



I have nothing to hide... Roja Fires Back

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Nagari politics turned volatile after fiery exchanges between former minister and YSRCP leader RK Roja and sitting Nagari MLA Gali Bhanu Prakash. Roja, infuriated by Bhanu Prakash's recent comments about her, launched a strong counterattack, calling his allegations baseless and politically motivated. Roja dared Bhanu Prakash to provide evidence for his claims that she had looted ₹1,000 crores. "If Muddu Krishnamma Naidu had truly given birth to you, and if I looted ₹1,000 crores, prove it. If you can, I will walk away from politics. If not, you resign and take political sanyas," Roja declared, challenging his integrity and the legitimacy of his public statements.

'I Live in Nagari, My Vote Is in Nagari'

Taking personal offense to Bhanu Prakash's comments, Roja stated, "I live in Nagari. My house is here. My vote is here. Anyone who visits my home with respect is treated with the same respect. My brothers are honored in my home. If you can't show basic courtesies, what gives you the right to speak about me?" She criticized Bhanu Prakash's political and personal credentials, accusing him of relying on other leaders for financial support. "You don't have an office. You don't have a house. You survive on money handed to you by someone else. You drink coffee with their money, eat meals on their dime. You can't even donate for aarti at the temple without someone else's cash," Roja said.

'Show Your Assets, Then Talk'

Roja went further, demanding Bhanu Prakash explain how he acquired his wealth.

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MITHUN REDDY REMANDED...

Sent to Rajahmundry Jail



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a major development in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, the Vijayawada ACB Court remanded YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy till August 1. He was designated as A-4 in the case. SIT officials produced him before the court on Sunday after a medical examination, following his arrest on Saturday after a 7-hour questioning session.

Kickbacks and Policy Manipulation

According to the SIT remand report, the liquor policy from 2019 to 2024 was manipulated for illegal gains. Kickbacks from distilleries were allegedly collected through manual "Order of Supply" changes. SIT revealed that Mithun Reddy orchestrated the scheme with former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy's knowledge and involvement.

Forged Documents and Bribes

The report states that forgery,

cheating, and destruction of evidence were used. Mithun allegedly influenced excise officials and received commissions between ₹150 and ₹600 per liquor case. Distilleries that agreed to pay kickbacks were given exclusive supply orders.

Shell Companies and Gold Conversions

Funds were laundered using shell companies in the US and UAE. Large sums were converted into gold via fake GST invoices. Anusha, a data entry operator appointed on Vijay Sai Reddy's recommendation, helped extract internal data. Up to ₹400 crore was routed through gold traders.

Political and Bureaucratic Nexus

SIT named several senior bureaucrats and political aides. Principal Secretary Rajat Bhargava was reportedly consulted for policy changes. Mithun met repeatedly with Krishna Mohan Reddy (OSD), Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, and others. Deputy Commissioner Satyaprasad allegedly directed depot managers via WhatsApp on Mithun's instructions.

Suppression of Popular Brands

Popular liquor brands like Kingfisher and Budweiser were deliberately sidelined to promote local brands linked to the syndicate. The scheme was run under the guise of prohibition, centralizing all liquor trade through AP Beverages Corporation.

SIT alleges the scam damaged the state treasury and was driven by high-level political motives. Funds were diverted to real estate, shell companies, and used for promotions and luxury purchases like garments and gold coins.



Heavy Rains Lash Telugu States

TPN | Dev

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has warned that several districts in the state will experience heavy rainfall in the coming days. Areas likely to be affected include Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Ambedkar Konaseema, East and West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, and Guntur districts. The public has been advised to remain alert, avoid venturing into rivers or fishing activities, and stay away from dilapidated buildings, walls, and trees during the rains.

According to the Amaravati Meteorological Centre, gusty winds ranging from 40 to 50 kmph are expected along the coastal areas due to the influence of a low-pressure system. Officials have issued a warning that heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely across the state for the next three days.

With continuous rainfall across the upper catchment areas and within the state, water levels at the Prakasam Barrage have risen significantly. Central Division Executive Engineer of the Krishna River has announced that around 3,000 cusecs of water will be released

downstream at 6 a.m. on Monday. People living in low-lying areas have been advised to take precautionary measures. Citizens, swimmers, cattle herders, and visitors near the river have been urged to avoid entering the water to prevent accidents.

Several areas in Telangana are also witnessing intense rainfall. The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall across the state for the next four days. Thunderstorms with lightning are expected in many districts, accompanied by surface winds blowing at 30–40 kmph. A yellow alert has been issued across all districts, with an orange alert for high-risk areas.

Districts including Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Karimnagar, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Mahabubabad, Kamareddy, Medak, and Nagarkurnool are under an orange alert. Rain has been pouring continuously in Hyderabad for the past three days, coinciding with the Bonalu festival. The persistent downpour has caused serious inconvenience to commuters and residents, leading to traffic snarls and waterlogging in several parts of the city.



YCP State Spokesperson Ramesh Reddy Arrested

TPN Correspondent | Lakkireddipalle

In a major development that sent shockwaves across YSRCP circles, party state official spokesperson and former MLA R. Ramesh Kumar Reddy was arrested by police in Lakkireddipalle, Annamaiah District on Sunday. The arrest came after he made controversial remarks during a YSRCP QR code meeting held in Chinnamandem mandal.

The meeting was attended by former MLA Gadikota Srikanth Reddy, state spokesperson Ramesh Reddy, and party leader Sugavasi Balasubramanyam. During the session, Ramesh Reddy made scathing comments against Minister Mandipalli Ram Prasad Reddy, saying, "They trusted Chandrababu's super six and ended up electing a thief here," indirectly referring to the minister.

Following the remarks, Lakshmi Prasad Reddy, the brother of Minister Ram Prasad Reddy, lodged a police complaint. Acting on the complaint, police arrested Ramesh Reddy from his residence in Lakkireddypalle. As news of the arrest spread, YSRCP cadres and leaders gathered in large numbers at Ramesh Reddy's house, leading to heightened tension in Lakkireddypalle. The crowd engaged in verbal altercations with the police, demanding his immediate release.

To control the situation, police escorted Ramesh Reddy in a vehicle and moved him towards Piler. Protesters demanded his return to Lakkireddypalle, shouting slogans and staging a spontaneous protest. Local Circle Inspector Kondareddy arrived with additional forces and tried to pacify the agitated YSRCP workers, asking them to disperse peacefully.

This arrest came within hours of Rajampet MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy's remand in the AP liquor scam case, making it the second high-profile arrest in a single day in Annamaiah district.

"Liquor Scam Stopped at Tadepalli Walls"

TPN Correspondent | Amravati

BJP Legislature Party leader Vishnu Kumar Raju made scathing remarks on the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, saying that the investigation has mysteriously halted at the gates of Tadepalli Palace. He hinted at high-level political interference as the reason behind the lack of further progress. "The liquor scam has reached the palace walls but has not gone beyond. Strong political walls seem to be blocking the investigation," he said.

3200 Crore in First Phase Alone

According to Vishnu Kumar Raju, evidence related to the liquor scam worth over ₹3200 crore has been found in the first phase of the investigation. He questioned the SIT's hesitation to take further action and openly wondered why there was reluctance when the magnitude of the scam is so large.

SIT Must Go Beyond the Surface

He confirmed that 12 people have been arrested in connection with the scam but stressed that those arrested feel betrayed. "They're thinking—why us? If the big fish are being protected, why are we the only ones facing action?" he remarked, indicating that more influential individuals involved in the scam have not been touched yet. The BJP leader demanded that the SIT investigate beyond just the front-end players. "There are people directly connected to Jagan Mohan Reddy.



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Police Issue Notices to Ambati, Rajini



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Senior YSRCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has received a major setback as the Sattenapalli Rural Police served him legal notices in connection with a case related to violation of norms during YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Rentapalla last month. The incident reportedly occurred on June 18 when former Chief Minister Jagan visited Rentapalla in Palnadu district. During the visit, police allege that Ambati Rambabu violated public gathering rules and other regulations, leading to the filing of a case. He has now been summoned to appear for questioning on July 21.

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“Liquor Scam Stopped at...

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Why haven't they been arrested yet?" he asked, adding that these high-level connections were the reason the investigation has stalled.

More Than ₹3200 Crore Involved

He asserted that the ₹3200 crore mentioned is just the beginning and the actual scam amount is much higher. "Where did all that money go? How was it converted to white money? How did it get transferred to foreign nations?" he asked. Raju urged investigative agencies to trace the entire money trail, uncover how black money was converted, and how it was laundered across borders. He concluded by saying that justice will only be served when the real masterminds are brought to light.

Police Issue Notices to Ambati, Rajini

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This is not the first case against the former minister. Previously, a case had been registered against Ambati at the Sattenapalli Town Police Station as well. Now, with the Sattenapalli Rural Police filing another case, legal troubles seem to be mounting. In this latest case, former ministers, MLAs, and district-level leaders are also named. A total of 118 people have been booked, including former minister Vidudala Rajini. Police have already questioned several of the accused in connection with the incident. The summons indicates the state government's intent to crack down on what it alleges are public order violations by opposition leaders.

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"What physical work have you done? What burdens have you carried to own these assets?" she asked. She challenged him to make his income sources public. "Check my IT returns, check my bank statements. All my earnings—from films, TV shows, and ads—are accounted for," she said. She concluded by mocking his credibility: "You worked in hotels, did phone duties—show the math. Only then will people understand who truly worked hard and who just reaped benefits." Roja's bold statements have intensified the political rivalry in Nagari and hinted that the battle between the former minister and the current MLA is just beginning.

Monsoon Must Not Delay Capital Works: Minister Narayana

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana conducted a detailed review of the ongoing construction activities in Amaravati on Sunday. The review meeting was held with senior engineers from CRDA and ADC to assess the pace and quality of the capital city's development works. Engineer-in-Chief Gopal Krishna Reddy of CRDA, along with executive engineers (EES) overseeing various sectors, participated in the meeting. The minister sought updates on building constructions, road development, and supporting infrastructure currently underway in the Amaravati region.

Officials briefed Minister Narayana on the scale of manpower deployed on-site and the type of machinery being used. The minister inspected



progress reports and emphasized the need for efficient execution even during the monsoon season. He advised all departments to fol-

low a well-planned schedule and ensure there are no unnecessary delays due to rain or logistic constraints.

"Construction in Amaravati is a matter of pride and urgency. It must reflect world-class standards and be completed within the stipulated timelines," the minister asserted. He also instructed that safety measures for workers and proper usage of high-quality materials be given top priority.

Highlighting the need for inter-departmental coordination, Narayana urged engineers to maintain daily reporting and on-ground supervision to overcome bottlenecks. He reiterated that the Amaravati project is a symbol of Andhra Pradesh's growth vision and the government is committed to completing it without compromise.

The review concluded with the minister directing officials to submit weekly progress reports and maintain transparency in project execution.

Chandrababu Targeting My Family: Peddireddy

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

Former Minister and Punganur MLA Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy has strongly criticized Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging political harassment of his family. The senior YSRCP leader said that since the TDP returned to power, Chandrababu has been misusing state machinery to target their family with false cases.

Peddireddy's son and YSRCP MP from Rajampet, Mithun Reddy, was arrested by CID's Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday. Reacting to the arrest, Peddireddy stated that similar tactics

were used in the past when false charges were filed against Mithun Reddy, which were later proven baseless in court.

"Just because Mithun is close to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, they are using the police to file fabricated cases and send him to jail," Peddireddy alleged. He further accused the TDP government of reviving old vendetta politics and warned that such actions will only intensify public sympathy towards YSRCP.

The arrest has triggered a political storm, with YSRCP leaders alleging a targeted campaign against opposition leaders under the new regime. Meanwhile, TDP leaders maintain that the



investigation is based on facts and not politics. The case has raised fresh concerns over political misuse of law enforcement in Andhra Pradesh.

CID Shortlists 5,567 for Home Guard Phase-III Test

TPN Correspondent |Amaravati

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Andhra Pradesh has announced the schedule for the Phase-III Computer Skill Test as part of the ongoing recruitment drive for 28 Home Guard (Category-B – Technical & Other Trades) voluntary posts.

