

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
<div></div> <div>H 33° C L 25° C</div>	<div></div> <div>H 35° C L 26° C</div>	<div></div> <div>H 36° C L 26° C</div>



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad is once again alive with vibrant colors, rhythmic drum-beats, and fervent devotion as Bonalu 2025 takes center stage across the city. This beloved Telangana festival, dedicated to Goddess Mahankali, brings communities together in a spirited celebration of faith, culture, and tradition. From the bustling lanes of the Old City to the serene temples of Secunderabad, the air is filled with joyous chants, traditional rituals, and a deep sense of gratitude marking Bonalu as one of the most cherished festivals in the region.

The city is abuzz as thousands of devotees flock to Mahankali temples, with the historic Simhavahini Mahankali Temple at Lal Darwaja once again becoming the epicenter of devotion during the auspicious Ashada month. This year, the festival's spirit is amplified by the active participation of prominent political leaders and celebrities, who have paid homage and taken part in the rituals, underscoring the festival's deep cultural significance.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu led the dignitaries by offering traditional silk garments to the deity at the Simhavahini Temple on behalf of the Telangana government. Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Ponnamm



Hyderabad Glows for Bonalu

Prabhakar followed suit at the renowned Bhagyalakshmi Temple near Charminar, a vital spiritual hub of Hyderabad's Old City. MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha made a special visit to the Durbar Maisamma Talli temple in Karwan, while Governor Bandaru Dattatreya honored the festivities with his visit to the Bhagyalakshmi

Temple, reflecting the inclusive and unifying nature of the celebrations. The city's administration has taken extensive measures to manage the surge of devotees and ensure their safety. The Hyderabad Police have implemented strict traffic

Save South Seats, Stop Hindi: KTR

TPN Correspondent | Jaipur

BRS Working President and Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao (KTR) raised strong concerns over the forthcoming delimitation exercise, warning that southern states could face significant losses in parliamentary representation. Speaking at the ninth edition of the Talk Journalism conference on "North-South Divide in Indian Politics" in Jaipur on Sunday, KTR criticized the practice of rewarding population growth without considering states that successfully implemented family planning.

He highlighted that South India's share of India's population had dropped from 26 percent in 1948 to 19 percent due to effective population control, whereas northern states like Uttar Pradesh saw their population surge by 239 percent during the same period. "Is it fair that Kerala, which embraced population control for national welfare, should now lose seats, while Uttar Pradesh, which failed in this regard, gains more influence at the Centre?" KTR questioned.

KTR warned that such population-based redistribution risks concentrating power excessively in populous northern states, especially Uttar Pradesh, which could undermine India's federal structure. "If the Prime Minister is decided solely by numbers from one state, southern aspirations will be ignored," he cautioned. He demanded freezing the current parliamentary seats while increasing representation in State Assemblies to ensure balanced fed-

eralism.

Targeting the BJP-led Centre, KTR accused it of failing to fulfill promises to increase MLA seats in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh under the AP Reorganisation Act, while conveniently increasing seats in Jammu and Kashmir and Assam. "We do not trust the BJP government to be fair in redrawing constituencies," he asserted.

KTR also condemned attempts to impose Hindi as a national language, calling it an "arrogance of brute strength." He emphasized that India's unity lies in its diversity and that Hindi is only one of the 22 official languages. "Only Indianness can bind us. Language, food, and dialects change every 250 km; Hindi cannot be forced as a national language," he said, insisting that no national language is necessary and that language choice should be left to individuals. Responding to concerns about demands for outsiders to learn regional languages, such as Marathi in Maharashtra, KTR maintained that

Raja Singh Out of BJP, But Still with Modi?

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BJP MLA from Goshamahahal, T Raja Singh, has resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), citing discontent with the party's Telangana state leadership. However, he reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to Hindutva and declared his continued support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "I have no such plans and, 99%, I will not join any other party. My ideology is Hindutva and I will not fit in with the BRS or the Congress. I don't even want to talk about the AIMIM. I will



never join them. My supporters and I will continue to propagate the message of Modi, Shah, and Adityanath," Singh said, making clear that while he may be out of the BJP, he remains ideologically aligned with its national leadership. Singh resigned on June 30,

the same day former MLC N Ramachander Rao was appointed BJP's Telangana state president—a move he openly opposed. While insisting he holds no personal grudge against Rao, Singh stated the appointment was strategically unwise. "An advocate fights

well in court, but to fight the BRS, Congress, and AIMIM, we need someone with political field experience. An MP or MLA would have been a better choice," he argued.

Despite the risk of disqualification and a possible bypoll, Singh declared he would serve as an Independent MLA and would not switch parties. He blamed a handful of leaders within the BJP's state unit for undermining the party's growth in Telangana. "There are two or three leaders who don't want the party to come to power.

Fertilizer Crisis Hits Telangana: BRS Slams Govt

TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

Telangana BRS leader Gandra Venkataramana Reddy has openly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that the state government is not effectively addressing the severe fertilizer shortage faced by farmers. According to him, the government has failed to ensure the timely supply and equitable distribution of fertilizers, which is causing distress among the agricultural community. Farmers across Telangana have been struggling to obtain essential fertilizers, particularly urea, at the government-mandated price of ₹266.5 per bag. Instead, many are forced to

pay inflated prices, with some reporting black market rates as high as ₹325 per bag. This has led to widespread dissatisfaction and frustration among the farming population.

In light of the growing concerns, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently held discussions with Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers JP Nadda to seek an uninterrupted supply of urea ahead of the upcoming agricultural season. Minister Nadda assured the Telangana government of full central support



and instructed officials to ensure that the fertilizer supplies meet the state's demands. However, he also expressed apprehension over the rising consumption of urea in Telangana, warning that excessive use could harm the long-term health of the soil and



1st Page Cont..

