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Vizag, Vijayawada Metro Tenders Today



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government is set to invite tenders for the long-awaited metro rail projects in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada on Friday. The combined estimated cost of the two projects stands at ₹21,616 crore. The Vizag Metro Rail Project is projected to cost ₹11,498 crore, while the Vijayawada Metro Rail Project will be taken up at an estimated cost of ₹10,118 crore. Both metro projects are being developed under a 50:50 partnership model between the central and state governments. This funding model aims to ensure timely execution with shared responsibility and financial support from both sides. To meet its share of the funding commitment, the state government has already arranged internal budgetary support through its urban development authorities. For the Vizag Metro, the state has redirected ₹4,101 crore from the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA). Similarly, for the Vijayawada Metro, ₹3,497 crore has been allocated through the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA). Officials stated that this marks a significant milestone in advancing urban transport infrastructure in the state's two largest cities. The proposed metro systems are expected to decongest traffic, improve urban mobility, and promote environmentally sustainable transport. With tenders being floated on Friday, the groundwork for both projects is expected to gain momentum, bringing the long-pending metro aspirations of Vizag and Vijayawada residents closer to reality.

SIT Acting on Yellow Media's Script: Kethireddy



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Tadepalli: Former MLA Kethireddy Venkatarami Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the TDP-led coalition government, accusing it of acting under the influence of “yellow media” rather than functioning as a legal investigative body. Addressing a press conference at the YSR Congress Party's state office in Tadepalli, Reddy alleged that the SIT's probe into the liquor scam is entirely driven by media narratives fabricated to malign YSRC leaders. He claimed the SIT lacks any factual or documentary evidence and is instead depending on coerced statements and manipulated witness testimonies. “Remand reports are being leaked to newspapers even before they reach the court. This clearly shows a deep nexus between the SIT and certain sections of the media,” Reddy stated.

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Sricity–Nova Pact for Nitrogen Supply

TPN Correspondent | Sricity

Sricity has taken another significant step toward enhancing world-class infrastructure within its industrial hub by signing an agreement with Nova Air Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The partnership focuses on establishing a nitrogen gas pipeline system aimed at providing stable and high-quality nitrogen gas supply to manufacturing industries operating in the region.

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CABINET APPROVES Rs. 70,000 Cr Investments



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, met on Thursday at the State Secretariat and approved fresh investments worth ₹70,000 crore. The Chief Minister held detailed discussions with his ministers on key development issues and said the proposed industries, once grounded, would generate one lakh jobs across the state. He emphasized the need to actively pursue the implementation of these projects without delay. Industries in sectors like IT, renewable energy, electronics, drones, and automobiles will be established under this initiative. CM Naidu urged his ministers to closely monitor the grounding of these industries to ensure rapid employment generation. Housing for the poor and Green Hydrogen push Naidu directed officials to immediately initiate the housing programme for the underprivileged. He said three cents of land would be given to the poor in villages and

two cents in towns. He also underlined the importance of leading in the Green Hydrogen Valley mission, much like the Quantum Valley, and stressed the long-term benefits Andhra Pradesh could gain by being a frontrunner in this sector.

Reviving Singapore collaboration Highlighting past ties with Singapore, Naidu recalled how the Singapore government came forward to support Andhra Pradesh's development post-bifurcation. He criticized the previous YSRC government for damaging this partnership. The Chief Minister stated that the Singapore consortium had played a key role in the startup area development of Amaravati, but was later forced to exit by then CM Jagan Mohan Reddy. “False corruption allegations and attempts to file cases on the consortium officials led to complete dissatisfaction from Singapore's side,” Naidu noted, calling for renewed ties with the country. He revealed that the consortium is still willing to participate in proj-

ects, except the Seed Capital. **Other major Cabinet decisions** The Cabinet also decided to waive interest on water tax for the financial year 2024–25. It reviewed the Justice Satyanarayana Murthy Commission report on the Tirupati stampede incident and directed action against two officials — the Cow Protection Officer and a DSP — through criminal proceedings. However, the then Tirupati SP Subbaraidu was given a clean chit by the one-man commission. On the issue of unauthorized constructions in Tirupati, the Cabinet proposed a thorough re-discussion before taking a final call. Ministers suggested framing a clear legal framework after this round of regularization to prevent future encroachments. Minister Nandendla Manohar remarked that regularization cannot be a recurring process, stressing the need for a permanent legal solution. CM Naidu agreed and stated that the matter would be revisited in the next Cabinet meeting.

AP Shines Again... Wins Prestigious Emerging Coastal and Heritage Award

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Tourism has been selected for the prestigious Emerging Coastal and Heritage Award by the U.S.-based International Tourism Conclave and Travel Awards (ITCTA). The award ceremony will take place on Saturday, at Le Meridien in New Delhi. The ITCTA has recognized the outstanding achievements and entrepreneurial excellence of Andhra Pradesh Tourism, particularly in promoting the state's coastal and heritage tourism. This award is a testament to the state's innovative policies, new initiatives, and revolutionary reforms in the tourism sector. Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) Managing Director, Amarpali Kata, congratulated the team and expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Tourism Minis-

ter, Kandula Durgesh, APTDC Chairman, Nukasani Balaji, and Principal Secretary, Ajay Jain, for their support and guidance. The award is a significant recognition of the state's efforts to promote



Low Pressure Triggers Rain Alert

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh: A low-pressure area has developed over the North Bay of Bengal and is likely to intensify in the next 24 hours, according to Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhar Jain. The system is expected to move northwest towards the West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts, and later towards northern Odisha and the West Bengal coastlines over the next 48 hours. Due to this development, coastal Andhra Pradesh is expected to receive scattered heavy rainfall until Sunday. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea, and the public is urged to remain alert due to possible thunderstorms and lightning. On Friday, heavy rain is likely in parts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts. Moderate to heavy showers are expected in Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, East and West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, and NTR districts. Light to moderate rainfall is expected in the remaining parts of the state. North Andhra may see isolated heavy rainfall on Saturday, with light to moderate showers in other regions. As of 5 PM Thursday, Seethampeta recorded 58 mm rainfall, Mandasa 49.7 mm, Munchingiputtu 44.5 mm, Chin- tapalli 41.5 mm, and Vajrapukotturu 40.7 mm.



Bapatla Collector Adopts 10 Tribal Families

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Trump Warns Tech Giants Against Hiring in India, China

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Former US President Donald Trump has issued a sharp warning to American tech giants, urging them to stop hiring in countries like India and China and instead focus on creating jobs at home. Speaking at a high-profile Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit in Washington, Trump criticized companies such as Google and Microsoft for outsourcing jobs and investing overseas. “Many of our largest tech companies have reaped the blessings of American freedom while building their factories in China,

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tourism and will further boost the sector's growth. APTDC MD, Amarpali Kata, expressed her commitment to taking Andhra Pradesh tourism to new heights and making it a preferred destination for tourists.



Trump...

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hiring workers in India, and stashing profits in Ireland,” Trump said. “Under President Trump, those days are over.” Calling for a renewed focus on “patriotism and national loyalty,” he pressed Silicon Valley to “put America first” and prioritize domestic innovation in the AI sector. He urged US technology firms to be fully committed to American interests in the global AI race. During the summit, Trump unveiled three major executive orders aimed at reshaping the country’s AI landscape. The central initiative, titled Winning the Race, is designed to fast-track AI infrastructure development, including the expansion of data centers and the removal of regulatory hurdles to promote growth within the US. Another directive focuses on eliminating ideological bias from AI systems built with federal funding. Trump emphasized that accuracy must come before diversity agendas, declaring, “We are getting rid of woke.” He also questioned the term “artificial intelligence,” stating, “It’s not artificial, it’s genius,” and hinted at rebranding efforts to reflect AI’s real impact.

SIT Acting on Yellow...

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Refuting the allegations of irregularities during the YSRCP regime, Reddy said all the questioned distilleries were approved during the previous TDP government. “Not a single new distillery was sanctioned under YSRCP’s rule,” he asserted. He also condemned what he described as blatant violations of court orders by the police, particularly regarding restrictions placed on the movement of his uncle, Kethireddy Pedda Reddy. He warned that officials supporting the current government’s political vendetta would face consequences when YSRCP regains power. Targeting Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan, Reddy accused him of losing public trust and acting as a tool for Chandrababu Naidu’s political strategies. He recalled that Pawan had earlier made sensational claims about 30,000 missing girls under the YSRCP regime, but the case was later withdrawn by the coalition government. “We are fighting that case legally and will continue our resistance against injustice,” Reddy affirmed.

India’s First Quantum Tech Hub in Amaravati: CM

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

The state government of Andhra Pradesh is set to achieve a major milestone in the field of quantum technology by partnering with QPI-AI (Quantum Predictive and Artificial Intelligence) in the development of Amaravati Quantum Valley. This initiative, a key component under the National Quantum Mission, marks India’s first such establishment and aims to transform Amaravati into a global hub for quantum computing, innovation, and research. QPI-AI founder Nagendra Nagarajan met with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday to discuss the institution’s involvement in the project, particularly their plan to set up an advanced 8-qubit quantum computer.

Excellence Hub for Young Innovators

During the meeting, CM Naidu emphasized the importance of making quantum innovations accessible for public benefit. He requested QPIAI to establish a Center of Excellence in Amaravati to support students, startups, and researchers. The center would serve as a platform for devel-



oping quantum algorithms and applications that address real-world challenges. CM Naidu expressed his vision of leveraging the quantum valley to drive scientific exploration, industrial innovation, and youth empowerment through skilling and research opportunities.

Quantum Tech for Agriculture, Water, and Health

Highlighting the potential of quantum

computing in multiple sectors, the Chief Minister stressed its utility in enhancing agricultural productivity by providing timely insights into crop patterns and disease predictions. He suggested that quantum computing could help increase farmers’ incomes through accurate forecasting and advisory services. Additionally, the technology could support efficient water resource management and improve outcomes in health diagnostics and medical logistics through quantum simulations.

The government is also exploring the integration of quantum technology into skill development initiatives aimed at empowering the youth. CM Naidu reiterated that deep technologies like quantum computing must be utilized to improve the socio-economic conditions of common citizens. He stated that the collaboration between QPIAI, National Quantum Mission, and Amaravati Quantum Valley is aimed at maximizing benefits in education, research, and innovation for the broader society.

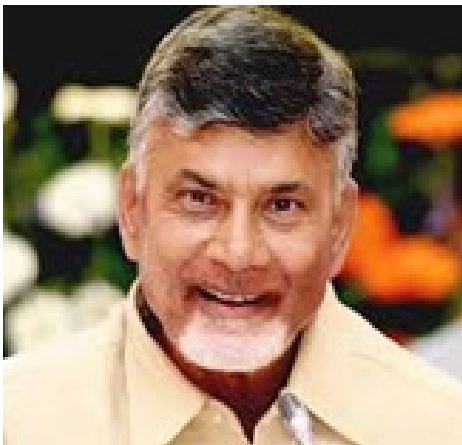
CM Naidu on 6-Day Singapore Tour

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a strategic move to boost investments in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will embark on a six-day visit to Singapore from July 26 to 31. This is his second foreign tour after the formation of the new coalition government, following his earlier visit to Davos. The key focus of this visit is to promote “Brand AP” and attract global investors by highlighting the state’s pro-industry policies and ease of doing business reforms. The CM is scheduled to meet representatives, CEOs, and top executives from leading multinational companies during the tour.

Focus on Industrial Growth and Infrastructure

The state government aims to showcase Andhra Pradesh’s strengths,



including world-class infrastructure like ports, airports, highways, and the 1,053-km-long coastline. The availability of skilled human resources and investor-friendly land policies will also be highlighted in meetings with industrialists. On the first day, the CM will address the “Telugu Diaspora” meet organized by NRIs residing in Singapore and neighboring countries. He is expect-

ed to invite them to invest in Andhra Pradesh and seek their participation in the state’s P4 initiative aimed at poverty alleviation.

Prepping for Visakhapatnam Investment Summit

A key agenda item during the visit is to invite Singapore-based business leaders to the upcoming Global Investment Summit to be held in Visakhapatnam this November. The CM will hold talks on attracting investments in sectors such as port-based projects, semiconductors, AI, and data centers. He will also attend business roundtable sessions focused on digital economy and fintech and will participate in a business roadshow organized in Singapore. In addition, the CM will visit logistics hubs and other infrastructure centers to explore new models for AP’s development.

Sricity–Nova Pact for Nitrogen...

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As part of the agreement, Nova Air will take full responsibility for designing, constructing, and maintaining the pipeline network across the industrial area. The Sricity administration has granted the company exclusive rights necessary to facilitate seamless gas distribution. The project will be implemented in a phased manner to ensure there is no disruption to ongoing industrial operations. This pipeline network is expected to significantly improve utility supply efficiency and provide a sustainable solution for industrial gas requirements. Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy, Managing Director of Sricity, stated that the collaboration with Nova Air marks another milestone in the region’s journey to becoming a benchmark for industrial infrastructure. He noted that the initiative reflects Sricity’s commitment to offering innovation, sustainability, and global-standard amenities to its industrial clients. Expressing satisfaction over the agreement, Nova Air Technologies MD & CEO Gajanan Nabar said that while utility pipeline networks are common in developed countries’ industrial parks, this initiative may be among the first of its kind in India. He highlighted that the strategic partnership would enable Nova Air to deliver consistent and quality gas supply solutions, enhancing productivity for industries in the region.

