



# SC Rejects Plea Seeking Delimitation in AP-Telangana

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has issued a significant verdict on the issue of delimitation in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, dismissing a petition filed by Professor Purushotham Reddy regarding the reorganisation of constituencies in the two Telugu states. The petitioner had sought directions under Section 26 of the AP Reorganisation Act to increase the number of constituencies. Filed in 2022, the plea alleged that the Centre ignored the AP Reorganisation Act while conducting delimitation in Jammu & Kashmir, calling it unconstitutional. A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Koteswar Singh heard the matter today and issued final orders rejecting the petition. The bench observed that under Article 170(3) of the Constitution, there are limitations on Section 26 of the AP Reorganisation Act. It noted that as per the law, delimitation cannot be undertaken before the first census post-2026.



The bench further stated that accepting such petitions could open the floodgates for similar demands from other states. It clarified that delimitation rules differ between Union Territories and states, dismissing any comparison with Jammu & Kashmir.

The court also rejected the argument that special focus was unfairly given to Jammu & Kashmir. The notification issued for J&K's delimitation was neither one-sided nor politically motivated, the bench clarified, and ruled the petition as devoid of merit.

## Telangana HC Rejects Srilakshmi's Petition

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a significant legal development, the Telangana High Court has dismissed a revision petition filed by senior IAS officer Y. Srilakshmi in connection with the Obulapuram illegal mining case. The court's decision marks a setback for the officer, who had sought to be declared innocent and removed from the list of accused in the long-standing multi-crore scam. Srilakshmi had approached the court claiming that she was falsely implicated in the case. She argued that her inclusion among the accused was baseless and requested the court to quash the charges against her. However, after reviewing the petition



and the evidence on record, the High Court ruled against her, stating that the previous judicial findings regarding her role in the case would stand. The court's rejection of her plea reinforces the ongoing case being pursued

by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which has been actively probing the irregularities in the illegal mining operations linked to Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC). Srilakshmi's name had earlier been listed as one of the key accused in the matter. The High Court emphasized that the available evidence justified her continued investigation and that her bureaucratic position could not be used as grounds for exemption. With the dismissal of her revision petition, the CBI is likely to intensify its probe into her alleged involvement. This verdict is expected to have far-reaching implications on the legal proceedings ahead, particularly in terms of accountability among senior administrative officials.



## Gandikota Minor Girl Case Under Active Investigation: DIG

TPN | Nagaraju

Kurnool: Rayalaseema DIG Koya Praveen issued a key update regarding the Gandikota minor girl case, stating that the investigation is ongoing and will take some more time due to its sensitive and complex nature. Addressing the media, he said that authorities have identified 350 individuals based on mobile tower data. The DIG revealed that a village fair had taken place near Gandikota on the day of the incident, and due to the overlap of two cell towers in the area, nearly 300 people have already been questioned. The remaining 50 individuals are yet to be interrogated, and the police are working to expedite the process. "For the past ten days, a dedicated team of 10 officers has been working on this case with complete focus," he stated. In response to the incident, officials have imposed strict measures in the Gandikota tourist zone.

## Chandrababu, Family To Adopt Bangaru Families

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a key decision in the state's fight against poverty — he and his family members will personally adopt several 'Bangaru Families' under the Zero Poverty P4 initiative. During a review meeting held at the Secretariat on Friday, the CM emphasized that collective participation is crucial in eradicating poverty from the state. He stated that by leading from the front, he hopes to inspire more affluent individuals to come forward as mentors. The CM described the P4 initiative as a public movement and reiterated the coalition government's core goal — empowerment of poor families. He directed officials to implement the best practices statewide to ensure effective outcomes. The CM urged officials to connect global Telugu communities and NRIs with this mission. He said the APNRT Society must be used to involve NRIs, and district collectors should coordinate with corporate entities to encourage CSR participation. He suggested that villages be treated as units,



enabling NRIs and industrialists from those areas to adopt local Bangaru Families. In cases where no local mentors are available, external support should be connected. A common fund will be created to pool donations from state-level contributors, which will be used to assist Bangaru Families.

### P4 Survey by August 10

Chandrababu directed that the ongoing priority survey of Bangaru Families be completed by August 10. He instructed officials to gather feedback on the type of financial and non-financial help being provided and to ensure proper data entry at the village and ward secretariat level. P4 teams must raise awareness

among families using online tools.

### Over 5.74 Lakh Families Adopted So Far

As of now, 5,74,811 Bangaru Families have been adopted by 57,503 mentors. The target is to reach 15 lakh families by August 15, which will require at least 2 lakh more mentors. Palnadu district has the highest number of adoptions, while Visakhapatnam is currently lagging behind.

### Three-Pronged Approach to P4

The P4 initiative follows three strategies. First, mentors adopt families and provide ongoing non-financial support — this is an open-ended process. Second, the "Fund a Need" model offers time-bound financial support for those with urgent monetary needs. The third model allows adoption of entire villages or mandals to fulfill community needs, aligning with corporate social responsibility goals. Partner organizations like KPMG, Milaap, Thammada, Bhavya, Bhargo, and Project Deep have been asked to take a more active role.



## Godavari Turns Ferocious After Heavy Rains

TPN Correspondent | Rajamahendravaram: With relentless rains lashing the upper catchment areas and both Telugu states, the Godavari River has turned furious. Authorities at Dhavaleswaram Barrage have lifted all 175 gates to release the surging floodwaters. As of now, 2,16,300 cusecs of water are being discharged into the Bay of Bengal. The rainfall is being attributed to a low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal, which is causing widespread showers across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Several other areas are experiencing overcast conditions. Streams, canals, and rivers in both states are witnessing a sharp rise in inflow. In East Godavari district, floodwaters have entered Lanka villages due to continuous downpour. Officials have sounded an alert and are closely monitoring the situation. With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting heavy rains over the next three days, district authorities are on high alert. Special focus is being placed on low-lying and flood-prone areas. People residing in vulnerable zones are being warned and advised to stay cautious. Disaster management teams have been kept ready for any emergency response. The situation is being reviewed hourly to ensure public safety as the flood situation may intensify if the rains continue.



## Vijayawada in Danger?

Budameru Cleanup Still Just a Promise



## Reshuffle Coming Soon?

8 Ministers May Lose Berths

## Don't Believe Rumors on Amaravati Delay: Minister Narayana



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana visited the capital region on Friday to review the progress of government building construction. He inspected the quarters for NGO, Gazetted, and Class-IV employees at Nelapadu and addressed concerns over alleged delays in Amaravati's development. Dismissing the negative campaign by certain groups, the minister stated, "Some are spreading false propaganda that no development is happening in Amaravati. Don't believe it. We will complete 100% of the capital works in three years." He assured that the construction of 4,000 residential flats will be completed by March 2026. In addition, to cater to the needs of the officials and employees residing in the capital, infrastructure like SRM and VIT universities,





## Don't Believe Rumors on...

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CBSE schools, and hospitals will also be established by the same deadline. Basic amenities in returnable flats for farmers will begin soon after the monsoon, he said. "Tenders have already been completed for infrastructure in LPS zones," the minister added.

Narayana criticized the previous YSRCP government for stalling capital development. "They harassed Singapore officials with cases, which damaged relations between Andhra Pradesh and Singapore. The previous government had no understanding of how to build a city."

Highlighting the earlier TDP government's efforts, he said 1,450 acres of land was allocated through the Swiss Challenge method in a 42:58 ratio to attract top companies and banks to Amaravati. "We will work to restore Singapore's trust in Andhra Pradesh," he affirmed, suggesting a renewed push to bring back global investors to the capital.

## Gandikota Minor Girl...

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"Minor children will not be allowed to stay in lodges or rooms around Gandikota. Tourist outposts will conduct continuous checks to ensure such incidents do not repeat," DIG Praveen said. He also confirmed that allegations made against certain family members of the victim are being thoroughly investigated. However, he emphasized, "We are at the investigation stage and cannot reveal further details at this moment. But we are determined to solve the case at the earliest."

The DIG reassured that the department is taking all possible precautions to safeguard minors and ensure such unfortunate incidents do not happen again in the Gandikota region. Meanwhile, murmurs are circulating among the public that if the angle involving allegations against the family members gains focus, it could become a major development in the case.

## Govt to Recruit 358 AYUSH Staff

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a major step to expand AYUSH healthcare services across the state, the Andhra Pradesh government has decided to fill 358 posts in the AYUSH department. This includes 71 doctors, 26 district program managers, 90 Panchakarma therapists, and other support staff. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav approved the recruitment, emphasizing the urgency to deploy personnel to deliver alternative healthcare services effectively across all 26 districts.

Unlike the previous government, which spent only ₹37 crore on AYUSH services over five years, the coalition government is focusing on revitalizing the sector. Due to the proactive efforts of Minister Yadav, the central government sanctioned ₹83 crore to the state under the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan. Several initiatives are already underway as part of this plan.

Looking ahead, the state has submitted a ₹250 crore proposal to the central government under the AYUSH Mission for the financial year 2025-26. As AYUSH services expand rapidly, the shortage of staff has become a key concern. After a thorough review, Minister Yadav directed officials to initiate immediate recruitment to address this gap. The recruitment will be carried out on a contract and outsourcing basis through the State Medical Services Recruitment Board. The newly appointed staff will be responsible for delivering AYUSH healthcare at the grassroots level. Additionally, three psychiatrists will be appointed specifically to counsel individuals struggling with alcohol addiction.

The government's renewed focus on AYUSH services is seen as a significant shift from past neglect to a more inclusive, wellness-oriented healthcare strategy. By deploying trained professionals across districts, the state aims to strengthen its public health outreach and ensure broader access to traditional healing systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, and Panchakarma.

# Liquor Scam MP Faces Setback on Jail Facilities

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Jail Department has filed a fresh petition in the ACB Court, stating that YSR Congress Party MP Mithun Reddy cannot be granted permission to receive home-cooked food or be assigned an attendant during his time in prison. Mithun Reddy is currently lodged in jail following his arrest in the high-profile liquor scam case. Earlier, the MP had filed a petition seeking various special privileges in jail. Responding to that, the ACB Court in Vijayawada granted certain facilities, allowing him a separate cell equipped with a western commode, necessary medications, a bed, blanket, pillow, water bottles, air cooler, newspaper, pen, table, and a television, if available.



has now clarified that permitting home-cooked

meals and an attendant violates prison regulations. It emphasized that while the court-approved amenities have been arranged, extending such additional privileges would go beyond what is legally permissible for any inmate. In light of the new petition, the court has directed Mithun Reddy to file a counter, addressing the Jail Department's objections. The matter is now set for further hearing on July 29. The liquor scam, in which Mithun Reddy is one of the key accused, has drawn considerable public attention. His request for enhanced jail privileges has triggered debate over the fairness and consistency of jail rules, especially when dealing with high-profile political figures. The upcoming court decision is expected to clarify the extent to which such requests can be entertained within the legal framework.

## HC Refuses Anantha Babu's Plea

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a major legal development, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has refused to stay the verdict of the Rajahmundry SC/ST Special Court in the sensational murder case involving YSRCP MLC Anantha Babu. The court made it clear that the trial can proceed as ordered, denying the MLC's request to halt further proceedings. The case relates to the brutal murder of Subrahmanyam, a Dalit youth and former personal driver of Anantha Babu, that occurred three years ago in Kakinada. Following the murder, reports emerged that Anantha Babu personally delivered the body, which shocked the public and garnered widespread media attention. At the time, then-East Godavari SP Ravindranath



Babu had confirmed during a press conference that Anantha Babu had confessed to the crime. He was subsequently remanded to Rajahmundry

Central Jail but was later released on interim bail. The victim's family has since been seeking justice and has demanded a CBI investigation into the case. They have also called for strict legal action against the accused. During the elections, the present ruling coalition government had assured justice for the family. Recently, based on a complaint filed by Subrahmanyam's mother, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) sought court approval to proceed with a comprehensive reinvestigation. The SC/ST Court accepted this plea and ordered the SIT to file an additional charge sheet within 90 days. Challenging these directives, Anantha Babu approached the High Court, which has now ruled against him, allowing the lower court's instructions to remain in force.

## NGO Leaders Meet CM, Present Employees' Concerns



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

AP NGO Association State President and JAC Chairman A. Vidyasagar, along with General Secretary D.V. Ramana, paid a courtesy visit to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the state secretariat in Velagapudi. During the meeting, the NGO leaders brought to the Chief Minister's attention several pending demands and concerns of government employees. They conveyed the anxiety prevailing among staff due to unresolved issues and sought the government's proactive intervention in addressing them.