Hyderabad Glows for Bonalu

regulations and heightened security around major temples to facilitate smooth and safe participation. Meanwhile, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), along with allied departments, has enhanced the festival environment by installing colorful lighting displays, providing drinking water stations, and setting up medical and emergency services, ensuring a hassle-free experience for all attendees. Bonalu, deeply rooted in Telangana's folk traditions, is more than just a festival—it is a vibrant expression of gratitude to Goddess Mahankali for protecting the community from diseases and calamities. The rituals feature women dressed in traditional attire carrying beautifully decorated pots called “Bonam” as offerings. The celebrations are

brought to life by spirited processions, resonant drumbeats, folk dances, and cultural performances, all of which energize the atmosphere and foster a sense of unity. This year's festivities have notably grown in scale and enthusiasm, with not only the Old City but also Secunderabad and other urban areas adorned in bright colors and floral decorations. The rhythmic dappu drum beats, fervent chants of “Jai Mahankali,” and the sight of vibrant processions carrying the Goddess's idol embody the deep community spirit and devotion characteristic of the festival. Bonalu 2025 thus stands as a proud testament to Telangana's rich cultural heritage and social harmony, with the concerted support of local authorities ensuring the celebrations proceed safely and joyously.

Raja Singh Out of BJP, But Still with Modi?

Their decisions outweighed mine,” he alleged. The three-time MLA also expressed deep disappointment that the BJP's central leadership accepted his resignation without engaging in dialogue. “I thought someone would reach out to ask why I resigned. I feel heartbroken. It's like being forced to leave my family,” Singh said. When asked about the impact of his controversial speeches and legal cases, Singh defended his stance, stating, “My speeches are rooted in Hindutva. I speak against anti-nationals and those who attack the Hindu religion. That's why BJP workers still support me. Some want soft-spoken leaders, but I speak openly and fearlessly.” Singh also raised concerns about internal politics within the BJP

and urged the central leadership to investigate the Telangana unit's functioning. “They should seek an Intelligence Bureau (IB) report to assess BJP's real position in the state. Only then will they realise that I was right,” he added. On his future, Singh said he is ready to resign from the Assembly if the BJP central leadership asks him to. “If they tell me to quit as MLA, I will. If not, I'll continue to serve the people and the Hindutva cause as an ordinary worker,” he said. Despite severing formal ties with the BJP, T Raja Singh affirmed that his ideological battle continues. His departure marks a major flashpoint within the Telangana BJP, raising questions about internal discord and the party's readiness to take on regional forces in the upcoming elections.

Save South Seats, Stop Hindi: KTR

language should not be imposed. “Just like people from northern states should not be forced to learn Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, or any other language, Hindi also should not be imposed on the rest of the country. Language is a cultural identity and should be respected, not enforced,” he said. KTR further raised alarm over the deletion of nearly five lakh voters from electoral rolls in Bihar, warning that disenfranchisement of even a single voter is unacceptable in a democracy. He cautioned against political conspiracies that exploit divisions for electoral gains

and recalled how the previous RJD government in Bihar was defeated by a margin of less than 12,500 votes. Affirming unity among all major Telangana parties—including the Congress—against southern under-representation and linguistic imposition, KTR stressed that India is a democracy built on cooperative federalism. “The Centre cannot act unilaterally. It must take all stakeholders into confidence before making decisions,” he urged, calling for equitable representation and respect for India's linguistic and regional diversity.

Fertilizer Crisis Hits Telangana: BRS Slams Govt

adversely affect agricultural productivity. While the Telangana government has claimed to be taking steps to address the shortage and has promised adequate fertilizer stocks for farmers, ground reports and farmer organizations paint a different picture. Many farmers continue to face difficulties in accessing fertilizers, and there are persistent allegations of black marketing and unfair pricing practices. Opposition parties have seized on this issue, demanding stricter government

intervention to curb illegal sales and ensure that fertilizers reach the farmers at fair prices and in a timely manner. The ongoing fertilizer crisis highlights the challenges faced by the state's agricultural sector, where the balance between supply management and sustainable farming practices must be carefully maintained. The government's ability to effectively manage fertilizer distribution will be critical in supporting farmers and safeguarding Telangana's agricultural output in the coming months.

₹1,290 Cr Allocated for Temple Developments

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Bonalu festival, a vibrant expression of Telangana's rich cultural heritage, was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at the historic Simhavahini Mahankali temple in Lal Darwaza. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, who participated in the celebrations, emphasized that Bonalu is the very identity of Telangana's culture and tradition. Addressing the gathering of devotees, the Deputy CM extended his heartfelt wishes and praised the generations of people who have preserved and celebrated the festival with unwavering faith. He highlighted that the Bonalu festivities begin at Golconda, move through Secunderabad, and culminate at the Simhavahini Mahankali temple in Lal Darwaza, fostering communal harmony and devotion throughout the city.



Bhatti Vikramarka also announced that the State Government had released a substantial amount of ₹1,290 crores from the Common Good Fund dedicated to the development of temples across Telangana. Of this, ₹20 crores have been specifically allocated for Bonalu festivities in the Greater Hyderabad region. He assured that government officials and staff are working diligently to ensure that the celebra-

tions are conducted smoothly and without inconvenience to the public. The Deputy CM praised the peaceful and devotional atmosphere in which the festivals are being celebrated and noted that the State Government is organizing the events in a systematic and well-coordinated manner. As part of the official offerings, silk garments were presented to Goddess Simhavahini Mahankali, accompanied by prayers seeking her blessings for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Telangana.

Furthermore, Bhatti Vikramarka recalled that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had previously assured the public of proper measures to further develop temples in the region. He reaffirmed that the government plans to undertake additional development of the areas surrounding the Mahankali temple to enhance the overall experience for devotees.