APAIMS 2.0 App Launched to Empower Farmers

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Amaravati: Budithi Rajasekhara, IAS, Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation), launched the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Information and Management System (APAIMS 2.0) mobile application on Thursday at the Office of the Director of Agriculture, Mangalagiri. Developed by Vassar Labs, the app aims to transform agriculture by delivering real-time information to over 10,000 field officers and farmers across the state. Rolled out for the Kharif season, APAIMS 2.0 enables agricultural officers



to collect data and monitor schemes like Polambadi, Polam Pilustondi, Farm Mechanization Information Survey, Cluster Demonstration, and Pest Surveillance & Validation. From the Rabi season, farmers will gain

access to integrated information on seeds, weather, market prices, and more, aligning with the vision of the Hon’ble Chief Minister for accessible agricultural solutions. The app’s AI and Gen-AI features provide guidance on crop practices, pest management, input optimization, and market trends. Its AI-based pest detection tool offers image-based identification and remedial actions to reduce crop losses. Special Chief Secretary Rajasekhara emphasized the need for authentic historical data to ensure the app’s credibility, urging Vassar Labs to

source reliable information from the agricultural sectors. “Accurate data is key to building farmers’ trust in the app’s recommendations,” he noted. Director of Agriculture Dilli Rao highlighted the role in enhancing transparency and efficiency. The launch, attended by Additional Director Vijayalakshmi, Superintending Engineer Sridhar, Deputy Directors Balu Nayak and Swarna Vijaya, and Vassar Labs representatives, marks a milestone in Andhra Pradesh’s agricultural modernization, empowering farmers with precision and knowledge.

Excise Director Orders Staff Overhaul

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a decisive move to tighten enforcement and improve accountability under the Navodayam 2.0 initiative, the Director of Excise and Prohibition, Nishant Kumar, has ordered a complete staff overhaul in two key Excise Stations in East Godavari district. The action was prompted by continued underperformance and enforcement lapses in Rajamahendravaram North and South Excise Stations.

Following a detailed review of operations and enforcement progress in the region, the department concluded that the two stations had failed to meet expectations despite repeated instructions and follow-up assessments. Issues such as poor enforcement intensity, lack of field alertness, and ineffective control over illegal liquor activities were reportedly persistent. To address these concerns, the Director directed that all staff members posted

in Rajamahendravaram North and South be transferred with immediate effect. Fresh teams drawn from other excise units have now been deployed at these stations. This reallocation is part of the department’s broader strategy to inject efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness into field operations under Navodayam 2.0. The Excise Department has emphasized that this is not an isolated decision but part of a wider push to improve field-level enforcement across

the state. Officials said that similar reviews will continue in other districts, and wherever underperformance is identified, necessary disciplinary or corrective action will follow. Navodayam 2.0 aims to curtail illegal liquor trade, boost legal revenue, and ensure that excise policies are strictly implemented at the ground level. The initiative includes a mix of field inspections, real-time monitoring, inter-departmental coordination, and personnel accountability.

Sources in the department revealed that more station-level audits and performance reviews are scheduled in the coming weeks. The department reiterated that only personnel demonstrating commitment, vigilance, and results will continue in enforcement roles. This swift and comprehensive reshuffling in East Godavari is expected to send a strong message across the department about the seriousness of the Navodayam 2.0 mission.

Electoral Officer Holds Crucial Meet

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) convened a key meeting on July 24 with representatives of national and state political parties to discuss voter list revision and election procedures. The meeting was part of a preparatory effort for the Election Commission of India's proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across the country. Representing the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) were MLC Alapati Rajendra Prasad, former MLC and Central TDP Office Secretary Paruchuri Ashok Babu, and S. Rajasekhhar, Chairman of the

AP Education Welfare and Infrastructure Development Corporation. During the discussions, the TDP delegation voiced strong opposition to using the 2002 voter rolls from undivided Andhra Pradesh as the base for the SIR. They pointed out that many people from Andhra region who migrated to Hyderabad before the state's bifurcation would face challenges in restoring their voting rights if 2002 is used as the baseline. Instead, the TDP urged that the 2014 voter list, prepared during the state bifurcation, be treated as the standard reference. They stressed that any changes

must be made only after thorough consultations with all political parties. The TDP also raised several technical and procedural concerns to improve voter accessibility and transparency. They demanded proper identification cards and training for Booth Level Agents (BLAs), emphasizing the need for mandal- and constituency-level workshops. They called for better coordination between BLAs and local bodies to identify and remove names of deceased voters from rolls. The party highlighted that all members of a household should be listed under the same polling station to

avoid confusion, citing errors that occurred during the 2024 elections. The party urged the cancellation of the "zero door number" system and suggested that temporary addresses be recorded using adjacent house numbers until a permanent fix is in place. They also requested that private schools and colleges be considered as polling venues where government buildings lack basic amenities. Regarding duplicate votes, the TDP asked the Commission to treat Andhra Pradesh as a single unit and to coordinate with neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana, especially in border dis-

tricts such as Chittoor, Nellore, and Kurnool, to ensure each citizen is registered only once. The TDP delegation proposed several more improvements. These include increasing the visibility and duration of party symbols on VVPAT slips, extending polling hours to compensate for time lost due to EVM issues, and enabling the Election Commission's mobile app to function offline in remote areas. They also asked for voter awareness campaigns through colleges to register newly eligible 18-year-olds, and for at least 50% of VVPAT slips to be verified for transparency. Special arrangements for se-



nior citizens, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women were requested, along with the establishment of additional polling booths wherever the number of voters exceeds 900 per booth. The TDP stated that implementing these reforms would enhance transparency, improve voter experience, and strengthen democratic processes in the state.

Floodwaters to Feed Drought Zones: Ramanaidu

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Andhra Pradesh Minister for Water Resources Dr. Nimmala Ramanaidu paid rich tributes to Sir Arthur Cotton at the Secretariat in Amaravati on the occasion of his death anniversary. He described Cotton as a visionary British engineer who played a crucial role in constructing the Dhavaleswaram Anicut and developing extensive canal systems in the Godavari and Krishna regions, thereby revolutionizing agriculture in the state. The minister took the opportunity to criticize the previous YSRCP government, claiming that Sir Cotton's soul would be anguished by the damage inflicted on the irrigation sector over the past five years. He accused the former regime of stalling the Polavaram project and causing overall destruction to the state's irrigation systems. Dr. Ramanaidu stated that under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu



bu Naidu's leadership, the government is putting irrigation projects back on track. Inspired by Cotton's legacy, the Chief Minister has proposed the Polavaram-Banakacharla Link Project to prevent Godavari floodwaters from being wasted in the sea. This project aims to divert the surplus waters to drought-prone areas, particularly benefiting the Rayalaseema region. The minister highlighted the Chief Minister's commitment to linking rivers across the state to eliminate drought and ensure water security. He assured

that the completion of the Polavaram project will provide irrigation and drinking water to both Uttarandhra and Rayalaseema regions, helping to fulfill the government's vision of inclusive water distribution. After the coalition government assumed power, ₹700 crore has been allocated for maintenance works on irrigation canals and drainage systems. These funds are being used to ensure the smooth supply of irrigation water across the state, marking a significant step toward agricultural revival and rural development.

Srikanth Reddy Slams Coalition

TPN Correspondent | Rayachoti
YSRCP state general secretary Gadikota Srikanth Reddy strongly criticized the NDA coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, accusing it of ignoring public welfare over the past 14 months. Addressing media in Rayachoti, he said that not a single community has benefited under the coalition regime. He alleged that the government is misleading the people with tall claims of capital development, massive investments, and job creation, which have no visible impact at the grassroots level. "Rather than focusing on people's welfare, the government is trying to divert public attention with liquor scams and politically motivated cases," he stated. Srikanth Reddy slammed the government for deteriorating law and order, saying that police are being directed to act on political interests, reflecting a situation akin to emer-



gency rule. He questioned actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan's silence on increasing crimes against women despite his past promises of protecting 30,000 women. Referring to incidents in Gadikota and Muchumarri in Nandyal district, he criticized the government's inaction on rising crimes against women and children, accusing it of completely ignoring public safety. He contrasted this with

the welfare programs implemented during the YSRCP regime, including Amma Vodi, Rythu Bharosa, EBC Nestham, Kapu Nestham, zero-interest loans to DWCRA women, insurance premiums paid by the government, two lakh permanent jobs, and establishment of secretariats, village clinics, ports, and medical colleges—even during the pandemic years. He accused the current government of betraying mothers in the name of "Talli ki Vandanam" by delaying payments and excluding many students from benefits. He demanded pending payments be cleared immediately. Criticizing a minister's recent remarks that implementing a ₹1,500 monthly assistance for girls would bankrupt the state, he said the coalition lacks genuine commitment to welfare. He added that despite the Kharif season nearing its end, there is no clarity on Rythu Bharosa payments this year.

No Arrest Till Month-End

Perni gets interim relief from the HC

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Former Andhra Pradesh minister Perni Venkataramaiah, popularly known as Perni Nani, has once again secured interim relief from the High Court in a case registered against him for alleged provocative remarks. The court has ordered that no coercive action be taken against the former minister until July 31, providing him with temporary protection from arrest or any immediate legal proceedings. The case was filed based on allegations that Perni Nani made inciting statements that could provoke unrest. In response, the former minister moved the High Court seeking anticipatory bail and protection from any immediate action by law enforcement agencies. After considering the arguments presented by both sides, the court extended the interim stay on action that was previously granted, effectively barring authorities from initiating any hasty steps in the case. This extension of relief means that police or investigative agencies are restrained from proceeding against him until the next date of hearing. The High Court is expected to take up the matter again after July 31.



Fisherman's Family Get Immediate Aid

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam
Srikakulam MLA Gundu Shankar extended immediate financial assistance to the family of a fisherman who died in a tragic boat accident at Bandaruvanipeta in Srikakulam Rural Mandal. On July 24, the MLA personally visited the bereaved family of Badi Gajendra, who lost his life in the incident, and handed over ₹10,000 as emergency support. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Shankar said the coalition government stands firmly with the poor and distressed. He emphasized that where there is hardship, the government will be there to support people in need. He assured the family that the state government, under the leadership



of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara Lokesh, and Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan, is committed to

helping the underprivileged. The MLA informed Srikakulam District Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar about the incident and

urged immediate action to provide additional support from the government. He promised that he would continue to support the fishermen community and personally stand by every affected family, not just in Bandaruvanipeta but across the district. Gundu Shankar said he considers himself a member of these families and understands their struggles firsthand. He also offered help to assess the cause of the accident and provide necessary boating equipment to prevent future mishaps. Local officials, community leaders, women representatives, and the victim's family were present during the visit, where the MLA comforted the grieving family and offered moral support.

Sarpanch to Join Red Fort Celebration

TPN Correspondent | Dharmavaram
In a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh, Gotturu village Sarpanch Pitta Narasamma has been selected to participate in the national Independence Day celebrations at the iconic Red Fort in Delhi on August 15, 2025. She is one of only three sarpanches chosen from across the state for this rare honour by the Central Government. Narasamma, who represents Gotturu village in Dharmavaram constituency of Sri Sathya Sai district, earned national recognition for her outstanding contributions to rural development and dedication to public service. Her selection is seen as a matter of immense pride for both her village and the entire Dharmavaram region.

To honour her, Dharmavaram constituency in-charge Harish Babu visited her residence in Gotturu on Thursday and felicitated her with a shawl and personal congratulations. He also arranged a phone call with Andhra Pradesh Minister for Medical and Health, Satyakumar Yadav, who lauded Narasamma's achievement. Speaking over the phone, Minister Yadav said, "It is truly commendable that your hard work has received national recognition. Leaders like you are an inspiration for grassroots development. On behalf of the people of Dharmavaram, I feel immensely proud." The celebration at Gotturu saw the participation of several local leaders and supporters, including Rural Mandal President Got-



turu Chandra, BJP senior leaders Ramakrishna, Boya Nagayya, Potukunta Raju, Pawan Kumar Reddy, Janasena's Chiranjeevi, Ram-mohan, and G. Venkatesh, among others. Narasamma's recognition is seen as a symbol of hope and encouragement for other women

leaders and village representatives working tirelessly for development at the grassroots level. Her presence at the Red Fort will not only showcase the strength of rural leadership but also place Dharmavaram's name proudly on the national stage.



Bapatla Collector Adopts 10 Tribal Families

TPN | B Madhusudan Rao

Guntur: Bapatla District Collector J. Venkata Murali has adopted ten Yanadi tribal families from Cherukupalli mandal under the state government's P4 initiative. Speaking at a gram sabha held at the MPDO office on Thursday, he urged the families to dream big and focus on their children's education, stating, "I will be your guide and support as long as your children pursue education. They must become doctors, engineers, and future leaders."

As part of the P4 policy, aimed at identifying and uplifting the most underprivileged and impoverished sections of society, the Collector personally selected families from Turpupalem, Balusulapalem, Kumbalavaripalem, and Arambaka villages. He interacted with them to un-

derstand their living conditions and income sources.

The families, engaged in tasks like rat-catching, applying fertilizers in fields, and garbage collection, earn less than ₹10,000 a month. Moved by their plight, the Collector assured immediate support through the MGNREGS job cards and directed officials to facilitate bank accounts. Each family will receive financial aid between ₹50,000 and ₹65,000.

