

Two Terrorists Nabbed in Rayachoti **2**



One Lakh Farm Ponds Completed in AP: Pawan Kalyan

- Farm ponds to help tackle drought, boost groundwater
- 1 TMC storage capacity added, rural jobs created
- Pawan thanks farmers, Centre, and Chandrababu

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced the successful completion of one lakh agricultural ponds across the state, terming it a major step towards strengthening rural development and supporting farmers. Speaking at an official gathering, he highlighted that these ponds will serve as a lifeline for farmers, especially during droughts. Pawan Kalyan said that these farm ponds not only help in water storage but also play a crucial role in increasing groundwater levels and reviving shallow lands. He noted that the completed ponds have collectively increased water storage capacity by about 1 TMC so far. Moreover, the large-scale effort has also provided employment to thousands of rural workers under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. He emphasized that this achievement was only possible due to the proactive co-operation of farmers across the state. “I sincerely thank all the farmers who understood the importance of agricultural ponds and came forward to dig them in their own fields,” he said. He also appreciated the officials and employment-guarantee workers, from the Principal Secretary of the Rural Development Department down to the field assistants, for their contribution in making this mission successful. Pawan Kalyan expressed gratitude to the Central Government for its continued support in implementing rural development projects. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for their guidance and encouragement. He also thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his unwavering support in executing key developmental initiatives across the state. Reaffirming the government’s commitment, Pawan concluded, “We will stand by the farmers at every step and continue to build a self-reliant rural Andhra Pradesh.”

Naidu Slams Jagan Over Singaiah Case, Alleges Political Cover-Up

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CM Vows to Make Kuppam a Model Constituency

- Launches ₹1,292 crore 'Swarna Kuppam' development works
- Handrineeva water to reach last ayacut this year
- Free gas for women under Deepam 2.0

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced that his constituency Kuppam will be developed into an ideal constituency for the entire nation. During his visit to Kuppam on Wednesday, he launched multiple development and welfare initiatives under the ambitious ₹1,292 crore 'Swarna Kuppam' project. Addressing a public meeting, the Chief Minister said the devastated state is now being steered back onto the path of development. He emphasized that sustainable welfare is possible only through growth, stating, “Only those who develop have the right to talk about welfare. It is not good governance to take loans and spend. Welfare should be driven by development.” Naidu assured that the long-pending demand for Handrineeva water in Kuppam would be fulfilled this year. He said that works worth ₹3,890 crore under the Handrine-



eva project are in progress to ensure irrigation water reaches even the last ayacut of the constituency. Under the 'Swarna Kuppam' initiative, the government has already completed ₹125 crore worth of works. Naidu said that all roads in the constituency will be converted into cement concrete (CC) and bitumen (BT) roads. “Our aim is to ensure pot-hole-free roads throughout the state,” he declared. The CM also highlighted the launch of the 'Deepam 2.0' scheme, through

which free gas cylinders are being distributed to eligible women. “Earlier we gave gas connections through Deepam; now we are ensuring that every eligible woman receives free cooking gas through Deepam 2.0. Gas is now available in every household in Kuppam,” he said. Naidu concluded by reiterating his commitment to keeping every promise made to the people and said the current governance is rooted in transparency, accountability, and people-first policies.

WB, ADB Team Satisfied With Amaravati Progress

- Third day workshop on urban governance held at CRDA
- Environmental protection and land monetization discussed
- Team praises construction, welfare and safety measures



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A joint World Bank-Asian Development Bank (WB/ADB) delegation concluded a three day review of Amaravati’s development with high praise for the capital’s progress. The team met at the AP CRDA office in Vijayawada, where Commissioner K. Kannababu IAS and Additional Commissioners G. Suryasai Praveen Chand IAS and Mallarapu Naveen IAS hosted a workshop on “Urban Governance.” During the sessions, WB/ADB experts shared global best practices in urban

management and environmental protection. CRDA and ADCL officials detailed ongoing projects, including transportation networks, housing schemes, private sector partnerships, and disaster prevention infrastructure. Land monetization strategies for the capital were also discussed at length. Amaravati Development Corporation CMD Lakshmi Parthasarathy and department officers highlighted social welfare programs for capital area residents, environmental safeguards, and worker and women safety pro-

ocols. The delegation’s queries on specific project timelines and financing structures were answered comprehensively. At the conclusion, the WB/ADB team expressed complete satisfaction with the state of Amaravati’s construction, civic service delivery, and sustainability measures. They commended the collaborative approach of CRDA and ADCL in integrating economic development, urban planning, and environmental stewardship. The visit underscored international confidence in Amaravati’s role as a model smart capital.



Singaiah’s Family Meets Jagan

- YSRCP extends ₹10 lakh relief; wife alleges foul play
- YS Jagan assures support, family demands full investigation

TPN Correspondent | Tadepalli

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday met with the grieving family members of Cheeli Singaiah, who died during Jagan’s recent visit to Rentapalla in Palnadu district. Singaiah’s wife, Lourdu Mary, along with their sons and relatives, visited the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, where Jagan offered condolences and reaffirmed the party’s continued support to the bereaved family. The YSRCP has already extended a financial relief of ₹10 lakh to Singaiah’s family. Jagan assured them that the party would stand by them during this difficult time and provide all necessary assistance. YSRCP General Secretary and

MLC Lella Appireddy and Prathipadu constituency coordinator Balasani Kiran Kumar were also present during the meeting. However, the situation took a serious turn when Lourdu Mary alleged foul play in her husband’s death. Speaking to the media, she questioned how her husband, who sustained only minor injuries and was speaking clearly after the accident, could have died. “He was coherent and mentioned our village and my name. Something happened between the accident site and the hospital,” she claimed, raising doubts about the events inside the ambulance. She further alleged that YSRCP leaders initially offered to take Singaiah in an auto but insisted