CM Honors ‘Naatu Naatu’ Singer Rahul

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana state government announced a generous cash reward of ₹1 crore for singer Rahul Sipliganj during the vibrant Bonalu festival celebrations in Hyderabad's Old City. This announcement fulfilled a longstanding promise made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during the 2023 Assembly election campaign, in which he pledged to award ₹1 crore to Rahul if his party came to power. The presentation took place amidst the festive atmosphere of the Bonalu celebrations, a traditional and culturally significant festival dedicated to Goddess Mahakali. The Chief Minister lauded Rahul Sipliganj for his inspiring journey from the modest lanes of Hyderabad's Old City to gaining international fame with the Oscar-winning song ‘Naatu Naatu’ from the blockbuster film RRR. An official release from the Chief Minister's office highlighted how Rahul's story serves as a beacon of hope and motivation for the youth of Telangana, proving that talent combined with perseverance can achieve global recognition. The Chief Minister noted that the singer's rise to fame is particularly commendable given his humble beginnings.

Prior to the 2023 assembly elections, when Revanth Reddy was the state Congress president, he had announced financial assistance of ₹10 lakh to Rahul Sipliganj. At that time, he had also promised a ₹1 crore incentive contingent on the party's victory in the elections. During the recent Gaddar Awards, the Chief Minister reiterated this commitment and assured that the formal announcement would follow soon. By fulfilling his electoral promise, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy demonstrated the state government's commitment to supporting local talent and rewarding those who bring pride to Telangana on the national and international stage. The award not only recognizes Rahul Sipliganj's achievements but also aims to inspire other young artists and performers across the state. The ₹1 crore reward was received with much enthusiasm by the singer and his supporters, and the event added to the festive spirit of Bonalu, which celebrates the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Telangana.



Hyderabad Water Supply to Go Smart



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) is gearing up to modernize the city's water distribution system by adopting advanced technologies such as automated valves and smart meters. During a review meeting held with officials from the IT and revenue departments, Managing Director Ashok Reddy outlined an ambitious plan to automate 1,000 valves on a trial basis to assess the system's feasibility before a wider rollout. Currently, Hyderabad's water distribution network consists of around 15,000 small and large valves, but only about 35 percent of these are regularly operated. Most valves are manually controlled by linemen who often face significant risks while working on valves situated along busy roads, making them vulnerable to accidents. To address this, the board has already tested an automatic valve operation system in Sanath Nagar, which proved successful in reducing safety risks. The proposed smart valves can be remotely operated via a smartphone app, enabling officials to open or close valves without physically visiting the sites. This technology not only enhances safety but also provides real-time

information about water flow, water quality, and chlorine levels, ensuring better monitoring of the supply network. Moreover, these valves are solar-powered with battery backups, guaranteeing uninterrupted operation even during power outages or maintenance activities. In addition to valve automation, the board plans to install smart water meters at reservoir outlets and in areas with bulk water connections. These meters will help track the precise quantity of water supplied, improve billing accuracy, and reduce water losses. Ashok Reddy also emphasized the need for a centralized control room at the HMWSSB headquarters to monitor the entire water distribution system, including valve operations, water quality parameters, and consumer billing, through an integrated platform. This modernization initiative aims to enhance operational efficiency, improve safety for field workers, and provide consumers with more accurate and reliable water services. With the successful pilot already conducted in Sanath Nagar, the HMWSSB is optimistic about expanding the smart valve and meter technology across Hyderabad, ushering in a new era of smart water management for the city.

Warangal MLAs Seek Sports Facilities

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently held a meeting with the MLAs of Warangal district Kadiyam Srihari, Revuri Prakan Reddy, Nayini Rajender Reddy, Yashaswini Reddy, and KR Nagaraju to discuss developmental initiatives for the joint Warangal district. During the meeting, the MLAs emphasized the need for improved sports infrastructure in the region, specifically requesting the establishment of a dedicated sports school and a cricket stadium. They highlighted the importance of these facilities in nurturing local



talent and promoting sports culture among the youth of the district. Responding to their requests, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed the

government's firm commitment to supporting the development of sports infrastructure in Warangal. He assured the MLAs that necessary steps would be taken to sanction and implement projects aimed at boosting sports facilities and opportunities in the district. The MLAs thanked the Chief Minister for his positive and encouraging response, appreciating the government's focus on regional development and youth empowerment. The meeting reflected the collaborative efforts between the state leadership and local representatives to promote balanced growth and enhance the quality of life in Warangal district.



Revanth Cabinet Rocked by Spy Fears

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Ministers in Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's cabinet are gripped by fear after reports emerged that their phone conversations are being secretly monitored. The issue came to light after a private conversation between two senior ministers reportedly reached the ears of the Chief Minister, almost word-for-word. The two ministers, who hail from the same district, had discussed their concerns about Revanth Reddy's leadership during a late-night phone call. To their shock, the Chief Minister later summoned one of

them and repeated parts of the conversation, making it clear he had access to their call. He reportedly told the minister, "As CM, it is natural I keep a tab on what you all are doing and saying." Following the incident, both ministers changed their phones. One of them has now stopped using a mobile phone altogether. People wishing to contact him must go through his personal staff. Other ministers are also becoming cautious and avoiding phone conversations altogether. There are also reports that intelli-

gence officials are monitoring the movements of certain ministers at airports and other locations. The controversy has sparked concerns about surveillance, privacy, and growing distrust within the Telangana government. The episode has led to increased tension in the cabinet, with some leaders reportedly complaining to the Congress high command. The situation continues to raise serious questions about internal communication and leadership transparency within the ruling party.

