Works Resume with ₹1.53 Cr Boost

TPN | C Shekar

Chandragiri: The long-pending construction works of the Sports Development Center at Chandragiri Town Boys’ College premises were officially resumed on Monday with a fresh boost of ₹1.53 crore. Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani, SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, and SAAP Board Member Rajani laid the foundation stone for the project, which had earlier been stalled due to the negligence of the previous YSRCP-led government. The event was marked by a grand welcome to the leaders by mandal-level officials and coalition party activists. The Sports Development Center, aimed at promoting sporting excellence in the region, had suffered due to delayed bill payments by the previous regime, leading to work being halted midway. MLA Nani emphasized that the coalition government is working on Chandrababu Naidu’s vision, ensuring development is not just promised but delivered. “As soon as we assumed office, we made it clear that the Sports Development Center work would be resumed without delay,” he said, reiterating that 937 development works have already been initiated across the constituency within a year of the new government’s tenure. The contractor who bagged the project through the tender process has been instructed to maintain top quality and complete the center at the earliest. MLA Nani, SHAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, and Board Member Rajani personally inspected the site, interacted with officials and young sportspersons, and reaffirmed their commitment to developing sports infrastructure. SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu highlighted that under the current administration, students are being supported both academically and through sports incentives, enabling a balanced development of youth. The leaders assured that all stalled and neglected works will be revived, and the coalition government is committed to transforming Chandragiri into a model constituency for education and sports alike.



15 MLAs Absence at Key TDP Meeting... CM questions if foreign trips are more important than party duties

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister and TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed serious dissatisfaction over the absence of several party MLAs during a large-scale Telugu Desam Party meeting held on Monday. Of the total invitees, 15 MLAs skipped the meeting, many citing foreign travel and personal reasons, which drew strong remarks from the party leadership. Speaking at the conclusion of the meeting, which ran from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Chandrababu openly questioned whether these MLAs considered other engagements more important than participating in crucial party programs. “Are foreign trips and other tasks more important than connecting with the people and strengthening the party?” he asked, expressing his displeasure. He noted that a significant number of the ab-



sentees were abroad and specifically pointed out that some of them had booked tickets for TANA

(Telugu Association of North America) and other international events. In a stern tone, he said, “Those who frequently go abroad should just stay abroad.” Chandrababu also revealed that out of the full list of invitees, 56 people failed to attend the meeting or left early after signing in. He made it clear that he had full records of attendance and warned of consequences for repeated negligence. “I know who came in the morning and who walked out after signing. Don’t assume this will go unnoticed,” he said. The Chief Minister emphasized that public representatives have a duty to stay connected with their constituencies and be available to their people. “There is no future without standing with the public,” he said, signaling that the party will be taking a stricter stance on commitment and accountability going forward.

YSRCP Leaders File Complaint Against JC Prabhakar Reddy

- Kethireddy claims police denied entry despite court permission

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Political tensions have once again escalated in Tadipatri, Anantapur district, as senior YSRCP leaders filed a formal complaint with District SP Jagadish against Tadipatri Municipal Chairman and senior TDP leader JC Prabhakar Reddy. The YSRCP delegation included district president Ananth Venkatrami Reddy, former MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy, former MLA Vishweshwar Reddy, and former MP Gorantla Madhav. Addressing the media after submitting the complaint, former MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy expressed frustration over being denied entry into Tadipatri despite the High Court granting him permission to return. “The High Court directed the police to provide me security two months ago. Even now, those orders remain unimplemented,” he alleged. Kethireddy further accused JC Prabhakar Reddy of instigating violence and threatening to kill YSRCP workers. “When I was MLA, there was peace in Tadipatri. But now, due to JC’s ‘mundamopi politics’, the region is being pushed into unrest,” he said. He demanded accountability from the police for allegedly ignoring attacks on his supporters, claiming that the police were acting under pressure from the municipal chairman. YSRCP district president Ananth Venkatrami Reddy echoed these concerns, stating it was unjust for police to deny an elected former MLA his rightful access to the constituency. He insisted that any restrictions should be issued in writing and called for immediate implementation of court orders. “The dictatorial rule of JC Prabhakar continues in Tadipatri. Kethireddy should be allowed to conduct party programs,” he demanded. Venkatrami also mentioned the ongoing YSRCP campaign “Recalling Chandrababu Manifesto” being held across the state, and insisted the program must be conducted in Tadipatri without obstruction.



Chandrababu lost control of Party, governance

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Political tensions have once again escalated in Tadipatri, Anantapur district, as senior YSRCP leaders filed a formal complaint with District SP Jagadish against Tadipatri Municipal Chairman and senior TDP leader JC Prabhakar Reddy. The YSRCP delegation included district president Ananth Venkatrami Reddy, former MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy, former MLA Vishweshwar Reddy, and former MP Gorantla Madhav. Addressing the media after submitting the complaint, former MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy expressed frustration over being denied entry into Tadipatri despite the High Court granting him permission to return. “The High Court directed the police to provide me security two months ago. Even now, those orders remain unimplemented,” he alleged. Kethireddy further accused JC Prabhakar Reddy of instigating violence and threatening to kill YSRCP workers. “When I was MLA, there was peace in Tadipatri. But now, due to JC’s ‘mundamopi politics’, the region is being pushed into unrest,” he said. He demanded accountability from the police for allegedly ignoring attacks on his supporters, claiming that the police were acting under pressure from the municipal chairman.



YSRCP district president Ananth Venkatrami Reddy echoed these concerns, stating it was unjust for police to deny an elected former MLA his rightful access to the constituency. He insisted that any restrictions should be issued in writing and called for immediate implementation of court orders. “The dictatorial rule of JC Prabhakar continues in Tadipatri. Kethireddy should be allowed to conduct party programs,” he demanded. Venkatrami also mentioned the ongoing YSRCP campaign “Recalling Chandrababu Manifesto” being held across the state, and insisted the program must be conducted in Tadipatri without obstruction. According to YSRCP leaders, the SP responded positively to their appeal and assured them that suitable action would be taken.

Kakani in Police Custody Again for Two Days

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Former minister and senior YSRCP leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy has once again been taken into police custody. A local court has granted two-day custody to the police to interrogate him further in connection with an illegal toll gate operation case. The questioning will take place today and tomorrow at the Nellore Police Training Center. The police had earlier filed a petition seeking his custody to deepen the investigation into the illegal toll gate case registered against him. The court, after hearing the petition, approved the request and allowed two days of custodial interrogation. According to police sources, all necessary arrangements have been made at the training center for Kakani’s questioning. Officials expect that key information related to the toll gate operations may come to light during the interrogation. Meanwhile, Kakani is also under the scanner in another case related to illegal quartz mining. He had previously been taken into custody and questioned in that matter. Sources suggest that the police may also touch upon aspects of the quartz case during the current round of questioning. The dual investigations indicate growing legal troubles for the senior YSRCP leader. With fresh questioning underway, all eyes are now on whether significant evidence or leads will emerge from the custody interrogation.



Exit Ramp Sanctioned for AIIMS Mangalagiri Access from NH-16

Union MoS Pemmasani thanks PM Modi, Nitin Gadkari for Centre’s approval

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

In a major boost to accessibility for patients and visitors to AIIMS Mangalagiri, the Central Government has approved the construction of a dedicated exit ramp on National Highway-16 (NH-16). Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani announced the sanction on Sunday, expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari for their support. The newly approved project involves modifying the existing entry ramp at Km. 429+400 on NH-16 in Mangalagiri into an exit ramp, enabling direct access from Guntur to Vijayawada direction towards AIIMS. This move will cut down the travel distance to the hospital from 4.66 kilometers to just 1.26 kilometers, significantly reducing travel time and enhancing convenience for the public. Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Dr. Pemmasani wrote: "We have been able to get this project sanctioned by the Central Government for the benefit of AIIMS Hospital in Guntur district. The project also includes the installation of 13 directional boards at 3 key locations along NH-16 to guide commuters clearly to AIIMS Mangalagiri." He highlighted that this infrastructure development is a collaborative success between the Centre and the Andhra Pradesh state government. Dr. Pemmasani thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for responding swiftly to public needs and ensuring state-level coordination for the proposal. This latest infrastructure enhancement is expected to be a game-changer for healthcare access in the region, particularly benefitting patients from rural and remote areas of Guntur and Krishna districts. The Central Government's continued support for Andhra Pradesh's development is seen as a reflection of its commitment to bolstering public health and infrastructure under the leadership of PM Modi.