According to the CID press note, a total of 12,569 applications were received in response to the recruitment notification issued on April 28, 2025. After Phase-I scrutiny and Phase-II Physical Measurement Test (PMT) and certificate verification, 5,567 candidates have qualified for the next stage.

The Computer Skill Test (Phase-III) will be held from July 27 to July 29, 2025, at VIT-AP Univer-



sity, G-30, Inavolu, near AP Secretariat, Amaravati, Guntur District. The detailed schedule of the test is available on the official CID, Andhra Pradesh website: <https://cid.appolice.gov.in>. All qualified candidates are required to attend the test strictly as per the schedule men-

tioned against their names. They must bring the original Hall Ticket issued during the PMT & certificate verification phase, along with their original Aadhar Card and a xerox copy for identification.

The CID has strictly warned that candidates failing to report on the scheduled date and time, or those who fail to produce the required documents, will be marked absent and disqualified from the enrollment process. No appeals or correspondence will be entertained thereafter.

Candidates are also advised not to bring cell phones or electronic gadgets to the examination venue. Regular updates and further instructions will be available only on the CID's official website.

TDP Fabricating Cases to Target YSRCP: Sajjala

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, YSRCP senior leader and political secretary to former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, has strongly condemned the alleged political vendetta being pursued by the TDP-led coalition government. Speaking to the media, he accused the government of deliberately creating false narratives and slapping fabricated cases against party leaders, especially targeting MP Mithun Reddy.

Sajjala said the recent arrest of MP Mithun Reddy was part of a larger conspiracy aimed at tarnishing the image of the YSRCP. He alleged that the current government was resorting to selective targeting and misuse of law enforcement agencies to intimidate opposition leaders.

He dismissed the liquor scam accusations as a smokescreen, questioning the credibility of the investigation. "The liquor policy initiated during Chandrababu's previous regime was flawed. Now they are projecting others as culprits while washing their own hands," he stated.

Sajjala highlighted that during Chandrababu's previous tenure, over 1300 liquor outlets were privatized and contracts were given to select entities. Now, the same administration is blaming the YSRCP for their own policy failures. "Between 2014



and 2019, orders were issued to just 4-5 major steel companies. Where did that transparency go?" he questioned.

Criticizing Chandrababu Naidu, Sajjala remarked, "Even while sitting outside the CM chair, Chandrababu is acting like a shadow CM, directing the administration like a personal enterprise. Is this governance or monarchy?"

He made it clear that the YSRCP is not afraid of false cases or intimidation. "You can file as many false cases as you want, we will fight it legally and politically. We will expose the TDP's double standards and continue to stand with the people," he asserted.

YSRCP Leaders Behaving Like Demons: Yarapathineni

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Gurajala MLA Yarapathineni Srinivasa Rao launched a scathing attack on YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of weakening governance and neglecting public welfare during his five-year rule. Speaking at the TDP district office in Guntur on Sunday, Yarapathineni questioned why Jagan and his party failed to think about the people while in power.

He criticized the former government for paralyzing the agriculture department and alleged that Jagan had no understanding of key agricultural issues, sarcastically claiming that he didn't know the difference between a kilogram and a quintal. "Except for promoting cannabis cultivation, Jagan knows nothing about agriculture," he said. The MLA accused Jagan of misusing his father's power, sending IAS and IPS officers to jail, and presiding over an administration that fostered corruption. "YSRCP leaders are only good at burning chilli yards and stealing tokens," he said, alleging widespread looting under their rule.

He further blamed Jagan for the liquor scam, linking the arrest of YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy to the exposure of the former CM's name in the case. Yarapathineni warned that if YSRCP leaders had the courage, they should



name whom they intend to eliminate politically. He accused them of making baseless personal remarks and challenged them to debate on development.

The MLA emphasized that only Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was responsible for Andhra Pradesh's progress. He alleged that Jagan's history included betrayal of even his close relatives. "Even YSRCP leaders need to be cautious with Jagan," he quipped, adding that those still in the party should reflect on their future.

Yarapathineni also said inquiries were ongoing into irregularities committed by YSRCP leaders in the Gurajala constituency and noted that Palnadu has great potential for industrial development.



Threatening Government Agencies Is Cowardice

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Senior YSRCP leader and three-time MP Mithun Reddy has been accused of playing a central role in a massive ₹3,500 crore liquor scam that siphoned off public money between 2019 and 2024. Believed to be a close aide and proxy of the former Chief Minister, Mithun allegedly orchestrated a high-level scheme involving illegal control over liquor policy, production, and distribution across Andhra Pradesh. According to investigation reports, the scam was executed in a style comparable to a “James Bond movie,” with digital payment routes avoided and every step—from policy making to corporation orders, distillery permissions to pricing decisions—manipulated to benefit the inner circle. The process was highly centralized, operating like a private blockchain where no financial trail was traceable.

In a major breakthrough, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) reconstructed the entire network through extensive data analysis, leading to the arrest of 12 individuals closely involved in the racket. Officials say more arrests are imminent as deeper links are being exposed. Meanwhile, YSRCP has dismissed the arrests as political vendetta, accusing the ruling alliance of targeting its leaders out of revenge. Critics, however, argue that threatening state machinery while shielding scam-tainted figures only exposes the party’s fear of the truth. Congress leaders also issued strong warnings, stating they won’t remain silent if those who abused power for personal gain continue to act like heroes in public.



YSRCP Secretary Condemns Arrest of MP Mithun Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

YSRCP Joint Chittoor District Active Secretary T. Rakesh Kiran strongly condemned the arrest of Rajampet MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy, calling it a politically motivated act aimed at suppressing opposition leaders. Speaking at a press meet held at his office in Narayanavanam on Sunday, Rakesh Kiran described the arrest as unlawful and part of a larger conspiracy by the ruling alliance. Rakesh Kiran accused the TDP-led government of targeting leaders close to former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. “They are spreading false narratives and slapping baseless cases against popular leaders like Mithun Reddy, who has earned the love and respect of the people,” he said. “Arresting him at midnight without proper evidence is undemocratic and deeply painful,” he added. Calling the move an attack on the democratic system, Rakesh Kiran said, “The ruling coalition is acting in complete violation of legal norms. They are trying to isolate Jagan Anna by targeting those close to him with fabricated charges.” Rakesh alleged that there were no transaction records or phone call data to prove Mithun Reddy’s involvement in any financial wrongdoing. “Still, they filed a false case and arrested him unlawfully. This shows the ruling government’s desperation,” he said. Rakesh warned the coalition that the public will give its verdict in the next elections. “The people are watching. Justice will prevail,” he concluded. Local YSRCP leaders Ashok, Manju, Govind Swamy, and Raj Gopal also participated in the meeting.

TDP Cadre Backbone of Governance: Kollu Ravindra

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra has assured Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers that no injustice will be allowed to those who have worked hard for the party. Speaking at a crucial constituency-level meeting held at the TDP office in Rapthadu, the Minister emphasized the commitment of the party towards resolving cadre-related grievances.

The meeting witnessed the participation of MLA Paritala Sunitha, MP Parthasarathi, Dharmavaram TDP in-charge Paritala Sriram, and key leaders, cluster in-charges, and convenors from six mandals of the constituency. The leaders discussed key issues faced during the previous YSRCP regime, such as withdrawal of false cases filed against TDP workers, clearance of pending bills from 2014–2019, allocation of house sites and houses for eligible families, and alleged corruption in Indiramma and Jagananna



housing schemes. Other issues like ration card difficulties, problems arising from re-survey of lands, protection wall at Nadimi Vanka, commencement of Handri-Neeva project works, compensation for land-giving farmers, and establishing solar or horticulture hubs in 4,000 acres between Chennethopalli, Puletipalli, and Nagasamudram villages were also raised. Paritala Sriram urged all leaders to take initiative in the Good Governance Programme. MP Parthasarathi said Rapthadu has a

strong TDP cadre and emphasized the need to implement every programme as per party directions. MLA Paritala Sunitha accused the YSRCP of conspiring against TDP leaders and denying welfare schemes to supporters. She said the issues had been brought to the notice of respective ministers and requested Kollu Ravindra to take further action. Minister Ravindra reiterated CM Chandrababu Naidu’s commitment to party workers and promised to escalate the issues to the party’s high command.

Cooperative Societies Get New Life Under Alliance



TPN Correspondent | Ramachandrapuram

In a grand event held at Penumalla in Kajuluru mandal, newly elected members of the Penumalla Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (Three-Men Committee) took oath in the presence of Kootami party senior leader Vasamsetti Satyam and former minister Chikkala Ramachandra Rao. The swearing-in ceremony was organized under the supervision of Kakinada Ramarao, constituency in-charge, and other Kootami leaders. Speaking as the chief guest,

Vasamsetti Satyam, father of Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash, stated that positions are not decorative posts but serious responsibilities. He affirmed that everyone who works hard in the Kootami will receive due recognition. He emphasized that strengthening cooperative societies like PACS would directly benefit farmers. Satyam accused the previous YSRCP regime of neglecting farmers and mismanaging the state’s economy. He highlighted that the current Kootami government, within a year of coming to power, had focused on development and

welfare. Reviving PACS, repairing pothole-free roads, increasing pensions, distributing free gas cylinders, and implementing the “Thalliki Vandanam” scheme were among the promises already fulfilled, he said. He also announced that free travel for women in RTC buses and the implementation of the “Annadata Sukhibhava” scheme would commence next month. He assured that those who worked for the party across the 31 societies in the constituency have been given deserving positions. Former minister Chikkala Ramachandra Rao echoed that the government was rejuvenating all key sectors, with agriculture at the center. Kakinada Ramarao noted that 80% of election promises had already been fulfilled within the first year. The newly elected members Kollu Venkateswara Rao (Chairperson), Bokka Appanna, and Kona Subrahmanyam were congratulated. Several Kootami leaders and workers attended the event and extended their greetings.

Liquor Victims’ Souls Find Peace: MLA Daggupati

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Anantapur Urban MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad stated that the souls of those who died after consuming spurious liquor in the past five years have finally found peace following the arrest of YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy. He made these remarks while participating in the “Suparipalana Tholi Adugu” (First Step Towards Good Governance) programme held at Gulzarpet in the 18th Division of Anantapur city. During the event, the MLA briefed the public about various developmental and welfare initiatives undertaken by the government over the past year. He strongly criticized the previous city administration, accusing former MLAs and the mayor of misusing the COVID-19 crisis to loot public resources through illegal means. Commenting on the arrest of Mithun Reddy, the MLA alleged that several YSRCP leaders were directly responsible for the deaths caused by substandard and illicit liquor. He said the arrest of Mithun Reddy is just the beginning and warned that more



leaders involved in such activities would soon face legal consequences. “Many lives were lost due to fake liquor. These YSRCP leaders were ruthless enough to shatter the lives of women and families,” he said. He further stated that people are happy with the arrest and are demanding that the ill-gotten wealth amassed by these leaders be recovered and used to com-

pensate the affected families. “It’s not just about arrests. The stolen money must be returned, and justice must be delivered,” Prasad stressed. The MLA concluded by affirming that the state government is committed to taking decisive action and ensuring justice for every victim and family affected by the liquor mafia and political corruption.

YSRCP Threatens Protest Over Minister's Visit



TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

YSR Congress Party leaders issued a strong ultimatum on Sunday, warning of protests against Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha’s upcoming visit to Sri Sathya Sai district, alleging negligence in addressing crimes against Dalits and tribals under the current coalition government. The protest was sparked by a shocking incident in Edguralapalli village, where a Dalit minor girl, a victim of gang-rape, recently gave birth to a baby boy at Anantapur Government Hospital. YSRCP leaders, attempting to visit the survivor, were blocked by police, prompting a protest in front of the hospital. Leaders criticized the government’s secrecy over the issue and accused Dalit MLAs MS Raju and Bandaru Shrivani of inaction. They demanded that the state provide justice, care for the mother and child, and take action against the culprits. They further condemned the lack of response in another case where a tribal girl, Tanmayi, was murdered in Anantapur. Despite her death, no aid was extended to the family. The protestors, including leaders from the SC/ST and student wings, questioned how a Dalit Home Minister could ignore such injustice. They declared they would stop Minister Anita’s visit to Madakasira on Monday if justice is not delivered. Police detained several YSRCP leaders, including district and state wing presidents, during the protest.