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Vallabhaneni Vamsi Walks Free After 140 Days Gets bail in house patta case from Nujiveedu court

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Former Gannavaram MLA and YSRCP leader Vallabhaneni Vamsi was released from the Vijayawada sub-jail on Thursday, following 140 days of judicial remand. His release came after the Nujiveedu court granted him conditional bail in a case related to the alleged irregularities in house patta distribution. Vamsi was arrested on February 16 in Hyderabad after a series of cases were filed against him—eleven in total—following the formation of the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh. Since then, he had been fighting his arrest from inside jail. The court’s decision

in the most recent case cleared the way for his release. The atmosphere outside the jail turned festive as Vamsi walked out. His wife Pankaja Sri, along with a large contingent of YSRCP leaders and supporters, gathered to receive him. Among those present were Krishna District YSRCP President Perni Nani, MLC Talashila Raghuram, former MLAs Simhadri Ramesh and Kyle Anil, and Penamalur constituency in-charge Devabhaktuni Chakravarthy. Party workers and fans raised slogans in his support, celebrating his release. The event showcased the strong backing Vamsi continues to hold within the YSRCP ranks despite the ongoing legal challenges.



Singaiah’s Family Meets Jagan

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on waiting for an ambulance, during which she suspects something went wrong. Adding to the tension, Lourdu Mary claimed a group of people who identified themselves as belonging to the same community and being sent by Minister Lokesh tried to force the family to sign documents. “When we refused, they threatened us,” she stated. She also accused the police of using accident footage to pressure her into signing. Despite the turmoil, she expressed complete faith in YS Jagan, saying, “Jagan anna is with us. He assured us of his help.” The family has demanded a full and impartial investigation into the incident, raising concerns about possible delays in treatment, external pressure, and the need for transparency in the ongoing probe.



Excise Dept Cracks Down on Ganja Smuggling in AP

4 arrested, nearly 190 kg seized in statewide raids

TPN | V.V.S Madhu Babu

Andhra Pradesh: In a major statewide crackdown on drug trafficking, the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition and Excise Department has seized nearly 190 kilograms of dry ganja and arrested four accused in separate raids over the past two days. The operations were led under the supervision of Excise Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena, with Commissioner Nishant Kumar and Director of Enforcement Rahul Dev Sharma overseeing enforcement efforts. Acting on specific intelligence, the State Task Force intercepted a major smuggling attempt near Indukurupeta village in Devipatnam mandal of Alluri Sitarama Raju district. Three accused—Galla Raviteja, Cherla Narasimha Rao alias Chinna, and Ganesh—were caught transporting 180 kg of dry ganja in an auto. Mobile phones used for the operation were also confiscated. Officials suspect the trio are part of a wider interstate network, and further investigation is ongoing to trace the supply chain. In a separate raid in Guntur town, Excise teams intercepted two individuals from Telangana near the Government General Hospital gate and seized 8.76 kg of dry ganja. The accused, Guguloth Yakanna and Bhukya Bharathi, revealed they sourced the contraband from a supplier named Siva, based in Khammam. His role is now under active probe. Commending the swift action, Excise Commissioner Nishant Kumar emphasized the importance of proactive intelligence-led enforcement. Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma stated that surveillance on known drug corridors has been intensified and further operations will follow. Excise Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena urged youth to stay away from drugs and appealed to families and communities to help combat the menace. The department has called for public cooperation in reporting drug-related activities. Investigations are ongoing to uncover the full extent of the networks involved.

Two Terrorists Nabbed in Rayachoti

- IB and Tamil Nadu ATS arrest suspects linked to Coimbatore blasts
- Transferred to Tamil Nadu Amid Tight Security
- Annamaiya district headquarters rattled by sudden arrests
- Accused linked to 1995 Coimbatore blasts, Advani yatra conspiracy
- Terror suspects had been living under false names for 30 years

TPN | Nagaraju

Annamaiya: A wave of shock gripped Rayachoti town in Annamaiya district on Tuesday after two suspected terrorists were arrested in a covert operation. The Tamil Nadu Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), with assistance from Intelligence Bureau (IB) officials, apprehended Abubakkar Siddique alias Nagur and Sheikh Mansoor, who were allegedly living in Rayachoti under false identities for nearly three decades. The two suspects, reportedly linked to several terror-related cases across the country, were shifted to Tamil Nadu under heavy police escort after the arrests. Sources say they were wanted in the 1995 Coimbatore bomb blasts case, which targeted a BJP rally during LK Advani’s



Rath Yatra. According to local sources, Abubakkar Siddique had been running a retail shop near Kothapalli Urdu School, while Sheikh Mansoor operated a sari shop on Mahbub Basha Street. The duo had carefully built a

façade as normal traders, all while continuing their underground terror operations, including forming over 200 sleeper cells across India, according to preliminary reports. IB officials, who had been conducting surveillance in disguise, final-

ly moved in after confirming their identities and links. A search operation at their residences led to the seizure of books, documents, and equipment related to terrorist activities. Another accused, Mohammed Ali, is also reportedly linked to the group and under investigation. In response, Rayachoti police have been put on high alert. Security checks have been intensified, and special teams have been deployed to comb sensitive areas. Officials are also working to identify any local links or networks that may have supported the suspects. The arrests have sparked statewide concern, with residents expressing disbelief that longtime shopkeepers in the area were involved in terror networks. Authorities expect more details to emerge as the investigation progresses in Tamil Nadu.