Chief Minister Naidu assured the delegation that the coalition government is fully aware of the problems faced by the employees. Despite the state's current financial challenges, he emphasized that the government is committed to resolving their issues in a phased and friendly manner. He reiterated that necessary steps would be taken gradually to ensure employee welfare without compromising administrative stability.

The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the newly elected NGO leaders and extended his best wishes to A. Vidyasagar and D.V. Ramana for their future endeavors. He expressed confidence that continuous dialogue between the government and employee associations would lead to constructive solutions and mutual understanding.

## Metro Projects Back on Track



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh government has fast-tracked the construction of metro rail projects in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. Tender notification for the Visakhapatnam project has already been issued, and the Vijayawada metro tenders will be released within two days, announced Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Narayana at a media briefing held at the CRDA office in Vijayawada.

The Amaravati Metro Rail Corporation (APMRC) has signed MoUs with two international consultancies—TIPSA and SYSTRA—for project design, supervision, and technical support. Construction will be undertaken as a joint venture between the central and state governments, with the funding pattern split as 20% each from the Centre and the State, while the remaining 60% will be covered through soft loans.

Visakhapatnam Metro Phase-1 will be built with an estimated cost of ₹11,498 crore over three corridors, covering a total of 46.23 km and featuring 42 stations. A 20 km double-decker line is planned between Thatichetlapalem and Madhurawada. Land acquisition for 99.75 acres is estimated at ₹847 crore.

The Vijayawada Metro Phase-1 will span 38.40 km with two corridors, at a cost of ₹10,118 crore, including 33 stations. A double-decker line will run from Ramavarappadu to Enikepadu, requiring 91 acres of land and ₹1,152 crore for acquisition.

Minister Narayana stated that both metro projects are targeted for completion within three years. The agreements were formalized in the presence of APMRC MD Ramakrishna Reddy and representatives from TIPSA and SYSTRA.





## Prasanna Kumar Reddy Grilled for 3 Hours

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Former YSRCP MLA Nallapareddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy was questioned for over three hours on Friday in connection with objectionable remarks made against Kovur TDP MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy. The inquiry took place at the Nellore Rural DSP office where police posed 40 questions related to the controversial comments. Police had earlier issued a notice to Prasanna Kumar Reddy two days ago, summoning him in the case involving alleged indecent and derogatory statements against MLA Prashanthi. Responding to the notice, the ex-MLA appeared at the DSP office around 10 AM and was interrogated by a team led by DSP Ghattamaneni Srinivasa Rao. Speaking to the media after the questioning, Prasanna Kumar Reddy said he responded to all 40 questions in writing. He claimed political criticism and counter-criticism are common, and if every such comment leads to a criminal case, courts and jails wouldn't suffice. In the same case, another person, Anil Kumar Reddy, has already been named as Accused No. 2 (A2). Police are continuing their probe based on video evidence and public statements made by the accused. The case has drawn attention amid heightened political tension in the region, with TDP alleging coordinated personal attacks from YSRCP leaders during and after the election campaign.

## CPM Plans Statewide Protests



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The CPM has accused the coalition government in State of ignoring public problems and favoring big corporate companies with land allotments. Speaking at an extended district-level meeting of the party held at Balotsav Bhavan in NTR district, CPM state secretariat member Chigurupati Baburao alleged that after one year of rule, the coalition government has become completely indifferent to the people's needs and solely focused on selling government land to major domestic and foreign corporations. He cited examples like the handover of the ₹400 crore-worth five-acre RTC bus stand land in Governorpet, Vijayawada, to Lulu Group, and plans to allot thousands of acres in Vidyadharapuram and the proposed Sports City project. He pointed out that projects like the Vijayawada Metro remain stagnant while pothole-ridden roads reflect administrative apathy. Baburao criticized the government's silence on critical infrastructure demands like the Gunadala flyover, Budameru flood protection works, and repairs to the damaged Katthaleru bridge. He further alleged that corruption at all levels mirrors the practices of the previous government, with public representatives engaging in illegal mining and land deals. The CPM also questioned the govern-

# Cabinet Reshuffle Ahead?

## 8 Ministers on the Exit List

TPN | Kishore Naidu

East Godavari: With the end of Ashada and the arrival of Sravana, political speculation is heating up around a major cabinet reshuffle in the ruling coalition. The government has completed more than a year in office, and political analysts believe that the high command is preparing for a significant shake-up in the cabinet. In the first cabinet formation, the focus was largely on youth, sidelining many senior leaders. However, the performance of several ministers has reportedly disappointed the leadership. Many are said to lack command over their allotted departments, depend heavily on their personal assistants, and are unable to effectively counter the criticism coming from YSRCP leaders. The lack of subject knowledge among some ministers is also said to be a key concern. According to reliable sources, around eight ministers are expected to be dropped. Meanwhile, Speaker Ayyannapatrudu and Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju are reportedly eye-



ing cabinet berths. It is believed that CM Chandrababu is already aware of their interest. In this reshuffle, former ministers like Penugonda MLA Pithani Satyanarayana and Undi MLA Raghurama Krishnam Raju from the twin Godavari districts are said to be in contention. There is also talk of inducting Speaker Ayyannapatrudu into the cabinet and giving the Speaker post to a senior Jana Sena leader from Uttarandhra, particularly from the BC community. Currently, Nimmala Ramanaidu from the Godavari region is serv-

ing as a minister. Hence, there may be a choice between Pithani and Triple R for a single cabinet seat. Pithani, a senior leader from the BC community, has a long political journey since 2009 and served as Minister for Labour, Health, and Social Welfare. He also held a TDP Politburo position. Triple R, currently the Deputy Speaker, has previously served as Narasapuram MP and is known for his fiery oratory. With both leaders being seasoned politicians, the high command is reportedly leaning towards Pithani, according to political observers.

# Sharmila slams BJP, State MPs

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

APCC chief YS Sharmila Reddy launched a scathing attack on the BJP and Andhra Pradesh MPs, accusing them of betraying the state by remaining silent on key bifurcation issues and the long-pending demand for Special Category Status. Addressing the media in Vijayawada, Sharmila said the 25 Lok Sabha MPs and 11 Rajya Sabha members from Andhra Pradesh have failed to speak up for the state's rights in Parliament. She alleged that state MPs are more interested in pleasing Prime Minister Modi than in fighting for the promises made during bifur-



cation. "All our MPs have become BJP puppets, rubber stamps in Modi's hands," she said. Sharmila slammed them for not ques-

tioning the delay in Polavaram, capital city funding, Kadapa Steel Plant, and Dugarajapatnam port. She pointed out that even when Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is being privatized, no MP has raised a voice. On Special Category Status, Sharmila said it was a promise made by Congress and that Modi misled the people for ten years, while TDP diluted the demand. She criticized the partial implementation of schemes like free bus travel for women and called the "Super Six" announcements a super flop. She also highlighted the urea shortage and farmers' distress.

# Coalition Governance Brings Peace: MLA Chadalavada



TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

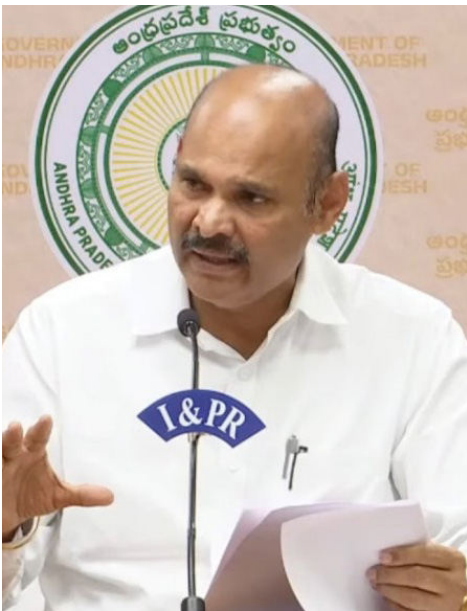
In a strong endorsement of the coalition government's inclusive governance, Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu stated that people across Andhra Pradesh are now living peacefully, beyond political divisions. Participating in the 'P4' program held on Friday in Wards 2, 3, and 5 of Narasaraopet town, the MLA addressed the public and highlighted the contrast between the current coalition government and the previous YSRCP administration. He accused the former YSRCP regime of harassing citizens and opposition party workers by foisting false cases against them. "The previous government created an atmosphere of fear and unrest, making it difficult for people to lead peaceful lives," Dr. Chadalavada alleged. He praised the current govern-

ment for its commitment to public welfare and inclusive development. "The coalition is working for everyone, regardless of party affiliation," he said. The MLA assured that resolving public grievances swiftly and ensuring that welfare schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries are the top priorities of the new government. Dr. Chadalavada also emphasized that his personal goal is to ensure the development of the constituency and improve the quality of life for all its residents. He urged citizens to actively participate in government initiatives and bring their issues directly to his attention, promising to address them without delay. The P4 program in Narasaraopet received positive response from the local residents. Several coalition leaders, workers, Municipal Commissioner Jaswanth Rao, municipal staff, and volunteers from village secretariats participated in the event.

# Fulfilling Every Poll Promise: Min Parthasarathi

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations, Kolusu Parthasarathi, affirmed that the NDA coalition government is fulfilling every promise made in the election manifesto and is confidently moving ahead among the public. On Friday, he participated in several development programs in the 17th division of Vaddipalem, Nellore Rural constituency, along with MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy. The minister laid foundation stones for development works worth ₹85 lakh, including cement roads, BT roads, pipelines, and compound walls. Speaking on the occasion, Parthasarathi praised Sridhar Reddy as the only MLA to complete development projects worth ₹268 crore in a year under the current government. He lauded the MLA for being among the people, understanding their needs, and working hard to resolve their issues. He emphasized that the NDA government under CM Chandrababu Naidu is operating with sincerity, aligning with the hopes and aspirations of the people. Despite financial constraints, the state is progressing due to the Chief Minister's administrative expertise and vast experience, he said. The minister reiterated the government's commitment to fulfilling the "Super Six" promises. Initiatives like Anna Canteens to feed the poor, en-



hanced NTR Bharosa pensions for 68 lakh beneficiaries, free Deepam gas connections, and direct cash transfers under 'Thalliki Vandhanam' were highlighted. He stated that schemes like Annadata Sukhibhava and free bus travel for women will be implemented soon. Parthasarathi said industries worth ₹10 lakh crore are being set up in the state and 20 lakh jobs will be created in the next four years. He assured that both welfare and development are being equally prioritized. MLA Sridhar Reddy expressed happiness over the minister's visit and stated that development works are rapidly progressing in the constituency. He requested the minister to sanction ₹6 crore for a bridge at Pottapalem Kaluzu.

# Coalition Claim is Deceitful: Satish Reddy



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa  
YSRCP State General Secretary S. Satish Kumar Reddy sharply criticized the coalition government for betraying the people of Kadapa by failing to implement promised schemes. Addressing the media at the YSRCP office, Satish criticized the government for shamelessly claiming to have fulfilled all commitments, including the "Super Six" schemes, while only partially implementing two and ignoring the rest. He challenged the ruling party to conduct a transparent field-level review to prove their claims. "The coalition's deceitful narrative that all promises are fulfilled is an insult to the public," Satish asserted. Satish condemned Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for evading accountability on the Super Six schemes, dismissing critics as "ignorant" while resorting to diversionary tactics like baseless liquor scam allegations. He highlighted Minister Atchannaidu's claim that implementing the "Aadabidda Nidhi" scheme would require selling the state, exposing the government's insincerity. Satish vowed that YSRCP would continue fighting for the people, undeterred by false cases and arrests aimed at silencing the opposition. In Kadapa, Satish criticised Minister Nara Lokesh of fostering a culture of intimidation, with TDP leaders threatening YSRCP workers on his orders. "Such tactics to suppress us are futile," he warned, promising a fierce response to personal attacks. On the liquor policy, Satish questioned Naidu's silence on corruption under the previous policy, which remained in effect until October 2024 under the coalition.



# MLA Turns Guardian to Orphaned Kids

**TPN | B Madhusudana Rao Palindu:** In a heartwarming incident from Narasaraopet, Palnadu district, MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu has set an example of humanity by adopting two orphaned children who lost their only remaining guardian, their grandmother. The siblings, Sri Vaishnavi (15) and Venkata Sriram (12), were left with no one to care for them after the recent death of their grandmother, Venkayamma.