MLA Battula Calls for Profitable Crop Focus



TPN Correspondent | East Godavari

MLA Battula Balaramakrishna emphasized the need to guide farmers toward cultivating high-yield and profitable crops during a review meeting with agriculture department officials held at his office in Rajahmundry on Saturday. The Rajanagaram legislator urged officials to provide timely training and awareness to farmers on crops like cashew, lemon, and oil palm, which offer better income and sustainability. He particularly stressed the revival of the famed “Rajanagaram Seethaphal,” stating that it once held a distinctive identity and should be restored to its past glory. “The name ‘Rajanagaram Seethaphal’ is a brand in itself, yet the market is now flooded with produce from other regions sold under this name,” he said. Battula attributed this decline to a lack of encouragement and awareness among farmers. To improve farm profitability, the MLA insisted that the department should clearly explain which crops yield better returns, instead of letting farmers depend on trial and error. “Farming should be a source of stable income, not a gamble of hard work with no reward,” he added. He also pointed out the potential of palm oil and horticultural crops to transform the region’s agricultural landscape. With the upcoming Kalavacharla Industrial Park, Battula suggested encouraging farmers to grow fruits and vegetables that can support the establishment of food processing units locally. He called for including these crop-promotion strategies in the Vision 2027 plan. Officers from the agriculture department, horticulture heads, and ATMA block development officials attended the meeting.

RTC Land Transfer to Lulu Sparks Protest

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The CPI(M) on Friday staged a massive protest at the old RTC bus stand in Vijayawada, opposing the alleged handover of five acres of prime government land, worth ₹400 crore, to Lulu Group. The protesters accused the state coalition government of colluding with multinational corporations and harming small and medium traders. Senior CPI(M) leaders CH Babu Rao and D. Kashinath led the protest, declaring that the government was betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh by handing over

public assets to foreign corporate giants. They called the move a massive scam, warning that such actions would trigger widespread public anger. The leaders said it was shameful that the government was allowing luxury malls for corporate firms while depriving RTC buses and depots of proper infrastructure. “The same government evicts the poor from canal embankments but allots land on canal banks to big companies. This is immoral and anti-people,” said Babu Rao. CPI(M) leaders criticized the plan as destructive to thousands of petty traders and retail workers who already face

threats from D-Mart, Reliance, Walmart, and e-commerce giants. They questioned if “P for Poor” now meant “P for Pro-Corporate.” Leaders accused the government of selling off Vijayawada piece by piece, pointing to the recent handover of ₹25 crore worth of municipal land in Brindavan Colony to a private religious trust. Retired RTC workers and local trade union members joined the protest. CPI(M) leaders including B. Sathya Babu, B. Ramana Rao, P. Krishna, K. Durgarao, and E. Narayana participated and vowed to intensify the movement if the government doesn’t reconsider.



Karakatta Residents Demand Patta Rights

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Demanding registration-linked land pattas and proper infrastructure for the residents of Krishna Karakatta in Ranadivenagar (21st Division), the Krishna Karakatta Protection Committee, supported by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), organized a public awareness yatra on Thursday. The event was led by CPM State Secretariat member Ch. Babu Rao and State Committee member Donepudi Kashinath. Addressing the gathering, Babu Rao highlighted the decades-long struggle of families residing on Krishna Karakatta. “For over 40 years, thousands of families have built homes here with their own resources. Despite floods and government indifference, these residents have persevered,” he said. He criticized the government’s double standards—denying pattas to long-term settlers while allocating valuable lands to corporate en-



terbank lacking retaining walls, they continue to ignore Ranadivenagar where such infrastructure already exists. “The residents’ decades-long wait is unjustified,” he said. CPM pledged full support to the ongoing agitation. The Protection Committee announced a mass petition campaign on July 28 to submit representations to the District Collector. Leaders P. Krishna, Koteswara Rao, Korada Ramana, and others participated in the yatra.

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Kanaka Durgamma Temple Overflows with Devotees

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
A large number of devotees thronged the Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada on Sunday to offer the traditional Ashada Maas Sare to the goddess. With the Ashada month drawing to a close, temple premises witnessed a heavy influx of devotees, prompting the authorities to make special arrangements for smooth darshan. Executive Officer Sreenu Naik has suspended all paid ticket services and arranged for only free darshan in all queue lines. The move was aimed at ensuring equal access for all devotees on the auspicious occasion. He personally supervised the arrangements and ensured that devotees had a smooth darshan experience without any delays or discomfort. In a special appeal, the EO urged devotees in the lift area to cooperate with differently-abled persons and the elderly, allowing them to move first. Special care and attention were given to such pilgrims to ensure their safety and convenience. Vijayawada West ACP Durgarao, along with One Town CI Guru Prakash and a dedicated police team, has deployed security personnel throughout the temple surroundings.

Their presence helped maintain order and ensured the safety of all visitors during the rush. Officials also urged VIP devotees to cooperate with temple protocols. It was clearly announced that there would be no protocol darshans until 3:00 PM on Sunday. Devotees arriving for VIP darshan were advised to follow the instructions and avoid requesting special privileges during the restricted hours. The combined efforts of the temple administration and police helped manage the heavy crowds effectively, ensuring that devotees could complete their darshan peacefully and in an organized manner.



Kapu JAC Announces Phased Agitation for BC Reservations

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The Andhra Pradesh Kapu Joint Action Committee (JAC) has announced a phased agitation to demand exclusive BC reservations for Kapu, Balija, Telaga, Ontari, and Munnuru Kapu communities. In a large-scale meeting held in Vijayawada on Sunday, over 325 representatives including community leaders, unions, professionals, and business leaders came together to discuss the future course of action. The JAC meeting passed 12 key resolutions to address long-standing issues faced by these communities. Kapu JAC State President Chandu Janardhan, addressing the gathering, stated that the agitation would be launched in multiple stages. It will begin with meetings at the district, division, and mandal levels, and will culminate in large public meetings across three major regions—Vijayawada, Rayalaseema, and North Andhra. The movement is aimed at ensuring political recognition and socio-economic justice for Kapu communities under the BC category. Among the major resolutions, the JAC demanded that the government grant exclusive BC reservations for Kapu, Telaga, Balija, and Ontari communities. They also sought immediate steps to prevent increasing at-

tacks on Kapu groups across the state. The meeting urged the government to name the Icon Bridge in Krishna district after the late Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga and to officially celebrate the birth anniversary of Sri Krishnadevaraya. Financial empowerment was a key demand, with the JAC calling for the allocation of ₹3,000 crore annually to the Kapu Corporation. They also insisted on completing the construction of Kapu Bhavans on two-acre lands and allocating 5 acres in Amaravati for a new Kapu Bhavan. The committee also emphasized resolving the problems of Munnuru Kapu families who merged into Andhra Pradesh after the bifurcation from Telangana. They demanded that MSME subsidies currently extended to SC, ST, BC, and minority women be equally provided to Kapu, Telaga, Balija, and Ontari women. Lastly, the JAC called for the installation of statues of freedom fighter Kan-neganti Hanumanthu and Emperor Sri Krishnadevaraya in Amaravati capital region. Notable figures such as Mutyala Ramadasu, Poru Mamilla Es-hwar, Galla Subrahmanyam, Chandu Bhava Narayana, and many others participated in the event and expressed their solidarity with the proposed agitation.



Lokesh Inaugurates Eclat’s High-Tech Facility

TPN Correspondent | Guntur
Andhra Pradesh is poised to become a digital powerhouse, said Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, while inaugurating the new office of Eclat Health Solutions at Medha High-Tech City in Kes-arapalli, near Gannavaram. Speaking at the event, Lokesh emphasized that every city in the state is being developed as a digital growth engine to drive innovation and employment. Eclat Health Solutions, a globally reputed medical technology and healthcare services provider, has expanded its operations to Vijayawada with a new 25,000 sq. ft. facility. Founded in 2008 by Karthik Polsani, Eclat is recognized for its excellence in revenue cycle management,



data analytics, AI-powered clinical documentation, and medical coding services. The company is currently employing over 3,000 professionals worldwide and has rapidly expanded its presence across Indian cities such as Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Lucknow, and Mumbai. With this new facility, Eclat

has already generated over 300 job placements in just two months and aims to provide employment to 1,000 more in the coming year. Minister Lokesh, who also planted a sapling at the premises, praised the company’s contribution to the healthcare technology space. He said companies like Eclat are essential for

achieving Andhra Pradesh’s vision of digital-first development. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Eclat CEO Karthik Polsani, Co-Founder Sneha Polsani, India Vice President Srikanth Gurram, Mohit Srivastava, and Vijayawada Branch DGM Suresh Reddy.

Collector Hails AMMA’s 30-Year Service Legacy



TPN Correspondent | NTR District
NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha emphasized that the financial support extended by Andhra Motor Merchants Association (AMMA) is a priceless contribution toward building a golden future for children from poor fami-

lies. He was speaking as the chief guest at a scholarship distribution programme organized by AMMA at Moghalrajapuram on Sunday. Dr. Lakshmisha said AMMA has been consistently supporting students for three decades, especially from families working in the automo-

bile sector. This year, scholarships worth ₹16.5 lakh were distributed to 408 students, along with notebooks. He praised AMMA’s commitment to P4 (People–Public–Private–Partnership–Participation) policy aimed at eliminating poverty and uplifting nearly 300 families to better living standards. The Collector called for more individuals, NRIs, industrialists, and voluntary organizations to step forward as mentors. “A strong sense of support behind a family gives them courage and confidence,” he noted, adding that efforts like adopting schools, providing healthcare, and extending help during disasters further reflect AMMA’s community commitment.

Highlighting growing threats, Dr. Lakshmisha stressed the need to spread awareness about drug abuse and the health and environmental risks of indiscriminate plastic use. He urged AMMA to organize large-scale awareness campaigns on these issues. AMMA President Garapati Satish Babu stated that over ₹1 crore in aid has been provided to student families, along with notebooks. He noted the ₹60 lakh old-age home in Kanuru and the association’s relief work during the Covid crisis and floods. The programme was attended by AMMA’s office bearers, past presidents, Red Cross vice chairman Dr. Velagajoshi, and several students and parents.

Kota Sattemma Adorned with Two Tonnes of Fresh Produce

TPN Correspondent | Nidadavolu
On the last Sunday of the Ashada month, a special spiritual event was organized at the Sri Kota Sattemma Temple in Nidadavolu. With the support of local donors, members of the Sri Kota Sattemma Wholesale Vegetable Traders' Association decorated the deity with two tonnes of various vegetables and fruits as part of the traditional "Shakambari Alankaram." Devotees gathered in large numbers to witness the rare and vibrant decoration and offer prayers. On this occasion, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Tourism and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh visited the temple

early in the morning and offered special pujas to the goddess. He was given a ceremonial welcome by the temple staff and officials, who received him with Poorna Kumbham. The minister performed rituals and sought blessings for the welfare of the state. Speaking to the media, Durgesh said the timely monsoon rains were a sign of the goddess's blessings and would lead to a good yield of crops and dairy produce. He expressed hope that the blessings of Sattemma would ensure prosperity for farmers and joy for the general public. Observing the increasing number of devotees visiting the temple, the

minister stated that it was the government's responsibility to improve temple infrastructure. He announced that the temple would be included in the Akhanda Godavari Project, a major initiative for the development of the Godavari basin region. He assured that the temple's inclusion would help enhance amenities and attract more pilgrims. Durgesh added that the project work was progressing rapidly and would be completed soon. His visit, along with the grand Shakambari decoration, marked a significant spiritual and cultural moment for the region, drawing wide attention and devotion.