Six families have been sanctioned houses, others allotted house sites. Additional support includes autorickshaws for three beneficiaries, licenses, a small shop, medical pension assistance, a bicycle under Vatsalya scheme, and medical check-ups for health benefits.

To ensure constant communication, the Collector announced



a WhatsApp group for direct contact. He pledged his personal support along with government assistance, focusing especially on children's education.

He stated that 58,000 eligible families have been identified under the P4 survey in the district, and 4,000 mentors have

come forward to support them. He committed to providing up to ₹4 lakh per family for housing, health, employment, and education.

Officials from multiple departments, including RDO, CPO, PD DRDA, Tahsildar, and MPDO, participated in the event.

Lakshmisha Urges Students to Use Improved Govt Facilities



TPN Correspondent | NTR District

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha emphasized the importance of discipline along with quality education in achieving career goals. He advised students to make full use of the improved government facilities and turn them into

golden opportunities for a better future. During a surprise inspection at Amarajeevi Potti Srimulmu Municipal High School in Krishnalanka, Vijayawada on Thursday, the Collector interacted with students during their midday meal. He checked if meals were being served as per the prescribed menu and en-

sured food quality. He expressed happiness that all 370 students were having lunch at the school itself and appreciated the nutritious rice-based meal being served.

Speaking with students, he enquired about their career aspirations and reminded them that along with academic excellence, good behavior is crucial for success in life. He stated that the government's recent reforms in school infrastructure, meals, and academic quality have increased admissions and built trust among parents and students. Highlighting recent state initiatives, the Collector mentioned the successful con-

duct of Mega PTM, which included innovative programs like Green Passport and "Salute to Mother" to instill values in children from an early age. He said these activities help in guiding children towards the right path. He also noted that awareness is being created about the harmful effects of drug use and cybercrimes among students. Career counseling classes are being arranged in all schools across the district to help students make informed choices about their future. The Collector was accompanied by school in-charge Headmaster M. Narasimhacharyulu and teaching staff during the visit.

Job Fair Draws Huge Response

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The youth of Andhra Pradesh's capital region made the most of a job fair organised by the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA). The event, held at the CRDA Skill Hub premises in Tulluru, was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Skill Development and Training. Several top companies, including Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL),



Fronics System Pvt. Ltd., Dixon Technologies India Ltd., Havells India Ltd., Kuraku Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., and Fort Management Services participated in the recruitment drive. The fair aimed to fill over 400 technical job vacancies. A total of 318

candidates attended the fair, of which 102 secured employment. Notably, 30 of them received offer letters on the spot from the HR representatives of the participating firms. The job fair was efficiently coordinated by CRDA officials in collaboration with APSSDC. Placement Officer Aruna Kumari from APSSDC, CRDA Deputy City Development Officer (DCDO) B. Srinivasa Rao, CRDA Senior Livelihood Officer Shankar, and Junior Livelihood Specialists Kranti Kumar, Nara-

simhulu, and Venkateswarlu played key roles in managing the event. To ensure a smooth experience for candidates, dedicated staff were deployed to oversee the registration and interview processes. Their efforts helped conduct the event seamlessly and professionally, creating an encouraging environment for young job seekers. The initiative reflects the CRDA's commitment to improving livelihood opportunities for the youth in the capital region by bridging the gap between industry requirements and local talent.

JC Orders Daily Market Price Checks

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District

Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya emphasized the need for stringent monitoring of essential commodities and vegetable prices to safeguard consumer interests. Chairing a district-level price monitoring and regulation committee meeting at the Joint Collector's chamber on Thursday, Ilakkiya directed officials to intensify inspections across Rythu Bazaars, wholesale, and retail shops to prevent black marketing and ensure price stability. Officials from civil supplies, marketing, agriculture, horticulture departments, and representatives from trade as-

sociations participated in the meeting. Discussions focused on fluctuating vegetable prices and the pricing standards followed at Vijayawada Rythu Bazaars based on prevailing market conditions in wholesale and retail outlets such as the Kaleswararao market.

The Joint Collector stressed that officials must constantly analyze the production trends, current prices, and future forecasts of agricultural and essential commodities to enforce timely regulatory measures. Any sudden spike in prices should be dealt with swiftly by creating alternative marketing strategies to avoid consumer hardship. Officials were asked to ensure that



prices of rice, pulses, edible oils, and vegetables remain within the reach of common citizens. It was observed that while prices of most essentials are stable, there has been a marginal increase in green gram (moong dal) prices. Ilakkiya instructed concerned millers and traders

to take steps to reduce prices and suggested informing consumers about alternatives like peas. Similarly, tomato prices have risen slightly due to the end of harvest season in Chittoor and bulk purchases by Tamil Nadu traders. The Joint Collector asked officials to procure tomatoes from Chittoor and make them available at subsidized rates through Rythu Bazaars.

DSO A. Paparao, District Agriculture and Marketing Officer B. Rajababu, District Chamber of Commerce President Nageswararao, Rice Millers' Association President Srinivasarao, and other department officials were present.



APTS to Hold Cyber Awareness Drives



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh Technology Services (APTS) will organize statewide cyber security awareness sessions to educate the public on the growing threats of cybercrime, announced APTS Chairman Mannava Mohana Krishna in a press meet held at the APTS office in Vijayawada on Thursday.

He said that with the rise in online frauds, educating people on how cybercriminals operate and how victims can report such incidents has become essential. APTS is playing a critical role in continuously monitoring IT infrastructure across the state and providing timely alerts to prevent cyber threats.

Highlighting the recent global surge in cybercrimes, he stressed the need to use technology to counter such threats. APTS recently conducted a state-level cybersecurity hackathon, 'Hackathon 2025', offering six-month training programs to selected graduates and IT professionals. Each participant received a monthly stipend of ₹10,000 during the training. Certificates were distributed to 30 interns who completed the program, opening up job opportunities in leading IT firms across India and abroad.

Mohana Krishna pointed out that cybercriminals are misusing betting apps, stealing data, and launching attacks on businesses to cause financial losses. To counter this, the state is intensifying awareness campaigns featuring film celebrities across various media platforms.

He noted that APTS serves as the nodal agency for the state's cybersecurity initiatives, in alignment with the 2017 state cybersecurity policy and the 2013 central law. The Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operational Centre (APCSOC), established in 2018, continuously monitors cyber threats targeting government departments.

APTS now plans to expand its cybersecurity auditing services beyond government departments into the private sector and other states. The chairman emphasized that the agency's mission is to build a secure digital future for Andhra Pradesh by empowering its youth.

Dy CM to Lead Mangrove Day Event: Collector

TPN Correspondent | Bapatla

District Collector J. Venkata Murali has announced that Mangrove Forests Day will be celebrated in a grand manner in Bapatla district. In preparation for the occasion, the Collector conducted a detailed inspection on Thursday of the designated plantation zones, including the Suryalanka coastal area and the Nagaravanam urban forest.

Speaking to the media, the Collector said that Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Panchayati Raj Minister K. Pawan Kalyan will visit Bapatla to participate in the Mangrove Forests Day celebrations at Suryalanka. He emphasized that the government is taking concrete steps to expand mangrove forests and that this event is part of that initiative.

The Collector visited forest lands in the Nagaravanam under the jurisdiction of the forest department and inspected the coastal stretches of Suryalanka. He noted that the growth of mangrove forests plays a critical role in mitigating the impacts of natural disasters and preventing severe damage. He further said that these forests offer considerable ecological and livelihood benefits to local communities.

To ensure the success of the minister's visit and the event, the Collector issued several instructions to the concerned officials. He underlined the need for proper coordination among departments for the smooth conduct of the programme.

District Forest Officer Vinod Kumar, DPO Prabhakar, DWMA PD Vijayalakshmi, and Bapatla RDO Gloria accompanied the Collector during the inspection.



APCC Chief Y.S. Sharmila pays tributes to Sir Arthur Cotton on his death anniversary at Vijayawada; leaders Kolanukonda Shivaji, Naraharasetti, Prabhakar, and Khursheed present.



Govt Schemes Boost Farm Output: Governor

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District
Andhra Pradesh Governor and Chancellor of Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, S. Abdul Nazeer, highlighted India's record-breaking food grain production during the 57th Annual Convocation of the University, held at the Swarna Bharat Trust Auditorium in Atkur, Krishna district. Addressing the gathering, Governor Abdul Nazeer said India achieved

an all-time high food grain production of 353.95 million tonnes in 2024, marking a 6.5% increase over the previous year. He attributed this achievement to a combination of favorable climatic conditions and impactful government policies and schemes. Crops like wheat, rice, and maize saw bumper harvests, and India's agricultural exports have now reached several countries across the globe.

The Governor pointed out that food demand is projected to rise to 400 million tonnes by 2050, underlining the need for higher productivity. He emphasized that India's agricultural sector contributes around 16% to the nation's GDP and supports the livelihood of nearly 46.1% of the population. To sustain economic growth and alleviate poverty, a 4% annual agricultural growth rate is essential, he said.

Andhra Pradesh, he noted, emerged as a top performer with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.8% in agriculture and allied sectors during 2024-25. Governor Nazeer stressed the importance of not only producing more food but also ensuring nutritional security and food safety. Earlier in the day, the Governor presented degrees and gold medals to meritorious students. The event was

also graced by A. Venu Prasad, former Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab, who delivered the guest lecture. Vice Chancellor Dr. R. Sarada Jayalakshmi Devi presented the university's annual report and felicitated the Governor. The First Lady Sameera Nazeer, Ex-officio Secretary Dr. M. Hari Jawaharlal, MLA Kamineni Srinivas, and In-charge Collector Geetanjali Sharma also attended.



South Central LIC Carrom, Chess Teams Finalized



TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry
The LIC South Central Zonal Carrom and Chess Selection Trials for the year 2025-2026 concluded on a high note at Surya Gardens Function Hall, J.N. Road, Rajahmundry. The two-day event, hosted by the LIC Rajahmundry Division, brought together 82 top players from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and

Karnataka, creating an atmosphere of intense yet friendly competition. The trials were conducted to finalize the South Central Zone teams for the upcoming LIC All India Games. Participants displayed commendable skill and sportsmanship across all matches. The trials were overseen by Sri Shaik Abdul Jaleel, an International Carrom Referee, and Sri G.V. Ku-

mar, an International Chess Arbiter, ensuring fair play and professional standards throughout the competition. The Valedictory Ceremony was held in a grand manner, with Sri Satyanarayana Sahu, SDM of LIC Rajahmundry Division, attending as the Chief Guest. The event was presided over by Sri M. Purnachandra Rao, Manager (P&IR), while former World Champion Smt. S. Appoorwa and former National Champion Smt. P. Nirmala attended as special guests, inspiring participants with their presence and encouraging words. Representing the LIC Sports Promotion Board,

Sri Suresh Jayaraman and Sri D.V.S.Y. Sharma from the South Central Zonal Office were present as official observers, ensuring transparency in the selection process. After multiple rounds of high-level play, the final Men's and Women's teams for both Carrom and Chess were selected. These athletes will represent the South Central Zone in the LIC All India Games, scheduled to be held soon. The success of the event was attributed to the meticulous planning and coordination by the Officers and Staff of LIC Rajahmundry Division, whose efforts were lauded by all guests and participants.

Grand Unveiling of Suryarao Master's Memorial Statue

TPN Correspondent | Tadepalligudem

In a fitting tribute to one of the region's most respected educators, the statue of Late Dangeti Suryarao Master Garu, a retired Mandal Educational Officer (MEO), was inaugurated at Valluripalli village on the occasion of his first death anniversary. Sri Suryarao Master Garu, who passed away on August 4, 2024, dedicated over 30 years of his life to public education. Renowned for his integrity, discipline, and unwavering commitment to student welfare, he played a crucial role in shaping the futures of countless students across the West Godavari region. Many of his students have gone on to become government officials, IT professionals, and entrepreneurs in the Pharma sector.

The grand event was graced by the Chief Guest -Tadepalligudem MLA Boliseti Srinivas Garu. Jana Sena leader Pulla Babi Garu and his team also attended the ceremony. Local public representatives, villagers, former students, and well-wishers participated enthusiastically in the emotionally charged tribute.

The statue unveiling was spearheaded by

his younger son, Dangeti Kishore Kumar, a successful software engineer based in the United States. He, along with family members and close relatives, took the initiative to honor his father's remarkable legacy. Their presence underscored the emotional significance of the day and added personal warmth to the formal occasion. This statue is more than a memorial—it serves as a beacon of inspiration for the youth in the village and surrounding areas. It reminds future generations of the timeless values of hard work, education, and service to society that Suryarao Master represented throughout his life.



8 Arrested in Inter-State Drug Racket



TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

In a major breakthrough against drug trafficking, Vizianagaram district police have arrested eight individuals and seized 120 kilograms of ganja being transported in three cars. Based on credible intelligence, Bhogapuram and Eagle police teams carried out checks near Rajapulo Junction and intercepted the vehicles coming from Vizianagaram. During the operation, police recovered 47 packets of ganja, nine mobile phones, and three cars — an Alto (OD 05 H 8352), a Santro (OR 15 M 7782), and a Swift (UP 24 BL 0902).