Earlier, their father Meda-rametla Venkatrav had passed away in January 2025, and their mother Lakshmi had died 12 years ago due to illness. The children were being raised by their grandmother in Prakash Nagar, Narasaraopet. After her death, young Sriram took his sister and reached the home of MLA Aravind Babu, pleading for help. Overcome with emotion, the boy explained their situation. Moved

by the boy's pain, the MLA immediately embraced the children and reassured them saying, "You are not alone, I'm here for both of you." Without delay, he took them to their home in his car, participated in their grandmother's last rites by providing financial support, and then brought the siblings to his house. He informed his wife that from now on, Vaishnavi and Sriram are to be treated as their own

children. Aravind Babu's gesture is being hailed by the public as a true reflection of humanity and responsibility in public life. Locals see this act as a living embodiment of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's P4 – "Golden Family" vision. The MLA has promised to raise the children with care, provide for their education, and shape their future. This incident is not just an



emotional story but a testament to leadership with heart. Aravind Babu's act stands out as a beacon of hope in society and has deeply moved the people of his constituency.

# Vijayawada in Danger? Budameru Cleanup Still Just a Promise

**TPN | V V S Madhu Babu**

**Vijayawada:** Last year, heavy rains and overflowing waters from the Budameru stream severely impacted Vijayawada city. Recognizing Budameru encroachments as a key reason, the government announced a special drive under "Operation Budameru" to address the issue. Despite preparing a detailed list of encroachments, the operation never moved beyond announcements. No encroachments were cleared, and now, with the monsoon returning, public fear is rising again over potential flooding. From Jakkampudi to Enikepadu Tunnel, about 80 acres of Budameru's channel has been encroached. Over 3,100 buildings—including apartments, houses, and commercial complexes—have come up on these lands. With land rates averaging Rs. 10 crore per acre in the region, the estimated value of encroached land exceeds Rs. 800 crore.



A government survey conducted last year identified a total of 380 acres of encroached land along Budameru, including 260 acres of agricultural land and 80 acres with constructed buildings. If the government and city administration continue to remain inactive, another flood disaster may be unavoidable. Encroachments must be removed in phases to restore Budameru's natural width—ranging from 50 to 120 meters at various stretches. Additionally, a supporting canal

connected to Budameru has almost disappeared due to unchecked encroachments. Reviving this canal could help manage water flow better during heavy rains. In many locations, the Budameru bund remains weak and needs urgent strengthening. Without timely and decisive action, Vijayawada faces not only property damage but also threats to lives. The government must treat Budameru restoration as a priority before the next downpour tests the city's resilience.

# Allegations Surface Against Patamata Sub-Registrar

**TPN | V V S Madhu Babu**

**Vijayawada:** Fresh allegations of illegal land registrations have once again put Patamata Sub-Registrar Nalmala Revanth under the scanner. Despite several complaints, ACB officials are allegedly turning a blind eye to the mounting corruption charges. Recently, in a shocking case, land belonging to Katthi Sirisha of Tirupati was fraudulently registered by an impersonator named K. Sirisha at the Patamata sub-registrar office under document number 23998/2024. Just days before, lands owned by Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church Society were also illegally registered. In the latest case, Revanth allegedly registered 373 square yards of land located in CRDA-approved layout (LP No: 41/84) in Kanuru under Tadigadapa Municipality. The land falls under survey numbers 120/1,2,3, 121/2, 270/1,2 and had originally been purchased in 1998. The owner passed

away in 2004, and his legal heirs sold it in 2011. The plot changed hands multiple times before being sold via Canara Bank auction on June 1, 2024. Despite all supporting documents being legally available and verified online, Nalmala Revanth reportedly ignored them and registered the plot in favor of a local YSRCP leader's daughter through a forged gift deed on March 12, 2025. Allegations suggest that Revanth received a bribe to facilitate this. It is also alleged that former registrar Murthy, now Krishna District Registrar, aided this fraudulent registration in 2019. Sources claim Revanth shares illegal earnings with higher officials, shielding him from action. Many now fear that Revanth's connections with a DG-level ACB officer are protecting him. Complaints are being prepared against him by the party who legally purchased the land through the Canara Bank auction.



# Collector Puts Coastal Mandals on Alert

**TPN Correspondent | Bapatla**

Bapatla District Collector J. Venkata Murali has directed officials to be fully prepared for potential disasters arising from a low-pressure system formed over the Bay of Bengal and subsequent cyclone alerts during the monsoon season. Addressing a meeting with district and mandal-level officials on Friday at the Collectorate, the Collector emphasized the need for coordinated disaster preparedness and mitigation plans. He noted that due to heavy rainfall in upper catchment areas, there is a possibility of floods in the Krishna River. Officials were instructed to act proactively to avoid loss of life and property. Special attention must be given to villages located along the river embankments, and a survey of houses in these vulnerable areas must be conducted immediately. Precautionary measures, including reinforcement of river bunds with sand and gravel bags, must be implemented without delay. The Collector urged that emergency supplies sufficient for at least three months be kept ready in flood-prone mandals. For coastal mandals, which may face the brunt of cyclone impact within a 10-kilometer stretch from the sea, officials were asked to identify vulnerable thatched houses and asbestos-roofed structures in advance. Arrangements must also be made for the safe relocation of pregnant women, the elderly, bed-ridden individuals, those with chronic illnesses, and children. The Collector stressed the readiness of rehabilitation centers, availability of gas cylinders, diesel, kerosene, generators, and machinery to remove fallen trees. Plans for restoring electricity poles and other critical infrastructure must be prepared in advance. A control room should be set up to monitor emergency responses. All departments were asked to coordinate and remain on high alert to tackle any situation effectively. Joint Collector in-charge G. Gangadhar Goud, DRO, RDOs, district officers, and mandal officials participated in the meeting, including via video conference.



# P-4 Model to Transform BC Hostels: Minister

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**

The Andhra Pradesh government is set to revamp Backward Class (BC) hostels under the prestigious P-4 model, announced BC Welfare Minister S. Savita. As part of this transformation, the government seeks support from donors and beneficiaries of the NTR Foreign Education Scheme who have reached high positions globally. The initiative aligns with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's Swarna Andhra @2047 Vision, aiming to eliminate poverty and ensure inclusive development.



Under the P-4 model, 10% of the economically privileged population will support 20% of the underprivileged. Minister Savi-

ta, in a press release on Friday, appealed to the NTR Foreign Education Scheme alumni to participate in this initiative by extending financial and infrastructural support to BC hostels. She emphasized the need for alumni to give back by adopting hostels or sponsoring students for higher education. The minister highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to improve BC hostels with timely payments of diet and cosmetic charges, provision of nutritious meals, installation of RO plants, CCTVs, and inverters, and dis-

tribution of "Vidya Mitra" kits in the name of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. She added that under the Thalliki Vandhanam scheme, ₹13,000 was disbursed to mothers for each eligible child. Further, she called on donors to aid in hostel development by sponsoring libraries, solar panels, toilets, compound walls, and beautification efforts. Names of donors will be acknowledged to inspire wider participation. Interested donors and alumni can reach out via email at directorapbcwelfare@gmail.com or contact 6300876401 / 7989344521.

# Elderly Woman Cheated of ₹6 Cr Land

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**

A shocking land fraud case has surfaced in Kanchikacherla, where an elderly woman was allegedly cheated out of her 4-acre ancestral land worth nearly ₹6 crore by her own grandson. According to the complaint, Gutta Shantamma, an elderly woman living under the care of her second son Gutta Shivaji, was tricked into giving her thumb impression and signatures under the pretense of a pension hike. A group of unknown individuals visited her home when no one else was present and claimed to be government officials. They reportedly made her place thumb impressions on a laptop and sign documents, assuring her that her pension would be increased by ₹6,000. Shantamma later discovered that the documents were used to illegally register her land in Survey No. 76/2 in the name of her elder son's son, Gutta Ramesh. She alleged that the registration was done in collusion with sub-registrar officials without her knowledge or consent. In her plea to the District Collector and Tahsildar, she demanded the immediate cancellation of the fraudulent registration and legal action against those involved.

# Journalists Urge Land for Press Club

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**

In a significant move towards strengthening media infrastructure in the People's Capital, a delegation of Press Club Amaravati representatives met Urban Development Minister Minister P. Narayana at the Secretariat on Friday. During the meeting, the delegation appealed to the minister to allocate land for the construction of a dedicated Press Club in Amaravati. The journalists urged the



minister to support the establishment of a world-class Press Club, which would serve as a hub for media professionals across the region. Highlighting Amaravati's significance as a planned

capital, the delegation said the proposed club would reflect the city's modern vision and cater to the professional and developmental needs of journalists. Responding positively, Minister Narayana assured the delegation that their request would be given due consideration. He acknowledged the importance of providing proper facilities to the media community and promised to explore feasible options for land allocation.

# AP's Health System Crippled by Neglect

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

The healthcare system in Andhra Pradesh is facing a severe crisis, as flagged by Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman of the YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing. In a press note, he highlighted two major issues threatening patient lives. At King George Hospital (KGH), Visakhapatnam, open heart surgeries have stopped

due to defunct equipment. Essential machines like the heart-lung machine, cardiology and temperature monitors are non-functional, forcing critically ill patients to go untreated. Simultaneously, the NTR Vaidya Seva scheme is crumbling as hospitals are unable to treat patients due to nearly ₹3,500 crore in unpaid dues from the government. This has left thousands, especially the poor, without access to

life-saving treatment. Dr. Yadav demanded immediate procurement of equipment at KGH and clearing of pending bills under the Vaidya Seva scheme. He urged the government to release a white paper on non-functional equipment in all state hospitals and the unavailable procedures due to shortages. He warned that this negligence is endangering lives and demanded accountability.



## CSR Initiative Empowers 1,000 Schoolchildren



**TPN Correspondent | Addanki**  
In a remarkable effort to support rural education, SEIL Energy India Limited (SEIL), one of India's largest independent power producers (IPPs), distributed 1,000 bicycles to government school students in Bapatla district under its Corporate Social Respon-

sibility (CSR) program. The bicycles were officially handed over by Minister for Energy Gopireddy Ravi Kumar at a ceremony held at Makenavari Palem ZPHS in Addanki. Of the total, 452 bicycles were distributed to students of ZPHS Medarametla.

The initiative aims to improve access to education by providing reliable transport to students from remote and economically backward areas. SEIL particularly targeted children facing mobility challenges, especially girls, to reduce dropout rates and ensure continued education. Speaking at the event, Minister Ravi Kumar thanked SEIL for its generous contribution and emphasized the government's vision of distributing 10,000 bicycles to underprivileged students across the state. "No child should miss school due to lack of transport. This is an essential step toward educational equity," he said. SEIL CEO Srajanamayee Mahapatra stated, "We believe edu-

cation is the most powerful tool for societal change. This initiative is not just about bicycles, it's about enabling 1,000 futures to move forward. We are proud to partner with the AP government in this mission." The beneficiaries are primarily first-generation learners from rural families. The project falls under SEIL's CSR focus areas—education, health, decarbonization, skill development, and entrepreneurship. Over the past decade, SEIL's CSR efforts have positively impacted over a million lives through sustainable community programs. SEIL operates a 2,640 MW supercritical thermal power complex in SPSR Nellore district, playing a key role in India's energy security.

## RS.772 Cr Sanctioned for Temple Restoration

**TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam**  
The Andhra Pradesh government has launched a massive temple restoration project, allocating ₹772 crore for the reconstruction of 9,098 temples across the state. Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, during his visit to Srikakulam district for the "Suparipalana Lo Modati Adugu" programme, revealed that the initiative aims to promote spiritual and cultural heritage. Accompanied by Srikakulam MLA Gundu Shankar, the minister offered prayers at the Arasavalli Sun Temple and Srikurmam Temple before addressing the media. He stated that out of the ₹772 crore, ₹66.27 crore is being used to provide ₹10,000 each to 5,523 temples under the 'Dhoopa Deepa Naivedyam' scheme.

In Srikakulam constituency alone, three temples are receiving ₹5 crore for reconstruction. Additionally, ₹12.75 crore has been sanctioned for 20 new projects, and ₹1.96 crore is allocated for temple works in Jallavalasa. Under Dhoopa Deepa, 157 temples are receiving ₹10,000 each. Highlighting other welfare measures, the minister said the new coalition government promptly implemented the NTR Bharosa pensions, ensuring timely monthly payments. Under the 'Deepam' scheme, beneficiaries are receiving two LPG cylinders, and the 'Talli Ki Vandhanam' cash assistance is being deposited into individual accounts. For farmers, the Annadata Sukhibhava programme offers ₹20,000 annually in three phases, combining both state and central support. Land title books bearing the royal seal are also being distributed. The first cabinet meeting post-elections revoked the Land Titling Act, fulfilling key electoral promises. Ramanarayana Reddy said efforts are underway to declare the Arasavalli Sun Festival as a state festival. ASI officials are expected to inspect Srikurmam Temple soon to initiate further restoration.