“Evil Forces Target Telangana Again”: Vijayashanti

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad:
Telangana MLC Vijayashanti Veevra has sounded a strong warning against emerging conspiracies that threaten to exploit the state once again. Speaking at the Pochamma Bonala festival held at Borabanda, she expressed deep concern about the movement of “evil forces” aiming to infiltrate and loot Telangana's rich resources. Vijayashanti recalled the long and arduous struggles that led to the creation of Telangana and emphasized that the state's hard-earned progress should not be compromised. She urged citizens to remain vigilant and united, walking firmly on the path of Dharma righteousness and moral duty to protect their homeland from such threats. Describing Telangana as an “inexhaustible vessel,” Vijayashanti highlighted the state's vast potential and resilience. However, she warned that new conspiracies have started to surface, seeking to disrupt peace and development. She reassured the public that the Congress party remains committed to the welfare and prosperity of Telangana and will continue to safeguard the interests of its people. Addressing rumors and divisive tactics, Vijayashanti urged the people not to fall prey to any evil influences and to stay focused on maintaining the dignity and respect of Telangana. Her message resonated with the audience, reinforcing a sense of pride and solidarity among the community members. The event, organized as part of the Bonala festival celebrations, saw devotees offering prayers to Goddess Pochamma for blessings and protection. The temple committee honored Vijayashanti for her continued dedication to the state and its people.



Feroz Khan Urges Unity, Questions Owaisi

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Senior Congress leader and Nampally Assembly contestant Feroz Khan marked the Bonalu celebrations by visiting the Simhavahini Mahankali temple at Lal Darwaza, extending warm festival greetings to the Hindu community. Accompanied by party workers, he climbed the temple dais and addressed the large crowd of devotees. Standing before the vibrant throng, Khan emphatically stressed the importance of unity during festivals. “India belongs to people of all religions. On this festive occasion, leaders must behave responsibly refrain from targeting any polit-

ical party or speaking ill about other faiths,” he stated. He urged communities to celebrate together in a spirit of peace and goodwill. Khan also took a pointed swipe at AIMIM floor leader and MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi, highlighting what he described as Owaisi's inconsistent stance on the temple. “Earlier, he dismissed the structure as ‘Lal Darwaza ku Hara Darwaza,’” said Khan. “Now, the same person is appealing to the government for funds to expand the temple. Such flip flops don't reflect well on political credibility.” Emphasizing inclusivity, Khan called for collective celebrations that transcend religious lines.



“Festivals should unite us, not divide us,” he said, urging all communities to join in the devotion with mutual respect. His remarks at Lal Darwaza under-

scored the value of festive harmony and moral leadership during such culturally significant occasions.

Governor Jishnudev Varma Attends Bonalu

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Shri Jishnudev Varma, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, participated as the Chief Guest at the Bonalu celebrations hosted by Shri Bandaru Dattatraya, Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, on Sunday, 20th July 2025. The event was held at Governor Dattatraya's residence in Ramnagar, Hyderabad, and was marked by devotion, tradition, and cultural vibrancy. Bonalu, a traditional Hindu festival dedicated to Goddess Mahankali, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and participation from various dignitaries. The host, Governor Bandaru Dattatraya, welcomed all guests with warmth and highlighted the importance of preserving age-old traditions that symbolize the rich cultural fabric of Telangana. The celebration



saw the participation of Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Coal & Mines, Government of India, Shri Etela R-

jender, Member of Parliament, Shri Marri Shashidhar Reddy, former Minister, and Shri C. Krishna Yadav, among others.

The event brought together political leaders and well-wishers from different walks of life, fostering a spirit of unity and shared cultural values. The occasion featured traditional Bonalu rituals, devotional offerings to the deity, and performances reflecting Telangana's folk heritage. The gathering appreciated the efforts of Governor Dattatraya in organizing the festival and promoting communal harmony. Governor Jishnudev Varma, in his remarks, praised the significance of Bonalu in strengthening community bonds and applauded the host for upholding and celebrating local traditions at such a high level. The event concluded with blessings offered to all participants and an appeal to continue nurturing Telangana's cultural legacy.

False Claim on Reddy in Medak Case

TPN Correspondent | Medak
The ongoing investigation into the murder of Congress leader Anil, who was fatally shot on the outskirts of Variguntam on July 14, has seen new developments amid swirling rumors. Police have clarified that recent media reports suggesting that Anil's parents filed a complaint against Ravinder Reddy, a resident of Anil's hometown, are incorrect. Authorities confirmed that no such complaint has been lodged by the victim's family. The police also addressed circulating rumors involving the grandson of a Chittoor MLA, stating that these allegations are unsubstantiated and purely speculative. “There is no evidence connecting him to the crime,” police officials said.



Initial investigations reveal that the motive for Anil's murder likely stemmed from a property dispute in Rangampet village, Medak district. According to police, Anil had threatened the owner of a house and verbally abused family members shortly before the incident. This created resentment, which is believed to have led to a premeditated attack. Authorities assured the public that the investigation is progressing steadily and appealed to the media and citizens to avoid spreading false information, which could hinder the inquiry or cause unnecessary distress to those involved. The police reiterated their commitment to ensuring justice in the case and called for patience as the probe continues.

Long queues, festive spirit in temple surroundings

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Bonalu celebrations at the historic Lal Darwaza Simhavahini Mahankali Temple in Hyderabad commenced with grandeur and spiritual fervour on Sunday, July 20. Devotees from across the city and nearby districts began arriving in large numbers early in the morning to offer Bonalu to the presiding deity, Mahankali Ammavaru. With devotees lining up to seek blessings, the temple premises and surrounding streets were bustling with activity. Special queue lines were arranged by temple authorities to manage the large influx of worshippers. The entire temple



complex was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and devotional songs dedicated to the goddess filled the air, adding to the spiritual atmosphere. The temple management made elaborate arrangements to ensure that devotees could participate in the festivities without any inconvenience. Security was beefed up in and

around the temple to manage the crowd and maintain law and order during the festival. As part of security measures, around 2500 police personnel were deployed by the state government. City police were supported by district forces, and crime patrol teams were stationed across the area to prevent incidents of

pickpocketing and chain snatching. CCTV cameras were installed at key locations to monitor the event and respond swiftly to any situation. Given the huge turnout, devotees had to wait for several hours to have darshan of Mahankali Ammavaru. Despite the wait, the enthusiasm among the pilgrims remained high, with chants and devotional singing resonating through the temple area. Bonalu at Lal Darwaza is one of the most significant religious events in Hyderabad, drawing thousands each year to celebrate the divine feminine power with devotion and tradition.