Police Crack Down on Illegal Liquor Brewing



TPN Correspondent | East Godavari
Acting on credible information, the Tallapudi police conducted a surprise raid near Surayyapeta Jagannanna Colony in Gajjaram village under Tallapudi mandal, close to the border of Bhimavaram and Gopalapuram mandals. The



location, situated near the Chintalapudi canal bund, was reportedly being used for brewing illicit country liquor (natu sara). Sub-Inspector T. Ramakrishna, along with his team from Tallapudi police station, led the operation. During the

raid, the police discovered several gunny bags containing jaggery, which is commonly used in the fermentation process to produce illicit liquor. In addition, approximately 800 litres of fermented jaggery wash—used in distillation—was found and destroyed on the spot. SI Ramakrishna confirmed that the location was being used as a makeshift distillery for manufacturing illicit liquor. While the brewing equipment and wash were seized and destroyed, the person responsible for the illegal activity managed to flee the scene before the police arrived. Efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the individual involved. The police have intensified patrols and surveillance in the surrounding areas to prevent the resurgence of such illegal activities. Locals have been urged to co-operate with the authorities by reporting any suspicious movements or hidden liquor units in their vicinity. The operation is part of an ongoing crackdown on the production and sale of illicit liquor in the Kovvur constituency and across West Godavari district. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to curbing such illegal practices that pose a serious threat to public health and safety. The Tallapudi police have warned that stringent legal action will be taken against anyone found involved in the manufacture or distribution of country-made liquor.

Dalits Need Business, Not Just Jobs: Chinta Mohan

TPN Correspondent | Ongole
Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Chinta Mohan called on Dalits to shift focus from mere education and jobs towards entrepreneurship for economic empowerment and political relevance. He was addressing the Mala Employees' Get-Together meeting held in Ongole on Sunday. Speaking as chief guest, Mohan stressed that education and jobs alone cannot lead to power. "A job ends with retirement and a house; but business brings wealth, and wealth brings power," he remarked. Citing examples, he said Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy made his son a billionaire, and Jagan Mohan Reddy multiplied that wealth. Highlighting the need for unity among Dalits, Mohan said, "Even if we fight within four walls, we must show unity outside." He revealed that the idea of SC categorization was first seeded at PV Narasimha Rao's residence in Delhi on December 10, 1992, during a meeting involving Kanshi Ram and Mulayam Singh Yadav, which he helped organize. He further recalled how the SP-BSP alliance led to Mulayam Singh becoming UP CM in 1993. "Kanshi Ram later toured Andhra Pradesh and even addressed a massive rally in Prakasam district," he noted. Chinta Mohan also referred to the recent Supreme Court judgment favoring SC categorization, where the Centre's Attorney General supported the move. "We must continue both legal and people's struggles to achieve justice," he urged. The event was attended by Dalit leaders including Vijayendra Bahujan, State Mala Employees' Welfare Association President Tulibilli Ashok Babu, Koppolu Edakondalu, T. Srikanth, Katta Srinu, Medidi Ravi, Errajalla Ramesh, and Medikonda Lakshminarayana.



Autism Awareness Meet Urges Action on Developmental Delays

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa
Renowned child psychologist Dr. Somashekar emphasized the importance of early detection and intervention in children with developmental delays. Speaking as the chief guest at an autism awareness session organized by Ashur NGO at the IMA Hall in Kadapa, he said that neglecting signs of autism or developmental issues can severely affect a child's quality of life. Dr. Somashekar advised parents to closely observe their child's speech and behavioral growth after 18 months of age. "Even minor delays should not be ignored. Parents must consult a medical expert at the earliest," he said. He added that early therapy with qualified therapists can help children live a normal and independent life. A free medical camp for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) was also conducted as part of the event. IMA Kadapa President Dr. Avvaru Arjun urged parents to seek professional advice promptly if they notice any symptoms of autism. RIMS Kadapa Pediatrics HoD Dr. Vamsidhar stressed the need to focus on social interaction and limit screen time for such children. "The family should prioritize bonding and communication," he said. Pediatrician Dr. Obul Reddy clarified that while there is no permanent cure for autism, consistent therapy can lead to significant improvement. Speech therapists from Ratna Speech and Hearing Center, including Baburao and Pravallika, along with Ashur NGO representatives Jayaraju, Nagaraju, and Kishore, were also present.



MSME Units Planned to Empower Gandla-Telika Youth: MP

TPN Correspondent | Nellore
Highlighting the transformative power of education, Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy said parents must lay strong educational foundations for their children's bright future. He was speaking at the Akhila Gandla-Telika Welfare Association's merit award function held at Parameshwari Kalyana Mandapam in Nellore on Sunday. Organized under the leadership of association president Grosu Subbarao, the event honored meritorious students from the Gandla and Telika communities who excelled in Class 10 and Intermediate examinations. MP Vemireddy was the chief guest and personally distributed the cash prizes and certificates to around 31 deserving students. Congratulating the students, Vemireddy emphasized that such awards promote a healthy sense of competition and inspire further academic excellence. He lauded the efforts of Grosu Gopalayya and his son Subbarao for consistently organizing these events to uplift the community. Vemireddy shared his personal commitment to education, mentioning the school he established for underprivileged children and affirmed that knowledge is the most powerful tool for social change. The MP also reiterated the alliance gov-



ernment's commitment to the welfare of the Gandla and Telika communities. He assured efforts would be made to create employment opportunities for youth through MSME units and promised to do whatever is possible from the government's side. Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav expressed happiness over awarding meritorious students and said such efforts

strengthen community identity while promoting development. Subbarao, the state president of the association, said that merit awards are given every year to motivate students to aim higher. Prominent leaders including Giddalur Prabhakar Rao, Tirupati Hara Gopal, TDP leaders Ketamreddy Vinod Reddy, Gudi Harireddy, and Mungamuru Chaitanya also participated in the event.



Hey Bollywood, What’s With the ‘Bong Babe’ Obsession?

Bollywood has long had a curious fascination with the so-called “Bong Babe.” Time and again, Bengali women in Hindi cinema are boxed into a specific, stylized trope—mysterious, fiercely intelligent, sexually liberated, and draped in a saree with a sensual smirk. But beyond the red bindis and exaggerated accents lies a more uncomfortable truth: a cultural fetishization masquerading as representation. This portrayal of the Bengali woman as a hyper-liberal seductress isn’t just inaccurate—it’s lazy. It reduces a rich, complex culture into a stereotype designed to titillate and exoticize. Bengali women are not born with books of poetry in one hand and a bottle of wine in the other, nor do they all quote Tagore while lighting incense beside antique gramophones. The idea that Bengali identity

automatically equates to intellectualism, rebellion, and sensuality is a curated myth—one that Bollywood has peddled for decades. Characters like Paro in Dev.D, Madhuri Dixit’s Chandramukhi in Devdas, and even Vidya Balan’s many screen roles reflect this cinematic archetype: a woman who is both cultured and carnal, intellectual and emotionally chaotic. While some of these portrayals are layered, many lean into a superficial fantasy rooted in the male gaze—turning Bengali women into exotic others within the national narrative. But real Bengali women are far more diverse than this narrow mold. Some are conservative. Some are rebellious. Some are deeply religious. Some are indifferent to tradition. Liberalism is not “injected into our aloo posto,” nor is it something we are born with like

a genetic trait. One is not born a Rani Chatterjee or a Madhu Bose—these are identities shaped by individual journeys, not cultural clichés. It’s time Bollywood reconsiders this one-dimensional framing. Instead of crafting characters based on fantasy-fueled stereotypes, it must allow space for authentic, grounded Bengali voices. Bengali women—like all women—deserve more than to be reduced to a trope in someone else’s imagination. They deserve representation that reflects the complexity of who they are, not who others expect them to be. Until then, every time a red bindi shows up on screen paired with a flute-heavy background score, we’ll continue to ask: Hey Bollywood, what is it with the ‘Bong Babe’ fetish?



Snapback to Reality: Iran’s 45-Year Stalemate and a Future in Limbo

Since 1979, Iran has anchored its identity in opposition—against America, Israel, and the West. And for nearly as long, the West has sounded alarms over Iran’s nuclear ambitions. Yet after 45 years, Iran is still not a nuclear weapons state, and the slogans of revolution ring hollow in the face of a crumbling economy, growing isolation, and diplomatic dead ends. This month, the U.S., UK, France, and Germany issued an ultimatum: Tehran must return to nuclear compliance by the end of August or face a UN “snapback”—a reimposition of global sanctions under the original 2015 nuclear deal, the JCPOA. Once a path toward cautious engagement, the JCPOA was torn apart by Donald Trump in 2018, triggering years of escalation. Ironically, now back in power, Trump is pressing for a new deal, and his administration wants results before Russia assumes the UN Security Council presidency in October. Tehran’s choices are narrowing. Once buoyed by hopes of Western investment and diplomatic reintegration, Iran now faces a stark reality—crippling inflation, a plummeting currency, and widespread disillusionment among its youth. The 12-day war with Israel earlier this year exposed its military vulnerabilities. Its regional ambitions, propped up by costly proxy militias, have yielded little except international condemnation and domestic resentment. Iran’s rigid anti-Western posture has brought it neither justice for Palestinians nor prosperity at home. Meanwhile, its regional rival Israel continues to grow in strength and legitimacy, even forging ties with Gulf nations under the Abraham Accords. Iran must now decide: cling to revolutionary dogma, or adapt to survive? Vietnam offers a powerful lesson. Ravaged by war, it chose reconciliation over revenge—and now enjoys robust ties with the very nation that once devastated it.

Air India 171 Crash: Who Gains From The Leaks, And What Are We Losing?



Alarming leaks and a perplexing probe report are muddying the truth behind the tragic crash of Air India flight AI-171 on June 12. While grieving families and the nation await clarity, what we’re getting instead are confusing narratives, incomplete disclosures, and contradictory claims. The biggest question is: who benefits from this chaos? Two major leaks—one from aviation journalist Jon Ostrower and another from The Wall Street Journal—point fingers at the flight crew, particularly the captain, claiming a manual shutdown of the engines via the fuel control switches. These allegations were made public before India’s official investigating agency, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), even released its preliminary report. This alone raises serious concerns about confidentiality, integrity, and foreign interference in India’s aviation investigation. Even more concerning is what’s missing. The AAIB’s 15-page report, released on July 12, doesn’t include cockpit voice recorder (CVR) transcripts or even basic timestamps. Critical data—like when the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) deployed or when the pilots communicated—is paraphrased rather than presented transparently. Instead of offering answers, the report stokes suspicion

and invites speculation. Many aviation experts are also questioning the committee’s makeup—there wasn’t a single 787-certified pilot or engineer involved. How can a report on such a sophisticated aircraft exclude experts familiar with its systems? Moreover, technical malfunctions highlighted in multiple FAA and CAA safety advisories over the years—such as “uncommanded engine shutdown” or potential electronic control faults—were left unexamined. The infamous 2019 ANA incident involving similar shutdowns wasn’t even referenced. It’s hard to ignore the optics: the narrative now pins blame squarely on the pilots while sidestepping possible aircraft system failures. And amidst all this, Boeing has seen a 13% rise in its stock since the crash—hardly coincidental. The company’s legal and financial liability diminishes the more the blame shifts elsewhere. With the report absolving Boeing of fault, Wall Street responded with confidence, but families of the victims are left with more questions than closure. Without full transparency—especially CVR and DFDR data—we risk scapegoating and missing the truth. This tragedy deserves more than leaks and blame games. It deserves justice, accountability, and facts.

India’s Inequality Debate: Context, Data, and the World Bank’s Surprising Claims

The release of the World Bank’s India Poverty and Equity Brief: April 2025 has sparked sharp reactions across policy circles, academia, and the media. Its central claim—that India has nearly eradicated extreme poverty and has significantly reduced consumption inequality—contrasts starkly with the dominant narrative about widening income gaps and rising inequality in the country.

According to the report, India ranks among the top four least unequal nations globally in terms of consumption inequality, based on the Gini coefficient. This finding has surprised many observers, as the discourse around inequality in India has long been shaped by studies highlighting extreme disparities in wealth, income, and access to opportunity. Critics argue that such claims risk underplaying genuine structural inequities. Yet, the conversation needs nuance.

To begin with, the Indian inequality debate often suffers from selective use of data and inconsistent comparisons. Studies citing high inequality usually focus on income and wealth metrics, often using tax records or surveys of the richest to demonstrate rising inequality. In contrast, the World Bank’s findings are based on household consumption surveys, which offer a different lens—one that captures improvements in basic living standards across broader segments of the population.

There is also a temporal gap in much of the data previously used to claim that inequality in India is growing. Several estimates relied on outdated or incomplete datasets, particularly in the absence of an official household consumption survey since 2011-12—until the latest round of data collection was completed recently.