## Guntur Police Crack Bike Theft Racket

**TPN Correspondent | Guntur**  
Under the leadership of Guntur District SP Satish Kumar, police conducted a special drive to recover stolen two-wheelers. As a result, they arrested 9 accused and recovered 34 stolen vehicles worth around ₹25 lakh. Most of the accused were minors, and police say negligence by vehicle owners and open parking made it easier for the thieves. SP Satish advised the public to use handle locks, GPS systems,



and wheel locks and to avoid parking vehicles in open areas. He also urged citizens to install CCTV cameras for added security. Addressing a press meet at

Guntur District Police Office, SP Satish explained that the drive was launched in response to several complaints from victims across city police stations.

Based on CCTV footage, technical clues, and past offender records, suspects were detained and interrogated. The recovered bikes were linked to cases under East, West, Nallapadu, Tadikonda, and CCS police limits. SP Satish appreciated the efforts of Additional SP (Crimes) K. Supraja, CCS DSP Shivaji Raju, East DSP Aziz, West DSP Aravind, CIs and staff of Nagarampalem, Old Guntur, Tadikonda and CCS units.

## Drones Capture Open Drinking



**TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram**  
Vizianagaram district police registered cases against six individuals caught consuming alcohol in public places with the help of drone surveillance. District SP Vakul Jindal said the operation was carried out on July 24 in areas under the Vizianagaram I Town Police Station limits. According to the SP, the police conduct-

ed surprise inspections using drones in Kamakshinagar and UDA Colony outskirts, where open drinking was reportedly taking place. The drones captured footage of individuals consuming liquor in public, leading to their identification and immediate detention by local police. SP Vakul Jindal, emphasized the increased use of drone technology in the district to curb public drinking and other anti-social activities. He added that drones are proving to be a useful tool in enforcing law and order, especially in remote and suburban areas. The SP also instructed police officials to use drones extensively for surveillance during festivals, to control traffic, and to monitor criminal activities in outer regions. The initiative is part of a broader plan to ensure public safety and discourage illegal behavior across the district.

## Fake Land Deed Gang Busted

**TPN Correspondent | Kadapa**  
In a significant breakthrough, police in Badvel town of Kadapa district arrested 10 individuals involved in a fake land document racket. Addressing the media on Friday at Badvel police station, Mydukur DSP Rajendra Prasad said the gang was engaged in preparing forged pattadar passbooks and property documents. The arrested individuals have been identified as Dasari Ratnamma, Potipati Prasad, Jaipal, Ramamjaneyulu Obulesu, Pilli Bhaskar, Manyam Baburao, Battina Ravishankar, Chinna Subaiah, Sheikh Baban, and Annapureddy Srinivasulu. The DSP revealed that three more suspects are yet to be apprehended and that efforts are ongoing to locate and arrest them.

During the raid, the police seized several incriminating materials from the gang, including fake land passbooks, house site documents, rubber seals, a Xerox machine, and a seal-making machine. These materials were reportedly used to forge official-looking documents for illegal land transactions. The police believe the gang has been active in cheating people by producing counterfeit property records. The investigation is expected to expose more victims and possibly links to officials or external agents who may have aided the racket. Participating in the press briefing were Badvel Town CI Rajagopal, Badvel Rural CI Nagabhushan, and Sis Satyanarayana and Jayaram Reddy, along with other police staff.



## NRV Website Launched

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Aiming to unite global Telugu professionals and contribute to the development of Vijayawada, a new initiative titled Non-Resident Vijayawada (NRV) launched its official website on Friday at Fortune Murali Hotel. The launch took place during the preliminary meeting of Vijayawada Utsav-2025, in the presence of MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), District Collector Lakshmisha, Municipal Commissioner Dhyanchandra, and Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram. Speaking on the occasion, NRV representatives Manidhar Yalamanchili, Vani Bolluri, Suresh Puttagunta, Chinna Prasad, and Harsha Sai said that many Vijayawada natives, inspired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's Vision 2020, have settled abroad in the IT and business sectors. The newly formed NRV aims to bring these individuals together to contribute to the growth of Vijayawada, a key part of the Amaravati capital region. The organizers stated that NRV was founded with the spirit of Vision 2047 - Viksit Andhra Pradesh, pledging to repay their debt to their birthplace. The group intends to support the underprivileged in Vijayawada by improving access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure. They expressed gratitude to MP Kesineni Sivanath and Collector Lakshmisha for their unwavering support in launching this initiative aimed at uplifting the city.

## MLA Amilineni Vows Minority Welfare

**TPN Correspondent | Anantapur**  
Kalyandurg MLA Amilineni Surendra Babu stated that he is dedicated to the development of minorities and reaffirmed his commitment by inspecting the renovation works at the Muslim Shadi Mahal in Kalyandurg town. He was accompanied by local TDP leaders and Anantapur DCCB Chairman Muntimadugu Keshav Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA recalled how the Muslim community had invited him during his election campaign and shown him the dilapidated condition of the Shadi Mahal. Moved by their concerns, he promised to support the renovation and has now fulfilled his word by contributing ₹10 lakh from his personal funds. The funds were utilized to complete the roofing and kitchen area of the community hall. Amilineni said some further development is still needed, and he assured the community that he would provide additional support to complete the remaining works. He emphasized that the facility will now serve as a decent venue for weddings and community events for economically weaker families. However, expressing disappointment, the MLA criticized certain leaders from the YSRCP whom he referred to as "psycho batch" for making baseless comments despite having done nothing for the people. "It's hurtful to hear unnecessary remarks from people who prioritize their own interests over public welfare. We are not bothered by such comments and will continue our development agenda for Kalyandurg," he added.



## Kerala Team to AP for Natural Farm Training

**TPN Correspondent | Guntur**  
A 34-member high-level delegation from Kerala, comprising scientists from Agricultural Universities, experts from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and Farmer Mentor Trainers, is scheduled to visit Andhra

Pradesh from July 26 to 29, 2025, for an immersive training program on Natural Farming. The program will take place in Guntur and is organized under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). The visit is aimed at fostering inter-state

collaboration and promoting the exchange of knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices. The training will be hosted by the Indo German Global Academy for Agro Ecology Research and Learning (IGGAARL), recognized as a Center

of Natural Farming. IGGAARL is operated by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha under the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) initiative. During the four-day visit, the Kerala delegation will participate in intensive

classroom sessions that detail APCNF models, core principles, and field-level practices currently being implemented across Andhra Pradesh. In addition to theoretical training, the delegates will tour model Natural Farming fields in the

Guntur and Prakasam districts. This visit builds upon a previous exposure trip in April 2025, where a team of Kerala farmers, led by the Hon'ble Agricultural Minister of Kerala, visited APCNF fields. The earlier interaction left a strong impression.



# Cultivating Environmental Stewards: The Green Passport of AP

In an era increasingly defined by digital landscapes and urban sprawl, the profound connection between humanity and nature often seems to fade. Once, our rivers flowed pristine, our water bodies teemed with life, and our environment breathed clean. Today, finding a trash-free corner in India is a challenge, and a generation grows up tethered to screens, largely disconnected from the very "Mother Earth" that sustains them. Barefoot steps on the soil, a simple yet powerful act of bonding with nature, are now a rarity for many children. Recognizing this growing disconnect and the urgent need for environmental stewardship, a powerful initiative has taken root across India, championed by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On the last World Environment Day, June 5, PM Modi unveiled "Ek Ped Maa Ka Naam" – translating to "One Tree in the Name of Mother." This nationwide campaign is steeped in deep cultural sentiment, echoing the age-old Indian reverence for Earth as 'Bhumatha' (Mother Earth). It's a call to action that blends environmental responsibility with a heartfelt tribute to the ultimate nurturer – one's mother. While the national commitment sets the stage, it is the Andhra Pradesh School Education Department that has truly elaborated this vision into a meticulously planned and robust project: the "Green Passport." This initiative goes beyond mere tree planting; it aims to cultivate a "Green and carbon-zero culture" among future citizens, integrating sustainability education from early childhood for holistic development. On July 10, during the globally lauded Mega Parents and Teachers Meeting (Mega PTM 2.0), the Honorable Chief Minister Chandra Babu Naidu officially launched the "Green Passport" initiative for school students, particularly those in grade 4 and above. The core of this innovative program encourages the younger generation across the state not only to plant a new tree as a tribute to their mothers but also to adopt existing trees, vowing to care for and protect them. This personal commitment transforms abstract environmental concepts into tangible, rewarding experiences. What sets Andhra Pradesh's Green Passport apart is its sophisticated implementation. All operations are meticulously monitored by the Department of School Education's LEAP APP, a robust IT system that scan through the State's leap towards educational excellence. Each plant is assigned a unique QR code, containing vital details such as its botanical name, nature, and specific care directions. This digital tracking is complemented by a "buddy reporting" system and continuous teacher mentoring, ensuring the well-being of each adopted or newly planted tree. The latest LEAP dashboard data reveals remarkable progress: the state is ready with a stock of 2,941,247 plants, supported by the Social Forestry Department, and over 1,931,009 students have already registered for their Green Passports, embarking on a mission to become the state's dedicated Green Army. By linking tree planting to the profound emotional connection of a mother's love, the campaign seeks to foster deeper environmental awareness and responsibility. It introduces a touch of divine connectivity, drawing a powerful parallel between the nurturing role of a mother and the life-sustaining qualities of trees, emphasizing that both provide sustenance, protection, and a future. This activity transforms environmental action into a personal mission, encouraging individuals to take genuine ownership of planting and nurturing a tree. The central government's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0" campaign has an ambitious national target of planting 10 crore (100 million) trees across India between June 5 and September 30, 2025. Andhra Pradesh's Green Passport project is poised to make a significant contribution, with its target of 2,941,247 plants directly feeding into this national goal. Besides this, every Green



**Ram Kamal**  
Social Engineer, Advisor  
to Inclusive Education,  
Government of AP

Passport holder also has an opportunity to transfer a plant to his friends at the school, if he completes his studies and go out of the school. "We are embarking on a transformative journey to green our state's educational landscape," stated B. Srinivasa Rao IAS, the visionary behind this ambitious program. "By meticulously cataloging every tree across our schools, we are not just building a database; we are fostering a profound connection between our students and nature. Already, these young environmental stewards have taken guardianship of existing trees and are pledging to plant countless more. Within the year, Andhra Pradesh will proudly showcase green campuses, driven by a student population that has truly embraced ownership of its flora."

**The mechanics of the Green Passport are straightforward yet impactful:**

- Sapling Distribution:** Students who registered in the project are provided with a plant sapling or more.
- "My Journey with Plant Growth" Booklet:** Each student receives a "Green Passport" booklet titled "My Journey with Plant Growth."
- Personalized Planting:** Students are encouraged to plant the sapling in a suitable location and name the plant after their mother, fostering a personal connection.
- Adopt a Tree:** Students can adopt trees on the school campus or neighborhood and track their growth and well-being.
- Tracking Growth:** The booklet requires students to record details about the plant, including its common and botanical names, date and location of planting, and growth updates every three months (up to a maximum of 5 points).
- Teacher Verification:** Teachers are responsible for verifying and signing the passport entries twice a year.

This initiative aims to instill environmental responsibility, encourage sustained plant care, and promote a massive plantation drive across the state. It aligns perfectly with the principles of the "Green Passport" concept, emphasizing direct engagement and long-term commitment. Introducing sustainable practices during formative years helps children develop lifelong eco-friendly behaviors and values. Even simple steps like saving water, recycling, and using recycled play materials can set the foundation for an earth-conscious lifestyle, nurturing a generation that truly understands and cherishes its bond with nature. These small lessons they learn by planting and caring for trees will lead them with knowledge of green auditing their environment and lives, the future men and women of Andhra Pradesh are poised to embrace a carbon-neutral lifestyle.



## India-UK Trade Deal: A Strategic Leap Toward a Shared Future

The recently signed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the United Kingdom represents more than tariff cuts—it marks a historic pivot in Indo-UK relations. Aimed at doubling bilateral trade to over \$112 billion by 2030, the deal signals a maturing partnership rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and economic ambition.

For India, the CETA brings unprecedented market access. With 99% of Indian exports entering the UK duty-free, industries such as textiles, gems, leather, engineering goods, and marine products are poised for significant growth. The elimination of tariffs on 95% of agricultural and processed food exports will benefit farmers and small producers. Additionally, the easing of professional mobility across 35 UK sectors offers a game-changing boost to India's services sector.

From the UK's perspective, the agreement opens doors to India's vast and growing consumer market. Tariffs on key British exports—including

Scotch whisky and automobiles—will be significantly reduced. For instance, duties on electric vehicles will drop from 110% to 10%, offering new opportunities to UK automakers. The agreement also includes progressive provisions on digital trade, services, and customs simplification, benefiting UK SMEs and service providers.