Mental Health Needs Priority: Tripura Governor

- Center of Excellence in Mental Health to be set up in Visakhapatnam soon
- M.Phil and PDCP courses launched at Indlas Hospitals
- 3 psychiatrists needed per 1 lakh population, says Minister Yadav
- Films should stop belittling psychiatrists, mental health must be normalized

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Tripura Governor Nallu Indrasena Reddy stressed the importance of giving mental health the same priority as physical health, stating that a truly developed India can only be achieved when its citizens are mentally healthy. He made these remarks while launching the M.Phil in Clinical Psychology and Professional Diploma in Clinical Psychology (PDCP) courses at Indlas Hospitals in Vijayawada on Monday. Governor Indrasena Reddy noted that India is fast emerging as a global health hub, with people from developed countries visiting for affordable and high-quality medical treatment. However, he observed that societal stigma around mental illness continues to persist. "We must treat mental disorders as legitimate health issues and work collectively to make mental healthcare more accessible," he emphasized. He called for efforts to end discrimination against those with mental health conditions and highlighted the need to recognize the critical role of psychiatrists in society. He criticized the way psychiatrists are often portrayed negatively in films and urged a shift in public perception. State Health and Wellness Minister Y. Satyakumar Yadav, who also



attended the program, revealed that 76.22% of the population in Andhra Pradesh suffers from mental health issues, compared to a national average of 80%. He emphasized the urgent need for more trained professionals, noting that three psychiatrists are required for every one lakh people. Commending Indlas Hospitals for launching the new academic programs under Dr. NTR Health University, Minister Yadav announced the setting up of a Center of Excellence in Mental Health in Visakhapatnam, modeled after NIMHANS in Bengaluru. He added that an Expert Committee headed by Dr. Indla Ramasubba Reddy will oversee its establishment and promote innovations in the field of psychiatry. The event also saw the unveiling of brochures for the new courses. Minister Yadav presented a Dharmavaram silk shawl and his book Satyakalam to Governor Indrasena Reddy. Directors of Indlas Hospitals Clinical Psychology Department, Dr. Indla Ramasubba Reddy and Dr. Vishal Indla, stated that the new courses aim to expand access to psychiatric care by producing more qualified professionals. Also present at the event were Dr. P. Chandrasekhar, Vice Chancellor of Dr. NTR Health University, Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, Registrar Dr. V. Radhika Reddy, and other dignitaries.

Minister Janardhan Reddy Praises R&B’s Role in Govt's Success

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

State Roads and Buildings, Investments and Infrastructure Minister BC Janardhan Reddy stated that road development was one of the most celebrated achievements of the coalition government in the past year. He was speaking at a heartfelt farewell event organized for the retirement of ENC Naimulla and Quality Control CE Venkateswara Rao at the R&B office in Vijayawada on Monday. Minister Janardhan Reddy, who attended as chief guest, honored the retiring officials with shawls and bouquets, appreciating their long-standing service to the department. He also extended his congratulations to V. Ramachandra, who will now take over as the new Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) of the Roads and Buildings Department.



In his speech, the minister shared that although he had prior engagements in his constituency, he made it a point to attend the farewell of his R&B colleagues, underlining the importance of their contributions. "Despite assuming charge only last year, I worked in close coordination with Principal Secretary Kantil Dande and ENC Naimulla. Together, we pushed forward the department's progress," he said. Highlighting the achievements of the past year, he remarked, "When

our government assumed office, many roads were in poor condition. We committed to making Andhra Pradesh pothole-free by Sankranti, and with the dedication of R&B officials, we delivered." He praised the collective effort from field-level staff to senior officials in enhancing the department's reputation and winning the trust of the public. Minister Janardhan Reddy also acknowledged the retirees' deep institutional knowledge and said their guidance and advice will continue to be sought for the department's future needs. He wished them a peaceful and happy life post-retirement. The event was attended by Principal Secretary Kantil Dande, APRDC Chairman Pragada Nageswara Rao, RDC MD L. Srinivasa Reddy, and several senior officials and staff members of the R&B department.

Dr. Hari Prasad Joins Manipal Vijayawada

Renal transplant and urology services get a major boost



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Manipal Hospital Vijayawada has announced the appointment of Dr. Hari Prasad N as Consultant Urologist and Renal Transplant Surgeon, marking a significant step forward in its renal care capabilities. With a strong academic background and surgical expertise, Dr. Hari Prasad is set to provide advanced, patient-focused urological care in the region. An MBBS graduate, Dr. Hari Prasad earned an MS in General Surgery, securing the Chennabassavappa Memorial Award and topping in Forensic Medicine. He later completed his MCh in Urology and specializes in renal transplantation, reconstructive urology, and stone disease management using techniques like PCNL, URSL, RIRS, and ESWL. His proficiency in laparoscopic and minimally invasive procedures enhances the hospital's ability to offer personalized organ-preserving treatments. Dr. Sudhakar Kantipuri, Director, Manipal Hospitals Vijayawada, stated, "Dr. Hari Prasad's expertise will help us deliver world-class renal care with a compassionate approach." Actively involved in academic research and mentoring, Dr. Hari Prasad aims to blend clinical precision with innovation, supporting Manipal Hospital's vision of modern, accessible urological care in Andhra Pradesh. Manipal Hospitals is one of India's largest healthcare providers, with 37 hospitals across 19 cities, offering high-quality multispecialty care to over 7 million patients annually.

KLU Students Win First Prize at AP Police 4Site A Hackathon 2025



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A team of students from KL University (KLU) has secured first prize at the AP Police 4Site A Hackathon 2025, a prestigious competition jointly organized by the Andhra Pradesh Government and 4Site AI. The announcement was made by Dr. Narasimharaju, Director of MDI&E at KLU, on Monday. Among the winners, Vedananda Praneel, a second-year student of the AI DS Hons B.Tech Innovation program, participated under the guidance of the MDI&E Department and the Center for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE). His team competed against over 150 teams, including participants from both academia and the tech industry. Of these, only 60 teams were shortlisted for the final round. The winning innovation was an AI-driven tool that analyzes WhatsApp chats and group data to detect key issues and generate early warnings—a breakthrough solution designed to assist law enforcement in identifying threats and improving public safety. "This win is a clear reflection of the technical depth, creative thinking, and problem-solving ability of our students," said Dr. Narasimharaju. The university extended formal congratulations to the team through its Registrar Dr. K. Subba Rao, Dean of Student Welfare Dr. K. R. S. Prasad, and Professor Vedananda Praneel, acknowledging their contribution in bringing recognition to KLU at a state level.

Governor Bids Farewell to Secretary Dr. Hari Jawaharlal

Appreciates his leadership and service to Raj Bhavan

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Governor of Andhra Pradesh Sri S. Abdul Nazeer, along with First Lady Smt. Sameera Nazeer, bid an emotional farewell to Dr. M. Hari Jawaharlal, Secretary to Governor, on the occasion of his retirement at a function held in Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, on Monday. Speaking at the ceremony, Governor Abdul Nazeer appreciated the dynamic leadership and administrative acumen displayed by Dr. Hari Jawaharlal during his tenure. "He is a knowledgeable officer with excellent leadership qualities who supported key policy decisions and ensured efficient disposal of government matters," the Governor said. He also commended Dr. Hari for meticulously organizing various Raj Bhavan programs, including high-profile



file events and "At Home" receptions. Responding to the farewell, Dr. Hari Jawaharlal expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Governor for his guidance and support throughout his

service. "It was an honour to work under the leadership of Governor Nazeer Garu. I am deeply thankful for the trust and encouragement I received in discharging my duties,"

he said. He also thanked the officers and staff of Raj Bhavan for their co-operation. Dr. Hari recalled his administrative journey and service, especially his tenure as Collector of Vizianagaram, where he earned the title "People's Collector". He spoke of his dedication to public service, inspired by the motto "Manava Seva Madhava Seva", and highlighted the national and international recognitions he received for his work. Earlier in the function, the Governor and First Lady felicitated Dr. Hari and his wife with a shawl and memento. Joint Secretary to Governor Sri P.S. Suryaprakash, Deputy Secretary Sri K. Raghu, Raj Bhavan officers and staff, family members, friends, and well-wishers participated and spoke on the occasion, honouring Dr. Hari's long and distinguished service.