District SP Vakkul Zindal, briefing the media, stated that the accused were part of an inter-state smuggling network planning to transport the narcotic to Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. The arrested include Korra Kiran (21) and Manoj Bisai (20) from Lantavur village in Koraput district, Odisha; Bijendra (46) from Hapur district, UP; Fazil (30) from Old Seemapur, Delhi; Mukhtar Ahmad (43) and Rammohan (21) from Budaun district, UP; and Sonu (34) and Shilpi (30) from Kasganj district, UP.

Initial investigations revealed that the accused procured the ganja from suppliers in Odisha and planned to move it via cars and trains to North India. The gang had deep connections with ganja traders operating from Odisha. One more accused, Ajith Dadak alias Oji alias Mahesh Dadak, believed to be the main conspirator, is currently absconding. Efforts are underway to apprehend him at the earliest.

SP Zindal stated that strict action will be taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and financial investigation is also underway to trace the source of funds and networks involved. Authorities are considering invoking the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against the accused to curb repeat offenses. Appreciating the swift and coordinated action, SP Vakkul Zindal congratulated Bhogapuram CI K. Durga Prasad, Eagle CI Dr. Tenka Kalyani, SI P. Paparao, and their police teams. Certificates of appreciation were handed over to the officers for their crucial role in foiling the smuggling attempt and strengthening the district's anti-narcotics operations.

Multi-Cropping Increases Farmer Incomes

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Adopting multi-cropping techniques in horticulture can significantly enhance farmer incomes and contribute to the state's Gross Value Added (GVA), said Andhra Pradesh Horticulture Department Director Dr. K. Srinivasulu. On Thursday, he toured several villages in Pedavegi and Kamavarapukota mandals in Eluru district to inspect farms and value addition infrastructure promoting multiple cropping systems. During his field visit, Dr. Sriniva-



sulu examined coconut and oil palm farms practicing intercropping. He highlighted that by cultivating crops like cocoa, vegetables, or fruits alongside coconut and oil palm, farmers are not

only maximizing land use but also improving profitability. In Lakshmiapuram village of Pedavegi mandal, he visited the farm of K. Harikrishna who is using multi-cropping with coconut. In Tadikapudi and Ratnagiri Nagar of Kamavarapukota mandal, farmers like Y. Rama Rao and GNV S. Prasad are successfully growing cocoa, organic crops, and oil palm using sustainable practices. He also inspected infrastructure supporting value addition: solar cold rooms, solar dryers, and crop collection cen-

ters run by the Kamavarapukota Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). At Kallacheruvu village, farmer Ramireddy Venkata Nag-eswara Reddy showcased water conservation methods and solar drying technologies. Another progressive farmer, Srinivas Rao of Vellanki, is cultivating dragon fruit and integrating intercropping with coconut using solar cold storage for preservation. District Horticulture Officer S. Ramamohan and other officials accompanied the Director during the visit.

Collector Directs DRDA to Fast-Track Loans



TPN Correspondent | Eluru District
Eluru District Collector K. Vetriselvi has directed DRDA officials to expedite the sanctioning of loans to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and ensure timely achievement of assigned credit targets. Speaking via video conference from the Eluru Collectorate on Thursday, she reviewed the progress of SHG loan disbursements, grounding of employment units, and other key issues with DRDA APMs and community coordinators.

Collector Vetriselvi emphasized the state government's commitment to the economic empowerment and welfare of women. She noted that microcredit plans have already been submitted to banks for disbursing ₹1,145.20 crore to 15,353 SHGs across the district. Of this, banks have so far approved ₹237 crore for 2,888 SHGs. She urged officials to coordinate with bankers to expedite approvals for the remaining SHGs. The Collector stressed the importance of resolving any issues SHGs may face while preparing microcredit plans. DRDA officials were instructed to proactively identify and address these obstacles. She also expressed concern over the under-performance of certain mandals, including T. Narasapuram, Pedavegi, Chatrai, Jeelugumilli, Denduluru, and Nuzvid. DRDA staff in these areas were asked to explain the reasons for the slow progress and ensure improved outcomes moving forward. The meeting was attended by DRDA Project Director R. Vijayaraju, Lead District Manager Neeladri, APMs, and several community coordinators.

Officials Blamed for Vaikunta Ekadashi Stampede

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has received the final report from the judicial commission investigating the tragic stampede during Vaikunta Ekadashi celebrations at Tirumala, which resulted in six deaths. The report was discussed at length in the state cabinet meeting held in Amaravati. According to the commission, SP Subbarayudu and then TTD Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (CVSO) Sridhar were given a clean chit. The commission observed that both officials worked in coordination and took all necessary safety precautions prior to the event. However, the blame was placed squarely on the negligence of TTD Director Harinath Reddy and DSP E.V. Ramana Kumar. The commission found that these two officials failed to

implement proper crowd control measures, especially near the Padmavati Park area where the stampede occurred. Despite having police and TTD rope parties deployed at the location, the report stated that the duo disobeyed orders from higher authorities and irresponsibly ordered the gate to be opened, leading to the uncontrolled rush. Further, the report highlights the inability to promptly shift the injured to medical facilities. Although two ambulances were stationed nearby, the mismanagement led to fatal delays in treatment. As a result, six pilgrims lost their lives. The commission has recommended disciplinary action against Harinath Reddy and DSP Ramana Kumar. It also advised criminal proceedings against the Gosamrakshana officer and another DSP for their role in the mishandling of the situation.

When the Artificial Overwhelms...

A Reflection on the Digital Age’s Silent Sway Over Nature

“The more we surround ourselves with artificial comforts, the more our inner nature cries for the nature’s touch.” Once upon a time, humanity lived in tune with the rhythms of the sun, the breeze, and the birdsong. Today, we wake up not to the chirping of sparrows but the ping of smartphones. The contrast is stark: artificiality has not just entered our lives—it dominates them. But the haunting question remains: how much naturality still survives in this engineered existence?

The Artificial Age:

A Statistical Snapshot

- 6.9 billion people, or 86% of the global population, use smartphones (GSMA, 2024).
- An average adult spends 7.5 hours a day on screens — more than their sleeping time(Statista, 2023).
- Only 27% of the global workforce is directly or indirectly connected with agriculture or nature-based work today, compared to over 60% just five

- decades ago (World Bank, 2022).
- More than 80% of the food consumed in urban households globally is either processed or packaged (UN FAO report, 2023).
- Urban areas now host over 56% of humanity, projected to rise to 70% by 2050 (UN Habitat, 2022).

Artificial Isn’t All Bad — But It’s Not All Good Either

To be clear, artificiality has brought unimaginable progress:

- Medical miracles through biotechnology,
- Connectivity across continents in seconds,
- Comfort and convenience in everyday life.

Yet it comes at a cost — disconnection from self, soil, and soul.

Mental health issues have skyrocketed: the WHO notes a 25% increase in anxiety and depression globally since the pandemic — much of it attributed to isolation, screen fatigue, and lack



Subbarao Pokkuluri

Freelancer

of natural engagement. Children today are more likely to know the iPhone model than the names of common birds. A study by the UK’s Natural Trust (2023) showed that only 1 in 5 children could identify a robin or

an oak tree, while 4 in 5 could name at least five Pokémon characters.

Where Naturality Still Holds Ground

Despite the dominance of the artificial, naturality hasn’t surrendered. It survives in:

- The rising popularity of organic farming and slow food movements.
- The explosion of nature therapy and eco-tourism.
- Urban community initiatives like green roofs, balcony gardens, and bird-feeding corners.
- A growing surge in mindfulness, yoga, and forest bathing.

Even technology is now trying to imitate nature — AI voices that sound more human, machines that replicate bee pollination, and simulated sunlight for indoor health.

Road Ahead: Integration, Not Elimination

The future does not lie in rejecting artificiality. That ship has

sailed. Instead, it lies in rebalancing — in letting naturality breathe within the artificial framework.

- Education must include ecological literacy.
- Urban planning must weave in green corridors and silence zones.
- Workspaces must allow for sunlight, fresh air, and organic connection.
- Individuals must reclaim time for real conversations, barefoot walks, and unscripted joy.

Call To Reconnect

Naturality is n’t extinct—it’s just overshadowed. In a world of virtual reality and artificial intelligence, what we miss most is often what we most need: natural touch, natural thought, natural time. Let us not wait for nature to become a museum exhibit. Let’s bring it back, moment by moment, step by step — not as nostalgia, but as necessity. Because without nature, we are not just less human—we may cease to be human at all.

A Half-Century of Unforgotten Sacrifice



Girayipalli, July 25, 2025: Fifty years ago today, four student activists—Surapaneni Janardhan Rao, Lanka Muralimohan Reddy, Sudhakar, and Anand Rao—were killed in what was later acknowledged as a “fake encounter” by Andhra Pradesh Police at Girayipalli in Medak district. Their deaths remain one of the most controversial and harrowing episodes of the Emergency era .

Janardhan Rao, born August 24, 1950, in Krishna district, had earned a gold medal in engineering at REC and emerged as a charismatic leader in the revolutionary student movement. Alongside him were Lanka Muralimohan Reddy of LB College, and Hanmakonda Junior College students Sudhakar and Anand Rao. In mid-1975, barely a month after Indira Gandhi’s Emergency was imposed, the quartet traveled to Medak district to help expand the People’s War Party—then an underground left-wing organization. Their growing influence and covert activities attracted swift attention from local authorities.

On the night of July 25, Janardhan and his three peers were apprehended by police under the pretense of routine questioning. Instead of following due legal procedures, officers allegedly bound the students to a large banyan tree near Girayipalli and shot them execution-style. The bodies were then staged to resemble an “encounter” that had supposedly occurred during an escape attempt. News of this brutality—particularly the revelation that the youths were tied to a tree—sent shockwaves

Commemoration Details

On July 25, 2025, the 50th anniversary observance will be held 9:30 AM–11 AM* at the Sai Uma Maheshwara Sabha Vedika, Garlavelli (Uyyuru). Family members of Janardhan Rao, Lanka M. Reddy, Sudhakar and Anand Rao, along with former student leaders, Left-wing activists and members of the R.I.C. will gather to pay tribute. The programme includes an exhibition of archival photographs, readings from the Justice Bhargava Commission report and a candlelight vigil in memory of the four martyrs.

through campuses statewide .

Student unions including AISF, SFI, AIDSO, and PDSU immediately launched protests, organizing strikes and mass demonstrations demanding a judicial probe. The public outcry compelled the state government to appoint a Commission of Inquiry under Justice Bhargava. The commission’s findings, tabled in early 1976, confirmed that the incident was premeditated and that police had willfully contravened the rule of law to eliminate dissenters. Despite these findings, few of-

ficers faced meaningful consequences. While some were suspended, none served prison terms, fueling decades-long calls for accountability. In 2012, the Surapaneni Janardhan Rao Memorial Trust published a comprehensive 158-page dossier—drawing on commission records, eyewitness testimonies, and personal letters—to preserve the students’ legacy and chronicle the miscarriage of justice .

Commemorations at Girayipalli today include an exhibition of original manuscripts, a public reading of the Commission’s report, and candlelight vigils. “Their sacrifice isn’t just a relic of the past,” said S.P. Mohan Rao, editor of the memorial publication. “It’s a clarion call to defend civil liberties whenever they are under threat.”

Local NGOs have petitioned the High Court to reopen compensatory claims for the families and to review current police-encounter policies to prevent recurrence. As contemporary debates over campus freedom and law-and-order excesses gain momentum across India, the Girayipalli killings serve as a stark reminder: unchecked state power can trample rights under the guise of security.

Half a century on, Janardhan Rao, Reddy, Sudhakar, and Anand Rao are remembered not only as martyrs of student activism but as symbols of enduring resistance against authoritarianism. Their story challenges each generation to ask: at what cost do we safeguard democracy?



A Decade Later, Telangana’s Battle for Krishna River Water Continues

More than ten years after Telangana split from Andhra Pradesh, the state’s struggle to secure its rightful share of Krishna river water remains unresolved, exposing deep political and administrative challenges.

The Krishna river, flowing through Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, is central to this dispute. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh share two major dams on the river: the Srisaillam and Nagarjunasagar projects. The Srisaillam dam regulates about 811 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water, with Telangana allocated 299 TMC and Andhra Pradesh receiving the remainder. At Nagarjunasagar, which holds 285 TMC, Telangana’s share is 90 TMC.

Despite clear allocations, Andhra Pradesh has frequently been accused of exceeding its water share, hurting Telangana’s agricultural and developmental prospects. In November 2023, tensions escalated when Andhra Pradesh authorities released over 2,000 cusecs of water from the Nagarjunasagar dam—beyond its entitlement—while Telangana was focused on elections. The incident sparked a police standoff, highlighting the fragile nature of water sharing between the two states.

The Centre established the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to oversee the equitable distribution of water between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The KRMB, comprising officials from both states and the central government, was expected to settle disputes and ensure compliance with the agreed 66:34 water-sharing ratio. Yet, a decade on, its effectiveness remains limited as disputes persist.

Water issues are deeply intertwined with politics. At Telangana’s formation, the

rivalry between Telangana’s first Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and Andhra Pradesh’s then-leader N Chandrababu Naidu added fuel to the dispute. Naidu’s party had to share Hyderabad, the joint capital, with Telangana for ten years after bifurcation, complicating relations.

The political landscape shifted in 2019 with the rise of YSR Congress Party’s Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh, briefly raising hopes for improved cooperation. However, the honeymoon ended quickly when Andhra Pradesh unilaterally used 3 TMC of water from the Srisaillam dam without informing Telangana or the KRMB, reigniting mistrust.