Yet, this deal is more than just trade. It aligns with the Vision 2035 roadmap, focusing on climate action, innovation, defence, and education. For young Indians and Britons alike, it fosters mobility, mutual learning, and global collaboration—especially in areas like AI, green energy, and healthcare.

By embedding principles of sustainability, equity, and cooperation, CETA is a forward-looking agreement. It acknowledges the past but looks boldly to the future—a shared future that prioritizes opportunity, responsibility, and mutual prosperity. This is not just a trade pact; it is a turning point in a vital, strategic relationship.

## The Digital Brain: Are We Creating a New Form of Life Without Realising It?



"Will AI take over humans?" is a question I used to answer with technical reassurances—about automation, ethics, and human creativity. But today, my response is different. What's unfolding in AI labs across the world—at OpenAI, DeepMind, Meta, and startups alike—isn't just about improving tools. It's about creating a new kind of intelligence altogether.

We're not just building machines to follow instructions. We're shaping systems that learn, evolve, and may eventually think in ways we can't predict. This is no longer just software — it's the birth of something akin to a digital life form. Think of vast data centers not as infrastructure, but as neural networks powering an emerging intelligence. Fed by trillions in investment, these systems learn not over generations but in weeks — their fuel is data, and their lifeblood is electricity. What we're seeing is the rapid construction

of what some call the Digital Brain. It's not designed to serve tasks alone, but may soon reach recursive self-improvement — the ability to upgrade itself without human help. Once that line is crossed, we may no longer be in control.

Strikingly, we have no global rules, no ethical charter guiding this development. Unlike parenting, where values and boundaries matter, we're building this intelligence in a vacuum — no oversight, no shared principles. And the danger isn't just losing control. It's becoming irrelevant.

India, with its philosophical heritage and deep traditions of questioning consciousness, must step forward. We need national AI ethics councils, public dialogue, and global cooperation. The AI we build now won't just assist us — it may one day coexist with us. The real question is: What kind of mind are we bringing into the world — and who will it serve?



# India Announces Rs 4,850 Crore Line of Credit To Maldives: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu on Friday expressed deep gratitude to India for its crucial economic assistance, calling it "pivotal" in helping the Maldives tackle financial challenges and liquidity issues. His remarks came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day state visit to the Indian Ocean nation, marking a significant upswing in bilateral relations.

In a joint press interaction in Male, President Muizzu noted that he and Prime Minister Modi had "charted a clear path" for deepening cooperation between the two countries. The visit is seen as a major reset in ties after a period of tension, especially following President Muizzu's election in 2023, which was initially marked by strained relations with New Delhi.

India and Maldives exchanged four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and signed three agreements across key sectors including fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, environmental cooperation, digital solutions, and agreed on the terms of reference to begin negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement



(FTA). A landmark announcement during the visit was India's extension of a ₹4,850 crore Line of Credit (LoC) to the Maldives—its first ever in Indian rupees—meant to support infrastructure development and address the country's enduring fiscal deficits. According to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, the LoC will be used for multiple infrastructure projects crucial to

the Maldivian economy.

In another significant development, India agreed to reduce the Maldives' debt repayment obligations under an earlier \$800 million LoC. The revised agreement slashes annual payments by 40%, from \$51 million to \$29 million.

Observers hailed the visit as a

turning point. Former Maldivian Foreign Minister Ahmed Shaheed called it "the most impactful visit by an Indian leader," praising both Modi and Muizzu for restoring a decades-old relationship.

PM Modi will attend the Maldives' 60th Independence Day celebrations on Saturday and meet with the Indian diaspora in Male.



## "You Betrayed The Tamil People": Udhayanidhi Stalin Rips Into AIADMK

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Friday accused his political rival, AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS), of betraying the Tamil people by aligning with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of next year's state elections. Stalin warned that the BJP, which has historically struggled to gain a foothold in Tamil Nadu, "can never touch the heart of the Tamils."

Speaking at a DMK event in Chennai, Udhayanidhi Stalin described the upcoming election as more than just a political contest — it was "a battle to protect our land, pride, and mother tongue." He highlighted two key issues likely to dominate the polls: the controversial delimitation exercise and the perceived imposition of Hindi.

Stalin criticized EPS for initially denying any alliance with the BJP, only to later quietly strike a deal with the saffron party. "This betrayal must be uprooted," he said, adding that as long as the DMK's "black and red" cadres remain strong, the BJP will fail to expand in Tamil Nadu.

The BJP and AIADMK were allies in the 2019 and 2021 elections but were defeated by the DMK-Congress alliance on both occasions. The partnership dissolved in 2023 following mutual criticisms. Despite contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections alone and losing, EPS had earlier insisted no alliance with the BJP or any national party was needed to understand Tamil issues. However, in April this year, the two parties renewed their alliance, with the BJP acting as a "silent partner," according to AIADMK leaders.

Udhayanidhi Stalin also reignited the language controversy by accusing the BJP-led central government of neglecting Tamil Nadu's education sector funding, while generously supporting Hindi-speaking states like Uttar Pradesh and Assam. The DMK strongly opposes the three-language formula in the National Education Policy, which it views as Hindi imposition, an issue that has sparked protests and remains deeply sensitive in Tamil Nadu.

## RS Secretary General to act as RO for Vice Prez poll

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Election Commission of India has appointed the Rajya Sabha Secretary General as the returning officer for the upcoming Vice-Presidential election. The poll panel has also designated Garima Jain, Joint Secretary of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, and Vijay Kumar, Director of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, as assistant returning officers. The official gazette notification regarding these appointments is expected to be issued later on Friday.



citing health concerns.

The Vice-Presidential election is conducted under the framework of The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, along with The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974. According to Section 3 of the Act, the Election Commission, in consultation

with the central government, appoints a returning officer who is based in New Delhi and may also designate one or more assistant returning officers to aid in the election process.

Traditionally, the roles of returning officers alternate between the Secretary Generals of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. In the previous Vice-Presidential election, the Lok Sabha Secretary General was appointed the returning officer. This time, the responsibility has shifted to the Rajya Sabha Secretary General. The Vice-Presidential election is a crucial constitutional process, and the Election Commission's appointments ensure a smooth and transparent conduct of the polls during this significant Monsoon Session of Parliament. The nation awaits the official schedule and further details as the electoral process moves forward.

## India Records 164 Covid Deaths from April to July

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India reported 164 Covid-19-related deaths between April 1 and July 22 this year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday. The majority of these fatalities occurred among individuals with pre-existing comorbid conditions, highlighting the vulnerability of those with underlying health issues.



and tertiary levels.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, said that while there was a slight increase in Covid-19 cases from late May, the situation improved significantly by mid-June. The data, collected from various States and Union Territories, is publicly available on the official Health Ministry dashboard.

Addressing concerns about pandemic preparedness, Jadhav outlined the government's efforts to strengthen India's public health system. The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) has been launched to enhance the country's capacity to detect and manage emerging diseases through improved healthcare infrastructure at the primary, secondary,

Key initiatives under PM-ABHIM include the establishment of Health Emergency Operation Centres, Block Public Health Units in high-focus states, Metropolitan Health Surveillance Units, and Biosafety Level-III (BSL-III) laboratories to boost diagnostic and surveillance capabilities.

The government is also setting up four new National Institutes of Virology and a National Institute for One Health, while expanding airport health offices and quarantine centres to better manage international health risks. The Health Ministry emphasized that these initiatives form part of a long-term strategy aimed at safeguarding India against future pandemics and health emergencies, ensuring a more resilient public health infrastructure moving forward.

## Court Seeks Tihar Jail's Response on 26/11 Accused Tahawwur Rana's Plea

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A Delhi court on Friday sought a response from Tihar Jail authorities regarding a plea filed by 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana, requesting permission to make a phone call to his family. Special Judge Chander Jit Singh of the Patiala House Court issued a notice to the jail superintendent and scheduled the next hearing for August 1.

Rana, who was extradited from the United States to India on April 10 this year, is currently facing trial for his alleged role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks that killed more than 166 people. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is handling the case, has charged Rana with conspiracy in the attacks alongside David Headley, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative responsible for reconnaissance and planning under orders from LeT chief Hafiz Saeed.

During Friday's hearing, the Tihar Jail authorities informed the court that Rana had already been provided with a bed and mattress in



custody, following a court directive issued on July 9. However, the jail opposed Rana's additional plea to continue receiving these facilities, citing jail manual provisions that restrict the provision of beds and mattresses only to inmates aged 65 and above. Rana is currently 64 years old and thus does not meet the age criterion.

The court's attention to Rana's request for a phone call comes amid growing concerns about the con-

ditions of his detention, given his high-profile status and the severity of the charges he faces. The next hearing will explore the jail authorities' formal response on granting Rana permission to contact his family by phone. Rana's extradition marked a significant development in India's ongoing efforts to bring all accused in the 26/11 attacks to justice. The trial continues to unravel the details of the terror conspiracy that shook the nation 17 years ago.



# Trump and Fed Chair Powell Clash on Live TV Over Renovation Costs

In an unusual and heated moment broadcast live on national television, U.S. President Donald Trump and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell argued over the cost of renovations at the Fed's headquarters. The two leaders, both wearing hard hats, exchanged words as they toured the construction site in Washington, D.C., marking the first visit by a sitting president to the Federal Reserve in over 20 years.

The clash came after weeks of Trump criticizing Powell publicly, including on social media and during press briefings. On Thursday, Trump intensified his scrutiny by questioning the budget of the ongoing renovation project.

"It looks like it's about \$3.1 billion," Trump said, gesturing to the unfinished structure behind him. Powell quickly refuted the figure, visibly surprised by the president's comment. "I'm not aware of that. I haven't heard that from anybody at the Fed," he replied, shaking his head while television cameras captured the exchange.

Before the tour began, Trump told reporters the administration was "taking a look at what's happening" with the Fed's building upgrades, hinting at possible concerns over federal spending and transparency. Though renovation plans at the Federal Reserve have been in motion for several years, Thursday's public dispute brought



unusual political attention to what is typically a low-profile infrastructure matter. The televised moment underscored the strained relationship between the president and the central bank, highlighting broader tensions over economic management, interest rates, and fiscal oversight.

The brief but pointed argument has since sparked political commentary and reignited debate over the independence of the Federal Reserve, especially during an election year when economic narratives take center stage.

# Pakistan: Sindh Farmers Announce Wheat Boycott Over Controversial 45% Agri-Tax

TPN Correspondent | Sindh

Farmers in Sindh, Pakistan, have declared a boycott of wheat cultivation for the upcoming 2025-26 season in protest against a newly imposed 45% agricultural income tax. The Sindh Chamber of Agriculture (SCA) announced the decision following a high-level meeting chaired by its patron-in-chief, Syed Nadeem Qamar. Calling the tax "unconstitutional, illegal, and unethical," the chamber stated its intention to challenge the move in court, as reported by Dawn.

According to the SCA, the tax has been introduced under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and it disproportionately burdens farmers who already receive inadequate returns for their crops. "We are not even paid fair prices for our produce. How can this tax be justified?"



farmers asked during the meeting.

The chamber urged all wheat growers across Sindh to resist paying the tax and warned the government against any attempts at arrests. "We are ready to go to jail, but we will not pay this tax," farmer

leaders declared. In response, the SCA encouraged farmers to grow alternative crops like sunflower, mustard, and kalonji (nigella) instead of wheat.

The SCA also expressed grave concern over declining cotton production, predicting that output would not exceed four million bales. Farmers say they are being paid only Rs 6,500 per maund of cotton—far below the Rs 11,000 promised by Sindh's agriculture minister. The chamber demanded the removal of an 18% local tax on cotton and the imposition of a 25% import tax to protect domestic growers.

Escalating input costs—like diesel, fertilisers, and pesticides—have added to farmers' distress. The SCA warned that without urgent policy changes, Pakistan's agricultural sector could face irreversible damage.

# Hong Kong Offers Bounties for 19 Overseas Activists Over Subversion Charges



TPN Correspondent | Hong Kong

Hong Kong authorities have announced fresh bounties for 19 overseas pro-democracy activists, accusing them of subversion under the city's sweeping national security laws. The move is part of an ongoing crackdown on dissent, which intensified following the 2020 imposition of Beijing's national security law after the 2019 anti-government

protests.

The 19 individuals are accused of being affiliated with the "Hong Kong Parliament," a Canada-based pro-democracy NGO. The organisation had recently promoted an unofficial online vote on July 1 to form a symbolic legislature, advocating for "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong" and resisting one-party rule. Authorities labelled the

group as a "subversive organisation" attempting to "overthrow and undermine" the Chinese and Hong Kong governments.