Education Is the Greatest Gift, Says Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

New school building inaugurated in Kenguva village
Minister announces ₹50,000 for school sports needs
Calls for community support in education development

TPN | Narasimham Vizianagaram: State MSME, SERP and NRI Affairs Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said that education is the greatest gift society can give to the next generation. He made these remarks after inaugurating a newly constructed Mandal Parishad Primary School building in Kenguva village of Gajapati-nagaram mandal on Monday. The building, constructed at a cost of ₹55 lakhs, was devel-

oped with the support of social-ly committed individuals and organisations.\ The Minister praised business-man Keshav Kumar, the Round-table India VRT 77 organisation, and the Veda Yuvajana Sangh for their generous efforts in making the project a reality. He highlighted that the previous school building was in a highly dilapidated condition and the new two-storeyed structure with six rooms was construct-

ed in just three months. Minister Srinivas was warmly received by the villagers with traditional instruments and festive enthusiasm as he arrived to inaugurate the school. Speaking at the event, he expressed hope that the school would become a leading institution in the district and urged students to take full advantage of the new facilities to aim high in life. He lauded the role of individuals and social or-

ganisations in supporting edu-cation infrastructure and said that the names of those who contributed to this cause would be remembered for decades. “Their help will have true value only when students rise to great heights using the oppor-tunities provided,” he added. To further enhance the facili-ties, the Minister announced that a perimeter wall would be built around the school soon. He also declared a personal fi-



nancial contribution of ₹50,000 to purchase sports equipment for the schoolchildren, under- lining the importance of over-all development through both academics and play.

Comprehensive Tourism Plan for East Godavari Ahead of Pushkaralu: Collector Prashanthi



TPN Correspondent | Rajamahendravaram
East Godavari District Collector P. Prashanthi has called for a comprehensive development plan focused on eco-tourism and religious tourism to boost the district’s appeal ahead of the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu. In a key review meeting held at the Collector’s camp office on Friday evening, she directed officials and consultants to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) that encompasses the development of ghats, boating facilities, homestays, resorts, and temples along the Godavari River basin. Collector Prashanthi emphasized that the development plan must include popular and potential tourist spots such as Rajahmundry Godavari Ghats, Kovvur Goshpada Kshetram, Cinema Chettu, Nidadavolu and Vadapalli canals, Kadiyapu Lanka, and Godavari Island. She instructed officials to explore the possibility of establishing eco-resorts in the 7-acre Enugukonda area of Purushottam-patnam. She also directed the team to identify Manduva Logili houses, ancient buildings, and Penkuti houses across East Godavari district that can be repurposed as homestays for tourists during the Pushkaralu. “These cultural and traditional homes can offer tourists an authentic experience while addressing accommodation needs during the rush season,” she noted. To improve water-based tourism, the Collector stressed the importance of developing a structured boating system across the Godavari basin and making the riverfront family-friendly through the addition of leisure and recreation zones. Collector Prashanthi further clarified that all tourism-related proposals should be prepared with an implementation framework to facilitate rapid development. The goal is to ensure that by 2027, East Godavari becomes a model destination combining spirituality, ecology, and heritage. The meeting was attended by RMC officials SEMCH Koteswara Rao and EE Madrasa Ali, District Tourism Officer P. Venkatachalam, officials from the Endowments Department, and tourism consultants.

"Aha, What a Taste!" – Collector Praises Midday Meal at ZPHS Malakapalli

TPN Correspondent | Rajamahendravaram
In a heartwarming gesture, East Godavari District Collector P. Prashanthi made a surprise visit to the Zilla Parishad High School in Malakapalli village of Tallapudi Mandal on Monday to inspect the quality and implementation of the midday meal scheme. The Collector, visibly impressed by the quality of the food, joined the students for lunch and remarked, “Aha, what a taste!” Collector Prashanthi interacted enthusiastically with the students and asked them, “Is the meal this good every day?” Her engagement brought smiles to the children, who responded with cheerful answers. She expressed satisfaction with the quality, hygiene, and implementation of the meal program.



Accompanying her during the visit were Joint Collector S. Chinna Ramadu and Kovvur RDO Rani Susmita, who also had lunch with the students. The team’s presence created a joyful atmosphere at the school, and their interaction with the students was met with excitement and appreci-

ation from both children and staff. The Collector also held an informal interaction with the students, asking them about their future goals and aspirations. The students, in turn, responded with equal enthusiasm, sharing their dreams and thoughts.

District School Education Officer K. Vasudeva Rao and other officials were also present during the inspection. Teachers and midday meal staff expressed happiness over the Collector’s visit, describing it as a motivational and encouraging moment for the school community.

Protests in Rayadurgam Over FCRA Repeal Impacting RDT Services



TPN Correspondent | Anantapur
A large number of villagers in Rayadurgam took to the streets on Monday, protesting against the Central Government’s decision to cancel the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) registration of the Rural Development Trust

(RDT). The protesters alleged that this move would jeopardize the numerous social service programs being run by the organization in Anantapur district and demanded that the Centre immediately withdraw the cancellation. A youth rally titled “Save RDT” was organized from Vinayaka

Circle to the old bus stand and Lakshmi Bazaar, concluding at the Tahsildar’s office. It was led by senior MRPS (Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi) leaders from Konthana-palli village, including Konthana-palli Mallikarjuna, Kollarappa, and Chidananda. The rally echoed with slogans such as “Save RDT” and “We Stand with RDT.” Addressing the gathering, MRPS leader Mallikarjuna stated that the RDT has played a vital role in transforming the lives of Dalit and BC communities in the district. He credited RDT’s initiatives in education, healthcare, agriculture, housing, and sports for the upliftment of lakhs of underprivileged families. “If

many youth from Dalit backgrounds are in respectable positions today, it is because of RDT,” he asserted. A petition demanding the immediate revocation of the FCRA cancellation was handed over to Deputy Tahsildar Venkataram. The leaders urged the Centre to protect the continuity of the services that have brought dignity and economic progress to rural families in the region.\ Several local activists including Raju, Manjunath, Brahmayya, Suresh, Vannappa, Ramanjineyulu, and Gangadhara participated in the protest, vowing to intensify the agitation if the decision is not reversed.

Srivari Sanctum Look-Alike Used for Hotel Sparks Outrage

TPN | C Shekar Tirupati: A controversy has erupted near the Visakhapatnam highway after a non-vegetarian hotel was found to be constructed in a style closely resembling the Tirumala Srivari sanctum. The Rayudu Military Hotel, located along the highway, has allegedly replicated key architectural features of the revered Tirumala temple, including a golden porch, the sacred Ramulavari Meda, Kulasekhara Padi, and even the statues of Jaya and Vijaya. Prominent social activist

Kiran Royal has lodged a formal complaint with the Executive Officer and Chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), expressing strong objection to the commercial misuse of Srivari’s sacred image and architectural sanctity. He described the act as a blatant insult to the sentiments of millions of devotees who revere the Tirumala temple as one of the holiest pilgrimage centers in India. Kiran Royal stated, “Using the sacred design of the Tirumala temple, especially for pro-

moting a non-vegetarian establishment, is a deep insult to devotees and the divine traditions upheld for centuries. If immediate action is not taken, we are prepared to launch a protest at the site.” He further appealed to the TTD to form a Special Vigilance Wing to monitor and prevent such incidents in the future. “This is not just about one hotel. Tomorrow, more people may start exploiting the temple’s name and appearance for profit if no firm steps are taken now,” he said.

TPN Correspondent | Kuppam
Chittoor District Medical Health Officer Dr. D.T. Sudharani and State Commissioner of Family Welfare Shri Veerapandian conducted a detailed inspection of the Digital Nerve System established by the Tata Group at the Vijalapuram Primary Health Centre in Kuppam constituency on Monday. The system has been introduced as a part of a focused initiative to strengthen health services in the region. During the visit, officials observed the real-time functioning of the digital setup, which is designed to provide accessible, quality healthcare services to the local population. Health Commissioner Veerapandian urged the people of Kuppam to create their Abha ID, emphasizing that doing so would enable them to receive

Digital Nerve System Boosts Healthcare in Kuppam

free medical services through the platform. He explained that this digital system is capable of facilitating early detection and preventive treatment for chronic diseases such as blood pressure, diabetes, heart ailments, cancer, and thyroid disorders. The initiative has been rolled out with the goal of offering technology-enabled health solutions and ensuring that rural communities can access diagnostic and treatment services more efficiently. Officials stressed that preventive healthcare through timely diagnosis will help reduce complications and enhance the

well-being of the population. Also present during the inspection were State Immunization Officer Dr. Devi, DNC IT Manager, DCHS Dr. Padmanjali, and local medical officer Dr. Pujitha, who all highlighted the system’s potential in improving primary health coverage. Authorities appealed to the public to register for an Abha ID, which links patients to the national digital health ecosystem, allowing easier access to medical history, diagnostics, and follow-up care. The team expressed confidence that the Digital Nerve System will serve as a model for other constituencies across Andhra Pradesh.