Telangana has also sought a revision of the water-sharing formula. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, under KCR, pushed for a 50:50 split instead of the current 66:34, citing the state’s growing water needs, especially for major projects like the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme. This demand is currently under consideration by the Brijesh Kumar tribunal.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh continues to advance its own projects, such as the Polavaram irrigation project on the Godavari river, aimed at irrigating millions of acres and supplying drinking water to Visakhapatnam.

With the Congress now in power in Telangana—a party historically opposed to Andhra Pradesh’s TDP—the political divide remains a significant barrier to resolving the water dispute. For a fair and lasting solution, the KRMB must be empowered and allowed to function effectively, ensuring both states receive their rightful share and protecting the interests of millions dependent on the Krishna river.

Historic day for India-UK relations: PM

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major milestone for bilateral ties, India and the United Kingdom on Thursday signed a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) aimed at significantly enhancing market access, reducing tariffs, and doubling trade between the two nations by 2030.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer witnessed the signing of the comprehensive deal at Chequers, the official country residence of the UK Prime Minister. “Today is a historic day in India-UK relations,” Modi declared, calling the agreement the result of “many years of hard work.”

The pact will remove or lower tariffs

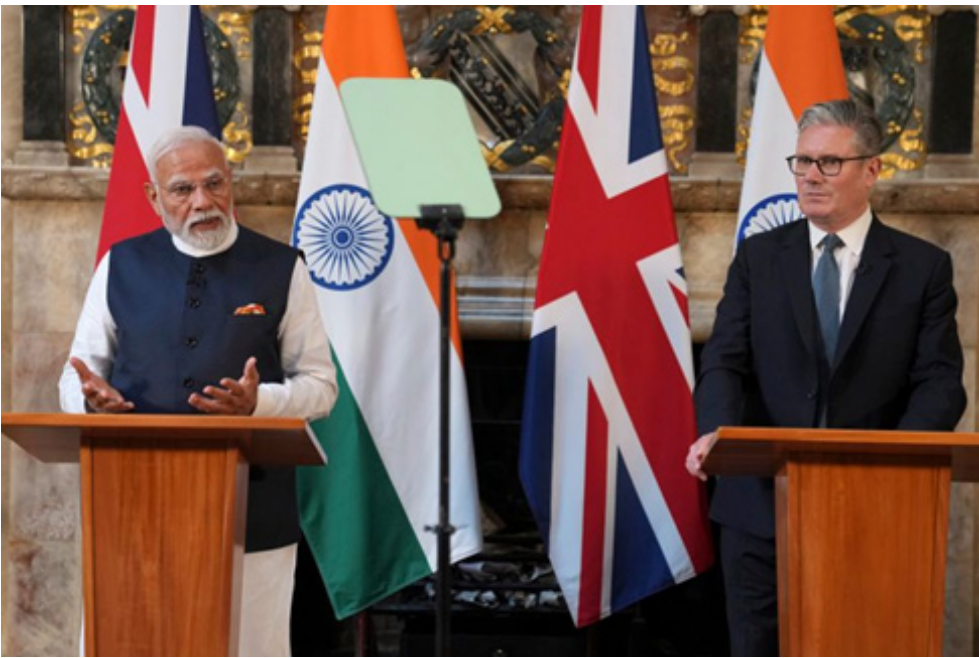
on a wide range of goods and services. Nearly 99% of Indian exports are expected to benefit from tariff reductions, especially in sectors such as textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery, seafood, and engineering goods. Additionally, the deal will open up new opportunities in the British market for Indian agricultural and processed food products—providing a boost to farmers, fishermen, and MSMEs.

British exports will also see gains, with cuts in tariffs on whisky and automobiles, two key products for the UK market. PM Starmer called the agreement “the biggest and most economically significant trade deal the UK has signed since Brexit.”

Beyond trade, both leaders discussed

shared concerns over terrorism, with Modi thanking the UK for its condemnation of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam. They pledged continued cooperation in extraditing economic offenders and enhancing security ties.

The two countries are also developing a “Vision 2035” roadmap to further strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, with a focus on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, global stability, and shared democratic values. Modi emphasized the importance of “developmentalism over expansionism” in international relations. The summit concluded with condolences from Modi over the tragic deaths of British citizens in last month’s Air India crash in Ahmedabad.



DGCA Issues Four Show Cause Notices to Air India Over 29 Safety Violations

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has served four show cause notices to Air India citing 29 violations related to flight crew rest norms, under-deployment of cabin crew on ultra long-haul flights, and lapses in training. The aviation watchdog has raised serious concerns about unresolved systemic failures in safety oversight, despite previous warnings and interventions.

The notices highlight 19 violations connected to pilot training, including failure to complete mandated refresher programs on time. These also include lapses in specialized training required for flights to Kathmandu, which has a challenging table-top runway. These breaches were record-



ed over a 12-month period from July 2024 to June 2025.

Three incidents of non-compliance with weekly rest requirements for flight crew—one first officer and two captains—were also flagged. Additionally, the DGCA noted that Air India operated four ultra-long haul

flights between April 27 and May 2, 2025, with fewer cabin crew than the mandatory requirement. On an April 27 flight from Chicago to Delhi, only 12 cabin crew were deployed instead of the required 15. Similar shortfalls were found on flights from Toronto and Mumbai to Delhi and Newark, respectively. Further violations in-

cluded three instances of cabin crew operating flights with expired competency cards, and one crew member assigned duty despite a prior safety infraction involving the accidental deployment of an evacuation slide.

The DGCA criticized Air India’s continued failure to address systemic issues in compliance monitoring and crew training governance. The regulator noted a lack of effective control mechanisms and raised concerns about the airline’s overall safety management.

Air India has 14 days to respond. In a statement, the airline acknowledged receipt of the notices and affirmed its commitment to crew and passenger safety, stating it will respond within the given timeframe.



Speaker Birla Likely to Announce Inquiry Panel

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is expected to soon announce the formation of a three-member inquiry committee to investigate allegations against Allahabad High Court Judge Yashwant Varma, official sources confirmed.

The move comes after a notice signed by 152 Members of Parliament was submitted to Speaker Birla on July 21, which now stands as a “property of the House.” Consultations have begun for forming the committee as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act. It will consist of either the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge, a Chief Justice from a high court, and a distinguished jurist.

A similar notice, backed by 63 opposition MPs, was also submitted on the same day to former Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. This has drawn both Houses of Parliament into the consultation process. As per procedure, the Speaker is expected to write to the Chief Justice of India to nominate the two judges, while the Speaker will independently select the eminent jurist.

The issue has triggered intense political discussions involving key figures including Home Minister Amit Shah, Rajya Sabha Leader JP Nadda, Speaker Om Birla, and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who took charge after Dhankhar’s sudden resignation. Dhankhar stepped down citing health reasons but is believed to have faced government displeasure for accepting the opposition-sponsored notice in the Rajya Sabha.

According to the Judges (Inquiry) Act, when such notices are filed in both Houses on the same day, a joint committee is formed. The panel is tasked with probing the grounds on which the judge’s removal is being sought. An opposition MP involved in the process said they are still awaiting further updates from the Chair.

CBI Investigates Evidence Tampering in RG Kar Medical College Rape-Murder Case



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has expanded its probe into the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata’s RG Kar Medical College, examining a possible larger conspiracy to tamper with evidence and suppress the case. The 31-year-old doctor was found raped and murdered in a hospital seminar room on August 9, 2024, sparking nationwide protests and demands for justice.

In its fifth status report filed on July 16 in a sessions court, the CBI revealed it has questioned seven witnesses and is now exploring whether other individuals were involved in efforts to cover up the crime. The report, reviewed by NDTV, indicates ongoing investigation “on the aspect of larger conspiracy in attempt to hush up the matter and tampering of evidence.”

As part of its exhaustive probe, the agency has scanned a massive 32 terabytes of CCTV footage and reviewed over 200 pieces of post-incident media coverage—including videos, images, and news articles—for actionable information.

Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the rape and murder. However, the victim’s parents and protesting junior doctors continue to allege deeper institutional failures and demand full transparency in the investigation.

In April, the victim’s father accused the CBI of submitting contradictory reports to different courts and claimed the agency is withholding key findings. “We had faith in the CBI, but now we are losing all hope,” he said, expressing frustration over the pace and consistency of the probe. Junior doctors, who had staged a 17-day hunger strike last October, plan to hold a torchlight rally on the night of August 8-9 to mark one year since the incident and renew calls for justice and accountability.

India-US NISAR Satellite Set for Launch

Promises Global Impact on Earth Monitoring

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a landmark collaboration between India and the United States, the \$1.3 billion NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite is set to launch on July 30 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This groundbreaking Earth observation mission is the largest-ever partnership between NASA and ISRO and aims to transform how we study and respond to changes on our planet.

NISAR, weighing 2,392 kg, is designed to scan the entire globe with unmatched precision every 12 days, regardless of weather or time of day. Using its dual-frequency radar system—NASA’s L-band and ISRO’s S-band—the satellite will track both surface and subsurface changes such as earthquakes, landslides, glacier movements, urban development, and vegetation dynamics.

What sets NISAR apart is its high-resolution imaging through synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and interferometry techniques. These allow it to simulate a massive antenna for detailed imagery and

detect ground displacement over time—essential for understanding tectonic shifts and environmental degradation.

The mission will be crucial for disaster response, infrastructure monitoring, water and food security, and climate science. From detecting groundwater depletion to tracking coastal flooding and forest density, NISAR’s open-access data will serve governments, researchers, and private sectors worldwide.

Built and tested over five years, NISAR is a 50-50 venture reflecting strong India-US space ties. NASA’s Paul Rosen calls it a “high-definition movie of the Earth,” while ISRO’s involvement includes providing the GSLV-F16 launch vehicle and spacecraft components.

As the world faces growing environmental and climate-related challenges, NISAR stands out as a symbol of scientific innovation and international cooperation. Its launch marks a strategic milestone for India’s expanding space ambitions and a new era in global Earth observation.



Trump Tells Tech Giants to Stop Hiring from India

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Washington, D.C. — U.S. President Donald Trump has urged American tech giants to stop building factories abroad and hiring workers from countries like India, calling for a shift away from what he termed “radical globalism.” Addressing the All-In Podcast and the Hill & Valley Forum AI Summit on Wednesday, Trump emphasized that companies like Google, Meta, and Microsoft must prioritize American jobs and infrastructure.

“For too long, much of our tech industry pursued a radical globalism that left millions of Americans feeling distrustful and betrayed,” Trump said. He criticized major corporations for “reaping the blessings of American freedom” while outsourcing labor to India and manufacturing to China, and shifting profits to tax havens like Ireland.

The remarks came as Trump unveiled his administration's new “AI Action Plan,” which includes three key executive orders: streamlining permitting for AI infrastructure, boosting U.S. AI exports, and banning federal use of politically biased AI systems.

Trump announced that American tech firms are projected to invest over \$320 bil-



lion in AI and data center infrastructure this year, with Nvidia committing an additional \$500 billion over four years. He described this as a pivotal moment for domestic industry and job creation.

“We’re going to build up our own nation,” Trump declared. “This investment will create thousands of high-paying, blue-collar jobs.”

He also took a swipe at former President Joe Biden, claiming the previous administration's AI export restrictions pushed allies toward China. Trump said he has reversed those measures, calling it essential to maintain U.S. technological leadership.

“With your help, the golden age of America will be built by American workers, powered by American energy, and driven by American AI,” Trump concluded.



Israel and Ukraine to Launch Talks on Countering Iran’s Threats

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Israel and Ukraine have announced a new initiative to begin formal talks focused on addressing the “threat” posed by Iran, signaling closer cooperation between the two nations. Both countries view Iran—a key ally of Russia—as a destabilizing force on the global stage.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga and Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar made the announcement during a press conference in Kyiv on Wednesday. Saar is the highest-ranking Israeli official to visit Ukraine since 2023.

Sybiga referred to Iran as an “existential threat to global security,” citing Tehran’s ongoing military support to Russia, including Iranian-designed drones used in attacks on Ukraine. “Our countries face common security challenges. Today, we have decided to launch a separate dialogue on the Iranian threat,” Sybiga said.

Saar emphasized that limiting Iran’s access to advanced weapons and technology is vital not only for Israeli security but also for European stability. “Any effort to curb Tehran’s reach contributes to the security of Europe and Ukraine,” he noted.

Ukraine has previously criticized Israel’s neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine war, but this new step points to growing strategic alignment. Kyiv has been vocal about Iran’s role in supplying arms to Moscow, especially drones that have been used to target Ukrainian infrastructure.

Last month, Israel carried out a surprise bombing campaign targeting Iran’s military and nuclear facilities. Ukraine supported the operation, viewing it as aligned with their mutual concerns about Tehran’s influence.

The upcoming dialogue is expected to focus on intelligence sharing, defense cooperation, and joint diplomatic efforts to counter Iran’s regional and global activities. PM Modi’s visit also aims to reset ties after recent tensions and will include high-level talks with President Mohamed Muizzu to review the India-Maldives Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, marking 60 years of diplomatic relations.

India Urges Gaza Ceasefire, Says Pauses ‘Not Enough’

TPN Correspondent | UN

India has called for a full ceasefire in Gaza, emphasizing that “intermittent pauses in hostilities” fall short of addressing the deepening humanitarian crisis in the region. Speaking at a United Nations Security Council open debate on the “Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question,” India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, expressed deep concern over the ongoing suffering of civilians in Gaza.