No Plans to Divert Tatipudi Water: Minister Srinivas



TPN | Narasimhulu

Vizianagaram: State MSME, SERP and NRI Affairs Minister Kondapalli Srinivas has dismissed claims that water from the Tatipudi reservoir will be diverted for industrial purposes. Speaking after releasing irrigation water from the Buchi Apparao Tatipudi reservoir in Gantiada mandal on Wednesday, the Minister said the government is committed to prioritizing farmers and ensuring water reaches its rightful users. He clarified that the Tatipudi water is meant exclusively for the drinking water needs of Visakhapatnam and for the benefit of farmers under the Ayukat. “There is absolutely no plan to divert this water. The rumors being spread are politically motivated and baseless,” he said. Reflecting on last year’s favorable rainfall, the

Minister said that it led to healthy crop yields and hoped for similar conditions this year. He also paid tribute to the vision of the ancestors who constructed the pond system connected to Tatipudi, which played a vital role in agricultural prosperity. Srinivas assured that any issues related to water supply or damaged ponds would be addressed if formal proposals are submitted. “Our government is ready to support farmers with restoration works to ensure sustainable agriculture,” he added. He also clarified that the GO related to water supply for the MSME Park was issued during the previous government’s regime. “False campaigns are being run to mislead the public, but the facts are clear,” he said, urging everyone to focus on cultivating productive crops for the benefit of society.

Farmers Protest Against Crusher Pollution in Paritala



TPN Correspondent | NTR District

Tension continues to mount in Paritala village of Kanchikacharla mandal, NTR district, as farmers, tenant cultivators, and agricultural workers intensify their protests against illegal quarry and crusher operations in the area. The protesters allege that constant dust, dirt, and rock discharge from over 32 crushers is severely affecting crop yields and irrigation supply. Farmers gathered near the NSP canal, which they claim is now completely choked by stones and quarry waste, disrupting water flow to thousands of acres of farmland. “We are losing lakhs of rupees as crops fail to grow due to dust settling on them constantly. Even irrigation water is not reaching our fields,” lamented a local farmer. Leaders from farmers’ associations expressed anger at both crusher owners and local officials, accusing them of collusion. “Despite repeated complaints, no buffer zones have been declared. The irony is that the task of regulation has been handed over to the Crusher Association itself, which

is acting in its own interest, not the farmers’,” the leaders said. They further alleged that quarry owners are operating with blatant disregard for environmental and safety regulations, with no dust control systems or protective barriers in place. “Our livelihoods are being crushed under their trucks and blasted away with every explosion. Even the canals are filled with silt and gravel, cutting off lifelines to our lands,” they added. The protesting farmers are urging the authorities to take immediate and concrete action by declaring a minimum buffer zone to safeguard agricultural lands from quarry operations. They are also demanding that all irrigation canals be promptly cleared of quarry debris to restore water flow to their fields. Additionally, they insist on strict enforcement of regulations, including punitive measures against crushers violating environmental and operational norms. Lastly, the farmers want a complete halt to any further developmental activities on farmland, emphasizing that agricultural livelihoods must not be sacrificed for industrial expansion.

Cordon and Search Held in Avanigadda

27 vehicles seized, focus on crime prevention and surveillance

TPN Correspondent | Krishna

As part of its intensified crime control drive, Krishna District Police conducted a cordon and search operation in Puligadda village under Avanigadda Police Station limits on the orders of District SP Sri R. Gangadhara Rao, IPS. The operation was carried out under the supervision of DSP T. Vidya Sri along with Avanigadda and Challapalli Circle Police teams. The operation focused on identifying suspects, controlling illegal liquor and narcotic movements, checking vehicles without valid documents, and inspecting the houses of individuals involved in old criminal cases. Around 100 po-



lice personnel participated in the extensive checks.

During the search, police seized 27 two-wheelers lacking proper docu-

mentation and one auto. Details of individuals behaving suspiciously were noted, and their past records are being verified to track any criminal history. Officials emphasized that criminal cases will be registered against those who attempt to disrupt peace or provoke violence. “People must live in harmony, and if anyone is found engaging in illegal activities, strict legal action will be taken,” said the police. Authorities appealed to the public to cooperate and provide information if they spot any suspicious individuals or activities in their areas, reinforcing their commitment to maintaining law and order across the district.



Jagan Slams Govt Over Police Raids on Medical Graduates

YCP chief questions delay in PR numbers

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has come down heavily on the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, condemning what he termed as cruel treatment of students who completed medical education abroad. Jagan expressed serious concern over police raids on foreign medical graduates (FMGs) and accused the government of deliberate harassment. In a strong statement made on social media on Wednesday, Jagan questioned, "Is this a wretched government that sends police to raid medical students?" He said the government is ruining the future of young doctors who have passed all legal requirements under the National Medical Commission (NMC) and completed their mandatory internship in Andhra Pradesh.

Questions Delay in Registration

Jagan questioned the prolonged delay in issuing Permanent Registration (PR) numbers to these qualified students. "When they have passed the FMG exam and completed internship, what's stopping the government from issuing PR numbers?" he asked. He termed the inaction as a clear sign of injustice, especially when the students were merely seeking a procedural formality to continue their careers. He further stated that targeting students with police action for raising their voices against bureaucratic delays is shameful. "Is this how you treat the youth who dream of serving the people?" he questioned.

Conspiracy to Benefit Private Colleges

The YSRCP chief alleged that the current government is deliberately delaying registration for FMGs to benefit private medical colleges. He said that while students are made to work under the guise of internship, their futures are being sacrificed to help private players. "Parents have sold properties and taken loans to send their children abroad to become doctors. Now the government is treating them like criminals," he added. Jagan also hit out at the TDP for stalling the medical colleges initiated during his regime. He recalled that the YSRCP government had launched 17 new government medical colleges, creating 2,550 seats to reduce dependency on foreign education. He said five of them were already operational and others were under construction.