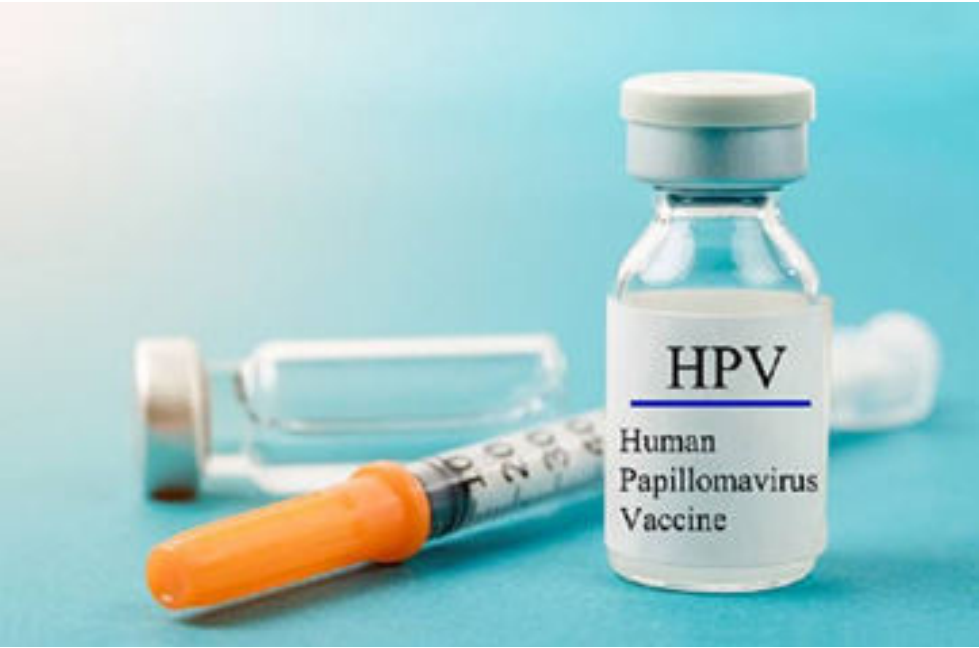
India's Growing Cancer Burden: Why Awareness, Early Detection and Prevention Are Vital

Cancer is emerging as one of the most pressing public health challenges in India. According to the Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN) projections, India is expected to record an estimated 1.57 million new cancer cases in 2025, a significant rise from 1.39 million in 2020. If current trends continue, this number could climb to over 2 million by 2040. Notably, cancer deaths among women are rising at a faster pace than men, underscoring the urgency for gender-sensitive prevention and care strategies.

Most Common Cancers in India

Among women, breast and cervical cancers top the list. Breast cancer has an age-standardized incidence rate of 26.6 per 100,000, making it the most common. Risk factors include increasing age, obesity, late childbirth, family history, and genetic mutations like BRCA1/2. Early detection through breast self-examinations (BSE) and clinical breast exams can be life-saving. Women over 40 are encouraged to undergo annual mammograms.

Cervical cancer, caused largely by persistent infection with high-risk HPV strains, is preventable with regular Pap smears or HPV testing. Warning signs such as abnormal bleeding, pelvic pain, or unusual discharge should never be ignored. The HPV vaccine, if administered between ages 9–14, can prevent nearly 90% of cervical cancers — yet awareness and uptake remain low.



Cancers Among Men

Among Indian men, lung cancer continues to be a leading cause of death. Strongly linked to tobacco use, it is also fueled by air pollution, occupational exposure to carcinogens, and family history. Symptoms such as

persistent cough, chest pain, and unexplained weight loss warrant immediate medical attention.

Another growing concern is prostate cancer, especially with increasing life expectancy. Often silent in the ear-



Dr KSL SRUTHI

*Mch Surgical Oncology
(Junior Resident), Managing
Director of Sruthi Institute of
medical sciences(SIIMS)*

ly stages, it may later present with urinary symptoms or bone pain. PSA blood tests and digital rectal exams (DRE) are useful screening tools for men over 50 or younger if at high risk.

Major Risk Factors

Nearly 40% of all cancer cases in India are linked to modifiable risk fac-

tors, including tobacco, infections (like HPV and HBV), obesity, poor diet, and sedentary lifestyles. Tobacco use alone accounts for a major share of oral and lung cancers, particularly among men.

Environmental exposures such as air pollution and chemical carcinogens are also contributing to the rise in cases. Infections like HPV (for cervical cancer) and Hepatitis B (for liver cancer) are preventable through vaccination, yet coverage remains inadequate.

The Way Forward

While treatment facilities are expanding, prevention and early detection remain the most cost-effective tools. India needs to boost public awareness, improve vaccination coverage, and scale up screening programs, especially in rural and underserved areas.

The government's inclusion of cancer screenings in public health missions, visual oral checks for tobacco users, and routine breast and cervical cancer screenings are positive steps. But more needs to be done to promote regular health checkups, dismantle stigma, and invest in trained health workers for early detection.

A healthier India will be built not just in hospitals, but in homes, schools, and community centers—where awareness can lead to early action, and early action can save lives.

China's Sabotage Game and India's Steadfast Shift Away from Old Equations

China's ongoing attempts to undermine India's rise as a global power reveal its deep insecurity about India's growing influence and self-reliance. From diplomatic maneuvering at multilateral forums to economic sabotage and military backing of Pakistan, Beijing is deploying every tool in its arsenal to contain India's ambitions. But New Delhi is no longer willing to play by the old rules; instead, it is charting a new course that prioritizes strategic autonomy and resilience.

A stark example of China's diplomatic gamesmanship unfolded at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. India refused to endorse the joint statement after China and its ally Pakistan pushed a narrative that selectively condemned terrorism in Balochistan while ignoring terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, such as the one near Pahalgam. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's decision to withhold his signature exposed China's attempt to shield Pakistan's terror proxies under the SCO's anti-terror mandate, undermining the very purpose of the organisation.

Founded by China, Russia, and Central Asian states, the SCO was meant to tackle terrorism, extremism, and regional security. However, China has transformed it into a platform for advancing its geopolitical agenda—supporting Pakistan, suppressing inconvenient truths, and challenging Western influence. India's dissent reveals the limitations of China's leadership and the contradictions within the SCO framework, preventing China from fully dominating the bloc.

On the global stage, Beijing's unease with India is also evident in the upcoming BRICS Summit in Brazil. For the first time in 12 years, President Xi Jinping is expected to skip the summit, reportedly due to Modi's invitation to a state dinner—a subtle diplomatic snub. Officially, China cites scheduling conflicts, but the underlying tension is clear: Beijing fears being



overshadowed by India's rising stature. Behind the scenes, the India-China relationship remains tense post-Galwan clashes. While there has been a mild thaw with ongoing border disengagement talks and economic normalization efforts, negotiations remain exhaustive. China is aggressively using its economic leverage to stall India's progress, particularly through control of strategic supplies like rare earth magnets crucial for defence, electric vehicles, and electronics manufacturing. China's export restrictions on key materials such as samarium and neodymium have disrupted supply chains globally. In response, India is ramping up efforts to mine and produce rare earth elements domestically, offering production-linked incentives and forging partnerships with Australia and Quad countries to diversify sources. India's assertiveness at the recent G7 summit—calling out China's unreliable supply practices—has rattled Beijing, which fears a coordinated effort to curb its rare earth dominance. Chinese tactics extend beyond trade. Reports of delayed shipments of specialty fertilisers and tunnel boring machines, despite contracts being settled, highlight China's use of non-tariff barriers

as economic coercion. Such moves aim to pressure India into reopening its markets to Chinese investment and resuming direct flights, but New Delhi remains cautious, unwilling to compromise its strategic goals.

Meanwhile, Beijing's people-to-people gestures like resuming the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage mask its continued military support to Pakistan. Chinese missiles, drones, and fighter jets have been used in recent Indian operations against Pakistan, and intelligence sharing between China and Islamabad further complicates the security landscape. Despite these multifaceted challenges, India is steadfast. Rejecting any return to outdated equations, New Delhi is focused on building a future where Chinese attempts to undermine Indian interests will be ineffective. The push for self-reliance, military preparedness, and diversified partnerships signals a strategic shift that China cannot easily counter.

India's approach balances firm diplomacy with clear military and economic priorities, reflecting a mature, calculated response to Beijing's provocations. While challenges remain, India's unrelenting resolve positions it well to emerge stronger in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

The Complex Reality of Language in India

How Trains, Venn Diagrams, K.L. Rahul and Kneecap Can Help Us Understand Shah's Anti-English Remark

Indian languages are vibrant, thriving, and deeply woven into the fabric of everyday life. Contrary to claims that English threatens India's cultural identity, the multilingual reality of the country reveals a far more nuanced picture—one where languages coexist, overlap, and evolve naturally.