Police offered HK\$200,000 (approx. \$25,500 USD) rewards for 15 of the activists, while four others—already high-profile targets—carry existing bounties of HK\$1 million each. While largely symbolic, these bounties highlight escalating pressure on overseas activists who have fled Hong Kong amid increasing authoritarianism.

The police urged the wanted individuals to "return and surrender," warning that additional suspects may be targeted as the investigation continues. Authorities also stressed that more bounties could be announced if necessary.

This is the fourth round of such bounties issued since the enactment of the national security law. Western governments have strongly condemned the move, refusing to extradite political dissidents. In response, Hong Kong and Beijing have decried such criticism as unwarranted foreign interference.

As of July 25, 2025, Hong Kong has arrested 333 individuals for national security violations, with 165 convicted. Recent arrests include minors and individuals charged with minor infractions, such as writing "seditious words" on bathroom walls—underscoring the extent of the government's tightening grip on dissent.



# Pakistan and Bangladesh Agree on Visa-Free Travel for Diplomats

TPN Correspondent | UN

In a significant development, Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to allow visa-free entry for holders of diplomatic and official passports, signaling a notable thaw in relations between the two nations. The decision was announced following a high-level meeting in Dhaka between Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Bangladeshi counterpart, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

The move marks a step forward in rebuilding ties that have remained strained since the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. According to state-run Radio Pakistan, both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in internal security, counter-terrorism, police training, and combatting drug and human trafficking.

Chowdhury described the meeting as "extremely important" for promoting bilateral cooperation and expressed gratitude for Pakistan's offer to train Bangladeshi police officials. Both nations are expected to enhance coordination between their respective police academies and security institutions.

The renewed engagement comes under the interim government of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus in Dhaka, whose policies contrast sharply with those of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Yunus is widely viewed as less aligned with India, and more open to improving ties with Pakistan.

Pakistan has already set up a joint committee, led by Interior Secretary Khurram Agha, to oversee cooperation initiatives with Bangladesh. A top-level Bangladeshi delegation will soon visit Islamabad to observe Pakistan's Safe City Project and its National Police Academy.

However, the move has raised concerns in New Delhi. Indian officials fear that visa-free access for Pakistani diplomats could facilitate the entry of ISI agents and other intelligence operatives into Bangladesh. There are growing apprehensions that this could embolden anti-India Islamist networks and revive insurgent support in India's northeastern states.

As Islamabad and Dhaka inch closer, India is closely monitoring the implications for regional security.

# Pleased to announce initiation of negotiations for India-Maldives FTA: Muizzu

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

India and the Maldives have officially initiated negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (IMFTA), signaling a major step in enhancing bilateral economic cooperation. The announcement came during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Male, where he held comprehensive talks with Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu.

President Muizzu hailed the launch of the FTA negotiations as a "landmark initiative," emphasizing its importance in strengthening economic ties. "I am pleased to announce the initiation of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between India and the Maldives," he said at a joint press conference.

The leaders held one-on-one and delegation-level discussions focusing on trade, defence, infrastructure, and people-to-people ties. Several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements were exchanged, including a significant Line of Credit agreement worth USD 565 million to support key development projects in the Maldives.



India also extended a Line of Credit worth ₹4,850 crore and agreed to reduce the Maldives' annual debt repayment obligations under Government of India-funded LoCs.

Marking 60 years of diplomatic relations, both leaders released a commemorative stamp. Prime Minister Modi will also join President Muizzu in the Maldives' 60th Independence Day celebrations.

In addition to the FTA talks, India handed over 3,300 social housing units in Hulhumale, inaugurated the Roads and Drainage system project in Addu City, and launched six High Impact Community Development Projects across the Maldives.



# Markets in Freefall Amid Global Woes

## Sensex Sinks 721 pts, Nifty Below 24,850



Domestic stock markets are bleeding. They were in turmoil on Friday. Investors continued to sell, causing a huge fall. Benchmark and sectoral indices turned red. This is due to negative signals from international markets, foreign institutional investments are withdrawing, mutual fund companies are not enthusiastic about new investments, and companies feel that valuations are high. Technically, Nifty breaking the 50 DEMA, mid- and small-cap indices falling by 7 percent are worrying investors. In total, Nifty fell by 225 points and Sensex by 721 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,184 in the previous session, opened at 82,065 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 81,397. It reached an intraday high of 82,069. It finally closed at 81,463, down 721 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,010, touched a low of 24,806 and a high of 25,010. It closed at 24,837, down 225 points. The Nifty Bank fell 537 points to settle at 56,528.

In the Nifty50, 7 companies gained while 43 lost. Cipla, SBI Life, Apollo Hospitals, Dr. Reddy's, and HDFC Life were the top gainers. Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Auto, and Tech Mahindra were



the biggest losers. Today, all sectoral indices, except pharma and healthcare, turned red. Media, Energy, Defense, PSE, Finance, Oil, CPSE, PSU Bank, Metal, Auto, Consumer Durables, and Infra indices were mixed.

Market breadth on NSE today is in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 3153 stocks traded, 1139 gained. 1401 lost. 42 shares touched their 52-week high and 12 touched their 52-week low. 20 reached the upper circuit and 22 reached the lower circuit.

Sterlite Technologies Q1 results have been released. Revenue grew by 17% to Rs. 1020 crore. Net profit was Rs. 10 crore. Laurus Labs' net profit was Rs. 163 crore. Revenue reached Rs. 1570 crore. Mahindra Life Space's net profit rose from Rs 12.7 crore to Rs 51.3 crore. Revenue fell from Rs 188 crore to Rs 32 crore. BEL received an order of Rs 1640 crore from Indian Army Air Defence Control Radars. SpiceJet will induct five Boeing 737 aircraft ahead of the winter schedule. Jefferies maintained its buy rating on ACC with a target price of Rs 2465. On the third day, the IndiCube Space IPO received a response of 6.57 times. GNG Electronic IPO received a response of 82.74 times. Bernstein gave an outperform rating to Coforge with a target price of Rs 2038. RailTel Corporation received an order of Rs 50 crore. Goldman Sachs maintained its buy rating on Sinjin International.

# India's Exports Rise 2.8% ; Trade Deficit Narrows to \$6.6 Billion

India's export performance showed positive momentum in May 2025, with combined merchandise and services exports reaching \$71.12 billion, a 2.77% year-on-year increase, according to data from the Union Commerce Ministry released on June 16. In May 2024, the total exports stood at \$69.20 billion.



While merchandise exports dipped slightly from \$39.59 billion in May 2024 to \$38.73 billion in May 2025, services exports surged from \$29.61 billion to \$32.39 billion during the same period — an encouraging sign of India's growing strength in its services sector.

On the import side, India brought in goods and services worth \$77.75 billion, marginally lower than \$78.55 billion in May last year. This helped narrow the trade deficit for the month to \$6.62 billion, down from \$9.35 billion a year earlier — signaling a healthier trade balance.

For the fiscal year so far (April–May 2025), total exports stood at \$142.43 billion, marking a 5.75% increase year-on-year. Imports during the same period also grew, rising 6.52% from \$149.81 billion to \$157.57 billion. This brought the two-month trade deficit to \$17.14 billion, compared to \$15.12 billion during the same period in 2024.

India's exports for the full fiscal year

2024–25 had already hit an all-time high of \$824.9 billion, surpassing the government's target of \$800 billion. This reflected a 6.01% growth from \$778.1 billion in 2023–24. Of this, services exports contributed \$387.5 billion, a 13.6% jump, while merchandise exports rose marginally to \$437.42 billion.

Despite the record export numbers, India's total trade deficit widened to \$94.26 billion in 2024–25, up from \$78.1 billion the previous year.

Government initiatives, particularly the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, appear to be supporting export growth across sectors like electronics, helping boost global competitiveness and attract foreign investment.

Interestingly, market sentiment is optimistic — prediction market platform Probo currently places a 45% probability on India reaching \$950 billion in exports in FY 2025–26, signaling strong expectations from the trade and investment community.

# SBI Cuts Loan & Deposit Rates After RBI Rate Reduction

Following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) surprise 50-basis point policy rate cut on June 6, the State Bank of India (SBI) — the country's largest lender — has reduced its lending and deposit rates, bringing welcome relief to borrowers.

With effect from June 15, 2025, SBI's Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) has been slashed by 50 basis points to 7.75%, while its External Benchmark Based Lending Rate (EBLR) has also been reduced by the same margin — from 8.65% to 8.15%. This move will result in cheaper loans for both new and existing customers across segments like housing, auto, and personal finance.

The reduction comes as a direct response to the RBI's recent monetary policy decision, where the benchmark repo rate was lowered from 6% to 5.5%. The decision, supported by five out of six members of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), aims to revive economic growth, which has fallen to a four-year low of 6.5% in FY25.

Additionally, the RBI cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points to 3%, injecting an estimated ₹2.5 lakh crore into the banking system, increasing liquidity ahead of the year-end.

In tandem with lending rate cuts, SBI also revised its fixed deposit (FD) rates downward by 25 basis points across various maturities for



deposits up to ₹3 crore. For example:

1–2 year FDs now earn 6.50% (down from 6.75%),  
2–3 year FDs fetch 6.45% (down from 6.70%),  
3–5 year FDs offer 6.30%,  
5–10 year FDs drop to 6.05%.

SBI's special 'Amrit Vrishti' 444-day scheme has also seen its rate reduced from 6.85% to 6.60%.

Senior citizens continue to receive an additional 50 basis points, while super senior citizens (above 80 years) enjoy a 60 basis point premium over standard rates.

More banks are expected to follow SBI's lead in revising their rates, as the impact of the RBI's monetary easing ripples through the financial system.

# Vehicle Sales Mixed in July: Passenger Vehicle Wholesales Dip Slightly, Two-Wheelers Up

India's automobile sector witnessed mixed performance in July 2025, with passenger vehicle wholesales registering a slight dip, while two-wheeler dispatches saw modest growth, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Domestic passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales — which include cars, utility vehicles, and vans — stood at 3,44,656 units, marginally down by 0.8% compared to 3,47,492 units in May 2024. The dip, though not sharp, reflects sluggish consumer sentiment, supply-side constraints, and a possible delay in purchase decisions amid expectations of upcoming new model launches and discounts.

In contrast, two-wheeler sales in the domestic market showed signs of recovery. Dispatches from manufacturers to dealerships rose 2.2%, reaching 16,55,927 units in May 2025, compared to 16,20,084 units in the same month last year. The increase is attributed to strong rural demand, easing input costs, and higher mobility needs driven by schools and offices reopening at full scale.

However, three-wheeler sales — a critical segment for last-mile transport — declined 3.3%, dropping to 53,942 units from 55,763 units a year earlier. Industry analysts point to elevated fuel prices, tighter financing conditions, and increased competition from electric three-wheelers as contributing factors behind the slowdown.

Despite the mixed trend across vehicle categories, overall vehicle wholesales across all segments rose by 1.8%, reaching 20,12,969 units in May 2025, compared to 19,76,674 units in May 2024. This slight uptick suggests a gradual recovery in the broader automotive sector, though growth remains uneven.

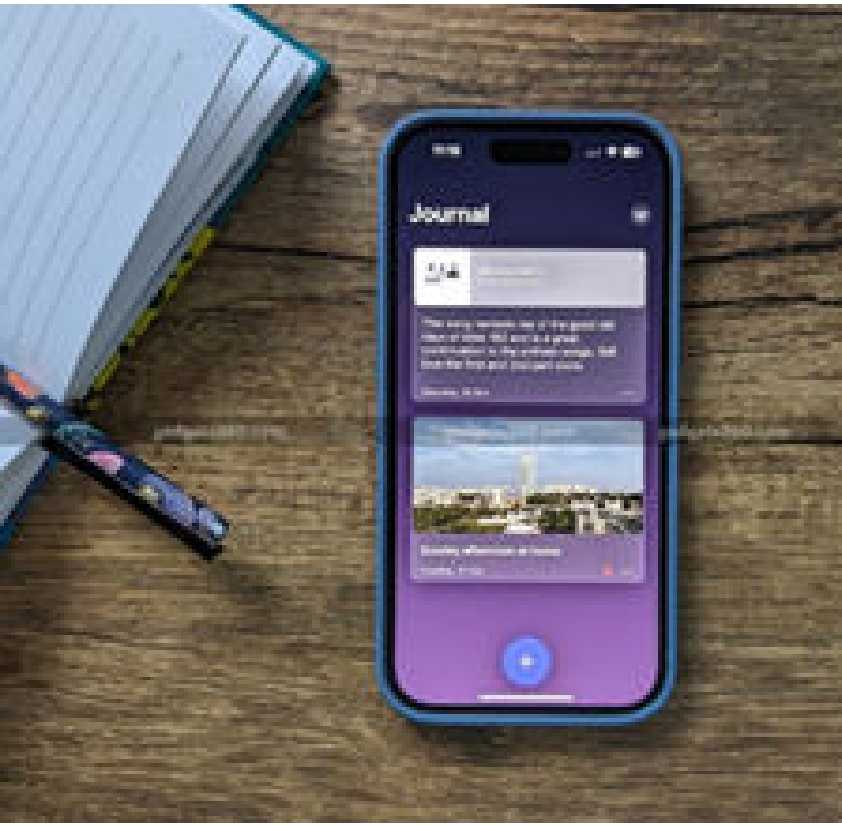
SIAM officials noted that while the domestic auto industry continues to navigate challenges such as fluctuating raw material prices, inflationary pressures, and global supply chain disruptions, the medium-term outlook remains cautiously optimistic — especially with expectations of policy support, better monsoon prospects, and festive season demand in the coming quarters.