Naidu Slams Jagan Over Singaiah Case, Alleges Political Cover-Up

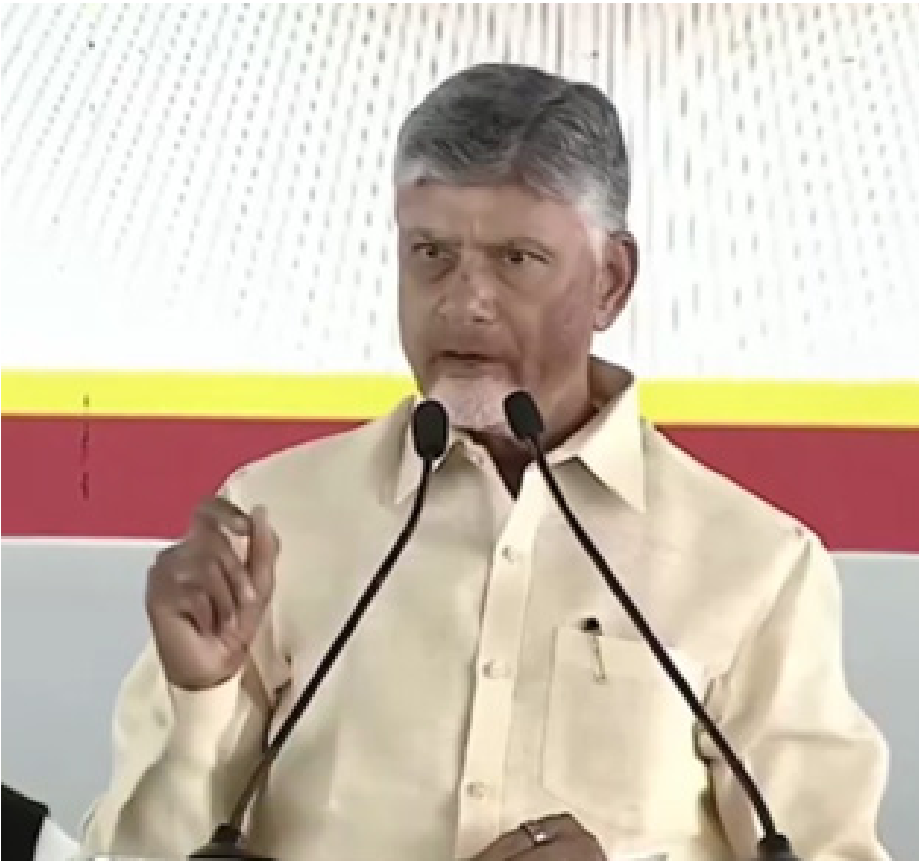
- "Dragged him like a dog, didn't even take him to hospital," says CM
- Accuses Jagan of using deceased's wife for scripted narrative
- Kodi Kathi, Gulakarayi – CM recalls past 'dramas'

TPN Correspondent | Kuppam

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu came down heavily on former CM and YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over the recent death of Cheeli Singaiah in a hit-and-run incident during Jagan's Palnadu visit. Speaking at a public meeting in Kuppam, Naidu accused Jagan of lacking basic humanity and resorting to a "cruel political cover-up."

"There are people like Jagan in society who have no humanity. A man fell under their car, and they dragged him like a dog and drove off. He wasn't even taken to the hospital in time, and he died," Naidu stated.

Reacting to Jagan's meeting with Singaiah's wife and the YSRCP's statements afterwards, Naidu alleged that the opposition party is manipulating the grieving family to deflect blame. "They are using the victim's wife to spin a narrative—saying he was fine after the accident, but something happened in the ambulance. It's all part of a calculated script," Naidu charged. The Chief Minister further reminded the public of previous incidents like the 'Kodi Kathi' and 'Gulakarayi'



cases, calling them political dramas orchestrated by the YSRCP to frame him. "I've never practiced murderous politics. I've never staged fake attacks. My politics are rooted in development and public service," he

asserted.

Naidu's sharp attack has escalated political tensions in the state, as calls for an impartial probe into the Singaiah case grow louder from both sides.

Sudheer Reddy Launches 'First Step in Good Governance' Drive

TDP MLA leads D2D outreach in Chinnasingamala village



TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati: Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy launched the Telugu Desam Party's flagship "First Step in Good Governance" door-to-door program at Chinnasingamala village in Thotambedu mandal. The initiative aims to bring government accountability directly to people's doorsteps, showcasing developmental progress under the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking during the campaign, Sudheer Reddy emphasized that

true good governance is only possible under the Telugu Desam Party, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and guided by IT Minister Nara Lokesh. "We are here to listen, to serve, and to solve the people's issues. This program is a reflection of our commitment," he said. As part of the program, TDP leaders released a detailed pamphlet outlining key development activities undertaken in both the state and Srikalahasti constituency. The door-to-door campaign not only highlighted achievements but also

collected grievances directly from the public, which the MLA assured would be resolved by concerned officials.

In Chinnasingamala alone, development projects worth ₹3.52 crore were executed over the past year, including pensions, Thaliki Vandanam, Deepam scheme benefits, roads, loans to SHGs, boreholes, cattle care, and urea distribution to farmers.

Sudheer Reddy also announced upcoming benefits such as ₹18.6 lakh under the Annadata Sukhibhavam Scheme, new pensions, housing schemes, and ration card allocations. He reiterated that these efforts are part of the government's "Super Six" mission to deliver fast and transparent governance.