At a book launch in New Delhi, Home Minister Amit Shah declared that in the near future, English speakers would feel ashamed of their language. He praised India's native tongues as ornaments of its culture, essential to understanding the country's history, dharma, and identity. But this perspective, rooted in a rigid, exclusionary mindset, overlooks the reality of India's linguistic diversity and the organic multilingualism practiced by millions.

Instead of viewing languages as separate, isolated circles, a more accurate metaphor is the Venn diagram, where languages overlap and interact. Take my own experience: I scored highly in both English and Hindi in school, was a Sanskrit topper for years, and grew up in a household where Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Vaghri, and English were spoken interchangeably. My linguistic environment was a complex weave, not isolated strands. Similarly, Indian cricketer K.L. Rahul's multilingual communication with teammates—switching seamlessly between Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, and English—illustrates this natural linguistic overlap. These are not acts of forced assimilation but spontaneous responses to social realities, reflecting India's linguistic pluralism.

Shah's anti-English rhetoric also ignores a critical paradox within his own ideological circle. Hindu right-wing intellectuals, many writing revisionist histories and biographies in English, have cultivated a vibrant English-language publishing ecosystem. If English truly undermines "Bhartiyata," why do these ideologues embrace and propagate their views through



it? The contradiction is glaring and exposes the limits of Shah's vision.

To offer another metaphor, languages in India resemble railway tracks: sometimes diverging, sometimes converging, but always supporting the journey forward. The train of Indian culture moves steadily along this vast network, adapting to changing routes but never derailed. English is not a foreign intruder but an established track on which the train runs. The comparison with Northern Ireland's Irish language revival, championed by the rap group Kneecap, highlights a key difference. Irish is spoken daily by a tiny minority and is at risk of extinction, necessitating strong preservation efforts. In contrast, Indian languages thrive across millions, embedded in cinema, literature, music, and daily conversation—no official legitimisation required.

Moreover, Kneecap's use of English alongside Irish emphasizes that bilingual or multilingual identities are not contradictory but complementary. Similarly, Indian speakers fluidly navigate multiple languages depending on context, not ideology.

Finally, the idea that English speakers should feel ashamed ignores a broader linguistic reality: Indian English is its own distinct variant, rich but imperfect, reflecting the country's diverse influences. Many English speakers in India struggle with the language, and this is evident in media and literature alike. The shame is not about English itself but often about linguistic insecurity, something universal across languages and cultures.

India and Brazil Explore Joint Defence Production, Eye Strategic Collaboration

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Brazil are deepening defence ties, with both nations exploring opportunities for joint production, mutual procurement, and co-development of military systems. The two countries are increasingly recognizing the strategic potential in leveraging each other's defence manufacturing strengths to build a more self-reliant and cooperative security framework. Brazil has expressed strong interest in acquiring Indian-made Akash surface-to-air missiles, artillery guns, coastal radar systems, and secure communication technologies for battlefield use. The Akash missile system notably demonstrated its operational capability during a brief but intense skirmish with Pakistan from May 7-10, 2025. India, on the other hand, is looking to collaborate with Brazil on the development of an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) based on Brazil's Embraer aircraft platform. AWACS is a critical capability for airborne surveillance and command operations. In a significant move, Embraer and Indian company Mahindra have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on manufacturing the



C-390 Millennium multi-mission transport aircraft. India is actively evaluating this platform as a potential replacement for its aging fleet of Soviet-origin AN-32 transport planes. The upcoming BRICS Summit, scheduled for July 5-8 in Brazil, will serve as a platform for further discussions when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets

Brazilian President Lula da Silva. Modi's visit will include bilateral talks in addition to his participation in the 17th BRICS summit. India's Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the momentum behind these efforts. Secretary (East) P. Kumaran noted that the two nations are actively considering joint ventures, joint research, and co-development projects, particularly involving Embraer platforms for reconnaissance and surveillance missions. Brazil's interest extends to joint maintenance of the French-origin Scorpene-class submarines, used by both navies, and potential collaboration in offshore patrol vessel production. The Joint Defence Committee (JDC), established in 2003, has facilitated 14 high-level exchanges between military leadership. Since 2007, 134 defence officers (70 Indian, 64 Brazilian) have trained in each other's institutions. In 2024, India and Brazil launched a 2+2 Political-Military Dialogue, further cementing defence cooperation. Both countries are strategic partners across global forums including BRICS, the G20, and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, signaling a growing convergence in global security and development agendas.



Kolkata Gangrape Case: SIT Reveals Assault Was Pre-Planned, Over 25 Eyewitnesses Identified

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

In a disturbing development in the Kolkata law college gangrape case, police revealed on Monday that the assault on a female student was premeditated by three of the four accused. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the case has uncovered evidence suggesting that the trio had a history of sexually harassing fellow students and had plotted the crime days in advance. The accused — Monojit Mishra, Pratim Mukherjee, and Zaid Ahmed — allegedly targeted the victim from her first day at South Calcutta Law College. The fourth arrested individual is a security guard at the institution. According to a senior officer, the three main accused often recorded their acts of harassment on their mobile phones and used the footage to blackmail victims. "This was not a spontaneous act. The trio had planned the assault well in advance. The victim was be-

ing closely watched by them from the day she joined," the officer said. The SIT is currently searching for mobile phone videos that may have been recorded during the incident. Police conducted raids at the homes of Mukherjee and Ahmed on Sunday and are examining devices for incriminating footage. Investigators suspect a video clip of the June 25 gangrape may have been shared with others. "We're working to determine if the footage was forwarded to other individuals or groups. If so, we will identify and question all those who received it," the officer added. The SIT has compiled a list of more than 25 people, mostly students, who were present on the college campus the evening of the incident. Each will be questioned to piece together the sequence of events and identify any additional witnesses or accomplices. The case has triggered widespread outrage, with student protests erupting across the city demanding swift justice.

India "Would Love A Big, Good, Beautiful" Trade Pact With US: Nirmala Sitharaman



With a crucial July 9 deadline approaching to avoid US retaliatory tariffs, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed India's strong interest in finalizing a comprehensive trade pact with the United States. In an interview with Financial Express, she stated, "Yes, we would love to have an agreement, a big, good, beautiful one; why not?" — echoing former US President Donald Trump's own phrasing. Sitharaman emphasized that India is eager for a mutually beneficial trade deal but will remain firm on key domestic interests, especially in sensitive sectors like agriculture and dairy. "Agriculture and dairy have been among the very big red lines,"

she said, highlighting that negotiators have carefully safeguarded the concerns of Indian farmers and livestock breeders during discussions. Her comments come in response to Trump's recent claims that a bilateral trade agreement would "open up" India's markets for US goods. While India is open to deeper trade relations, Sitharaman clarified that full market access, particularly in agriculture and retail, is not negotiable due to India's regulatory protections. India is currently negotiating for relief from US tariffs on steel, aluminium, and certain agricultural exports. Additionally, it is pushing for visa liberalisa-

tion and greater access for its services sector. In contrast, the US seeks expanded access to India's agricultural and technology markets, stricter enforcement of intellectual property rights, and greater data flow commitments. Sitharaman also dismissed Trump's earlier label of India as a "tariff king," calling it unjustified. She noted that India's effective tariff rates are significantly below WTO thresholds, with only eight applicable duties including zero tariffs. Customs duties, she added, account for just around 4% of the value of imported goods — lower than global averages. India remains hopeful of concluding a balanced deal before the looming tariff deadline.



Sri Lankan Navy Arrests 8 Indian Fishermen for Alleged Illegal Fishing in Mannar Waters

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday arrested eight Indian fishermen and seized their trawler for allegedly engaging in illegal fishing within Sri Lankan territorial waters near the northern region of Mannar. The arrests were made during a maritime search operation carried out by naval personnel, according to an official statement released by the Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen were apprehended for allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan waters — a recurring issue that has long been a source of diplomatic tension between India and Sri Lanka. The arrested individuals, along with their trawler, are set to be handed over to the Fisheries Inspectorate in Mannar for further legal proceedings.

Incidents involving the arrest of Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen have become common, as both sides often inadvertently cross the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) due to the proximity of fishing zones in the

Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar. The narrow stretch of water between Tamil Nadu and northern Sri Lanka is rich in marine resources, making it a frequent site of contention.

Authorities in Sri Lanka have repeatedly emphasized their commitment to protecting the country's marine resources from illegal fishing practices, particularly bottom trawling, which is banned under Sri Lankan law but often used by some Indian fishermen. India has called for the humane treatment of its fishermen and has also sought mechanisms for the early release of detained nationals. Diplomatic channels between the two countries remain active, with discussions aimed at finding long-term solutions to the recurring maritime disputes.