“Today’s meeting takes place against the backdrop of a persisting humanitarian crisis in Gaza,” Harish said. “Intermittent pauses are not enough to address the scale of challenges confronting the people, who are facing daily shortages of food, fuel, medical care, and education.”



Harish reaffirmed India’s long-standing support for the Palestinian people and stressed that humanitarian assistance must be allowed to flow in “safely, timely, and sustainably.” He urged the release of all hostages and called for peace through dialogue and diplomacy, asserting that “there are no other fixes or solutions.”

India, one of the first non-Arab countries

to recognize the State of Palestine, maintains a historically strong relationship with the Palestinian people. Harish described the health and education situation in Gaza as “particularly troubling,” citing World Health Organization data that 95% of hospitals in the region are damaged or destroyed. He also noted that over 650,000 children have been out of school for more than 20 months, as reported by the UN human rights office.

Looking ahead, India welcomed the upcoming High-Level International Conference on implementing the two-State solution, scheduled for July 28–30, expressing hope that it will lead to concrete progress toward peace.

Harish concluded by reiterating India’s readiness to support all efforts aimed at restoring peace and stability in the region.

India, UK ink historic Free Trade Agreement

TPN Correspondent | London

The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), set to be formalized on Thursday, promises to create significant employment and growth opportunities for Indians, especially the youth. This landmark agreement is expected to enhance India’s service sector, while also providing a boost to labor-intensive industries.

A key highlight of the FTA is the opening up of the UK market for Indian professionals in sectors such as Information Technology (IT), IT-enabled Services (ITeS), Financial Services, Management Consulting, Engineering, Architecture, Education Services, and other professional services. These fields are increasingly sought after by young Indians seeking global exposure and career growth.

The FTA also offers duty-free access to the UK for Indian products in sectors like textiles and clothing, leather and footwear, gems and jewelry, furniture, and sports goods. The UK imports over \$23 billion worth of such products annually, indicating strong potential for job creation and increased exports from India, particularly in small and medium enterprises.

For Indian professionals working in the UK on short-term assignments (up to three years), the FTA includes a major financial relief—an exemption from UK social security contributions,



which currently total nearly 20% of salaries. This move not only increases take-home pay but also boosts competitiveness and attractiveness of global job assignments. Additionally, the FTA includes measures to promote ease of doing business through better regulatory coordination, transparency, and public consultations. This environment will benefit young entrepreneurs and startups looking to expand in international markets.

The Digital Trade Chapter focuses on online consumer protection, cybersecurity, and open internet access—enhancing trust in digital commerce and enabling new tech career paths. Moreover, the FTA includes provisions for skill development, capacity building, and mutual recognition of qualifications, making it easier for Indian graduates to pursue careers in the UK and aligning youth skills with global market needs.

Passenger Plane Crashes in Russia’s Far East, 50 Feared Dead

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

An Antonov An-24 passenger plane carrying around 50 people crashed in Russia’s Far East on Thursday, with initial reports suggesting that everyone on board may have perished. The plane, operated by Siberia-based Angara Airlines, was en route from Blagoveshchensk to the remote town of Tynda in the Amur region near the Chinese border when it disappeared from radar.

Russian emergency services confirmed that the burning fuselage of the nearly 50-year-old Soviet-era aircraft was spotted on the ground by a helicopter. Rescue teams are currently making their way to the crash site, which lies in a densely forested and hilly area about 15 kilometers from Tynda. Unverified helicopter footage shared on social media showed the wreckage amidst thick forest cover.

Preliminary information from regional governor Vasily Orlov indicated there were 43 passengers, including five children, and six crew members aboard the flight. However, the Russian emergencies ministry put the total number of people on

board at around 40. The Antonov An-24, built in 1976, lost contact as it approached its destination. The crash has prompted an official investigation to determine the cause of the accident. Yuliya Petina, a Russian emergency official, shared updates on Telegram, confirming that rescuers had located the burning aircraft fuselage and were heading to the site to carry out recovery and rescue operations. This tragic incident highlights the risks associated with operating older aircraft in remote and challenging environments. Further details are awaited as rescue efforts continue and investigators begin their work to uncover the circumstances leading to the crash.



Markets Volatile Amid Earnings Season; Heavyweights Drag Indices Down

Despite positive signals from international markets and the signing of a trade deal with Britain, domestic stock markets fell sharply on Thursday. Benchmark indices were volatile. This was due to investors selling heavily and valuations still being high compared to company results. Heavyweights including IT, FMCG and realty fell sharply. With this, the Nifty ended 157 points lower and the Sensex ended 542 points lower.



The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 82,726 in the previous session, opened at 82,779 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 82,047. It reached an intraday high of 82,784. It finally closed at 82,184, down 542 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,243, touched a low of 25,018 and a high of 25,246. It closed at 25,062, down 157 points. The Nifty Bank fell 144 points to settle at 57,066.

In the Nifty50, 14 companies gained while 35 lost. Eternal, Tata Motors, Dr. Reddy's, Grasim, Cipla were the top gainers. Nestle India, Trent, Shriram Finance, Tech Mahindra, and Reliance were the biggest losers. PSU Bank, Healthcare, and Pharma indices gained today. Auto, Metal, and



Consumer Durables ended flat. IT, FMCG, Realty, MNC, Oil, Energy, CPSE, Finance, and Infra sector indices were mixed.

Market breadth favored sellers on NSE today. Out of a total of 3058 stocks traded, 1111 gained and 1863 lost. 72 stocks touched their 52-week highs and 29 touched their 52-week lows. 68 touched their upper circuit and 54 touched their lower circuit.

Rupee ended flat at 86.40 against the dollar. Bajaj Q1 net profit was Rs.4700 crore and net interest income was Rs.10,227 crore. APL Apollo's net profit rose 23% to Rs 237 crore from Rs 193

crore. GNG Electronics IPO received a response of 23.10 times on the second day in the afternoon. SBI Life's net profit rose 14.3% to Rs 520 crore from Rs 594 crore. Bernstein has given an Outperform rating to Persistent Systems with a target price of Rs 6300 crore. It has given an Outperform rating to Nuama at Rs 9700 and 3600One Wealth at Rs 1410. Nomura has maintained a Buy rating for Tata Consumer with a target price of Rs 1300. Adani Energy has registered a net profit of Rs 512 crore from a net loss of Rs 824 crore. CG Power's net profit grew by 10.8% from Rs. 241 crore to Rs. 267 crore.

Stock Recommendations :

Tata Technologies: These shares, which have been in a downtrend for a long time, are currently in the accumulation zone. A good base has been formed. Relative strength and momentum are increasing. A bullish trend has started. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 700/710 range in this counter, which closed at Rs. 718 on Thursday. Hold for a short period.



Coromandel: These shares, which have been in an uptrend for a few months, are currently consolidating. Relative strength and momentum are good. Moreover, seasonality has added. In the counter, which closed at Rs. 2428 on Thursday, you should take a position in the Rs. 2400 range and hold.

Indian Bank: These shares, which have been in an uptrend for



a long time, are currently at a key resistance. Investors' focus has increased as the results date approaches. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 630/640 range in this counter, which closed at Rs. 652 on Thursday. Hold for up to two weeks.

Tata Motors: These shares, which have been in a downtrend for a few months, are currently in the accumulation zone. A good base has been formed. Higher losses are being formed. The shares that closed at Rs. 700 on Thursday should be bought in the Rs. 680/650 range through buy-on-dips method. Hold for a long time.



Fortis Healthcare: These shares have good momentum and relative strength. They have been in an uptrend for a few months. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 800 range in this counter, which closed at Rs. 836 on Thursday. Hold until good returns are made.

Rupee Strengthens by 14 Paise to Close at 86.59 Against US Dollar

Amid Equity Rally and Lower Oil Prices



The Indian Rupee appreciated by 14 paise to close at 86.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, June 20, 2025, supported by a decline in global crude oil prices and a weakening greenback, forex traders said. The local currency's gain was further bolstered by robust performance in domestic equity markets and inflows from foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

The Rupee opened at 86.65 at the interbank foreign exchange and traded within a narrow band of 86.55 to 86.67 before settling at 86.59, marking a modest recovery after hitting a two-month low the previous day. On Thursday, the Rupee had dropped 30 paise, closing at 86.73, marking a combined loss of 69 paise over the past three sessions.

Maneesh Sharma, AVP-Commodities & Currencies at Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, noted that the Rupee's weakness this month largely stemmed from geopolitical tensions, particularly following Israeli strikes on Iranian targets on June 13, which pushed Brent crude oil futures to a five-month high near \$79 per barrel. "The local currency was comforted by a dip in oil prices after the White House indicated that President Don-

ald Trump will decide within two weeks whether the US will intervene in the Israel-Iran conflict," Sharma added.

Market optimism also stems from expectations that the upcoming HDB Financial IPO will attract significant investment inflows, which could provide further support to the Rupee. Analysts predict the Rupee may continue to trade in a range between 86.20 and 86.70 in the early part of next week.

Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, eased by 0.30% to 98.60.

Domestic equity markets also showed strong momentum on Friday, with the BSE Sensex surging 1,046.30 points to close at 82,408.17, and the Nifty climbing 319.15 points to 25,112.40. Brent crude oil futures fell by 2.36% to \$76.99 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers of Indian equities, purchasing shares worth ₹934.62 crore on Thursday, according to stock exchange data, signaling sustained foreign interest in Indian markets despite global uncertainties.

Steel Sector Hit Hard by Abrupt Quality Compliance Deadline

The steel industry is bracing for significant challenges following a sudden notification by the Ministry of Steel that extends quality certification requirements to the inputs used in steel production, including imported raw materials. Released on June 13, 2025, the notification mandates compliance with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for all steel inputs, effective immediately for imports with a bill of lading dated June 16 or later—leaving industry players less than one business day to adjust.

This extension of the Quality Control Order (QCO) means not only finished steel products but also the raw materials and semi-finished goods entering India must meet stringent quality standards. For example, steel slabs supplied by a Malaysian firm to a Vietnamese company, which processes



them into sheets and exports to India, must now ensure BIS certification at every stage.

Industry leaders warn this will severely disrupt the supply chain and escalate costs, particularly impacting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Pankaj N. Umrania, Executive Director at KND Steel, highlighted the difficulties importers will face, not-

ing the increased compliance burden and potential production delays. "Manufacturers will struggle to import now, production will be hampered, customers affected, and delays inevitable," he said. He added that the absence of government support and the need to navigate complex paperwork will further strain businesses.

Pankaj Chaddha, Chairman of

the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India, emphasized that MSME importers dealing in semi-finished goods would bear the brunt of this sudden change.

The key concern is the extremely short notice. With the order dated June 13 and effective for shipments from June 16, importers were given no working days to ensure compliance. Ajay Srivastava, former Director General of Foreign Trade, called the timeline "unrealistic," stating that even a month's notice would have been insufficient due to the long lead times typical in the steel industry.

Industry experts urge the government to reconsider the timeline to avoid severe disruption across the steel manufacturing ecosystem.

Amazon to Invest \$233 Million in India to Boost Infrastructure and Technology

Amazon has announced an investment of over 20 billion rupees (approximately \$233 million) in India for the year 2025 to expand and upgrade its operations infrastructure. The move aims to enhance its fulfillment network, develop new technologies, and improve delivery safety across the country.

This fresh investment builds upon Amazon's previous efforts to establish a vast operations network capable of delivering to every serviceable pin code in India. The company plans to launch new facilities and upgrade existing ones within its fulfillment and delivery system to increase speed and processing capacity, ensuring faster and more reliable deliveries for customers.

A key focus of the investment will be integrating technology that monitors delivery associates' speeds to alert them about unsafe driving and ensures an equitable dis-



tribution of delivery routes. This initiative is expected to improve delivery safety and efficiency throughout Amazon's network.

Apart from operational upgrades, Amazon intends to channel part of the funds towards initiatives aimed at enhancing the health and financial well-being of its employees in India, reflecting a commitment to workforce welfare.

This announcement follows Amazon's

2023 statement, when it projected that its total investments in India would reach \$26 billion by 2030. At that time, the company did not provide a detailed breakdown of the investments.

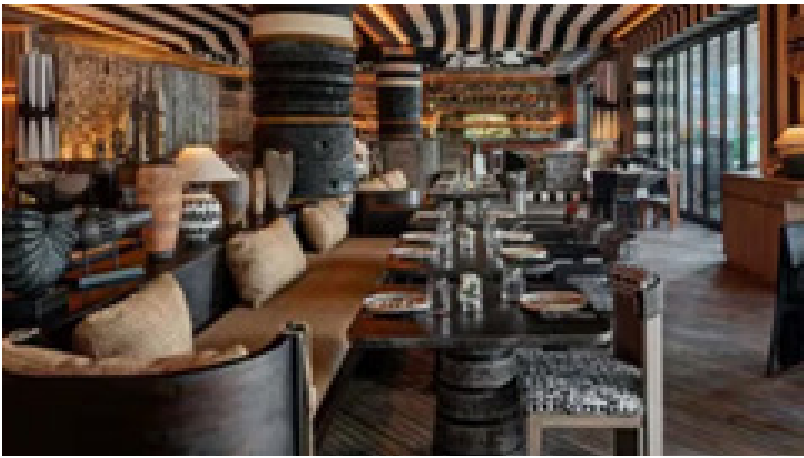
Amazon competes with major players like Walmart-owned Flipkart and Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail in India's rapidly growing e-commerce market. The new investment reinforces Amazon's commitment to strengthening its position in the country by improving infrastructure and technological capabilities.