Ministers Offer Prayers at Charminar

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Komatireddy Venkata Reddy recently visited the historic Charminar area to offer prayers at the revered Goddess Bhagyalakshmi Ammavari temple. Their visit came amid the ongoing Bonalu festival celebrations that have been lighting up the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad with vibrant cultural and religious fervor. During their prayers, both Ministers sought blessings for the health and well-being of the people of Telangana, emphasizing unity and prosperity during these auspicious days. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar conveyed heartfelt wishes for peace and progress throughout the state.

He said, “May Goddess Bhagyalakshmi grant strength and courage to all Telangana residents. Her divine blessings will help prevent accidents and safeguard everyone.” His words resonated deeply with devotees gathered at the temple, who joined in the prayers with devotion. The Bonalu festival concluded successfully last week with grand celebrations at the famed Ujjain Mahankali temple in Secunderabad, attracting large crowds of enthusiastic devotees. The festivities also included the grand Balkampet Yellamma Thalli Kalyanam, marked by traditional rituals and widespread participation. These events highlight the rich cultural heritage of Telangana and the enduring devotion of its people.

Bonalu is currently being celebrated at numerous temples across Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The city administration, in close coordination with temple authorities, has ensured that all necessary arrangements are made for smooth and safe celebrations. Facilities such as crowd management, security, and amenities for devotees have been meticulously planned to uphold the sanctity and joy of the festival. In a show of goodwill, both Ministers extended warm greetings to the people of Telangana, wishing them a “Happy Bonalu festival.” Their visit and messages reflect the spirit of harmony and cultural pride that Bonalu inspires throughout the region each year.



Raja Singh Seeks Cow Slaughter Ban

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Goshamahala MLA T Raja Singh on Sunday demanded that the Telangana government bring legislation to ban the slaughter of cows and bulls in the state. Participating in Bonalu festivities at the Simhavahini Mahankali Temple in Lal Darwaza, he alleged that cattle slaughter continues unchecked and needs immediate government intervention.



He further claimed that attempts were being made to distort the essence of Bonalu by turning it into a festival of “drinking and dancing” and said such practices disrespected religious traditions. Raja Singh, who recently resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), reiterated that he will not join the Congress or Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). Refuting social media rumours, he said, “I will fight for Dharma and continue to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah.” His resignation followed opposition to the appointment of N Ramchander Rao as the BJP’s Telangana president. The party leadership has accepted his decision and relieved him from his role. Later, Raja Singh was felicitated by members of the temple committee in recognition of his continued support for traditional values and his active participation in the Bonalu celebrations.

Twin Lakes Rise as Monsoon Hits Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The monsoon showers over the past few days have led to moderate inflows into Hyderabad’s twin reservoirs Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar though both remain below their Full Tank Levels (FTL). Authorities continue to monitor the situation as more rainfall is expected in the coming weeks. Osman Sagar recorded a water level of 1782.80 feet against its FTL of 1790.00 feet. The reservoir currently holds 2.474 TMC of water and is receiving an inflow of 370 cusecs. There are no outflows from the reservoir at present, and the gates remain closed. Himayat Sagar, which has a Full Tank Level of 1763.50 feet, currently stands at 1759.15 feet with a water storage of 2.164 TMC. The inflow into the reservoir is reported to be 200 cusecs. Like Osman Sagar, no outflows have been reported, and the gates remain shut. In view of the ongoing rains, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has issued a public advisory urging residents to avoid non-essential travel, particularly in low-lying or waterlogged areas. People are also advised to stay alert near construction zones, open drains, and manholes, and to avoid parking vehicles under trees or near weak structures. The GHMC has urged residents to keep emergency supplies and contact numbers ready. Citizens can report rain-related issues by calling the HYDRAA Control Room at 040-29555500 or 9000113667, or the ICCR Control Room at 8712674000. Officials have confirmed that the situation is under continuous watch as the city prepares for possible further rainfall in the coming days.



Save Us from Sewage: Residents Protest



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The residents of Simhapuri Colony in Bowrampet staged a protest, holding placards and voicing their frustration over the long-standing sewage problem in their area. They stated that they had raised the issue multiple times with municipal authorities, but their complaints were continuously ignored. They explained that the entire drainage system of the colony had been discharging into a nearby pond, causing a foul smell and a severe

mosquito problem, especially at night. Residents said this had led to health issues and made daily life unbearable. According to the protesters, the 1.80-acre Balijawani Kunta pond had become completely filled with sewage water. They demanded that the remaining government land around the pond be developed into a public park to improve the living environment. They also alleged that borewell water had become contaminated due to mixing with drainage water.

They pointed out that due to the lack of renovation of the tank and canal, stagnant sewage water had affected people from Balijawanikunta to Ramjilkunta for the past four years. “We built roads and drainage systems with our own money,” one resident claimed. “Yet the municipality continued collecting taxes while failing to address our problems.” The residents issued a stern warning to municipal, revenue, and irrigation officials, demanding that the drainage and road issues be resolved

immediately. They threatened to launch a dharna in front of the municipal office if their demands were not met. They also criticized political leaders, saying they only made promises during elections and never returned afterward. The protesters warned that they would teach such leaders a lesson through their votes in the upcoming elections. The protest was led by social activist Akula Satish, along with association members and colony residents.