The latest arrest is expected to reignite calls for bilateral talks to strengthen cooperation in fisheries management and to prevent such incidents through clearly defined and jointly monitored maritime boundaries.

Char Dham Yatra Resumes After 24-Hour Ban Amid Cloudburst Tragedy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The 24-hour suspension of the Char Dham Yatra was lifted on Monday, following a temporary halt prompted by severe weather conditions, officials confirmed. Garhwal Divisional Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey stated that the ban had been revoked, though District Magistrates along the route

have been instructed to regulate vehicular movement based on local weather assessments. The Yatra was suspended on Sunday after a heavy rain alert was issued. Soon after, a devastating cloudburst triggered a massive landslide near Barkot on the Yamunotri route in Uttarakashi district, resulting in the deaths of two workers and leaving seven others missing.

According to Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya, the Barkot-Yamunotri road — which suffered a major washout before Silai Band — has been repaired and made passable. Restoration work on other damaged segments continues. Additionally, the 33 KV power supply line in the affected region has been restored, with ongoing efforts to repair the 11 KV line.

The search operation for the seven missing workers is being conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and revenue teams. The landslide occurred approximately four kilometers ahead of Paligad on the Yamunotri National Highway near Silai Band. The two deceased have been identified as Kewal Bisht (43) from Kar-

mohani in Nepal's Rajapur District and Dujee Lal (55) from Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, Chamba town and nearby regions continue to experience heavy rainfall. Authorities are urging pilgrims to remain cautious and cooperate with local administration during the ongoing Yatra, especially in areas prone to landslides and flash floods.

'God Bless America': Trump's 'One Big Beautiful Bill' Clears First Senate Hurdle Amid Uproar

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a tense late-night vote, the U.S. Senate took a critical step toward advancing former President Donald Trump's flagship legislative effort—the expansive 940-page “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.” The Republican-controlled Senate narrowly approved a key procedural motion Saturday by a slim 51-49 margin, setting the stage for further debate in the coming days.

The bill, which Trump is pushing to pass before the July 4 deadline, seeks a massive \$150 billion increase in military spending, alongside billions for border wall construction and intensified deportations—core elements of Trump's political agenda. However, to fund these initiatives, the bill proposes steep cuts to domestic programs, including significant Medicaid reductions and the elimination of clean energy incentives, sparking sharp criticism across party lines. Behind the scenes, Republican leaders worked intensely to secure support. Vice President JD Vance's pressure reportedly convinced Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin to switch his vote, giving Republicans the necessary edge. Yet dissent remained, with Senators Rand Paul and Thom Tillis joining all



47 Democrats in opposition. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer condemned the GOP's late-night maneuvering, demanding a full, word-by-word reading of the bill—a marathon session expected to last 15 hours. Key provisions have drawn widespread backlash. Critics warn Medicaid cuts could jeopardize rural hospitals and leave millions uninsured. The bill also rescinds electric vehicle tax credits and climate incentives, drawing ire from

environmental advocates. Independent analysts warn it could add trillions to the national debt, exacerbating economic inequality. Even billionaire Elon Musk publicly denounced the bill as “utterly insane,” warning it would inflict “immense strategic harm” and be “political suicide” for Republicans. Now headed back to the House, the bill faces an uncertain future amid Republican divisions and fierce opposition, with its fate hanging in the balance.

Tibetan Americans, U.S. Congress Mark Tibet Lobby Day and Dalai Lama's 90th Birthday with Unity and Advocac



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Washington D.C. witnessed a powerful show of solidarity this week as over 200 Tibetan Americans and supporters from 25 U.S. states and the District of Columbia gathered at the Capitol for Tibet Lobby Day. The event, held in the lead-up to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday on July 6, 2025, aimed to bring attention to Tibet's struggle for freedom and advocate for stronger U.S. support.

Organized by the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), the Office of Tibet, and the Capitol Area Tibetan Association, the two-day initiative saw participants visiting more than 100 Congressional offices. It concluded with a celebratory

event hosted by Congressmen Michael McCaul and Jim McGovern, and attended by key leaders including Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, and Congressman Michael Baumgartner. Actor and activist Richard Gere, Chairman of ICT, participated virtually.

Congressman McCaul recounted a touching conversation with the Dalai Lama: “I asked him if he held resentment toward the Chinese. He said, ‘I cannot let negative emotions overwhelm my spirit.’” McCaul praised the Dalai Lama's resilience and emphasized, “They may take your land, but they cannot erase your spirit.” Congressman McGovern expressed deep admiration for the Dalai Lama, saying, “He inspires

millions through his messages of peace, tolerance, and human dignity. Let's celebrate his next birthday together in Lhasa, Tibet.”

Tencho Gyatso, President of ICT, thanked supporters, stating, “This success is a result of passionate individuals and lawmakers standing for those facing oppression in Tibet.” The efforts paid off, with four new Senate co-sponsors and six in the House signing onto the pro-Tibet resolution during Lobby Day. As part of ICT's Compassion Rising campaign and the CTA's Year of Compassion, the event underscored the ongoing global advocacy for Tibetan rights and celebrated the enduring legacy of the Dalai Lama.

Nationwide Outrage in Bangladesh After Brutal Rape of Hindu Woman in Cumilla

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

The brutal rape of a 21-year-old Hindu woman in Cumilla district, central Bangladesh, last week has ignited nationwide protests and outrage. The shocking incident came to public attention only after a distressing video of the assault went viral on social media, showing the woman stripped naked and pleading with her attackers. The survivor was attacked on June 26 at her parental home during the local festival, Hari Seva. The main accused is 36-year-old Fazor Ali, a local politician from Ramchandrapur Pachkitta village. According to police, the survivor's husband, who works in Dubai, was visiting her with their children when Ali allegedly broke into the house at around 10 pm and assaulted her.

Locals initially apprehended and beat Ali but took him to a hospital instead of handing him over to the police. Ali reportedly escaped from the hospital. Police have arrested five people so far, including Ali and four others accused



of sharing the victim's images and identity on social media. Cumilla's police chief, Nazir Ahmed Khan, confirmed the arrest of Ali during a pre-dawn raid in Dhaka's Sayedabad area. In response to the incident, students of Dhaka University organized mass protests demanding justice, while minority students residing in Jagannath Hall staged processions calling

for strong action against the perpetrators. Political leaders also condemned the attack, with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir demanding exemplary punishment. The High Court intervened by ordering the immediate removal of the viral video and called on authorities to ensure the survivor's security and provide necessary medical treatment.

"Utterly Insane": Elon Musk Criticises Donald Trump's 'Big, Beautiful Bill' Again



TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk launched a fierce critique of the Senate's latest draft of former President Donald Trump's expansive tax-and-spending bill, just as the chamber prepared to debate the nearly 1,000-page proposal. Musk warned that the legislation would “destroy millions of jobs in America” and cause severe strategic damage to the country.

Calling the bill “utterly insane and destructive,” Musk criticized it for handing out support to outdated industries while harming sectors crucial to the future economy. His remarks added to growing tensions between Musk and Trump's political circle, especially after Musk recently stepped down as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (Doge). Republican Senate leaders are under pressure to pass the bill by Trump's self-imposed July 4 deadline, and Musk's outspoken opposition complicates those efforts.

Earlier this month, Musk also condemned the House version of the bill, calling it a “disgusting abomination” filled with excessive spending. His harsh comments triggered a public rift with Trump, though Musk has since attempted to reopen dialogue with the former president.

On Saturday, Musk doubled down on his opposition, highlighting concerns about the bill's energy policies and economic impact. He shared criticism from Princeton energy systems engineer Jesse Jenkins, who argued that the energy provisions in the bill are rejected by automakers, electric utilities, data centers, and manufacturers alike. Musk responded bluntly, “Good question. Who?”

Musk further criticized the bill for raising the US debt ceiling by \$5 trillion — the largest increase in history — warning this would accelerate the country's “fast lane to debt slavery.”

The bill, spanning 940 pages, proposes major cuts to social programs like Medicaid and food stamps, while increasing defense and immigration enforcement funding. Central to the legislation is Trump's \$350 billion border and security plan, including billions for border wall expansion, migrant detention facilities, and hiring thousands of new ICE officers, aimed at supporting a massive deportation initiative.



Iran's Top Shiite Cleric Issues Fatwa Against Trump and Netanyahu, Calling Them 'Enemies of God'

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Iran's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi, has issued a powerful fatwa—a religious decree—against former US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, labeling them “enemies of God.” The fatwa calls on Muslims worldwide to unite against these leaders for threatening Iran's Islamic republic leadership. According to Mehr News Agency, Makarem declared that anyone threatening the country's supreme leaders is a “warlord” or “mohareb”—a term in Iranian law meaning a person who wages war against God. Those labeled mohareb face severe punishments, including execution, crucifixion, limb amputation, or exile. The decree further states that any Muslim or Islamic state that cooperates with these enemies is committing a forbidden (haram) act.