The campaign saw active participation from local officials and villagers, with prominent TDP leaders including Mandal Party President Ravula Muniraja Naidu and State Secretary Gali Chalapathi Naidu joining the outreach. The visible public enthusiasm reaffirmed growing trust in Sudheer Reddy's leadership and the Telugu Desam government.

Sabari says people will reject YCP's rowdy politics

TPN Correspondent | Nandyal

TDP leaders have launched sharp attacks on YSRCP and its chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing the party of promoting rowdy politics and failing to deliver on development during its five-year rule. At separate events under the 'First Step in Good Governance' campaign, Nandyal MP Byreddy Sabari and Kadiri MLA Kandikunta Venkata Prasad voiced strong criticism.

Participating in a public meeting held at Damagatla village in Nandyal district's Nandikotkur mandal, MP Sabari accused YCP of relying on political theatrics instead of accountability. "If Jagan goes on a padayatra without answering what he did in five years, people will beat him with sandals," she said, expressing the frustration of voters over the lack of transparency from the opposition.

She asserted that while the YCP failed to ensure visible development in five years, the current coalition government had already begun delivering results within a year. "We are taking our work to every doorstep. People are welcoming our welfare and development initiatives with great enthusiasm," she added. TDP Nandyal District President Mallela Rajasekhara also took part in the program.

Meanwhile, Kadiri MLA Kandikunta Venkata Prasad, speaking at a separate gathering in Sri Sathya Sai district, raised concerns over the recent CBI raids. "It is shameful that in the 33 locations being raided by the CBI across the country, YCP leaders from Kadiri are also involved," he remarked. He demanded that YSRCP leaders come clean and explain their involvement instead of hiding behind political rhetoric.

Harish Rao Using Banakacharla for Political Survival: Payyavula



TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Andhra Pradesh Minister Payyavula Keshav has hit back at BRS leader Harish Rao's criticism of the Banakacharla project, stating that the issue is being raised purely for political mileage amid internal rifts within the BRS. Speaking at a media meet in Anantapur, he alleged that Harish Rao is using the project as a tool to maintain relevance in the party. "There is an internal fight going on in BRS. Harish Rao is using Banakacharla just to assert his political presence. This is nothing but a staged drama, and unfortunately, other BRS leaders are falling for it too," Payyavula remarked. He pointed out that BRS working president KTR has remained silent on the issue, calling it a clear indication that the matter is an internal dispute.

Payyavula assured that the Banakacharla project does not pose any threat to Telangana and clarified that it only aims to utilize the surplus water flowing unused into the sea. "We are tapping water that would otherwise go waste. There is no danger to upstream states. Yet, BRS leaders are trying to provoke people for political reasons," he said.

He also referred to past remarks by former Telangana CM K. Chandrashekar Rao, questioning, "Didn't KCR himself say that Godavari waters should reach Rayalaseema? Why are BRS leaders now contradicting his stand?" Payyavula accused the party of displaying double standards and urged them not to stir unnecessary controversies that could lead to misunderstanding between the two Telugu states. Payyavula concluded by advising BRS leaders to act responsibly and avoid politicizing developmental projects that benefit farmers across regions.

Nandigam Suresh Released from Jail

Says he will stand with Jagan till his last breath

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

YSRCP leader and former MP Nandigam Suresh was released from Guntur district jail on Wednesday after being granted bail in a case related to an alleged attack on a TDP worker named Raju. Although the court approved his bail on Monday, a delay in submitting the surety documents led to a two-day postponement of his release.

Speaking to the media after coming out, Suresh became emotional and criticized the government. "Even though I was unwell, they threw me in jail and caused me pain. But God above is watching everything," he said. Reaffirming his loyalty to YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, Suresh stated, "My only wish is to be with



Jagannanna till I die. I will endure any hardship for him."

Former minister Ambati Rambabu, who was present to welcome Suresh outside the jail, strongly condemned the government's actions. He alleged that Chandrababu Naidu and Nara

accusing the administration of suppressing opposition voices through fabricated cases.

Ambati also highlighted that he had visited Guntur jail more than 14 times in the past year to meet detained YSRCP leaders, claiming he had never

Lokesh were behind politically motivated false cases against YSRCP leaders. "In the last 14 months of this coalition government, Suresh spent nearly half the time in jail despite doing nothing wrong," he said,

seen such partisan governance. He warned that the coalition government should stop misusing police power to target opposition leaders, or it would face serious consequences. He further alleged that a new false case was being filed against former Macherla MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, and that police initially refused to file a complaint when Suresh's wife approached them. "Only after the TDP side complained did they register a case against Suresh, his wife, and his brother. We are not afraid of such illegal cases," he added.

The YSRCP leadership vowed to continue fighting these alleged political cases both legally and politically, declaring that they will not be intimidated.