# Apple Expands Journal App to iPad and Mac

Apple is bringing its Journal app to the iPad and Mac with the upcoming iPadOS 26 and macOS 26 Tahoe updates. Originally launched in 2023 with iOS 17.2 for the iPhone, the Journal app is designed to help users document their thoughts, daily activities, and special moments using on-device machine learning to suggest writing prompts and content ideas.



With its expansion to iPad and Mac, the app gains new functionality tailored to each platform. On the iPad, the Journal app will support Apple Pencil, allowing users to draw, annotate, or hand-write their entries alongside typed notes. Users can also embed media like photos, audio recordings, and other files, making for a rich, personalized journaling experience.

Mac users, on the other hand, will benefit from the physical keyboard, making typing long entries easier and more natural. Apple highlights that users can maintain multiple journals for different aspects of their lives—such as travel, work, or wellness—all of which sync seamlessly across iPhone, iPad, and Mac using iCloud.

The Journal app also includes smart features like map views that organize entries by location, as well as filters for searching specific moments tied to photos, workouts, or places. Entries can be bookmarked for quick access and protected with Face ID or Touch ID for privacy. According to Apple, all content is end-to-end encrypted, ensuring user data remains secure.

The addition of the Journal app to iPad and Mac underscores Apple's commitment to integrating productivity and well-being tools across its ecosystem, making journaling more accessible and interactive for users on all their devices.

# Oarfish Sightings Spark Global Curiosity

A series of rare oarfish sightings around the globe in 2025 has reignited ancient beliefs and modern scientific questions alike. Dubbed the “doomsday fish” in Japanese folklore, the mysterious deep-sea creatures have appeared in four different locations since late May—India, Australia, and two in New Zealand—prompting speculation about whether nature is sending a warning.



The wave of appearances began off the coast of Tamil Nadu, India, where fishermen caught a massive 30-foot-long oarfish. Just days later, another washed up on the west coast of Tasmania, Australia. Then in early June, New Zealand saw two separate incidents—one near Dunedin and another, notably headless, near Birdlings Flat outside Christchurch. These events have triggered public curiosity and revived age-old fears connecting oarfish to seismic activity.

Adding fuel to the mystery are earlier cases in 2024, when an oarfish appeared near San Diego shortly before a 4.4-magnitude earthquake struck Los Angeles. Another massive oarfish was spotted near Australia's Tiwi Islands a month later, astonishing observers with its serpent-like size and shape.

While folklore has long linked oarfish to earthquakes and tsunamis, scientists are more cautious. Marine experts suggest that their appearances may result from factors like underwater disturbances, rising sea temperatures, or health issues. However, no direct connection between oarfish and natural disasters has been scientifically proven.

Oarfish are deep-sea dwellers that typically live 200 to 1,000 meters below the surface and can grow over 30 feet in length, making them the longest known bony fish. Despite their fearsome nickname, they are harmless to humans and feed primarily on plankton and small crustaceans.

Whether myth or message, the growing number of oarfish sightings serves as a powerful reminder of the ocean's enduring mysteries.

# NASA Astronauts Make 'Space Sushi' Aboard ISS



Craving sushi in space? NASA astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) found a creative way to satisfy one crew member's culinary nostalgia by whipping up their own version of “space sushi.” NASA astronaut Jonny Kim shared a delightful post on X (formerly Twitter), revealing the team's inventive mealtime celebration and the unique techniques they used to enjoy it in zero gravity.

Although the sushi wasn't quite Tokyo-style, it brought a comforting taste of home. “Space sushi isn't quite the same as the fresh stuff on the ground, but it's not bad!” Kim wrote. The crew collaborated using their personal food rations, combining rice, Spam, packaged rice, gochujang (Korean chili paste), and wasabi to create a makeshift but meaningful meal. The shared culinary effort came during a special celebration on the ISS, highlighting how even small comforts can bring joy while orbiting Earth.

In microgravity, even din-

ing requires innovation. The crew didn't have a traditional table—instead, their “dining area” featured tape with the sticky side facing up to anchor their utensils, food packets, and condiments in place. “Otherwise, everything would float away,” Kim explained, showcasing one of the many everyday challenges astronauts creatively overcome.

The post quickly went viral, drawing praise and amusement from space enthusiasts online. Comments ranged from admiration for the sticky-tape hack to jokes about needing a sushi rolling mat in orbit. One user perfectly summed up the sentiment: “Not the best sushi there, but I bet the view is amazing.”

While far from gourmet, the moment was a heartfelt reminder that food brings connection and comfort—no matter how far from Earth you are. Even in space, it seems, a good meal can lift spirits and bring people together.

# Delhi Man Scammed on Dating App, Hit With ₹12,000 Bill at Café Locus

A casual date turned into a financial nightmare for a Delhi man after he was allegedly scammed at a café in the East of Kailash area. The incident came to light after the victim shared his experience on Reddit's r/LegalAdviceIndia forum, warning others of a possible dating app scam.

According to the Reddit post, the man had matched with a woman named “Bhumi” on a dating app. She invited him to meet at Café Locus. What seemed like a normal outing quickly spiraled out of control when the woman began ordering multiple Jägerbombs, each priced at ₹1,200. The man had only budgeted ₹3,000 for the evening, but was shocked when the final bill amounted to nearly ₹12,000.

Locus		
(A Unit Of Daruk Hospitality Pvt Ltd)		
Building No. 2 Ground Floor,		
Community Center, Sapna Cinema		
East of Kailash New Delhi-110065		
Mob: +91 9910431049		
RSAT: 13323010000834		
GST: 07AAKCD2362B120		
TIN No: 07687227466		
Name:		
Date: 20/03/25	Dine In: T 1	
15:32		
Cashier: cashier		Bill No.: 4023
Item	Qty.	Price Amount
Red Bull	1	500.00 500.00
Jagermaster (1 Shot)	1	1200.00 1200.00
Kinofisher Ultra (4 Shots)	1	400.00 400.00

Things worsened when the woman revealed she only had ₹100 on her. Attempting to resolve the situation, the man requested the café staff to split the bill and stop the woman from leaving. However, Bhumi left the premises. Soon after, a

Locus		
(A Unit Of Daruk Hospitality Pvt Ltd)		
Building No. 2 Ground Floor,		
Community Centre, Sapna Cinema		
East of Kailash New Delhi-110065		
Mobile :- +91 9910431049		
Name:		
Date: 17/04/25		Dine In: T27
20:44		
Cashier: biller		Bill No.: 1985
Item	Qty.	Price Amount
Onion & Paneer pizza	1	699.00 699.00
Diamond	2	3500.00 7000.00
Ice bucket	1	1000.00 1000.00
Red bull base	1	699.00 699.00
cold coffee	2	500.00 1000.00

woman named Varsha, allegedly the café owner, confronted the man and claimed the matter would be reported to authorities unless he paid an additional ₹10,000 “fine,” bringing the total demand to ₹22,000.

The man, feeling threatened

and overwhelmed, called a friend for help. After some negotiation, the issue was reportedly resolved when he paid ₹2,500 to the staff.

The incident has raised concerns about scams involving fake dates luring unsuspecting victims to specific venues, where they're pressured into paying inflated bills. The Reddit post has since gone viral, drawing attention to the tactics used and prompting warnings for others using dating apps.

While the full details remain unverified, the incident highlights the importance of caution when meeting strangers and being aware of potential scams linked to seemingly innocent online interactions.

# Chicken Gun Test: How Real Birds Are Fired at Aircraft to Ensure Safety

In the wake of the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad, which resulted in 241 fatalities, aviation safety has once again taken center stage. Among the many rigorous tests planes undergo, one particularly unusual yet vital procedure is the “chicken gun test.” This test involves firing real birds at aircraft parts such as windshields, wings, and engines to evaluate their ability to withstand bird strikes.



Captain and Senior Commander Sam Thomas of the Airline Pilots Association of India explains the reasoning behind this unconventional test. While it may sound strange, bird strikes are a serious risk for airplanes cruising at high speeds, often around 350 km/h. Collisions with large birds can cause severe damage, from cracking the windshield to impairing engine function,

posing life-threatening dangers.

During the chicken gun test, frozen chickens are shot from a specially designed cannon at various aircraft components to simulate real bird strikes. The test is typically performed on the first engine a manufacturer develops to ensure it can safely

during flight.

Though the idea of firing real birds at planes may seem bizarre, the chicken gun test is an essential part of aviation safety, helping to keep millions of passengers safe every year by preparing aircraft to survive the unpredictable hazards of the skies.

handle such impacts. After the impact, engineers carefully examine the damage. If it's minimal and within safety limits, the aircraft part passes the test and is cleared for use following necessary approvals.

This critical safety step helps prevent accidents caused by birds, which are more common than many realize. By pushing engines and windshields to their limits with these realistic tests, manufacturers can design aircraft that better withstand unexpected collisions



# Joe Root Becomes Third-Highest Run Scorer in Test Cricket

## England Vs India

England's Joe Root etched his name deeper into cricket history on Friday, July 25, 2025, by becoming the third-highest run scorer in Test cricket. The 34-year-old surpassed Indian legend Rahul Dravid and South Africa's Jacques Kallis, reaching a career total of 13,322 runs during the third day of the fourth Test against India at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Root remained unbeaten on 63 at lunch, partnering with Ollie Pope (70 not out) as England closed in on India's first-innings total of 358. The hosts stood at 332-2, just 26 runs be-



hind, and in a strong position to take a commanding lead in the five-match series, which they currently lead 2-1.

Root now eyes former Australian captain Ricky Ponting, who sits second on the all-time Test run list with 13,378 runs. He needs only 57 more to surpass Ponting but still trails far behind India's Sachin Tendulkar, who holds the record with 15,921 runs.

The morning session was all about English dominance. Resuming from an overnight score of 225-2, Root and Pope built on the momentum generated by the explosive opening partnership of 166 between Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett on day two. England add-

ed 107 runs in 28 overs before lunch. However, Root's milestone innings had moments of drama. He narrowly avoided being run out on 22 after a mix-up with Pope and also survived a leg-before-wicket appeal earlier in the session.

India's bowlers struggled to make breakthroughs, with the Old Trafford pitch offering little assistance. England now looks poised for a significant first-innings lead and a potential series-clinching victory.

Root's achievement not only highlights his personal brilliance but also reinforces his crucial role in England's continued dominance in the series.

## China Open

# Unnati Hooda Exits in Quarterfinals

India's teen-age badminton sensation Unnati Hooda saw her impressive run at the China Open Super 1000 come to an end on Friday, July 25, 2025, after a straight-game defeat to Japan's world number 4, Akane Yamaguchi. The 17-year-old lost 16-21, 12-21 in the women's singles quarterfinal match, which lasted just 33 minutes in Changzhou. Hooda, who stunned two-time Olympic medallist and her childhood idol PV Sindhu in the previous round, was unable to replicate that form against the experienced Japanese shuttler. Despite a promising start in the opening game, where Hooda kept pace early on, Yamaguchi's superior consistency and control helped her pull away, clinching the game 21-16 after a run of five consecutive points. In the second game, Hooda showed glimpses of resistance, winning four points in a row at one stage. However, Yamaguchi quickly regained control with a six-point streak of her own and sealed the match 21-12. The Japanese star won 42 of the 70 points played,



showing her dominance in rallies and tactical superiority throughout the encounter. Hooda's quarterfinal finish, though, remains a career-best at the Super 1000 level and highlights her rapid rise in international badminton. Her victory over Sindhu on Thursday, where she prevailed 21-16, 19-21, 21-13, marked her biggest win to date and served as a statement of her potential. With Hooda's exit, India's singles campaign at the China Open has concluded. However, fans still have hope in the men's doubles draw, where the top-ranked Indian duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are scheduled to face Malaysia's Yew Sin Ong and Ee Yi Teo later in the day in their quarterfinal clash.