It is important to note that consumption inequality is generally lower than income or wealth inequality. While consumption smooths out short-term income volatility and reflects long-term well-being more reliably, it also masks disparities in accumulated assets or access to quality education, healthcare, and social mobility. Therefore, both dimensions matter and must be considered together.

What the World Bank report underscores is a shift in India’s inequality narrative. The story is no longer only about poverty and exclusion, but also about progress, aspirations, and the growing middle class. This doesn’t mean inequality has vanished, but rather that certain aspects—like extreme poverty—may be declining faster than previously thought.

India’s policy debate must evolve to reflect these complexities, focusing less on sensational headlines and more on long-term solutions that balance growth with equity.



Prime Minister Modi to Visit UK and Maldives from July 23-26

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to undertake a significant two-nation visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives from July 23 to July 26, 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on July 20. The trip is expected to mark a milestone in India's international relations, particularly with the formal unveiling of the much-anticipated India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA). During his visit to the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Modi will engage in comprehensive discussions with British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, covering the entire spectrum of India-UK bilateral relations. The talks will also focus on pressing regional and global issues. As part of the visit, Modi is scheduled to meet King Charles III, further strengthening diplomatic ties. The India-UK trade pact, initially announced on May 6, 2025, is touted as an "ambitious and mutually beneficial" agreement. The deal, described by the UK government as the largest and most economically significant bilateral trade agreement, had been under negotiation since 2022 amidst political changes in the UK. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's recent visit to the UK helped pave the way for the agreement's official unveiling during Modi's trip. Apart from trade, Modi's visit



will include a review of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and the UK, with a focus on areas such as technology, innovation, defense, climate, health, education, and people-to-people ties. Following the UK visit, Modi will travel to the Maldives on July 25, responding to an invitation from President Dr. Mohamed

Muizzu. Modi will be the "Guest of Honour" at the 60th Independence Day celebrations on July 26. The two leaders will also assess progress on the India-Maldives Joint Vision for a Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, established during President Muizzu's visit to India in October 2024.

Maharashtra Minister Manikrao Kokate Caught Playing Rummy on Phone in Assembly

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A major political controversy erupted in Maharashtra on Sunday after Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate was allegedly seen playing the card game rummy on his mobile phone during a session of the state legislative assembly. The incident has sparked widespread criticism and demands for Kokate's resignation. The controversy came to light when Rohit Pawar, an MLA from the NCP-SP alliance, shared a video purportedly showing Kokate engrossed in the game while proceedings were underway in the assembly. The video quickly went viral on social media, triggering a political uproar. Opposition leaders and members of Kokate's own party expressed strong disapproval of his behavior during an important legislative session. Supriya Sule, a prominent NCP leader, publicly condemned the minister's actions and called on him to step



down immediately. Sule emphasized the need for elected representatives to respect the sanctity of the assembly and focus on

the legislative business rather than indulging in distractions. This incident has added fuel to the ongoing political tensions in Maharashtra, with critics accusing Kokate of showing disrespect to the assembly and the people of the state. The video also raised questions about the discipline and decorum maintained by ministers during crucial government sessions. So far, Manikrao Kokate has not issued a formal statement addressing the allegations. However, political observers are watching closely to see how the ruling coalition handles the fallout from this controversy. As the story unfolds, the demand for accountability remains high, with many calling for stricter enforcement of rules within the assembly to prevent similar incidents in the future. The rummy controversy could have wider implications for the reputation of the Maharashtra government if not addressed promptly.

Yogi Adityanath Warns Against Attempts to Defame Kanwar Yatris



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday (July 20, 2025) condemned efforts to malign the Kanwar Yatra on social media and urged all 'Kanwar Sanghs' to identify and expose those trying to create disturbances during the sacred pilgrimage. Speaking at an event in Meerut, Adityanath highlighted that where there is faith, devotion, and enthusiasm, some miscreants attempt to defame the sentiment behind the Yatra.

Adityanath urged devotees to be vigilant and not allow troublemakers to infiltrate their groups. "Unmask them, keep them away at all costs. Immediately inform the administration if anyone suspicious tries to enter your circle," he said. He assured that the administration has strict measures in place to deal with those who desecrate the holy Kanwar, and cautioned against taking the law into one's own hands. The Chief Minister said CCTV footage is be-

ing collected of those who try to disrupt the pilgrimage and promised that their posters will be displayed after the Yatra concludes, with stringent action to follow. Reflecting on the past, Adityanath alleged that prior to 2017, Uttar Pradesh governments hindered the pilgrimage, but now the government respects and supports the devotion, emphasizing the responsibility to preserve the sanctity of the Yatra. He also called on Kanwariyas to participate in cleanliness drives to ensure that rivers, roads, and intersections remain clean throughout the pilgrimage. Earlier in the week, Adityanath had addressed attempts to label Kanwar pilgrims as "terrorists and rioters." Recently, three Kanwariyas were arrested after allegedly assaulting a CRPF jawan during a dispute over train tickets at Mirzapur railway station, underscoring the tense atmosphere surrounding the pilgrimage. Amid tight security, thousands of devotees continue their Kanwar Yatra across Uttar Pradesh, a deeply revered ritual during the holy month of Shravan.



"Nation Comes First, Party Comes Second": Shashi Tharoor's Stand Sparks Debate in Congress

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has reaffirmed his support for the Centre's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, emphasizing that national interest must take precedence over party politics. His remarks, made at an event in Kochi, have sparked discomfort within the Congress leadership, highlighting ongoing tensions between him and his party. During the event, when asked by a high school student about the apparent strain between him and the Congress, Tharoor chose to respond publicly. Sharing the interaction on X (formerly Twitter), he explained, "While I have been steering clear of such political discussions in public, I felt a student deserved a response." Tharoor acknowledged the competitive nature of politics but stressed the importance of cooperation among parties, especially on matters of national security. "To my mind, the nation comes first. Parties are a means of making the nation better," he said, urging unity despite ideological differences like capitalism or socialism. He also addressed criticism from within his party, saying, "A lot of people have been very critical of me because of the stand I have taken... But I will stand my ground because I believe this is the right thing for the country." Tharoor called for a spirit of unity across the nation's 46 political parties, especially in Parliament. Quoting Jawaharlal Nehru, he reminded, "Who lives if India dies? India must come first. Then only can we all live." His statements come after playing a key role in representing India's position on Operation Sindoor internationally. Selected by the Centre to lead a global outreach delegation, and praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Tharoor's stance reportedly widened the rift with Congress brass. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took a veiled jab, saying, "For Congress, it is country first, but for some people, it's Modi first." Tharoor responded cryptically on X with a post about freedom and independence, signaling his resolve.



All-Party Meeting Held in Delhi Ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament, an all-party meeting convened by the Centre saw opposition leaders coming together to express their resolve to hold the government accountable on key issues. The session, the first since Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, witnessed a strong show of unity from various political parties. Leaders from Congress, Shiv Sena, NCP, BJP, and others attended the meeting, including Congress MPs K Suresh and Jairam Ramesh, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, Union Minister Anupriya Patel, and BJP MP Ravi Kishan. The government sought cooperation from opposition parties for the smooth conduct of the Monsoon session. Sanjay Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party raised concerns about the alleged "poll scam" related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, as well as US President Donald Trump's claim of brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. Singh clarified that while the INDIA bloc is for the Lok Sabha polls, AAP plans to contest assembly elections independently. Meanwhile, BJP leader Amit Malviya took a sharp dig at Congress for accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of skipping all-party meetings. Malviya highlighted that during the previous UPA regime, neither Dr. Manmohan Singh nor Sonia Gandhi attended such meetings. He pointed out that it was only under the NDA government that PM Modi began attending these meetings from July 2014, setting a new benchmark for accountability and dialogue in Parliament. The all-party meeting sets the stage for what promises to be a robust Monsoon session, with opposition parties vowing to challenge the government while the Centre seeks collaboration for effective governance.



Putin Open to Ukraine Peace Talks

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin remains open to negotiating peace in Ukraine, but the Kremlin insists that any resolution must fulfill Russia's core objectives. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov conveyed this position in a statement aired on state television on Sunday. "President Putin has repeatedly stated his desire for a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine conflict as soon as possible," Peskov said. "But it is a long, difficult process that requires sustained effort." Peskov emphasized that while Russia is willing to engage in discussions, achieving its strategic goals in Ukraine remains the top priority. "Our goals are clear," he said, without elaborating on whether those goals include territorial gains or broader geopolitical demands. His remarks come as global pressure intensifies on Moscow, especially from the United States. Earlier this week, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a significantly tougher approach toward Russia. In a sharp departure from earlier rhetoric, Trump pledged expanded military aid to Ukraine, including Patriot missile defense systems, and issued a 50-day ultimatum for Moscow to agree to a ceasefire—or face harsher sanctions. Despite Trump's often controversial and unpredictable language, Peskov acknowledged that the U.S. leader has consistently voiced support for seeking a diplomatic solution. "The world has become accustomed to President Trump's occasionally harsh rhetoric," Peskov said. "But even he has expressed a desire for peace." The situation remains tense as both sides weigh the possibility of renewed negotiations. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has also extended an offer for further talks, signaling a potential diplomatic opening. However, with both nations holding firm to their demands, the path to peace appears fraught with obstacles.



Nepal PM Oli Invited for Two-Day India Visit in September

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has been formally invited by the Indian government for an official two-day visit to India in September, sources from both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Prime Minister in Nepal confirmed on Saturday. The visit is scheduled to begin on September 16, making it one of the shortest official trips by a sitting Nepali prime minister to India. Preparations for the visit are already underway, according to officials in Kathmandu. "This possibly will be the shortest visit of the Nepali Prime Minister to India. He has received the invitation for two days starting from September 16. Preparations for the visit have started upon receiving the invitation," a senior Foreign Ministry official told ANI. The upcoming trip is seen as part of ongoing diplomatic efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Nepal, which share deep historical, cultural, and economic connections. Both governments are reportedly working to finalise agreements in key sectors, including energy cooperation, cross-border trade, and infrastructure development. Nepal's Ambassador to India, Shankar Prasad Sharma, also confirmed the likely visit in an interview with ANI. While no official announcement of the dates has been made yet, he said discussions are in the final stages. "I think he will come to India very soon," Ambassador Sharma said. This expected visit by Prime Minister Oli comes ahead of a reciprocal visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is likely to travel to Nepal in November 2025, according to diplomatic sources. The high-level exchanges are expected to reset and reaffirm bilateral priorities amid evolving regional dynamics.

"Will Try To Save Them": Trump Signals Support For Afghans Stuck In UAE

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Sunday that he would take steps to assist Afghan refugees who have been detained in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for several years after fleeing their country during the Taliban's return to power in 2021. The promise came via a post on Trump's social media platform, Truth Social, where he stated, "I will try to save them, starting right now," in response to a news article highlighting the plight of the Afghans still stranded in the Gulf nation. The UAE, a strategic U.S. ally, had agreed to temporarily shelter thousands of Afghans evacuated from Kabul during the final stages of the U.S. withdrawal. While some were relocated to third countries, including Canada—which took in about 1,000 refugees in 2022 at Washington's request—many others remain in limbo with no clear path forward. The exact number of those still in detention remains uncertain. Trump's remarks come despite his administration's past hardline stance on immigration and refugee resettlement. After assuming office in 2017, Trump suspended refugee admissions and, earlier this year, terminated temporary deportation protections for thousands



of Afghans residing in the U.S. By contrast, President Joe Biden's administration has brought nearly 200,000 Afghans to the U.S. since the Taliban's return to power. Those resettled include families of Afghan-American military personnel, unaccompanied children, relatives of previously admitted Afghans, and tens of thousands of individuals who worked along-

side U.S. forces during the 20-year war in Afghanistan. Trump's latest statement signals a possible shift in tone as the humanitarian situation of Afghan refugees continues to draw international concern. Whether his promise will lead to tangible action remains to be seen, but the issue has once again returned to the political spotlight.