Doctors Warn on Stroke

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Doctors from the Indian Stroke Association have emphasized that timely detection and treatment are crucial in preventing brain strokes. In a stroke awareness event held at Begumpet, neurologists Dr. Subhash Kaul, Dr. P. Vijaya, Dr. G. Vijaya, and Dr. Salil Uppal provided valuable insights into recognizing stroke symptoms and taking swift action. The experts urged attendees to be vigilant for early warning signs such as sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body, difficulty speaking, vision changes, or severe headache. “Recognizing these symptoms and calling emergency services immediately can be life-saving,” said Dr. Kaul. Dr. P. Vijaya highlighted the importance of managing risk factors like high blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking, while Dr. G. Vijaya stressed lifestyle modifications such as a healthy diet, regular exercise, and stress control. Citing World Health Organization data, the doctors noted that one in four people globally may experience a stroke during their lifetime. Dr. Uppal emphasized, “Public awareness and preventive measures are essential to re-



ducing stroke-related deaths and disabilities.” The program, which drew a diverse audience including local residents and healthcare pro-

fessionals, featured informative sessions and Q&A rounds. The Indian Stroke Association plans to conduct similar awareness programs across

the city to educate the public and promote early detection and intervention, strengthening the fight against this life-threatening condition.

Ashvapuram Heavy Water Plant Boosts Nuclear Power

TPN Correspondent | Anvesh Reddy

The Heavy Water Plant in Ashvapuram Mandal, Bhadradri Kothagudem district, has been a vital part of India's nuclear energy program since its establishment in the 1980s. The plant produces heavy water (deuterium oxide), a key element used in nuclear reactors to control neutron speed and act as a coolant. Its creation aimed to reduce India's

reliance on imports and promote self-sufficiency through indigenous technology. Using the hydrogen sulfide-water exchange process, the plant produces high-quality heavy water essential for safe reactor operation. Despite initial technical challenges and equipment issues, the plant overcame these hurdles through continuous research and innovation. It also follows strict safety and

environmental guidelines, ensuring waste is properly treated and security is maintained. The plant has had a positive impact on the local economy by creating jobs for thousands in technical and administrative roles. It has also helped improve infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and transportation facilities. Local businesses have benefited from supplying goods

and services to the facility. With India's growing nuclear energy needs, the Ashvapuram plant is set to expand its production capacity. Plans are underway to introduce modern, eco-friendly technology to further improve efficiency. Overall, the Ashvapuram Heavy Water Plant is a cornerstone of India's nuclear program and a key driver of development in the Bhadradri Kothagudem region.



Sabita Indra Reddy at Ashada Bonalu

TPN Correspondent |Telangana

Former Minister and Maheshwaram MLA Sabita Indra Reddy actively participated in the Ashada month Bonalu festivities by attending special puja programs held at the Lenin Nagar Katta Maisamma Ammavari temple. The celebrations took place under the jurisdiction of the Meerpet Municipal Corporation in the Maheshwaram constituency.

Sabita Indra Reddy offered her prayers to the goddess amidst a gathering of devotees, emphasizing the importance of preserving and promoting Telangana's rich cultural traditions. The event was marked by traditional rituals and devotional fervor as the community came together to seek blessings during this auspicious month. Joining the MLA in the celebrations were



several local leaders, including Meerpet Municipal Corporation Working President Dindu Bhupesh Goud, Presidents Seenu Nayak and Arkala Kamesh Reddy, as well as Women President Sunitha Balaraj. Their presence highlighted the collective spirit of the community and the administration's support in organizing the festival smoothly.

Dog Nursing Calf Stuns Locals

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

A bizarre and heartwarming incident has come to light from Gonumakanapalli village in V. Kota mandal, Palamaneru, Chittoor district. A dog nursing a calf as if it were its own has left villagers astonished and sparked widespread curiosity. According to locals, the dog has been feeding the calf daily without fail, much like a mother would care for her young. The unusual bond between the dog and the calf has drawn comparisons to the predictions in Brahmagari Kalaganam, which mentions strange events in the Kali Yuga. Videos of the dog nursing the calf have gone



viral on social media, with people expressing both surprise and admiration. Many are treating the incident as a divine or symbolic gesture, reflective of the times. Villagers say the dog shows great affection and doesn't allow anyone to harm or go near the calf. It reportedly took over mothering duties after the calf lost its mother. This strange event has turned the small village into a local attraction, with people from nearby areas visiting to witness the scene firsthand. While some see it as a natural act of compassion, others believe it's a sign of deeper spiritual meaning.

Tight Security at Uppal Stadium

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Heavy security was deployed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal, Hyderabad, on Sunday in view of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) general body meeting. Police presence was intensified to prevent any untoward incidents, with multiple checkpoints and personnel stationed around the venue. Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu personally visited the stadium to oversee security arrangements and monitor the situation. The heightened measures were implemented following internal disputes and tensions within the HCA that

have led to controversies in recent times. As per the instructions from the HCA, only secretaries of the 173 officially recognized cricket clubs were permitted entry into the meeting venue. Security personnel strictly enforced this decision, checking identity cards and verifying credentials before allowing access. The HCA made it clear that secretaries of clubs that were previously suspended are not allowed to attend the meeting. This decision was taken to maintain the integrity and order of the proceedings. The HCA stated that only eligible and verified members would be part of the discussions and decision-making process. Several local leaders and

cricket enthusiasts gathered outside the stadium but were denied entry due to the restricted access. Police ensured the gathering did not escalate into a protest or disturbance. The general body meeting is expected to discuss key administrative issues, pending decisions regarding club memberships, and future cricketing plans in Hyderabad. The HCA's firm stance on attendance and the police's tight coordination helped the event proceed without disruptions. The incident highlights the growing tensions within Hyderabad's cricket administration and the need for transparent governance moving forward.