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday emphasized that teachers have a sacred responsibility in strengthening the government school system. Felicitating M. Kaly-

ani Kumari, a primary school teacher from JM Thanda in Kurnool district, Lokesh lauded her efforts and declared her a ‘Shining Teacher’ during a special interaction at his Undavalli residence. Kalyani Kumari, who was

Teachers play sacred role in govt education: Minister Lokesh

Kurnool tribal school teacher Kalyani Kumari honored for excellence

transferred to a nearly non-functional school in 2017, turned it around with remarkable dedication. From only 14 students, of which just 2 attended regularly, the school now has 43 students, with many securing admissions in Gurukuls and one student entering Navodaya Vidyalaya. She personally funded school materials, improved infrastructure, and gained parents’ trust by going door to door. Lokesh, moved by her work, became a “student” during their interaction, humbly accepting

her suggestions for improving government education. “We will now focus on student learning outcomes,” he said, praising her “Star of the Week” and “My First Step” initiatives that promote student participation, discipline, and hygiene. Teacher Kalyani explained how she motivates students by presenting awards for homework, discipline, and attendance, and how she maintains regular communication with parents. Initiatives like giving soaps on birthdays and ensuring permission protocols for

leave reflect her disciplined approach. She stressed that a second teacher in single-teacher schools would bring even better results. Minister Lokesh stated that 9,600 schools in the state already have a teacher per class, and more improvements are on the way. He promised more attention to digital education, Mega PTMs, workbook awareness, and introducing Constitutional values early. He affirmed that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and the education department are united

in their mission to restore public trust in government schools. He added, “Government schools offer better quality education than private schools. We have qualified teachers and the will to transform society. Education is the only path to real progress.” Minister Lokesh concluded by saying he would continue meeting dedicated teachers to learn from them and shape policies accordingly. Kalyani Kumari expressed heartfelt gratitude for being recognized directly by the minister.

IPS Officer Siddharth Kaushal Resigns Voluntarily

Denies pressure or harassment behind decision
Currently SP (Admin) in DGP office, absent from duty for a month
Served as SP in Krishna, Prakasam, and YSR districts



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Senior IPS officer Siddharth Kaushal has formally tendered his voluntary resignation from the Indian Police Service. Currently posted as SP (Admin) at the DGP office in Andhra Pradesh, Kaushal has not been attending duty for nearly a month. Sources say he is awaiting final approval from the government and intends to move to a corporate role in Delhi. Issuing a statement to the media, Kaushal clarified that his resignation is purely personal and not driven by any external pressure or harassment. “This step aligns with my long-term aspirations and the wishes of my family, and it has been made with a clear mind and full conviction,” he stated. He categorically denied media reports linking his resignation to any undue pressure, calling them “unfounded, misleading, and having no basis in fact.” Kaushal described his IPS journey as the most fulfilling chapter of his life, expressing deep gratitude to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, colleagues, and the people of the state. “I have always regarded this state as my home,” he said, adding that he would carry Andhra Pradesh in his heart with pride and affection. Having served as Superintendent of Police in Krishna, Prakasam, and YSR districts, Kaushal earned a reputation for professional integrity and commitment. As he prepares for a transition, he emphasized his continued commitment to serving society “in new and meaningful ways.”

NDA Implementing Super Six Schemes at Jet Speed: MP Kesineni Shivanath

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) said the NDA coalition government under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is delivering welfare and development schemes at record pace, even within a tight budget. He emphasized that the Super Six schemes are being implemented efficiently, including the provision of ₹4,000 pensions every month from the 1st, as promised. On July 2, MP Shivanath launched the ‘First Step in Good Governance’ outreach program in the 50th and 55th divisions of Vijayawada West constituency.



He was joined by leaders including former MLC Buddha Venkanna, TDP spokesperson Nagul Meera, MLC Beeda Ravichandra Yadav, and former MLC Mantena Venkata Satyanarayana Raju. The team visited households, gathering feedback and explaining schemes implemented in the past year.

Addressing the media, MP Kesineni Shivanath outlined several major welfare schemes currently being implemented by the NDA coalition government. He announced that free bus travel for women will begin on August 15, and a ₹15,000 assistance will be given to parents for each student under the Thalli Vandana scheme.

Women will also receive three free gas cylinders annually. Further, on August 14, ₹15,000 will be deposited into the accounts of auto drivers to provide them with financial relief. He added that the government is preparing to roll out an unemployment allowance within the next three months, and plans are in place to offer ₹1,500 monthly financial support to women through the P4 Link system. In addition, ₹20,000 will be credited to eligible farmers under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme by the end of July, ensuring comprehensive support across key sections of society.

He also mentioned that the reopening of 204 Anna canteens—previously shut by the former government—has ensured meals at ₹5 for the poor. Plans are underway to expand them into rural areas. He stressed that the coalition government is committed to being among the people, understanding their needs directly, and solving them with the support of officials. “We fought for the people when we were in opposition. Now, in power, we are living among them to ensure they receive the full benefits of governance,” he said.

Finish Kondapalli Experience Center Works Quickly

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha directed officials to expedite the completion of the Kondapalli Bomma Experience Center in Ibrahimpatnam mandal, aimed at preserving and promoting the rich cultural legacy of Kondapalli dolls. On Wednesday, the Collector personally inspected the site along with tourism and municipal department officials. She was briefed that mural works had been completed, but some interior and fencing tasks remained pending. He instructed the officials to finish the remaining work at the earliest so that the center can be made available to tourists without delay. Dr. Lakshmi Sha emphasized that the Expe-



rience Center will serve as a visual and interactive tribute to the centuries-old tradition

of Kondapalli toy-making. He stated, “This center will not only highlight the glory of Kondapalli dolls and the unique white pine wood used, but also pass on the heritage to future generations.” The Collector reiterated that transforming historically and culturally significant areas into tourism spots is part of a broader effort to boost the district’s profile. The Experience Center is expected to become a major attraction for both domestic and international tourists. He was accompanied by Vijayawada RDO Kavuri Chaitanya, District Tourism Officer A. Shilpa, Kondapalli Municipal Commissioner Ramya Keerthana, and other officials during the inspection.