## Sumit Nagal Returns to Davis Cup Squad After Two Years

India's top-ranked singles player Sumit Nagal has made a return to the Davis Cup squad after a two-year absence, while experienced campaigner Ramkumar Ramanathan has been dropped due to poor form. The All India Tennis Association (AITA) selection panel on Friday announced an eight-member squad for the upcoming Davis Cup World Group I first-round tie against Switzerland, scheduled to be held on indoor courts in Biel from September 12.



Nagal last played for India in the home tie against Morocco in September 2023, where he won both his singles matches in India's 4-1 victory. Since then, he missed ties against Pakistan, Sweden, and Togo. Despite slipping out of the top 300 in the ATP rankings (currently ranked 306), a recent semifinal run at the Trieste Challenger has reignited hopes for his form.

Joining Nagal in singles are Karan Singh (ranked 403) and rising star Aryan Shah (442). Sasikumar Mukund (463) and 6'5" Dakshinেশ্বর Suresh (790) have been named as reserves. Captain Rohit Rajpal praised Suresh's powerful serve and hard-court game, calling him an asset for fast indoor surfaces.

Yuki Bhambri (doubles ranking 35) and N Sriram Balaji (75) will lead the doubles challenge, with Rithvik Bollipalli (77) as the reserve. Bhambri returns after missing two ties, having last played in India's 4-0 win over Pakistan in Islamabad.

Ramkumar Ramanathan's exclusion was expected due to his continued struggles on the Challenger circuit and inability to maintain consistency in either singles or doubles.

India has a 2-1 head-to-head advantage over Switzerland, with their last meeting in 1993. The winner of this tie will qualify for the 2026 Davis Cup Qualifiers, while the loser will drop to the World Group I Play-offs.

# Joe Root Overtakes Ponting as 2nd Highest Test Run-Scorer

England's Joe Root has added another historic milestone to his illustrious career by surpassing Australian legend Ricky Ponting to become the second-highest run scorer in the history of Test cricket. The feat was achieved during the ongoing fourth Test against India at Old Trafford in Manchester on Friday, July 25, 2025.



Coming in to bat at No. 4, the former England captain had already overtaken India's Rahul Dravid and South Africa's Jacques Kallis earlier in the match to climb to third on the all-time run-scoring list. He continued his imperious form into the second session of Day 3, overtaking Ponting's career tally of 13,378 runs.

Ponting played 168 Tests for Australia between 1995 and 2012, scoring 13,378 runs. Root, playing his 157th Test, now has 13,379 runs and counting, showcasing not only longevity but consistent excellence at the highest level.

Root required 120 runs in

the Manchester Test to leap past Ponting's mark, and he delivered with typical class, anchoring England's innings and putting the team in a dominant position. His composure, shot selection, and ability to perform under pressure once again highlighted why he's considered one of the finest

Test batters of the modern era.

With this achievement, Root now trails only the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, who remains the highest run scorer in Test history with 15,921 runs from 200 matches, including 51 centuries and 68 half-centuries.

Root's continued success with the bat has not only solidified his place among cricket's greats but has also given England a major edge in their current five-match series against India, which they lead 2-1.

As Root narrows the gap with Tendulkar, cricket fans around the world are left wondering—could he go all the way to the top?

Indian cricketer Veda Krishnamurthy has officially announced her retirement from international cricket, bringing the curtain down on a career that spanned over a decade. The 32-year-old batter represented India in 48 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 76 T20 Internationals (T20Is), scoring 829 and 875 runs respectively.

Krishnamurthy, a powerful middle-order batter known for her aggressive style, last played an ODI in 2018 and made her final T20I appearance in the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final. Her retirement announcement came via social media on July 25, 2025, where she expressed gratitude for her journey and shared her intent to continue contributing to the sport in other ways.

"From a small-town girl with big dreams to wearing the India jersey with pride. Grateful for everything cricket gave me—the lessons, the people, the memories. It's time to say goodbye to playing, but not to the game. Always for India. Always for the team," Krishnamurthy wrote.

Apart from her international achievements, Veda had a strong domestic career. She captained both Karnataka and Railways, two prominent teams in Indian women's cricket. Under her leadership, Karnataka finished runners-up in the Senior Women's One Day Trophy in both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons, narrowly losing to Railways in the 2023 final by six runs.

One of her career highlights was being part of the Indian squad that reached the final of the 2017 ICC Women's World Cup at Lord's—a landmark moment that significantly boosted the profile of women's cricket in India.

"Nothing comes close to the feeling of wearing that jersey. The anthem, the adrenaline, the pride—it lives in your bones forever. 2017...what a year," she added.

As she steps away from playing, Krishnamurthy's legacy as a fearless cricketer and an advocate for women in sports remains firmly intact.



## Indian Batter Veda Krishnamurthy Announces Retirement from International Cricket





# A Visually Bold Mythological Animation with Spiritual Depth



Mahavatar Narsimha, India's first large-scale 3D animated devotional action film, marks an ambitious beginning to a planned mythological universe. Directed by Ashwin Kumar and backed by Hombale Films in collaboration with Kleem Productions, the film offers a refreshing animated take on the legendary tale of Lord Narasimha.

The story revolves around the demon king Hiranyakashipu's rise to power, his opposition to Lord Vishnu, and the unshakable devotion of his son Prahlada. As the demonic forces grow, Vishnu incarnates as Narasimha — neither man nor beast — to restore cosmic order. This climactic divine intervention is the film's emotional and visual high point.

The film opens with remarkable energy, especially during the Varaha avatar sequence, which is a visual treat. The depiction of Prahlada's unwavering devotion and the celestial realms adds emotional weight and aesthetic appeal. Narasimha's arrival is powerfully rendered, with raw intensity that leaves a strong impact.

However, the film struggles with inconsistent pacing. After a strong start, the mid-section drags, and some emotional scenes lack the depth needed to fully resonate. Devotional songs, though thematically appropriate, occasionally interrupt the flow.

There are minor logical gaps, such as the underexplained Holika subplot, and certain animated sequences — particularly crowd scenes — lack polish. Still, the world-building, character design, and overall animation quality are commendable for an Indian production.

Sam C S's background score is a major strength, enhancing both the emotional and action beats. The Telugu dubbing is excellent, maintaining the authenticity of the narrative.

**Verdict:** Mahavatar Narsimha is a sincere and visually ambitious attempt to reimagine Indian mythology through animation. Despite its flaws, it offers enough spectacle, devotion, and storytelling richness to merit a watch — especially in 3D.

# Vignesh Shivan Unveils Futuristic Poster of 'Love Insurance Kompany'

On Pradeep Ranganathan's Birthday

Celebrating actor Pradeep Ranganathan's birthday, director Vignesh Shivan unveiled a striking new poster of their upcoming film, Love Insurance Kompany, ramping up excitement ahead of its theatrical release on August 1, 2025.

Produced by Nayanthara under the Rowdy Pictures banner, the film is helmed by her husband and popular filmmaker Vignesh Shivan. The movie is touted to be a romantic entertainer with a quirky sci-fi twist, judging by the new poster and earlier promotional teasers.

Taking to Instagram, Shivan wished the young actor with a heartfelt message: "Happy Birthday @pradeep\_ranganathan. Wishing you only blockbuster years! God bless you with all the happiness in the world." Alongside his message, the filmmaker dropped the latest poster that quickly caught fans' attention.



In the poster, Pradeep is seen with a robotic arm, surrounded by a backdrop of futuristic humanoid robots, hinting at a unique mix of romance, humor, and technology. The tagline "First Punch on 1.8.25" suggests that the film may feature stylized action sequences in addition to its core love story.

Co-starring rising actress Mamitha Baiju, Love Insurance Kompany appears to continue Vignesh Shivan's signature style of blending emotion, satire, and visual flair. The pairing of Pradeep and Mamitha brings fresh energy to the project, and the unusual sci-fi elements are already sparking curiosity among fans.

With the release date now locked and the promotional campaign gathering steam, Love Insurance Kompany is shaping up to be a unique offering in the romantic comedy genre. All eyes are now on August 1 to see what this off-beat love story delivers.

# Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen Shine in an Uneven Family Drama

Thalaivan Thalaivii, starring Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen, is a quirky Tamil family drama directed by Pandiraj that delves into the emotional chaos of a mismatched marriage. While the film attempts to capture the everyday friction and warmth between a husband and wife, it delivers only in parts.



The story follows Agasaveeran (Vijay Sethupathi), who runs a modest tiffin center with his family. He marries Arasi (Nithya Menen), and what begins as a smooth partnership quickly spirals into daily arguments over trivial issues. A three-month separation and a pending divorce set the stage for a major family confrontation triggered by a mysterious incident. The film explores whether the couple will reconcile or part ways for good.

The strength of the film lies in its lead pair. Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen deliver committed performances, especially in emotionally charged moments. A key pre-climax scene, where Vijay articulates the burdens of being a husband and son, stands out as a high point. Their chemistry lends authenticity to an otherwise uneven narrative.

Humour, though sparse, emerges naturally and adds occasional charm. Santhosh Narayanan's

background score enriches several emotional sequences and gives the film a grounded tone.

However, the film suffers from a repetitive and thin storyline. Despite a non-linear structure, the screenplay lacks freshness and revolves around similar types of conflicts, making it feel stagnant. Several supporting characters lack depth, and even comic talent like Yogi Babu is underused.

Technically, the film is modest. The direction lacks precision, editing is loose in the second half, and the cinematography feels functional.

**Verdict:** Thalaivan Thalaivii works in flashes, thanks to its lead actors, but is weighed down by a repetitive and noisy narrative. It's a one-time watch for fans of the lead pair or slice-of-life dramas.

# Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR Promise a High-Octane Spy Thriller

The official trailer of War 2, starring Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR, and Kiara Advani, was unveiled today, and it's nothing short of explosive. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, this latest entry in the YRF Spy Universe looks set to deliver a power-packed action drama, much like its blockbuster predecessor.



The trailer opens with a voiceover from Hrithik Roshan's character, Major Kabir, who speaks of his silent commitment to India. Soon after, Jr NTR's powerful voiceover introduces his character—a weapon forged for one purpose: to kill or die for the country. The film appears to revolve around the ideological clash and high-stakes faceoff between these two patriotic yet contrasting warriors.

Kiara Advani plays a key role this time, far more substantial than the female lead in the original War. She's seen taking part in intense action scenes, indicating that her character will have strong narrative importance. Ashutosh Rana reprises his familiar role from War and Pathaan, adding continuity to the YRF Spy Universe.

The trailer is visually striking, backed by slick cinematography, high-end production values, and a competent background score. The action sequences, scale, and tone suggest that War 2 aims to push boundaries in terms of spectacle.

While Hrithik Roshan remains a major draw in the Hindi belt, the Telugu version will rely heavily on Jr NTR's stardom. His screen presence and significant role—equal in weight to Hrithik's—are expected to be a big boost in Telugu-speaking states.

Produced by Aditya Chopra under Yash Raj Films, War 2 is set for a massive global release on August 14, just ahead of Independence Day, promising a patriotic action spectacle for fans across the country.



# Mouni Roy Joins Chiranjeevi for a Special Dance Number

Megastar Chiranjeevi's much-awaited fantasy epic Vishwambhara is nearing completion, with post-production works now in the final stage. Directed by Vassishtha, the film has already created considerable buzz, with promotions kick-starting at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, where a special book on Vishwambhara was officially launched.

Adding to the excitement, the team recently wrapped up the film's shoot by completing a grand special dance number featuring Chiranjeevi and Mouni Roy. Known for her impressive screen presence and dance prowess, Mouni Roy shares the screen with the

Megastar for the first time in what promises to be a visual and musical spectacle. The song has been composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, who has earned fame for his massy, high-energy tracks. While the film's main soundtrack and background score are being handled by Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravaani, this special number serves as a standalone highlight to energize the narrative.

To match the grandeur of the song, a massive set was constructed in Hyderabad under the creative direction of art director AS Prakash. Renowned choreographer Ganesh Acharya has crafted the dance sequences,

which are said to blend traditional flair with high-voltage contemporary moves. Mouni Roy's glamorous appearance and graceful dance moves are expected to complement Chiranjeevi's evergreen charisma, offering fans a treat that blends star power with visual splendor.

Produced by Vikram, Vamsi, and Pramod under the UV Creations banner, Vishwambhara is shaping up to be one of the biggest Telugu releases of the year. With this sizzling dance number now complete, the film is moving closer to its grand theatrical release. Fans can expect more updates as the promotional blitz continues.