Pakistan Monsoon Toll Crosses 200 as Heavy Rains Continue to Wreak Havoc



TPN Correspondent | Lahore

The devastating impact of Pakistan's ongoing monsoon season has intensified, with the death toll climbing to 203 as of Sunday, July 20. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), another 10 people lost their lives and 18 were injured on Saturday alone, adding to the mounting human and economic cost of the seasonal downpours. Since the start of the monsoon rains on June 26, provinces across the country have been battered by relentless showers and flash floods. Punjab remains the worst-hit region, accounting for 123 of the total fatalities. Khy-

ber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) follows with 41 deaths, while Sindh, Balochistan, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), and Islamabad reported 21, 16, one, and one deaths respectively. Of Saturday's casualties, nine occurred in Punjab and one in KP. Among the 18 injured, 17 were reported in Punjab and one in KP, highlighting the severity of the situation in the eastern province. A rain emergency has been declared in Punjab, with authorities banning all swimming and bathing in natural water bodies to prevent further accidents. KP, while recording fewer deaths than Punjab, has reported the most extensive property damage. Out of 767

homes partially or fully destroyed, 216 were in KP. Other regions affected include Punjab (162 homes), Gilgit-Baltistan (124), Sindh (87), PoK (78), Balochistan (64), and Islamabad (36). The floods have also impacted livestock, with 195 animals killed—including 85 in Sindh and 65 in KP. Though the intensity of rainfall has lessened slightly, the National Weather Forecasting Centre warned of continued scattered rains, accompanied by wind and thunderstorms, in Sindh, south Punjab, PoK, Balochistan, KP, and Islamabad. Heavy rainfall is expected in parts of Sindh, Balochistan, and PoK in the coming days.

Iran Replaces Damaged Air Defences After June Conflict With Israel

TPN Correspondent | US

Iran has replaced several air defence systems that were damaged during last month's intense military exchange with Israel, according to a report by Iran's Defah Press news agency. The announcement was made by Mahmoud Mousavi, the deputy for operations of Iran's regular army. The June conflict saw unprecedented missile and drone attacks exchanged between the two regional rivals. Israel's air force managed to gain the upper hand, striking deep into Iranian territory and delivering serious blows to its air defence infrastructure. In re-



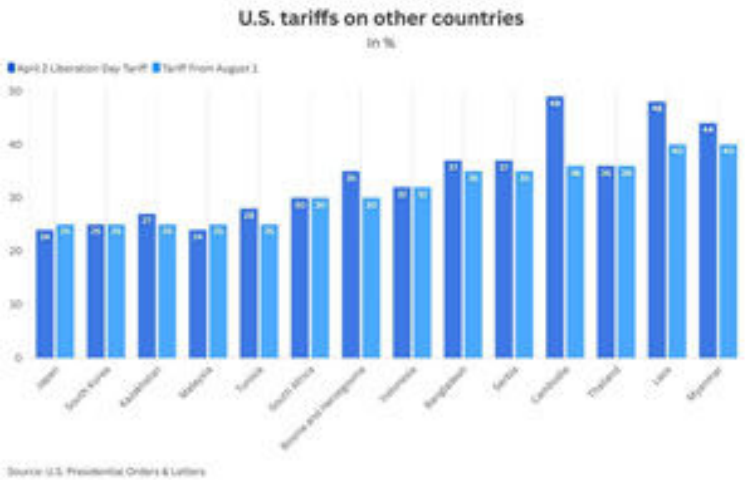
sponse, Iran launched waves of missile and drone strikes at Israel, with both sides suffering varying degrees of damage.

"Some of our air defences were damaged—this is not something we can hide," Mousavi admitted. However, he added that Iranian forces swiftly

replaced the affected systems using domestically produced equipment stored in strategic reserve locations. "Our colleagues used domestic resources and replaced them with pre-arranged systems that were stored in suitable locations in order to keep the airspace secure," he stated. Prior to the war, Iran maintained a mix of air defence capabilities, including the indigenous Bavar-373 long-range system and the Russian-made S-300 system. Despite speculation about foreign support or imports, the Defah Press report did not mention any new acquisitions of

foreign-made air defences. The move appears to be part of Iran's effort to restore confidence in its defence capabilities after a visible setback. Last October, following Israeli strikes on Iranian missile production facilities, Iran showcased Russian-made air defence systems during military drills, aiming to signal its readiness and recovery. With tensions still high in the region, Tehran's rapid restoration of its defence systems highlights its focus on deterrence and domestic military self-reliance, especially amid increasing geopolitical isolation and sanctions pressure.

India Eyes July 8 Trade Deal Deadline with U.S., May Extend to August if Terms Fall Short



New Delhi, July 8- India is aiming to finalise a limited trade agreement with the United States by July 8, but sources indicate the timeline could stretch to August 1 if the current deal terms don't meet India's expectations.

U.S. President Donald Trump had earlier announced a 90-day pause on his April 2 tariff plan—dubbed 'Liberation Day' tariffs—which imposed duties of up to 40% on certain imports. Without a deal in place, Indian exports could face tariffs of around 26% once the pause ends at midnight on July 8.

However, Indian officials say they will not

rush into an agreement that doesn't serve national interests. "We are still operating under the July 8 deadline," said a senior government official, "but if the specifics aren't suitable, we can use the extended August 1 window." Notably, India is not among the 14 countries that have received formal tariff warning letters from the U.S.

President Trump confirmed ongoing talks with India, saying, "We are close to making a deal with India." He added that while deals have been struck with the UK and China, others may face tariffs if negotiations fail.

A mini trade deal with India has been un-

der discussion for months. A team of Indian negotiators led by Special Secretary Rajesh Agrawal recently returned from the U.S., having submitted India's final proposals. India is not expected to revise its position further.

Key sticking points remain: the U.S. wants India to allow imports of genetically modified (GM) products such as soybean meal and DDGS, and U.S. cow milk — areas where India has historically resisted due to public health and domestic sensitivities.

Whether the deal is sealed tonight or delayed, India is holding firm on protecting its core interests.

Markets Edge Higher as US-India Trade Deal Nears Finalization

Indian equity markets showed signs of recovery on Tuesday after a cautious start, as investor sentiment improved following U.S. President Donald Trump's statement that a trade deal with India is nearing completion.

After opening weak, the BSE Sensex initially dipped 121.55 points to 83,320.95, and the NSE Nifty slipped 37.15 points to 25,424.15. However, both indices soon rebounded. The Sensex rose 86.13 points to 83,526.55, while the Nifty gained 19.75 points to reach 25,481.05 in morning trade.

Supportive global cues, particularly gains in Asian markets such as South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, China's SSE Composite, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng, helped lift sentiment. Additionally, fresh inflows from foreign institutional investors (FIIs) provided further momentum.



Leading the gains among Sensex firms were Kotak Mahindra Bank, Eternal, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Tata Motors, NTPC, and Adani Ports. On the other hand, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharma, HCL Tech, and Trent lagged behind. President Trump, speaking on Monday, said the U.S. was close to finalizing a

deal with India, after already striking trade agreements with the UK and China. He added that countries not aligned with U.S. interests would face tariffs, as reflected in letters sent to 14 nations including Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Bangladesh. "The fact that India was not included in this list, and Trump's remarks, signal a trade agreement is likely imminent," said V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. However, he added that market reaction will hinge on the fine print, particularly any sector-specific tariffs.

Meanwhile, FIIs bought equities worth ₹321.16 crore, while DIIs purchased stocks worth ₹1,853.39 crore on Monday. Brent crude slipped slightly to \$69.33 per barrel.

Capgemini to Acquire WNS for \$3.3 Billion, Signals New Era of Tech Industry Consolidation

Paris/Mumbai, July 7, 2025 — Capgemini has announced the acquisition of India-born business process management (BPM) firm WNS for \$3.3 billion in cash, a move that analysts say could shake up the global consulting and tech services landscape, particularly challenging the dominance of the Big 4 — Deloitte, PwC, EY, and KPMG.



The deal, unanimously approved by the boards of both companies, is expected to close by the end of 2025. Capgemini will pay \$76.50 per share for NYSE-listed WNS — a premium of 28% over its 90-day average share price.

Industry experts say this acquisition could mark the beginning of a fresh wave of consolidation in the tech and BPM sec-

tors, particularly as firms prepare for the sweeping impact of artificial intelligence (AI).

"This gives Capgemini a powerful new position in competing with the Big 4," said Phil Fersht, CEO of HFS Research. "The integration of WNS could create an ideal platform to develop Services-as-Software solutions to target the \$1.5 trillion market emerging from AI-led transformation."

offer end-to-end transformation services at price points below those of traditional players.

Capgemini CEO Aiman Ezzat said the deal positions the group to lead in AI-powered "Intelligent Operations," while WNS CEO Keshav R. Murugesh noted that enterprises are now "shifting from automation to autonomy" with AI embedded at their core.

Adani Power Acquires Vidarbha Industries Power, Targets 30,670 MW Capacity by 2030



Adani Power Ltd. (APL) has successfully completed the acquisition of Vidarbha Industries Power Ltd. (VIPL) for ₹4,000 crore, marking a significant step in the company's strategy to strengthen its base-load power generation capacity. The acquisition, confirmed by APL on Tuesday morning, follows the approval of its resolution plan by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai Bench, on June 18, 2025. The implementation was finalized on July 7.

VIPL, which operates a 2×300 MW coal-fired power plant in Butibori, Nagpur district of Maharashtra, was undergoing the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

With this acquisition, Adani Power's total operational capacity now stands at 18,150 MW. The company stated that the addition is aligned with its broader mission to transform underperforming or stressed assets into productive power generators.

"This acquisition is a key milestone in our journey to unlock value through the revival of stressed assets," said SB Khyalia, CEO of Adani Power Ltd. "As we grow our portfolio, we continue to support India's vision of 'Electricity for All' by delivering reliable and affordable power to fuel sustainable development."

APL is aggressively expanding through both brownfield upgrades and greenfield developments. The company is currently building six 1,600 MW ultra-supercritical thermal power plants across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, along with a green-field plant in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, APL is reviving a 1,320 MW supercritical power plant in Korba, Chhattisgarh.

By 2030, Adani Power aims to reach an operational capacity of 30,670 MW, positioning itself as India's largest private base-load power generation company.

SEBI Study Reveals 41% Surge in F&O Losses for Individual Traders in FY25



Individual traders in India's equity derivatives segment (EDS) incurred a staggering net loss of ₹1.06 lakh crore in FY25, marking a sharp 41% increase from ₹74,812 crore in FY24, according to a recent study by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The study, covering trading activity between December 2024 and May 2025, analyzed profits and losses of individual traders using data from the top 13 stock brokers. These brokers collectively represent about 96 lakh unique traders in EDS, out of approximately 107 lakh across the entire market.

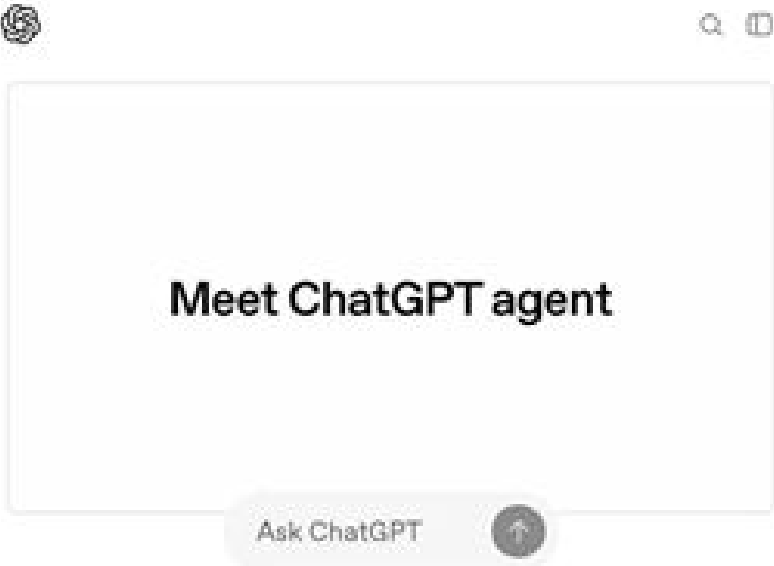
Despite the increasing popularity of futures and options (F&O) trading among retail investors, the SEBI study found that the risks continue to outweigh the rewards for most participants. A staggering 91% of individual traders continued to report net losses in FY25, a percentage nearly unchanged from the previous financial year.

"The study indicates that net losses of individual traders widened significantly by 41%, reaching ₹1,05,603 crore in FY25, even after accounting for transaction costs," SEBI noted.