The fatwa urges Muslims globally to make Trump and Netanyahu regret their actions, promising divine rewards to those who suffer hardships or losses while acting in defense of Islam.

This decree comes after a 12-day conflict sparked by an Israeli bombing campaign on June 13 targeting Iranian military commanders and scientists linked to Iran's nuclear program. Iran retaliated with ballistic missile strikes on Israeli cities. The violence escalated after the US joined Israel in striking Iran's nuclear facilities, prompting Iran to attack an American military base in Qatar.

A fatwa, issued by a Marja—the highest authority in Twelver Shia Islam—is a religious ruling that calls for enforcement by Muslim individuals and governments. Iran has a history of using fatwas to justify violence; the most infamous example being the 1989 fatwa against British author Salman Rushdie, who faced assassination attempts after his novel The Satanic Verses was deemed offensive. Rushdie's ordeal included a 2023 stabbing attack in New York, which left him seriously injured.

This latest fatwa highlights the continued tension between Iran, the US, and Israel amid escalating conflicts in the region.

Private Banks Now Hold Majority Share of NPAs in Unsecured Retail Loans



Private sector banks now account for the largest share of gross non-performing assets (NPAs) in unsecured retail loans, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Stability Report (FSR) released for the year ended March 2025. The report reveals that private banks held 52.6% of gross NPAs in unsecured loans, a significant increase from below 50% two years ago. In contrast, public sector banks (PSBs) accounted for 40.5% of NPAs in this category. Unsecured loans, which include credit cards, personal loans, and education loans, are issued without any collateral. These loans gained popularity following the pandemic, as banks—especially in the private sector—pursued aggressive retail lending strategies.

However, this growth has led to elevated risks, particularly around loan defaults. The FSR highlights that private banks have seen persistently high slippages in their unsecured retail portfolios. "Slippages in unsecured retail loans remain elevated for private banks. Fresh slippage in this segment continues to dominate the overall slippage," the report said. This has also led to higher write-offs, which continue to be a significant factor in managing NPAs, especially for private lenders. Although there has been some moderation in the growth of unsecured lending, the asset quality in this segment has weakened relative to the broader retail loan portfolio.

As of March 2025, the gross NPA (GNPA) ratio for unsecured retail loans stood at 1.8%, compared to 1.2% for the overall retail segment. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the banking sector's credit growth was fueled by lending to the retail and services sectors, particularly through unsecured loans and loans to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Currently, unsecured retail loans constitute 25% of the total retail loan book and account for 8.3% of banks' gross advances. The rising share of NPAs in this segment is raising concerns about the sustainability and risk management practices of banks, especially in the private sector.

Indian Stock Market Opens Flat Amid Positive Global Cues

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



cent market rallies have been driven by large-cap stocks like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries (RIL), and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), which have seen strong institutional buying. The Nifty Midcap 100 index climbed 220.90 points (0.37%) to 59,606.05, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index rose 153.35 points (0.81%) to 19,130.15. Among the Sensex constituents, M&M, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, NTPC, and UltraTech Cement were the top losers. On the other hand, Trent, SBI, L&T, Axis Bank, and Hindustan Unilever Limited led the gains.

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

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

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

ICICI Bank has forecast that India's trade deficit will widen to USD 300 billion in the financial year 2025-26, even though oil prices are expected to remain moderate. This would mark an increase from the USD 287 billion deficit recorded in FY25 and USD 245 billion in FY24, representing 7.0% of the country's GDP. According to the bank's report, the main driver of the growing trade deficit is the weak performance of India's non-oil exports, which have struggled to keep pace with rising imports. On the other hand, strong domestic economic growth is expected to sustain high import levels, further widening the gap between imports and exports. Despite the widening trade deficit, ICICI Bank projects that steady inflows from services exports and remittances will help maintain the current account deficit (CAD) at a manageable USD 30 billion, or approximately 0.7% of GDP. The current account deficit includes not only the trade balance but



also other international financial flows such as investment income and remittances. A trade deficit occurs when a country imports more goods than it exports, and India's persistent deficit highlights ongoing challenges in boosting export competitiveness outside of the oil sector. Meanwhile, imports remain robust, driven by strong domestic demand and

economic expansion. The report underscores the importance of strengthening non-oil exports to reduce India's reliance on imports and improve the overall balance of payments. As the economy continues to grow, addressing these structural trade imbalances will be crucial for sustaining external stability and economic resilience in the coming years.

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



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

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

decline of 0.1% year-on-year. In contrast, manufacturing, which constitutes the bulk of the IIP, provided some support with 2.6% growth, driven by increased production in machinery, non-metallic minerals, and basic metals. However, this was still notably below the 5.1% growth recorded in the same month last year, indicating persistent softness in industrial momentum.

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

The IIP reading for May stood at 156.6, up slightly from 154.7 in May 2024, but the slow pace of expansion raises concerns about the resilience of India's industrial recovery amid global uncertainties and domestic demand challenges. This deceleration in industrial activity may influence monetary policy discussions, especially as the Reserve Bank of India weighs the implications of softening growth against ongoing inflation risks.



India will continue to be fastest growing economy: FM Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed confidence that India will maintain its position as the fastest-growing major economy, with growth expected to remain strong or even improve, especially with a favourable monsoon this year. According to the Reserve Bank of India's latest data, the GDP growth accelerated to a robust 7.4% in the fourth quarter of 2024-25, leading to an overall growth rate of 6.5% for the full fiscal year. This impressive performance was driven by strong showings in agriculture, construction, and services sectors. Sitharaman highlighted in her social media posts that the deepening of India's markets is benefiting ordinary citizens and retailers alike. She pointed out

that the country's digitised and transparent systems empower individuals to access services easily without external help — a sign of a dynamic and modern economy. The Finance Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting labour-intensive sectors, emphasizing that both traditional handicrafts and high-tech manufacturing will receive policy backing. "There is no choosing between labour and capital," she said, underscoring the inclusive approach to industrial growth and job creation. Sitharaman also praised the government's continuous support for MSMEs over the past 11 years, noting the positive impact of targeted policies. She referenced initiatives like the Dhan-Dhaan-

ya Krishi Yojana, aimed at boosting agricultural productivity and increasing farmers' incomes through value addition, particularly in aspirational districts. Additionally, the Finance Minister assured that defence needs will be fully met, highlighting the growth of domestic defence production and the rise of India as an exporter. Since 2014, attention has been focused on improving supply chains and meeting the detailed requirements of the armed forces, marking a significant shift towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing. Overall, Sitharaman's remarks signal strong confidence in India's continued economic growth and structural progress across key sectors.

Posting the screenshot on X (formerly Twitter), Lalit wrote, “Newton’s fourth law of motion: A Bangalore auto at rest will remain at rest.” The post immediately struck a chord with thousands who could relate to the everyday struggle of navigating

In a follow-up reply, Lalit humorously wrote, “When an interviewer asks, ‘Where do you see yourself in 5 years?’ I just think... still stuck in Bangalore

traffic..." Amid the laughter, the reality remains grim. The Karnataka government is actively pursuing large-scale infrastructure projects to address the issue. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently announced plans for double-decker flyovers along metro routes, with Rs 9,000 crore allocated for the project. Additionally, 300 km of 50-foot-wide buffer roads along stormwater drains are also planned, with another Rs 3,000 crore budgeted. While Bengaluru waits for relief, its citizens continue to rely on humor to survive the daily grind—quite literally.

Two glasses of green smoothies are shown side-by-side. Each glass is filled with a vibrant green liquid, topped with a generous swirl of white whipped cream, and garnished with green sprinkles. A green and white striped straw is inserted into each glass. The glasses are placed on a light-colored, textured surface.

The celebration served as both a tribute and a send-off to a show that redefined the survival thriller genre on a global scale. Fans around the world flooded the comments section with awe and appreciation for the creativity and dedication shown in the parade. With *Squid Game* Season 3 now streaming, the buzz is stronger than ever. And if this parade is any indication, the fandom's love for the series is as powerful as the show's cultural impact itself.