Limb-Saving Cancer Surgery for 8-Year-Old at Manipal Hospitals

Manipal's Vijayawada and Bengaluru teams collaborate to save young boy's life

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

An 8-year-old boy from Andhra Pradesh, Master Ranjan (name changed), has been given a new lease of life after being diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive bone cancer, at Manipal Hospital Vijayawada. The tumor had spread across two-thirds of his thigh bone, demanding urgent, complex care. Doctors at Manipal Hospitals in Vijayawada and Old Airport Road, Bengaluru, joined forces to design a high-intensity chemotherapy and limb-salvage plan. Dr. Krishna Reddy and Dr. Sravan Rao led the chemotherapy phase, delivering 14 precision-monitored cycles over nine months. The tumor showed a pos-



itive response by the third month, enabling the next step—surgery. Orthopaedic oncologists Dr. Sri-manth B S from Bengaluru and Dr. G V Reddy from Vijayawada adopted an advanced approach called bone recycling. The affected bone was removed, irradiated externally to kill cancer cells, and reimplanted using 3D imaging-guided implants to ensure accurate fit and structural in-

tegrity. Dr. Ramakrishna Vangara and Dr. V Dharmendra Kumar noted that collaboration, infrastructure, and philanthropic support helped ensure care extended beyond affordability. The hospital’s oncology unit is now recognized as a regional referral center for complex bone and soft tissue cancers. This case, along with several others including those of Ms. Shravani and Mr. Rajashekar Rao, demonstrates Manipal Hospitals’ commitment to providing cutting-edge cancer treatment with compassion. The successful integration of technology and teamwork has enabled top-tier care to reach even mid-tier cities like Vijayawada.

AP Launches AGILE App to Streamline Agricultural Licensing

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Department of Agriculture launched the AGILE (Agriculture Input License Engine) app at the Secretariat, Velagapudi, marking a significant step toward a digitally advanced agricultural ecosystem. Sri Budithi Rajasekhara, IAS, Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation), urged stakeholders in the seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides sectors to actively utilize the AGILE platform, a centralized, paperless, and transparent digital system for licensing. Director of Agriculture, Sri S. Dilli Rao, IAS, highlighted that AGILE is a single-window platform designed to enhance efficiency, transparency, and real-time decision-making. It features a real-time monitoring dashboard for tracking license applications, advanced analytics for strategic planning, and supply chain integration for seamless distribution of agricultural inputs. The

platform supports e-governance with Aadhaar authentication, online payments, SMS/email notifications, Digilocker, and GIS mapping, reducing the need for physical visits to government offices. The launch event saw participation from key officials, including Director of Horticulture Sri K. Srinivasulu, IAS, and Vice-Chancellors of agricultural universities. The program culminated with Sri Rajasekhara issuing the first digital fertilizer manufacturing license to M/S Sri Aadhya Agro Chemicals, a women-led input dealer from Nadendla Mandal, Palnadu District. AGILE aims to ensure the timely availability of quality inputs while fostering accountability. The Department encourages farmers, dealers, and manufacturers to adopt the platform, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh’s commitment to a farmer-friendly digital agricultural framework.

Tuni Gets Rebuilt Sub Jail and New HPCL Petrol Bunk



Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha inaugurates Sub Jail and petrol bunk
Initiative operated by Jail Department with HPCL collaboration
Tuni MLA Divya, DGP Anjani Kumar and SP Bindu Madhav attend

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada
In a significant development for Tuni town in Kakinada district, Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapudi Anitha inaugurated the newly reconstructed Sub Jail and a new HPCL petrol bunk operated by the Jail Department today. The event was also attended by Tuni

MLA Yanamala Divya, Municipal Chairperson Narla Bhuvana Sundari, DGP of Jails and Correctional Services Anjani Kumar, IPS, and Kakinada SP G. Bindu Madhav, IPS. The inauguration marked the completion of the modern Sub Jail facility and the launch of a revenue-generating fuel station, aimed at supporting the Correctional Services Department. The petrol bunk, set up beside the Sub Jail, is expected to serve the local population while contributing to the department's welfare activities and inmate rehabilitation programs. Senior officials including Additional SP AR Srinivasa Rao, SDPO Peddapuram Sri Hari Raju, Tuni Town and Rural CIs, district jail officers, and HPCL representatives were present at the event, reflecting the coordinated efforts between various departments. Speaking to the media after the ceremony, Minister Anitha expressed satisfaction over the initiative and highlighted the government's focus on infrastructure development and reform in the correctional services sector.

Free Sparsa Darshan Resumes at Srisailam After a Year

Sparsa darshan allowed on Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri
New token system with Aadhaar, phone details
Timings set from 1:45 pm to 3:45 pm

TPN Correspondent | Srisailam
After a year-long break, the much-awaited free Sparsa (touch) darshan has resumed at the Srisailam Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple, bringing joy to devotees. Under the supervision of temple authorities, the Sparsa darshan service restarted yesterday, with many devotees expressing gratitude and enthusiasm over its revival. To ensure smooth and organized access, the temple management has introduced a new offline token system. Special counters

have been set up at Srisailam, where tokens will be issued to devotees upon submission of their name, Aadhaar number, and phone details. Devotees will be allowed inside for darshan only after scanning the tokens at the entry point. Temple Executive Officer Srinivasa Rao said that Sparsa darshan will be available four days a week—on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays—between 1:45 pm and 3:45 pm. He emphasized that this service is aimed at enabling every dev-



otee to experience the divine by directly touching the deity of Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy. Following the announcement, a large number of devotees have already started arriving at the temple to participate in the touch darshan. The reintroduction of this spiritual experience after a year has significantly boosted pilgrim interest and temple activity.