This latest data comes amid growing concerns over the rapid rise in speculative trading by inexperienced retail investors, often driven by social media trends and the illusion of quick profits. While derivative markets are essential for hedging and risk management, SEBI has consistently warned that they carry substantial risks for individual investors who may lack sufficient knowledge or capital.

The findings are expected to add urgency to ongoing regulatory discussions around curbing excessive retail participation in high-risk F&O trading. SEBI is reportedly considering stricter risk disclosures, higher margins, and investor education initiatives to protect small investors from unsustainable losses in the derivatives space.

ChatGPT’s New Agent Mode Transforms AI from Assistant to Action-Taker



OpenAI has launched a groundbreaking “agent mode” for ChatGPT, allowing the chatbot to go beyond conversation and independently perform complex, multi-step tasks using its own virtual computer. Available to Plus, Pro, and Team users, this new capability marks a significant shift in how AI can be used for productivity and task automation.

With agent mode, users can assign high-level tasks like: “Summarize my meetings and cross-reference them with recent news,” or “Plan, shop for, and list ingredients to cook a Japanese breakfast,” or even “Research competitors and prepare a presentation.” ChatGPT then takes over—browsing websites, logging in securely when prompted, analyzing information, and producing actionable results like editable documents or slide decks.

The feature builds on and unifies two

earlier tools from OpenAI—Operator and Deep Research. While Operator gave ChatGPT the ability to interact with websites (click, scroll, login), Deep Research allowed it to dive deep into content and summarize it effectively. Agent mode blends these capabilities into one seamless system, enabling ChatGPT to both research and act without switching tools or requiring step-by-step instructions.

Despite its autonomy, user control remains central. ChatGPT will always request permission before taking significant actions, and users can intervene, pause, or halt tasks at any point.

OpenAI sees agent mode as a major leap in AI usability, bridging the gap between natural language interaction and real-world productivity. With further enhancements planned, the company says this is just the start of a new chapter in AI-powered task execution.



Largest Martian Meteorite on Earth to Be Auctioned at Sotheby’s New York

A rare piece of outer space is heading to the auction block. Sotheby’s in New York is set to auction the largest known Martian meteorite on Earth—a massive 54-pound rock named NWA 16788. The extraordinary specimen is expected to fetch between \$2 million and \$4 million during the auction, which is part of the auction house’s annual Geek Week 2025 event. The meteorite, discovered in Niger in November 2023, is believed to have originated from Mars following a colossal asteroid impact. It then traveled an estimated 140 million miles through space before landing in the Sahara Desert. Measuring approximately 15 x 11 x 6 inches, the specimen is more than 70% larger than the next biggest Martian rock found on Earth and makes up nearly 7% of all known Martian material on the planet, according to Sotheby’s.

“This is the largest piece of Mars

ever found on Earth,” said Cassandra Hatton, vice chairman for science and natural history at Sotheby’s. She noted that the meteorite was verified as Martian by comparing its composition to data from NASA’s 1976 Viking mission. The rock is classified as an “olivine-microgabbroic shergottite,” formed from slowly cooled Martian magma. Its coarse texture includes minerals like pyroxene and olivine, and its glossy surface suggests it endured intense heat while passing through Earth’s atmosphere. Also featured in the auction is a juvenile Ceratosaurus nasicornis skeleton from the late Jurassic period, estimated at \$4 million to \$6 million. Discovered in Wyoming in 1996, the 6-foot-tall, 11-foot-long fossil has been carefully restored and mounted for display. Geek Week 2025 will showcase 122 unique items, including meteorites, fossils, and rare minerals.

“Friend Reached Dubai, I’m Still in Bengaluru Traffic”: Viral Post Ignites Online Buzz

A humorous yet painfully relatable Instagram video about Bengaluru’s infamous traffic has taken the internet by storm. Posted by travel and food vloggers Priyanka and Indrayani, the clip claims that after dropping a friend at Bangalore International Airport for a flight to Dubai, they were still stuck in traffic when the friend landed—over 4,000 km away.

The video shows a never-ending stream of vehicles barely moving, accompanied by a caption that reads, “Dropped my friend at Bangalore Airport as she was leaving for Dubai. She reached Dubai, and I’m still stuck in Bangalore’s traffic.” The post quickly went viral, with the tagline, “Based on true incidents. Tag Bangalore people.”



The relatable content struck a chord with frustrated commuters, sparking both laughter and rants across social media. One user commented, “THIS HAPPENED TO ME. My parents dropped me at the airport and reached home just as I landed in Delhi.” Another

shared, “I landed in Bangalore, collected my bags, called my friend—and she was still stuck in traffic from when I checked in at Malé.”

Some, however, questioned the story’s authenticity. “You need to reach the airport 3 hours before an international flight. Add 6 hours just to go from the airport to Hebbal? No way this is real—just engagement farming,” one skeptic noted.

Another user expressed concern over the city’s portrayal, saying, “This kind of post just spreads negativity about Bengaluru.”

Despite mixed reactions, the post has amplified an all-too-familiar issue: Bengaluru’s unrelenting traffic chaos. Whether exaggerated or not, the joke clearly hit home for many, turning daily commuter misery into viral comedy.

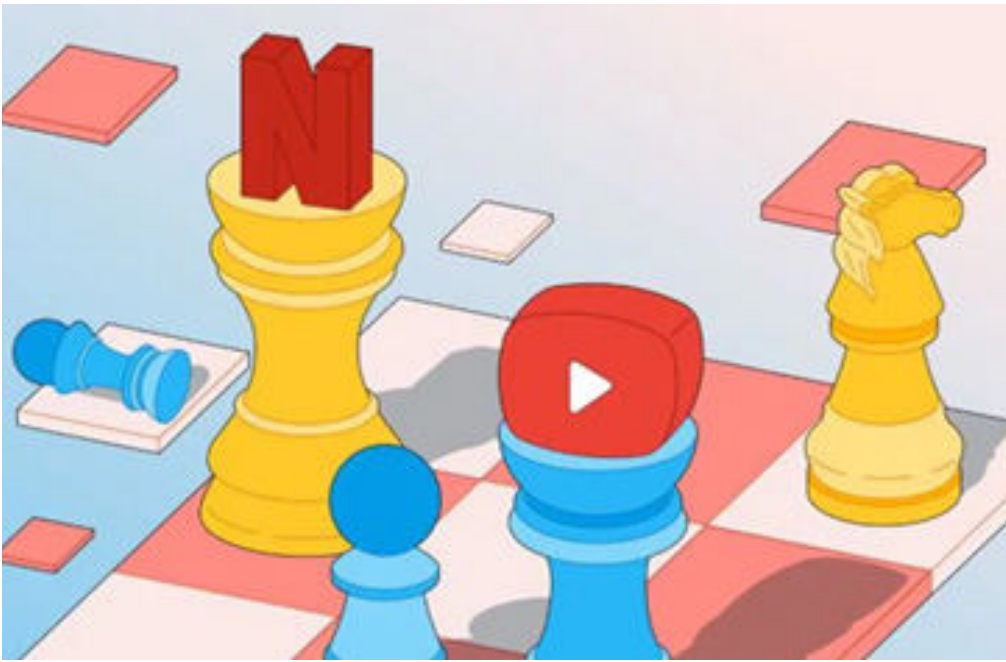
The Streaming Wars Narrow: YouTube vs. Netflix Battle for TV Domination

For years, Netflix insisted it didn’t have a true rival in the streaming world. Not Disney, Amazon, or any other Hollywood or tech giant. At one point, Netflix co-founder Reed Hastings famously claimed the company’s biggest competitors were people’s own distractions—socializing or even going to sleep.

However, that narrative has shifted dramatically as Netflix finds itself locked in an intense rivalry with YouTube for control over the television screen. The competition between these two video giants has become impossible to ignore, even within Netflix’s own leadership.

During a recent event hosted by the Paley Media Council, Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos notably downplayed YouTube, comparing it to the “minor leagues.” Yet, industry insiders and experts see things quite differently.

Jason Kilar, founding CEO of Hulu and former WarnerMedia head, weighed in on the reality of the battle: “That was more of a fun narrative than the brutal truth,” he said about Netflix’s earlier dismissals. “The brutal truth is that YouTube is indeed the biggest competi-



tor of Netflix at this point.”

The two platforms have very different strategies but share the same ultimate goal—capturing viewers’ time on their TV sets. Netflix is known for its high-budget original series and films, catering mostly to long-form storytelling and binge-watch culture. YouTube, on the other hand, offers a massive variety of content—user-generated clips,

shorts, and live streams—providing viewers with a seemingly endless supply of bite-sized entertainment.

As the streaming wars continue, the fight boils down to this: who will dominate our living rooms? With evolving viewer habits and shifting content consumption, the battle between YouTube and Netflix is shaping the future of entertainment.

Japan Sets World Record with Ultra-Fast Internet Speed of 1.02 Pbps, Downloading Netflix Library in a Second

Japan has shattered global internet speed records by achieving an astonishing 1.02 petabits per second (Pbps), according to the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT). This groundbreaking achievement makes Japan’s internet capability the fastest ever recorded, capable of downloading the entire Netflix library or the English version of Wikipedia thousands of times in just one second.

The new speed far surpasses average internet speeds worldwide. For perspective, it is approximately 16 million times faster than India’s current average internet speed of about 63.55 megabits per second (Mbps). It is also roughly 3.5 million times faster than the average internet speed in the United States, highlighting the extraordinary leap in



data transfer capabilities. Japan’s record-breaking feat involved transferring a total data volume of 1.86 exabits per second per kilometre — the highest value ever documented. This remarkable advancement in fiber optic technology showcases the potential

for ultra-high-speed data networks that could revolutionize digital communication, streaming, and data handling on a global scale. As digital content consumption grows exponentially worldwide, this breakthrough promises to drastically reduce download and buffering times, improving user experience and enabling new possibilities in cloud computing, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence applications. Japan’s achievement sets a new benchmark, inspiring other countries to push the boundaries of internet infrastructure.

This development comes at a crucial time when reliable, high-speed internet access is more vital than ever for work, education, entertainment, and innovation. With speeds like these, the future of internet connectivity looks brighter and faster than ever before.

Kerala Cricket League Season-2 kicks off with grand celebration

Thiruvananthapuram witnessed a festive kickoff to the Kerala Cricket League (KCL) Season-2, as the tournament was launched in grand style at the Nishagandhi Auditorium on July 20. The spectacular opening ceremony, inaugurated by Kerala Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman, drew thousands of fans, dignitaries, and celebrities, creating an electrifying atmosphere in the state capital. The event was marked by high-energy performances, including a show-stopping musical night by the popular Agam Band. Adding to the excitement were appearances by film stars and sports icons, who brought glamour and buzz to the occasion. Minister Abdurahiman unveiled the KCL mascots — the ‘Bat-wielding Tuskier,’ ‘Chakyar,’ and ‘Hornbill’ — with the Chakyar mascot entertaining the crowd with a comedic performance. Cricketer Sanju Samson, actress Keerthy Suresh, and MLA Adv. V.K. Prasanth flagged off the promotional trophy tour, which will travel across Kerala to engage fans ahead of the tournament’s start on August 21. Speaking at the event, Minister Abdurahiman expressed confidence in KCL’s potential to become India’s top domestic cricket league within five years. He announced ₹1,350 crore in upcoming state sports infrastructure projects, aimed at doubling Kerala’s sports economy from 5.5% to 10% in three years. KCA President Jayesh George and Secretary Vinod S. Kumar highlighted the enthusiastic public response and KCL’s alignment with Kerala Cricket Association’s long-term goals. Sanju



Samson and Salman Nizar unveiled a special fan jersey promoting road safety, emphasizing the role of fans in the league’s success. The launch event also featured a replay of the iconic helmet moment from Kerala’s Ranji Trophy semi-final win and behind-the-scenes footage of a KCL ad starring Mohanlal and the ‘Aaram Thampuran’ team. The evening concluded with a vibrant musical performance, setting the stage for a thrilling season ahead.