Additionally, Amazon Web Services (AWS), the company's cloud computing arm, is set to invest around \$8.2 billion in Maharashtra in the coming years, as announced by India's information technology ministry earlier this year. This move underlines Amazon's broader strategy to deepen its footprint in India across multiple sectors.

Believe It or Not This French Restaurant Charges ₹1,500 Fine

No-Shows and Surprise Guests

A French restaurant's strict new policy is stirring debate online after the owner announced fines for customers who don't show up as expected. L'îlot, a cozy 20-seat restaurant in Amboise, is run by chef and owner Olivier Vincent, who recently introduced a ₹1,500 (15 euros) fine for any guest who arrives with a different number of people than stated in their reservation.



Vincent explained that this policy came about due to repeated frustrations caused by no-shows and unexpected extra guests turning up without prior notice. Such changes disrupt the restaurant's smooth operation, seating arrangements, and food preparation, which are all carefully planned for each reservation.

In a Facebook post, Olivier Vincent made it clear that any change in party size without warning would result in a fine of €15 per missing or extra person. His caption read simply: "Without warning obviously....."

Despite this strict stance, L'îlot enjoys an impressive 4.7-star rating on Google, reflecting the high quality of its dining experience and the respect many customers have for the restaurant.

The fine aims to encourage responsibility and better communication from diners, helping the small restaurant avoid last-minute disruptions and losses. It also reflects a growing trend among popular eateries worldwide that face similar challenges with no-shows and unpredictable guest numbers.

While some patrons have supported the decision as fair and necessary, others have criticized it as too harsh. Still, Vincent remains firm, emphasizing that the policy ensures the restaurant can continue to provide excellent service to all guests without the stress of unexpected changes.

In a world where dining spots are in high demand, especially intimate ones like L'îlot, clear communication and respect for bookings have become essential — and this French chef is making sure his guests understand that.

Why the 'Pizza Index' Is Trending After Israel's Strikes on Iran

As global attention turns to the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, an unusual theory known as the "Pizza Index" is once again making waves on social media. The theory proposes a strange yet intriguing connection: a spike in pizza orders near the Pentagon could indicate an impending military action or global crisis.



The theory gained renewed attention after reports emerged that pizza orders from three restaurants near the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., saw a sudden surge just before Israel launched airstrikes on Iran. The information was shared by a popular X (formerly Twitter) account called Pentagon Pizza Report, which has been tracking unusual food delivery patterns around the Pentagon.

The idea behind the Pizza Index is simple: when major decisions or operations are underway, staff and analysts working late at defense-related offices tend to order food—often pizza. Therefore, a noticeable uptick in orders could hint at high-level activity or imminent action.

While this theory might sound far-fetched, it's not

entirely new. Similar trends were observed before past international military operations, though the data has always been anecdotal and never officially confirmed.

The recent spike in deliveries before Israel's reported airstrikes has led to a flurry of speculation and memes online. While some treat it as a humorous conspiracy theory, others view it as a quirky but possibly insightful indicator of military movement.

In a world increasingly driven by open-source intelligence and unconventional data tracking, the Pizza Index adds an unexpected slice of speculation to the way we interpret geopolitical signals. Whether coincidence or pattern, it's once again caught the internet's attention in a big way.

Meta Sues Developer Behind AI 'Nudify' Apps Amid Surge in Misuse

Meta has taken legal action against Joy Timeline HK Limited, a Hong Kong-based company behind AI-powered "nudify" apps, in a bid to halt the spread of unethical content generated using artificial intelligence. These apps are designed to create fake, sexually explicit images of individuals—often without their knowledge or consent—by digitally removing clothing from photos.



The lawsuit, filed by Meta, is part of the company's broader campaign to combat the abuse of generative AI, particularly tools that violate privacy and promote harmful or exploitative behavior. Meta stated that Joy Timeline's CrushAI app and others like it

were using its platforms—Facebook and Instagram—to advertise such services, which directly violate Meta's community standards and advertis-

ing policies.

In its complaint, Meta accuses the company of leveraging deceptive practices and targeting users through misleading advertisements, posing significant risks to individuals' privacy and dignity. The tech giant emphasized that it is not only removing the offending content and ads but also pursuing legal action to set a precedent for responsible AI usage.

The rise of nudify apps has sparked growing concern worldwide, with AI-generated deepfake content becoming increasingly realistic and accessible. Lawmakers and tech leaders have voiced alarm about the psy-

chological and reputational damage caused by such tools, especially when used to target women and minors.

Meta's move reflects an increasing urgency among major platforms to implement stronger safeguards against AI misuse. The company also called for collaboration across the tech industry to combat the harmful use of generative technologies and to hold developers accountable.

This lawsuit may mark a turning point in how companies approach the legal and ethical responsibilities surrounding AI, as the lines between innovation and exploitation continue to blur.

Why Airplanes Have Small, Round Windows

The Science Behind the Design

Have you ever sat on a plane, gazing out the tiny window and wished it were larger for a better view? While it may seem like an aesthetic choice, there are critical safety and engineering reasons why airplane windows are small and round.

1. Structural Integrity:

Airplane windows are built into the fuselage — the main body of the aircraft. Making them larger would weaken the fuselage's structure. Large windows would be more vulnerable to damage and harder to seal against extreme pressure differences experienced during flight. Smaller windows help maintain the overall strength and airtight integrity of the aircraft.

2. Aerodynamic Efficiency:

Larger or oddly shaped windows would disrupt the smooth airflow over the plane's surface, increasing drag and reducing fuel efficiency. Small windows keep the plane streamlined, helping it fly faster and more efficiently.



3. The Lessons of the Past:

In the 1950s, early jet airliners like the De Havilland Comet had square windows. But as airlines started flying at higher altitudes to save fuel, aircraft cabins had to be pressurized. The square windows became weak points due to their sharp corners. Tragically, this led to two catastrophic mid-air disintegrations in 1953 and 1954. Investigations revealed that stress cracks developed around the square edges, causing fatal metal fatigue.

4. Why Round Is Safer:

Engineers learned that round or oval windows distribute pressure more evenly and eliminate weak spots. The smooth curves of circular windows reduce stress concentration, significantly lowering the risk of structural failure. This design has become a standard in aviation safety ever since.

In short, airplane windows may be small and round, but they're crucial for ensuring the structural safety and aerodynamic performance of modern airliners — keeping passengers safe high above the clouds.

Why Desert Nation Saudi Arabia Imports Sand for Construction

It may sound ironic, but Saudi Arabia, a country known for its vast deserts, imports sand from other nations like Australia, China, and Belgium. The reason? The sand found in Saudi deserts is not suitable for construction purposes.

Desert sand, shaped over millennia by wind, has smooth, rounded grains. These grains do not bind well with cement and water, making them unfit for construction. In contrast, construction-grade sand—used to build everything from skyscrapers to highways—must have rough, angular grains, typically found in riverbeds, lakes, and seabeds. These qualities allow the sand to form a strong bond with cement, essential for stable structures.

As part of its Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia has embarked on massive infrastructure projects like NEOM, The Red Sea Project, and Qiddiya, driving up the demand for high-quality sand. In 2023 alone, Saudi Arabia imported \$140,000 worth of sand from Australia, which was the second-largest global exporter of construction-grade sand that year, supplying over \$273 million worth worldwide.

Saudi Arabia isn't alone. Other Gulf nations like the UAE and Qatar also import sand to support their fast-paced urban growth. According to a 2024 UNEP



report, this trend highlights a global sand crisis. Around 50 billion tonnes of sand are consumed annually, but only a small fraction is suitable for construction. Excessive extraction is now linked to environmental degradation, including river erosion, habitat loss, and biodiversity decline.

In response, countries are turning to sustainable alternatives such as manufactured sand (M-sand)—produced by crushing rocks—and recycled construction waste. While these solutions offer hope, widespread implementation remains a work in progress.

Saudi Arabia's sand imports may seem surprising, but they underline a critical global resource challenge hidden beneath the surface of modern development.

Spain reaches final in Women’s Euro 2025

After 1-0 extra time win over Germany

Spain booked their place in the UEFA Women’s Euro 2025 final with a dramatic 1-0 extra-time victory over Germany on Wednesday, July 23, in Zurich. Aitana Bonmati’s stunning 113th-minute strike sealed Spain’s maiden trip to the tournament’s final, where they will face defending champions England on Sunday in Basel.



The semifinal clash was tense and closely contested. Spain dominated early possession and came close to scoring in the first half when captain Irene Paredes saw her powerful header rattle the post. Germany, in response, focused on a compact defensive setup, looking to hit on the counter.

In the second half, Germany grew into the game. Klara Bühl came closest to scoring, forcing Spanish goalkeeper Cata Coll into action with a deflected stoppage-time shot that needed to be acrobatically pushed away. Despite several half-chances for both sides, the game remained goalless after 90 minutes, pushing the match into extra time.

With the clock ticking down and penalties looming, it was Bonmati, the reigning Ballon

d’Or winner, who made the difference. Picking up the ball on the left side of the box, she noticed a narrow gap at the near post and curled a precise, angled shot past German keeper Ann-Katrin Berger, sending the Spanish players and fans into wild celebrations.

Spain’s resilience and tactical discipline were on full display throughout the match, and Bonmati’s moment of brilliance ensured their place in the final of a major women’s tournament for the first time. As they prepare to face a strong English side, the Spaniards will carry both momentum and belief into the title clash.

The final takes place Sunday, July 27, in Basel, promising an epic showdown between two of Europe’s top teams.

China Open 2025

Satwik-Chirag Pair Storms Into Quarterfinals, Prannoy Exits

Prannoy Crashes Out of Singles

India’s star men’s doubles duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the quarterfinals of the China Open Super 1000 badminton tournament with a hard-fought straight-game win over Indonesia’s eighth-seeded pair, Leo Rolly Carnando and Bagas Maulana, in Changzhou on Thursday.

The former world number one Indian pair showcased exceptional tactical discipline and composure to edge past their opponents with identical scores of 21-19, 21-19 in a tightly contested encounter. Both games saw frequent momentum shifts, but Satwik and Chirag managed to stay focused during the crunch moments to close out the match.

Speaking after the victory, Chirag Shetty said, “It was quite a topsy-turvy match — back and forth all the way. No one had a big lead. Around 16 in the first game, we managed to pull ahead with a small streak and that helped us seal the game. In the second game, we could’ve been a little calmer at the start. Still, credit to the Indonesians — they played some really sharp badminton, especially while receiving serve. Over-



all, we’re happy to move into the quarters.”

While it was celebration for the doubles duo, India’s HS Prannoy suffered a setback in singles. The experienced shuttler crashed out in the second round after a gritty 65-minute battle against sixth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. Prannoy started strong, winning the first game 21-18, but lost momentum and eventually succumbed 15-21, 8-21 in the next two games.

With Prannoy’s exit, India’s singles hopes take a hit, but the spotlight now shifts to the in-form Satwik-Chirag pair as they continue their quest for glory at the prestigious Super 1000 event.



Fritz, Medvedev Into DC Open Last 16

Top seed Taylor Fritz and Russian eighth seed Daniil Medvedev advanced to the last 16 of the ATP/WTB DC Open on Wednesday, July 23, with contrasting victories.

Fritz, playing his first match since his Wimbledon semifinal loss to Carlos Alcaraz, breezed past Australia’s Aleksandar Vukic in just 59 minutes with a dominant 6-3, 6-2 win. The American delivered a clinical performance, using his strong serve and lethal backhands to notch 28 winners. He broke Vukic early to take a 3-0 lead in the first set and never looked back, sealing a straightforward win to set up a third-round clash with Italy’s Matteo Arnaldi.

“I felt like I played pretty well all around, but the shot that stood out was the backhand down the line,” Fritz told The Tennis Channel. “I don’t usually go for it, but today, everything was clicking.”

Meanwhile, Medvedev had to dig deep in his match against

the big-serving American Reilly Opelka. After dropping the first set 3-6, Medvedev rallied to win the next two sets 7-5, 6-1. “I didn’t return well until late in the second set, but I kept looking for solutions,” Medvedev said, crediting his improved play and Opelka’s fatigue. He will next face China’s Wu Yibing, who upset 10th seed Alexei Popyrin.

In other matches, fifth seed Andrey Rublev crashed out to American Learner Tien, while on the women’s side, second seed Emma Navarro was ousted by Greece’s Maria Sakkari. Third seed Elena Rybakina advanced to the quarters with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Victoria Mboko.

In women’s doubles, Venus Williams, 45, and Hailey Baptiste narrowly lost to second seeds Taylor Townsend/Zhang Shuai in a thrilling 6-4, 3-6, 10-6 contest. Venus will continue her singles campaign against Magdalena Frech on Thursday.

MLS Defeats Liga MX 3-1 in All-Star Game Despite Messi’s Absence

Major League Soccer (MLS) secured a 3-1 victory over Mexico’s Liga MX in the 2025 MLS All-Star Game on Wednesday night at Q2 Stadium, even without star player Lionel Messi taking part. The match saw goals from Sam Surridge, Tai Baribo, and Brian White, as MLS continued their dominance over Liga MX, winning three of the last four All-Star clashes.