Bhadradri Leads Tribal Growth

TPN Correspondent | Anvesh Reddy

Bhadradri Kothagudem district, with its significant tribal population, is leading the way in development by preserving tribal culture and promoting unity, said Professor Kannan Maudagalaya, Principal Investigator of the FOG Project, IIT Bombay. Professor Kannan visited the Youth Training Centre (YTC) and Tribal Museum along with District Collector Jitesh V Patil and ITDA PO B. Rahul to review self-employment and welfare schemes for tribals by the Bhadrachalam ITDA. He praised the District Collector for receiving the Open Source GIS Cohort Awards for innovative efforts in using geo-spatial technology to



address rural problems and for guiding tribals towards profitable, low-investment income sources to improve financial stability. Professor Kannan also appreciated the museum's design, which showcases endangered tribal culture, traditions, and artifacts in a way that engages youth. He suggested that information boards be bilingual in Telugu and English to better inform visitors about tribal

heritage. District Collector Jitesh V Patil informed that ITDA is providing special training at YTC to unemployed tribal youth to prepare them for government and private sector jobs. Training on making cement bricks from natural village resources is also being offered, along with subsidies to increase livelihood opportunities. Various welfare schemes and the promotion of medicinal plants are part of ongoing efforts to support tribal communities. The event included participation from ITDA officials such as Administrative Officer Sunnam Rambabu, Manager Adinarayana, R.I. Narasimha Rao, and Ram Kumar.—Issued from the office of Additional Public Relations Officer, Bhadrachalam

Bus-Lorry Collision in Nalgonda

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

A serious road accident occurred on the Addanki-Narketpally National Highway in Nalgonda district when a double-decker bus collided with a ready-mix concrete lorry near Yellareddyguda. The crash left the bus driver seriously injured, while several passengers suffered minor injuries. The front portion of the bus was severely damaged, leading to panic among commuters and a massive traffic jam along the highway. According to eyewitnesses, the bus was heading towards Hyderabad and attempted to overtake the slow-moving lorry when the collision took place. The impact brought traffic to a standstill for several kilometers, with vehicles stranded in both directions. Local police rushed to the spot, rescued the injured, and worked to clear the wreckage and restore traffic flow. Authorities have launched an investigation into the incident to determine whether the cause was speeding, driver negligence, or poor visibility. The injured bus driver was shifted to a nearby hospital and is under medical supervision. The incident has once again raised serious concerns about road safety on national highways, especially involving heavy and multi-tiered vehicles. Locals have called for stricter enforcement of traffic rules and better safety measures to prevent such mishaps in the future.

Tension Over Podu Land

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

A violent clash broke out in Keshavpatnam village under Ichchoda mandal of Adilabad district when a group of podu farmers allegedly attacked forest and police officials who were conducting a plantation drive as part of the state's afforestation programme. The incident occurred when officials began planting saplings in forest-designated areas that have been under cultivation for years by tribal and local farmers through the traditional podu farming method. According to reports, tensions flared when the farmers, mostly from the Multani Muslim community, confronted the officials, claiming the land as their own and demanding that the authorities stop planting activities. As the officials proceeded with the plantation, the farmers reportedly resorted to throwing stones and attacking them with sticks. A government vehicle was also damaged in the melee. Several personnel from the

forest and police departments sustained injuries in the attack. The injured were immediately shifted to nearby hospitals in Ichchoda and later to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Adilabad for further treatment. The condition of some of the injured is said to be stable. The incident has once again brought the long-standing conflict between podu farmers and the forest department to the forefront. While the government has been attempting to protect forest lands and carry out afforestation drives, many tribal and local farmers claim the land has been under cultivation for generations and accuse officials of forcefully evicting them without proper rehabilitation or land rights. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation. Security has been tightened in the area to prevent further escalation. Senior district and forest officials are expected to visit the village to assess the situation and hold talks with both parties.

Nagarjuna Sagar Inflows Push Storage Levels Up

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

With heavy inflows continuing, the Krishna River has begun surging into Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, raising hopes of it reaching full capacity in the coming days. As of 12 PM on Saturday, the reservoir received 67,800 cusecs of inflow, pushing water levels to 564.4 feet and storage to 242.72 TMC. The dam needs about 69 TMC more to reach its full capacity. Officials estimate that with continued inflows from upstream reservoirs, the dam may reach full capacity within three to four days. Currently, massive volumes of floodwaters are being released from upstream

projects like Almatti and Narayanpur dams in Karnataka and Maharashtra due to widespread rainfall. Srisailem is once again witnessing rising flood intensity, with inflows touching 1,56,327 cusecs from Jurala and Sunke-sula barrages. From Srisailem, around 68,000 cusecs are being released downstream toward Nagarjuna Sagar through power generation to cater to both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Andhra Pradesh is drawing 20,000 cusecs through the Pothireddypadu head regulator and 1,013 cusecs for the Handri-Neva project. Telangana is lifting 1,600 cusecs via the Kalwakurthy Lift Irri-



gation Scheme. Almatti Dam is receiving around 94,000 cusecs and releasing 90,000 cusecs downstream. Narayanpur Dam is witnessing an inflow of 1.15 lakh cusecs, with 1.01 lakh cusecs being discharged. Meanwhile, Jurala Project is receiving 1.15 lakh cusecs and releasing 1.22

lakh cusecs downstream. Tungabhadra Dam is also contributing with an inflow of 39,339 cusecs, which is being passed downstream to Srisailem. With consistent rains across upper catchment areas, flood intensity is expected to rise further in the coming days.