Petra Kvitova’s Emotional Return to Wimbledon Ahead of Retirement



Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova has made a heartfelt return to the All England Club this year, marking what is expected to be her final appearance at the prestigious grass-court Grand Slam before she retires. The 35-year-old Czech left-hander, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014, missed last year’s tournament due to maternity leave. Kvitova announced about a week and a half ago that she plans to retire after the U.S. Open in September, making this Wimbledon a special farewell. Despite her absence and a recent ranking outside the top 500, Kvitova received

a wild-card entry to compete and was set to face No. 10 seed Emma Navarro in the first round. “It’s my favorite tournament. It always has been and always will be,” Kvitova told The Associated Press. Reflecting on her career at Wimbledon, she said winning two titles remains the highlight, despite painful losses along the way. After early first-round exits in 2008 and 2009, she reached the semifinals in 2010 before capturing her first title in 2011 by defeating Maria Sharapova. She claimed her second trophy in 2014, beating Eugenie Bouchard decisively. Her journey at Wimbledon is also

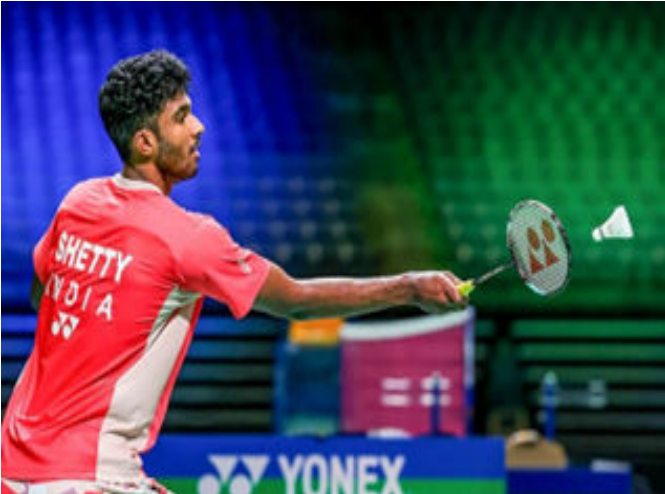
deeply personal. Kvitova’s coach-turned-husband, Jiri Vanek, proposed to her at Centre Court, and their son Petr was born during the 2024 tournament fortnight. Balancing motherhood and professional tennis has been challenging, especially with the logistics of travel and being away from her young son, but Kvitova described her 17-month hiatus from the tour as more of a break than a quit. “My mindset is still in a good place,” she said, sharing the bittersweet joy of returning to Grand Slam competition and her beloved Wimbledon, known affectionately as “Wimby.”



Marc Marquez Wins Dutch GP, Equals Agostini’s Record with 68th MotoGP Victory

Assen, Netherlands | June 30, 2025: Marc Marquez delivered a masterclass at the historic TT Circuit Assen, fending off a fierce challenge from Marco Bezzecchi to win the Dutch Grand Prix and claim his 68th MotoGP victory. With this triumph, Marquez equals the legendary Giacomo Agostini’s record for premier class wins, capping off an unforgettable weekend at the 100th anniversary of racing at Assen. Starting from P3, Marquez quickly worked his way past title rival Alex Marquez and teammate Francesco Bagnaia (Pecco), taking the lead on Lap 5. The #93 maintained his composure under relentless pressure from Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing), who stayed within striking distance for most of the race but couldn’t find a way past. Marquez extended the gap to 0.7 seconds in the final laps to seal a dramatic win. Bezzecchi’s second-place finish handed Aprilia a double podium weekend, while Bagnaia recovered from a mid-race drop

to secure P3. The race wasn’t without drama—Alex Marquez crashed out after contact with Pedro Acosta, later diagnosed with a fractured left hand. Fermin Aldeguer also crashed out, triggering a chain reaction that affected Fabio Quartararo and Joan Mir. Acosta finished a strong P4 for Red Bull KTM, followed by Maverick Viñales (P5) and Fabio Di Giannantonio (P6). Franco Morbidelli took P7 despite a Long Lap penalty, while Raul Fernandez claimed P8, his third consecutive top-10 finish. Enea Bastianini and Quartararo rounded out the top 10. Brad Binder, Johann Zarco, Alex Rins, Jack Miller, and Somkiat Chantra completed the points-scoring positions, with Chantra earning Thailand’s first-ever MotoGP point. As the championship battle intensifies, the paddock now heads to Sachsenring for Round 11, with Marquez firmly reestablished as a title contender in the 2025 season.



Ayush Shetty Clinches First BWF World Tour Title at US Open; Tanvi Sharma Finishes Runner-Up

Rising Indian badminton star Ayush Shetty claimed his maiden BWF World Tour title with an impressive straight-games win over Canada’s Brian Yang in the men’s singles final of the US Open Super 300. The 20-year-old secured the victory 21-18, 21-13 in just 47 minutes, ending India’s title drought on the World Tour this season. Seeded fourth, Shetty dominated from the outset, showcasing a mix of attacking flair and solid defense. After a close start at 6-6, the Mangalore shuttler pulled ahead to lead 11-6 at the mid-game break. Though Yang leveled at 16-16, Shetty’s sharp placement and a decisive jump smash helped him close out the first game. In the second, Shetty raced to a 7-2 lead and maintained his momentum with a combination of cross-court punches and smashes, ultimately sealing the match. This marks Shetty’s third win over Yang in 2025, following earlier victories at the Malaysia and Taipei Opens. It also adds to his growing resume, which includes finals appearances at the 2023 Odisha Masters, Bahrain International, and the 2024 Dutch Open. Meanwhile, in the women’s singles final, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma delivered a valiant performance but settled for runner-up in her first World Tour final. Facing top-seeded Beiwen Zhang of the USA, Tanvi lost 11-21, 21-16, 10-21 in a 46-minute contest. Zhang took control early in the first game, but Tanvi bounced back strongly in the second, attacking from the start and forcing errors with aggressive play. However, Zhang regained her rhythm in the decider, pulling away with an 11-4 lead and closing the match without further resistance. Despite the loss, Tanvi’s breakthrough performance signals a promising future for the young Indian shuttler on the global stage.

Pakistan’s Participation in 2025 Men’s Asia Cup in India Uncertain Amid Security Concerns



Pakistan’s involvement in the upcoming 2025 Men’s Asia Cup hockey tournament, scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar, from August 29 to September 9, remains uncertain following recent security concerns. The hesitation comes in the wake of the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, raising serious questions about allowing the Pakistan men’s hockey team to compete on Indian soil. Hockey India officials have confirmed that they are in close consultation with the Indian government before finalizing Pakistan’s participation. “We are in contact with the government, and we will follow whatever instructions it provides. As for the current situation, I don’t think the Pakistan team will be allowed to participate,” a Hockey India spokesperson told the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS). The Men’s Asia Cup 2025 is a critical tournament as it acts as a qualifier for the 2026 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup, to be co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. The winner of the Asia Cup secures a coveted spot in the World Cup, raising the stakes for all competing nations. In addition to the Asia Cup, India is also set to host the FIH Hockey Men’s Junior World Cup later this year, from November 28 to December 10, across Chennai and Madurai. Pakistan’s participation in this junior event is also under question due to similar security and political concerns following the Pahalgam attack. The Pakistani junior team has been placed in the same group as India in the 24-team tournament. Pakistan last participated in a major hockey event in India in 2023, during the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai, where India secured a record fourth title by defeating Malaysia 4-3 in the final. However, given the current tense atmosphere, the prospect of Pakistan’s teams playing in India this year appears doubtful.



Tanvi Sharma Falls Short Against Beiwen Zhang in US Open Final

Sixteen-year-old Tanvi Sharma showed immense promise at the US Open 2025 badminton tournament in Iowa but fell to experienced American Beiwen Zhang in a hard-fought final, losing 11-21, 21-16, 21-10. Despite a strong middle-game performance, Sharma struggled to adapt to the faster court conditions on one side, which ultimately affected her shuttle control and consistency. Sharma, following in the footsteps of Indian greats like Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, both of whom achieved significant milestones as teenagers, demonstrated that she has the talent and temperament to compete at the highest levels. Her ability to craft rallies and keep opponents on the move was evident, especially in the mid-game where she fought back impressively to take the second set. However, the faster drift on one side of the court proved tricky for the young player. Sharma’s shuttlecock control faltered on that side, with shots sailing long more frequently than she would have preferred. This inconsistency gave Zhang, a 34-year-old seasoned pro, the upper hand to seize crucial points. Sharma’s gameplan typically relies on her strong criss-cross play, using a wide range of shots to make her opponents run across the court. She also possesses dependable smashes and drop shots, allowing her to exploit open spaces once she creates opportunities with flank attacks. Yet, against Zhang’s steady baseline play and tactical awareness, Sharma couldn’t fully impose her style. Despite the loss, Sharma’s journey to her first big Super 300 final signals a bright future. With more experience and adjustments to different playing conditions, she looks poised to become a formidable force in international badminton in the years to come.



సత్యమేవ జయతే..!