Messi, along with Inter Miami teammate Jordi Alba, missed the game and now face possible suspensions for their upcoming league match against Cincinnati due to their absence. MLS coach Nico Estévez praised Messi but emphasized respect for the players who showed up and performed well during the unique event. Similarly, Liga MX’s star James Rodríguez also chose not to participate.

The match started competitively with both sides creating chances, including diving saves by Liga MX’s Luis Malagón and MLS goalkeeper Brad Stuver. MLS broke the deadlock in the 28th minute when Surridge headed home a precise cross from LAFC’s Denis Bouanga after Bouanga’s initial shot was saved.



MLS extended their lead in the 51st minute through Baribo, who finished off a slick assist from Diego Rossi. Liga MX pulled one back in the 64th minute with Gilberto Mora scoring from a pass by Elias Montiel, but MLS sealed the game with a late goal by Brian White in the 80th minute.

Baribo and White continue to chase the

MLS scoring lead, currently held by Messi and Surridge, with 14 and 11 goals respectively.

The MLS-Liga MX rivalry continues with the Leagues Cup starting July 29, featuring 36 clubs competing in a new format, highlighting the growing competitive ties between the two leagues.

Historic Feats for Rishabh Pant as England Dominate Day 2

Rishabh Pant delivered another unforgettable performance in the fourth Test against England at Old Trafford, Manchester, even as India found themselves under pressure by stumps on Day 2. Battling physical discomfort, the resilient wicket-keeper batter brought up multiple personal milestones during his gritty knock.

Pant smashed his 90th six in Test cricket, drawing level with the iconic Virender Sehwag for the most sixes by an Indian in the format. Known for his aggressive and fearless batting, Pant now tops the list alongside Sehwag, while India captain Rohit Sharma follows with 88 sixes. Other notable names include MS Dhoni (78) and Ravindra Jadeja (74), rounding out the top five Indian six-hitters in Tests.

In addition to the six-hitting record, Pant

etched his name in the record books by surpassing Rohit Sharma as India’s leading run-scorer in the World Test Championship (WTC) era. With 2731 runs in just 38 Tests—including six centuries and sixteen half-centuries—Pant continues to be a vital cog in India’s red-ball lineup. Rohit, with 2719 runs, now sits just behind.

Despite Pant’s heroics, India could not build on their total, getting bowled out for 358. In response, England unleashed their trademark Bazball approach. Openers Ben Duckett (94) and Zak Crawley (84) forged a rapid 166-run opening stand, putting the Indian bowlers under pressure. At stumps, England had raced to 225 for two, trailing India by just 133 runs. Ollie Pope (20\) and Joe Root (11\) remained unbeaten at the crease, giving the hosts a firm grip on the game heading into Day 3.





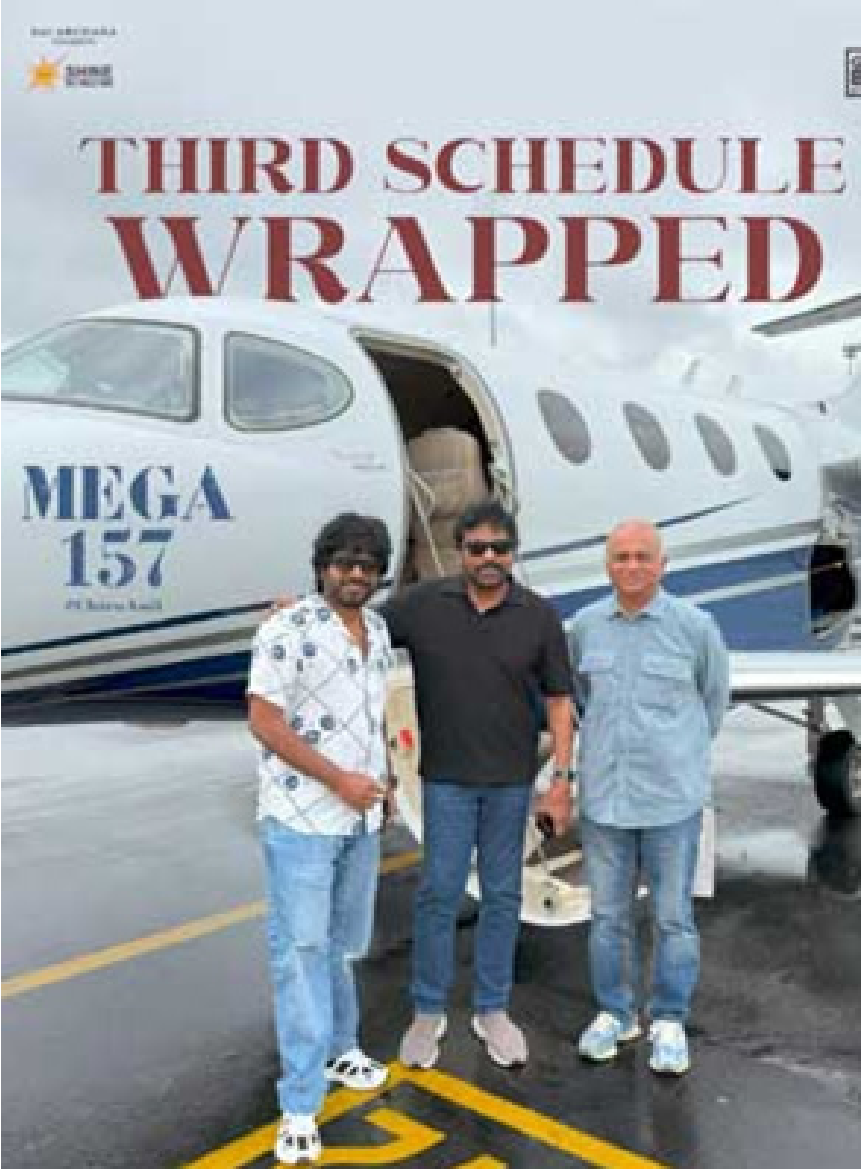
Chiranjeevi–Anil Ravipudi Film Completes Third Schedule in Kerala

The much-awaited collaboration between Megastar Chiranjeevi and director Anil Ravipudi is steadily progressing, with the team recently wrapping up the third shooting schedule. Titled Megha-157 (working title), the film is already making waves among fans and industry circles alike.

This latest schedule took place in Kerala and spanned ten days. A major highlight of this leg of the shoot was the filming of a romantic song featuring Chiranjeevi and leading lady Nayanthara. The picturesque locations of Kerala added visual richness to the sequence, and expectations are high for a visually appealing and musically memorable number.

Chiranjeevi's role in the film is generating significant curiosity. As per inside sources, the iconic star will be seen playing a drill master—an exciting and never-before-seen avatar for him. Known for his versatility, Chiranjeevi is expected to bring both charm and authority to this unique character, offering a refreshing experience for his fans.

Anil Ravipudi, known for his commercial entertainers with a perfect blend of humor and action, is said to be crafting a family-centric narrative with mass appeal. With Nayanthara on board as the female lead, the film gains further star power and elegance. Their on-screen pairing is expected to be one of the film's standout elements.



While official plot details remain under wraps, the buzz surrounding Megha-157 continues to grow with each update. The successful completion of this schedule marks another milestone in what promises to be a grand cinematic entertainer.

Stay tuned for more exclusive updates and behind-the-scenes glimpses as Megha-157 moves into its next schedule. Fans can look forward to a refreshing role from Chiranjeevi and a high-energy, emotionally engaging drama on the big screen.

Balakrishna's Daaku Maharaaj Scores Fair TRP in First TV Telecast

Nandamuri Balakrishna's Daaku Maharaaj continues to maintain its momentum across platforms, registering a fair TRP of 8.23 during its recent world television premiere on Star Maa. Despite an overall dip in small-screen viewership, the film's performance is considered solid, aligning with the consistent TV success of Balakrishna's recent outings.



While the film had only a decent theatrical run—largely overshadowed by Venkatesh's blockbuster Sankranti—Vasthunam—it found a second wind on OTT, becoming a surprise hit on Netflix, especially among non-Telugu audiences.

Featuring Bobby Deol as the primary antagonist, the ensemble cast also includes Pragya Jaiswal, Shraddha Srinath, Urvashi Rautela, and Chandini Chowdhary. Produced by Naga Vamsi under the Sithara Entertainment banner, the film's wide appeal was further amplified by S.S. Thaman's dynamic soundtrack, which played a crucial role in connecting with a pan-Indian audience.

With its cross-platform success and respectable TV reception, Daaku Maharaaj has solidified its position as another feather in Balakrishna's cap, especially in the digital era where audience preferences are rapidly evolving.

Hari Hara Veera Mallu Review: A Visually Grand, Yet Uneven Period Saga

After years of anticipation and delays, Hari Hara Veera Mallu: Part 1 – Sword vs Spirit finally hits the big screen, led by Pawan Kalyan in a powerful and poised performance. Set in the 1650s, the film follows Veera Mallu, a rebellious hero entrusted with recovering the legendary Koh-i-Noor diamond from Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. But beneath this mission lies a deeper personal vendetta and mysterious past, slowly unraveled as the story progresses.



The film's strongest pillar is undoubtedly Pawan Kalyan, whose screen presence, composed demeanor, and intense action scenes carry much of the narrative weight. The action choreography stands out, with sequences like the Machilipatnam port fight and the Kushti battle offering true cinematic spectacle. Nidhi Agerwal performs well in her limited role, and Bobby Deol makes a menacing impression, though his screen time is brief, teasing a bigger role in the sequel.

While the first half is gripping and energetic, the second half struggles with pacing issues. The plot stalls with filler scenes that dilute tension, and the absence of a meaningful confrontation between the hero and villain leaves a void. Characters like Sathiyaraj and Nidhi's Panchami are underdeveloped, losing narra-

tive impact as the story progresses.

Technically, Keeravaani's music adds emotional gravitas, and the cinematography by Gnana Sekhar VS and Manoj Paramahansa enhances the period atmosphere. However, the weak visual effects—particularly during key scenes—are a major letdown, diminishing the overall grandeur.

Despite its flaws, Hari Hara Veera Mallu delivers enough moments of mass appeal and visual flair to make it a worthwhile watch. It sets the stage for a more intense sequel and rewards fans with a taste of epic action, even if the full meal is yet to come.

Rating: 3/5

'Kingdom' Promotions in Full Swing

Vijay Deverakonda, Vanga & Gautham Unite for Kingdom

Tollywood fans are buzzing with excitement as promotions for the upcoming action drama Kingdom, starring Vijay Deverakonda, kick into high gear ahead of its July 31 release. Directed by Gautham Tinnanuri and produced by Naga Vamsi under Sithara Entertainment, Kingdom promises to showcase Deverakonda in a powerful new avatar.



Joining him in the lead is Bhagyashree Bhorse, while talented actor Satyadev plays a key supporting role. With just days to go for its theatrical debut, the film's promotional campaign has picked up momentum. Instead of typical media meet-and-greets, the makers are opting for impactful promotional content such as interviews and social media-driven campaigns.

A major highlight of the ongoing promotions is a special interview featuring Arjun Reddy and Animal director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who sat down with Vijay Deverakonda and Gautham Tinnanuri for an in-depth conversation. The video from this unique interaction is expected to drop soon and has already generated major curiosity among fans.

A still from the interview — showing Deverakonda, Vanga, and Tinnanuri in the same frame — has gone viral across social media platforms, fueling anticipation for both the conversation and the film itself. Fans are especially excited to see two powerhouse directors and one of Tollywood's biggest stars share insights on cinema, storytelling, and Kingdom.

In addition to this interview, the film team has planned a grand pre-release event and trailer launch in Tirupati, further building momentum as the release nears. With a strong cast, compelling storyline, and innovative promotional strategy, Kingdom is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Telugu films of the year.

Michael Jackson Biopic "Michael" Rescheduled for April 2026 Release

The highly anticipated biopic Michael, based on the life and legacy of pop icon Michael Jackson, is now set to release worldwide on April 24, 2026. The film was originally scheduled to hit theatres in October 2025 but faced delays due to reshoots and an extended initial cut, prompting producers to push back the release date.

Directed by Antoine Fuqua and written by John Logan, the film stars Jaafar Jackson, Michael's nephew, in the lead role. The project is being pro-

duced by Oscar-winner Graham King, known for The Departed. According to the official synopsis, Michael will offer "an intimate look at the life and enduring legacy" of the global superstar, charting his rise from child prodigy to the King of Pop, one of the most influential figures in music history.

Lionsgate will handle the film's domestic distribution, while Universal Pictures will release it internationally, excluding Japan, where Kino Films

holds the rights. Lionsgate CEO Jon Feltheimer had previously hinted at a possible delay to 2026, which is now confirmed.

The biopic also boasts a strong supporting cast: Colman Domingo and Nia Long as Joe and Katherine Jackson, Miles Teller as John Branca, Jackson's lawyer, Larenz Tate as Motown founder Berry Gordy, Laura Harrier as executive Suzanne de



Passe
Kat Graham as Diana Ross

Other cast members include Jessica Sula as La Toya Jackson, Liv Symone as Gladys Knight, and Kendrick Sampson as legendary producer Quincy Jones.

Michael Jackson passed away in 2009 at the age of 50 due to acute propofol intoxication. His personal physician, Conrad Murray, was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter. Michael promises to be a powerful cinematic tribute to a legend who changed the face of global pop music.