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-



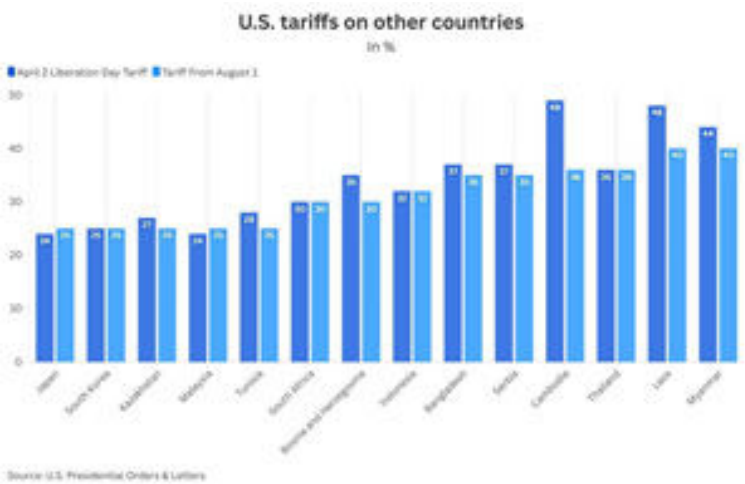
sponse, Iran launched waves of missile and drone strikes at Israel, with both sides suffering varying degrees of damage.

"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.

Peter Bendor-Samuel, founder of Everest Group, called the move a "return to Capgemini's acquisition-led growth model" and said it could set off a chain reaction of strategic mergers and acquisitions across the industry.

WNS brings deep domain expertise, a strong North American and UK client base, and strategic sourcing capabilities, especially from its 2017 acquisition of Denali. Analysts say Capgemini can now

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.

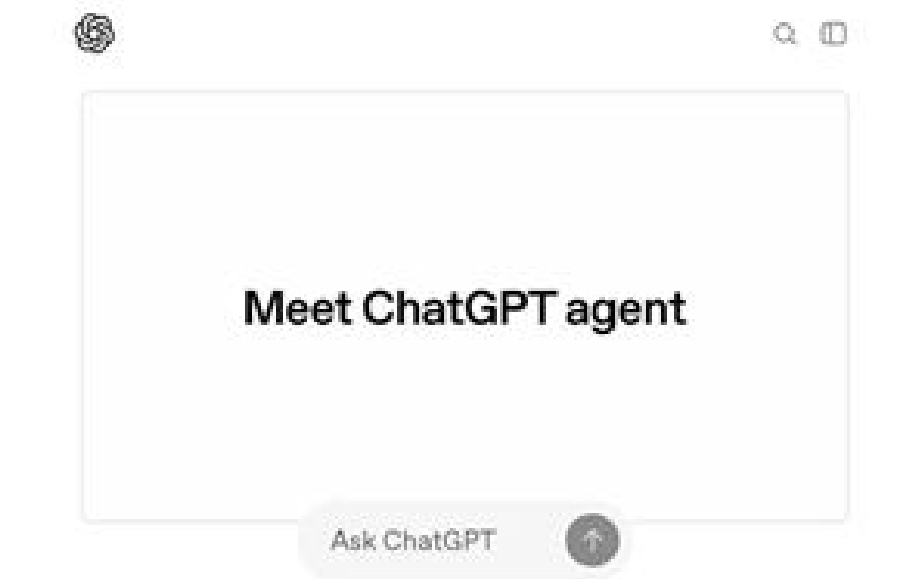
Despite the increasing popularity of futures and options (F&O) trading among retail investors, the SEBI study found that the risks continue to outweigh the rewards for most participants. A staggering 91% of individual traders continued to report net losses in FY25, a percentage nearly unchanged from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

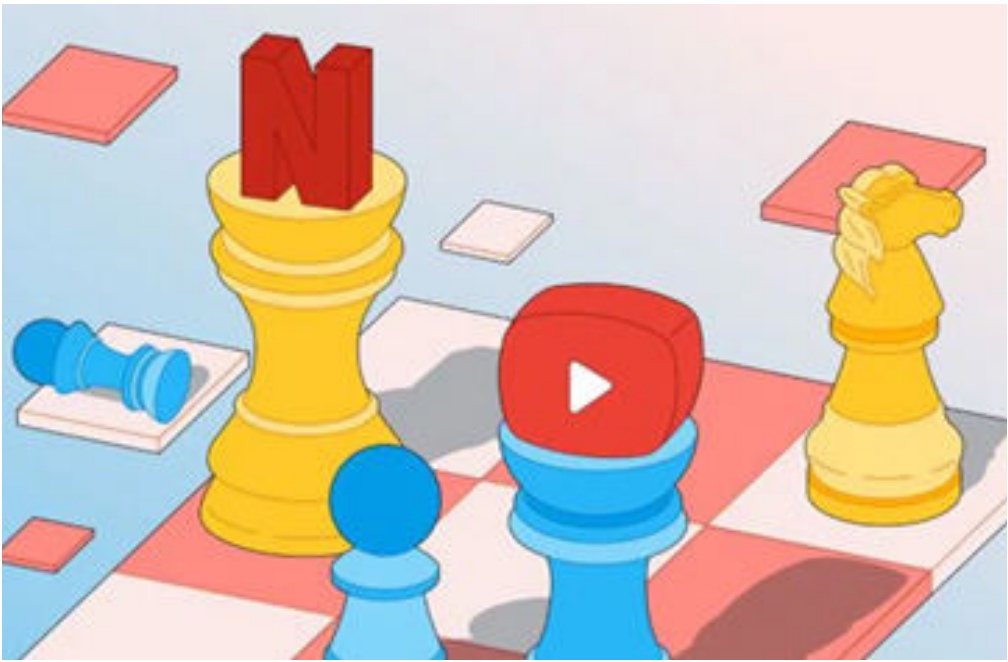
The Streaming Wars Narrow: YouTube vs. Netflix Battle for TV Domination

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 Pahalgam, 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.