Minerva Academy Makes History, Wins World Youth Cup for Second Time

Indian football club Minerva Academy FC has scripted history by becoming the first Indian team to win the prestigious World Youth Cup twice. Their latest triumph came at the Gothia Cup 2025 in Sweden, where they dominated the tournament with an outstanding display of skill, strategy, and passion. Competing against top youth teams from across the globe, Minerva’s young talents made the nation proud with their commanding performance. The team began their campaign with a flawless run in the group stage, winning all three matches while maintaining a strong defense and a consistent goal-scoring rhythm. The real test for Minerva came in the knockout stages. In the semi-finals, they faced a tough Swedish side, Syrianska IF. The match was intense, with Syrianska relying on speed and physicality. However, Minerva held their ground, showing patience and tactical awareness. Goals from Rhythm and Chetan T. secured a 2-0 win, despite sustained pressure from the opposition. The final against Argentina’s Escuela de Football 18 Tucuman, an undefeated side until then, showcased Minerva’s best performance. In a stunning first half, Minerva netted four goals — scored by Rhythm, Yohenba, Raj, and Denamoni — sealing a dominant



4-0 victory. The Indian defense remained rock-solid, denying Argentina any scoring opportunity. Minerva’s campaign was marked by exceptional statistics — over 50 goals scored and just two conceded. Most knockout matches ended in clean sheets, highlighting the team’s discipline and coordination. But beyond numbers, it was their confidence, preparation, and desire to represent India on the global stage that stood out. This historic win is more than a trophy; it symbolizes the rising potential of Indian youth football. With two World Youth Cup titles, Minerva Academy has set a new benchmark and inspired a generation of aspiring footballers across the country.

No India vs Pakistan Match in World Championship of Legends After Player Withdrawals

The much-anticipated India vs Pakistan match in the World Championship of Legends (WCL), scheduled for July 20, 2025, in Birmingham, England, was cancelled following the withdrawal of several Indian players, including former opener Shikhar Dhawan. Dhawan and others reportedly refused to participate due to ongoing geopolitical tensions between the two nations. Shikhar Dhawan publicly shared a letter he sent to the WCL organisers, explaining his decision not to play against Pakistan. The decision was strongly influenced by recent events, including the terrorist attack in Pahalagam, which resulted in the death of 26



tourists and escalated border tensions. Following Dhawan’s lead, other notable Indian cricket veterans like Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, and Yusuf Pathan also opted out of the match. The WCL, a private cricket competition not governed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), features retired players from various countries. Unlike official ICC or ACC tournaments, the BCCI does not have authority over players’ participation in WCL matches, which adds complexity to such situations. The cancellation was officially confirmed by Edgbaston Stadium’s social media team, which announced the closure of the stadium for the scheduled time slot and assured all ticket

holders would receive full refunds. Fans were advised not to attend the event. India and Pakistan have not played bilateral cricket for over a decade due to strained political relations. However, the teams occasionally face off in multi-nation ICC or ACC events, keeping the rivalry alive on the cricket field. The cancellation of this WCL match highlights how off-field issues continue to impact sporting ties between the two nations, even in unofficial tournaments. With this development, the India-Pakistan cricket rivalry in the WCL remains on hold, disappointing fans eager for the classic encounter.

Martín Ojeda Scores Twice, Matches Orlando City Franchise Record in 2-1 Victory Over New England Revolution

Martín Ojeda delivered a stellar performance for Orlando City, scoring two crucial goals to lead the team to a 2-1 win against the New England Revolution on Saturday night. Ojeda’s efforts not only helped snap Orlando’s four-game winless streak but also tied the club’s single-season goal contributions record, highlighting his importance to the team this season. Ojeda’s second goal came in the 58th minute during a swift counter-attack. Receiving a precise pass from Iván Angulo, Ojeda finished with a first-touch shot that secured the lead for Orlando City. This goal marked his 12th of the season, complementing his 10 assists and bringing his total goal contributions to 22 — matching the club record set in 2019 by Luís Carlos “Nani” Almeida da Cunha. The 26-year-old designated player has been in exceptional form, with this game marking his 10th consecutive match with a goal contribution. He opened the scoring early in the 18th minute after a perfect long pass from Eduard Atuesta, slipping past the Revolution defense and calmly finishing past goalkeeper Aljaz Ivacic. With 25 career goals now, Ojeda has moved past Orlando legend Ricardo



“Kaká” Izecson dos Santos Leite, moving into fifth place on the club’s all-time regular-season goal list. Despite New England’s Tomás Chancalay equalizing just before halftime with a clever shot after faking a strike, Orlando City’s resilience shone through. Goalkeeper Pedro Gallese made two key saves to preserve the lead. Orlando City improved their record to 10-6-8, while New England fell to 6-10-7. This win marks Orlando’s second consecutive victory at Gillette Stadium, a venue where the Revolution have historically dominated with a 6-2-2 home record against Orlando. The two teams previously played to a thrilling 3-3 draw in May, making this latest match another memorable encounter.

Women’s Euros: Spain Cruise Into Semifinals with 2-0 Win Over Switzerland

Spain secured their place in the Women’s Euro 2025 semifinals after a convincing 2-0 victory over hosts Switzerland at Wankdorf Stadium in Bern on July 18, 2025. The reigning world champions will next face either France or Germany in the semifinals. The match remained tightly contested for most of the first hour, with Switzerland defending resolutely and relying on counter-attacks to threaten Spain’s defense. Spain struggled to break through the host’s stubborn backline despite several promising chances, including a missed penalty by Mariona Caldentey early on after being fouled by Nadine Riesen. Caldentey, who took the spot-kick herself, rolled the ball wide of the post, much to the relief of the Swiss crowd. The deadlock was finally broken in the 66th minute thanks to a moment of brilliance from Aitana Bonmati. The midfielder cleverly set up substitute Athenea del Castillo with an instinctive backheel, allowing Del Castillo to calmly guide the ball past Swiss goalkeeper Livia Peng and open the scoring for Spain. Just five minutes later, Claudia Pina doubled Spain’s lead in spectacular fashion. Capitalizing on a mistake by Switzerland



captain Lia Waelti near the penalty area, Pina unleashed a stunning curling shot into the top corner, sending the Spanish fans into celebration. The match remained dramatic until the final whistle. Spain’s Alexia Putellas missed a late penalty, while Switzerland’s Noelle Maritz received a straight red card for a reckless challenge during stoppage time. As Spain celebrated their progression to the semifinals with a jubilant circle dance, Swiss fans showed great sportsmanship by applauding their team’s spirited effort. The Swiss players exited the tournament proudly, having reached the knockout stages for the first time in history.



Pawan Kalyan Coming to Promotions: Set for Major Comeback with ‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’

After years of staying away from film promotions due to his growing political commitments, actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan is set for a major comeback in the promotional circuit with his upcoming pan-India historical drama, Hari Hara Veera Mallu (HHVM). This will be his first formal media interaction for a film in nearly a decade and marks a significant moment as the movie is his first release since becoming Andhra Pradesh’s Deputy Chief Minister in 2024.

Tomorrow, Monday, July 21, Pawan Kalyan will attend a press meet in Hyderabad at 10 AM alongside the cast and crew, signaling his active involvement in the film’s publicity. Later that evening, a grand pre-release event will be held, drawing ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka. Notably, the cinematography ministers from the Telugu states have confirmed their attendance, along with celebrated director SS Rajamouli and renowned

writer-director Trivikram Srinivas. Directed by Krish Jagarlamudi and Jyothi Krishna, Hari Hara Veera Mallu has faced multiple production delays over the years, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Pawan Kalyan’s deepening political engagement. However, with post-production now

complete, the team is gearing up for the film’s world theatrical release on July 24. Premiere shows are planned across the Telugu states at 9 PM on July 23. Sources reveal that Pawan Kalyan recently viewed the final cut and expressed satisfaction with the film,

which likely influenced his decision to break his usual promotional silence and personally connect with fans and media. With the actor stepping forward for these events, excitement around Hari Hara Veera Mallu is reaching a fever pitch, promising a strong reception at the box office.



Garividi Lakshmi First Glimpse Released: A Soulful Folk Tale of an Untold True Story



The much-anticipated film Garividi Lakshmi, starring Anandhi, has kicked off its promotional journey with the release of the first glimpse, generating excitement among fans and cinephiles alike. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner, and directed by Gowri Naidu Jammu, the movie promises to be a heartfelt tribute to the legendary folk singer Garividi Lakshmi. Garividi Lakshmi is based on the untold true story of the iconic entertainer whose journey is deeply rooted in the cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh. Known for her emotional and vibrant performances, Lakshmi’s career spanned over 15 years, during which she mesmerized audiences with more than 10,000 shows. Her music cassettes were among the highest-selling in the 1990s, a testament to her widespread popularity and influence in the region. The fervent crowds at her live events

highlighted her legendary status as a beloved folk singer, and the film aims to capture that magic on screen. Anandhi, portraying Garividi Lakshmi, impresses with her authentic and powerful depiction, bringing to life the spirit and emotions of the folk icon. The brief glimpse released so far hints at a film filled with emotionally charged moments that will resonate deeply with audiences. Complementing the narrative is the electrifying musical score by Charan Arjun, which enhances the overall impact and immerses viewers in the folk culture. In essence, Garividi Lakshmi is not just a biographical drama but a celebration of the rich cultural roots and soulful melodies that define the folk traditions of Andhra Pradesh. With its emotional storytelling, captivating performances, and memorable music, the film promises to be a feel-good entertainer that stays with viewers long after the credits roll.

Mohanlal’s ‘Hridayapoorvam’ Teaser Released: A Fun and Heartwarming Treat Ahead of Onam

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal is all set to delight audiences once again with his upcoming film Hridayapoorvam. The makers have just released the latest teaser, offering a glimpse of what promises to be an entertaining and heartwarming movie. Directed by the renowned Sathyan Anthikad, Hridayapoorvam brings together a talented cast including Malavika Mohanan opposite Mohanlal, and Sangeeth Pratap, known for Premalu, in a pivotal role. Produced by Antony Perumbavoor under the Aashirvaad Cinemas banner, the film’s music is composed by Justin Prabhakaran. The teaser opens with a humorous and relatable scene that captures the current pulse of Malayalam cinema fandom. A young man approaches Mohanlal’s character, proudly declaring his love for Malayalam films but admits he is a huge fan of Fahadh Faasil, affectionately called “Fafa.” Mohanlal responds with his trademark charm,

saying, “Not only him, there are many other senior actors.” The young man laughs and insists, “No, no, Fafa is the best!” This light-hearted exchange playfully reflects the friendly rivalry and admiration among Malayalam cinema’s stars and their fans. Mohanlal’s natural wit and charismatic presence shine throughout the teaser, making it an instant hit among fans eagerly awaiting the film’s release. After his recent successes with action and thriller films like L2: Empuraan and Thudarum, Hridayapoorvam promises to offer a different, heartfelt cinematic experience. The film is slated for a worldwide release on August 28, coinciding with the festive Onam season, making it a perfect treat for moviegoers. Fans can look forward to Mohanlal delivering yet another memorable performance in this much-anticipated film.



Mega 157 On-Set Video Leaked – Makers Warn of Legal Action



Raashi Khanna Joins Pawan Kalyan’s ‘Ustaad Bhagat Singh’ to Add Star Power

Powerstar Pawan Kalyan’s much-awaited film Ustaad Bhagat Singh is back in full swing, with shooting underway and a push to wrap up the project soon. While Sreeleela is already confirmed as the film’s lead actress, the latest update reveals that Raashi Khanna has come on board, marking her first collaboration with Pawan Kalyan. Raashi Khanna, known for her glamorous roles and strong performances, sees this as a golden opportunity to showcase her talent in a high-profile film. After a period without major releases, and her recent project Telusu Kada with Siddhu Jonnalagadda not meeting big expectations, this film could be a career booster for her. Similarly, Sreeleela is also facing a chal-

lenging phase, with a few recent films not turning out as hoped. If both actresses can bring their charm and acting prowess to the project, Ustaad Bhagat Singh promises to give their careers a significant boost. Currently, Raashi is actively shooting her portions in Hyderabad, with the schedule set to continue until the end of July. Directed by Harish Shankar and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film is generating buzz as it moves closer to completion. Fans are eagerly awaiting the combination of Pawan Kalyan, Raashi Khanna, and Sreeleela under Harish Shankar’s direction, hoping Ustaad Bhagat Singh will be a memorable cinematic experience.