Collector Murali Completes One Year of People-Centric Service



TPN Correspondent | Bapatla
Bapatla District Collector Jarugu Venkata Murali has successfully completed one impactful year in office, marked by service-oriented governance, innovative development initiatives, and unwavering commitment to public welfare. Taking charge on July 4, 2024, Murali prioritized inclusive growth, welfare of disadvantaged groups, and disaster response, leaving an indelible

mark on the newly formed district. Coming from a humble background and starting his career as a sub-inspector, Murali rose to become the state topper in civil services, driven by his passion for public service. His approach as Collector was not about authority but about responsibility. Within a year, he became a trusted name among the people of Bapatla.

One of his most commendable moments came during the Krishna River floods on September 2, 2024. Treating the 30,000 flood-affected residents like family, he stayed with them in the Kollur region, ensured food and water supply by boat, and restored roads and power within 24 hours. His leadership earned high praise from the state government and a Gold Medal from the Governor. Under his leadership, Bapatla district stood first in the state in P-4 Red Cross membership, earning state recognition for humanitarian outreach. Murali also prioritized tribal welfare, launching a special survey in December that found 1,900 STs without Aadhaar. He initiated panchnamas and ensured Aadhaar registration through a special drive, later linking these families to savings societies for stable livelihoods. A special grievance cell for STs

and persons with disabilities is held on the fourth Friday of every month to resolve their issues swiftly. On the development front, Murali devised a comprehensive growth plan focusing on agriculture, fisheries, and handlooms. His push for tourism included reviving historical sites like Motupalli port and developing Suryalanka Beach with thousands of plantations. His adventurous boat journey from Perali Canal to Nizampatnam highlighted his efforts to promote eco-tourism and mangrove conservation, receiving government backing and appreciation. As he enters his second year, Collector Murali has not only earned accolades but also the trust and admiration of the people, proving that compassionate governance can lead to transformative change.

Digital Push in MEPMA Services at Nidadavolu

Minister Durgesh distributes tabs to resource persons to boost efficiency

TPN Correspondent | Nidadavolu
In a major step towards digitizing citizen services under the Urban Poverty Alleviation Agency (MEPMA), Andhra Pradesh Minister for Tourism and Culture Kandula Durgesh launched a digital policy in Nidadavolu on Wednesday. The initiative aims to provide faster and more transparent services to members of self-help groups in municipal areas. As part of the policy, the Minister distributed tablet devices to MEPMA resource persons at the Nidadavolu Municipal Corporation. Addressing the gathering, Durgesh said the tabs will significantly reduce the workload and time spent by resource persons and improve service delivery. He urged the staff to embrace technology and make the best use of the tools provided. Highlighting the government's efforts, the Minister said, "WhatsApp governance has been introduced so that people can access municipal services quickly, right from their phones. The government is now in the hands of the people." He added that advanced technologies like AI and quantum computing will soon be integrated into public systems. Durgesh noted that training has already been conducted for online registrations and awareness programs through the tabs. Calling MEPMA and DWAKRA the visionary initiatives of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, he said the coalition government is committed to women's welfare and empowerment. The Minister concluded by emphasizing that with this digital shift, MEPMA services will now be rendered with greater transparency and speed.



Hydrogen Peroxide Leak at Andhra Paper Mill

Fire, Factories Dept respond swiftly as per Collector's orders

TPN | Ch. Sri
East Godavari: A minor chemical leak incident at the Andhra Paper Mill in Rajahmundry triggered a swift response from emergency teams on Wednesday morning. The leak, involving hydrogen peroxide, was reported at around 9:19 AM from a vehicle bearing number GJ 06 AU - 9440, which was transporting the chemical. Upon receiving the information, East Godavari District Collector directed immediate action. RDO R. Krishna Nayak and Deputy Inspector of Factories K. Krishna Murthy rushed to the spot to assess the situation. Two fire tenders from Rajahmundry and one from Kovvur Fire Station, along with the paper mill's internal fire team, reached the site promptly and diluted the chemical safely.

Officials stated that the vehicle was carrying 26 tonnes of hydrogen peroxide. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported. Authorities confirmed that the situation in the surrounding areas was under complete control. Regional Fire Officer E. Swamy, RDO Krishna Nayak, and Factories Deputy Inspector Krishnamurthy supervised operations at the site. Special safety measures were implemented to stabilize the situation. Fire officials reassured the public that the leak was managed efficiently and that the chemical was neutralized without any complications. There is no cause for alarm. Also present at the scene were Regional Fire Officer Martin Luther King, District Disaster Response and Fire Officer, Assistant Dis-

trict Fire Officer (Rajamahendravaram), and District Industries Officer Vanidhar Raman, who closely monitored and coordinated the emergency response.



MLA Krishnaprasad Visits Intheru for First Step in Good Governance Drive

TPN Correspondent | Pedana
As part of the coalition government's First Step in Good Governance program, Pedana MLA Kagita Krishnaprasad toured Interu village in Krithivennu mandal on Wednesday. The initiative aims to directly interact with citizens, understand grassroots issues, and ensure efficient delivery of welfare schemes. MLA Kagita went door to door, meeting residents and learning firsthand about their concerns. He also created awareness among the villagers about ongoing government welfare schemes such as Arogyasri health coverage, pensions, ration distribution, housing, education, and irrigation facilities. Addressing the public, he stated, "We are committed to identifying every issue and solving them swiftly to put this village on a



development path." The residents shared their grievances with confidence, hoping for immediate redressal and developmental progress. The program saw the participation of tehsildars, MPDOs, local representatives, and TDP party workers, reflecting a collaborative governance approach.

‘Bye Bye Silicon Valley, Hello Quantum Valley’

Imagine a special area, like a high-tech park, like the one Chief Minister Chandra Babu Naidu built in Hyderabad way back in the late 90s with a slogan ‘Bye Bye Bangalore, Hello Hyderabad’. Now, the visionary CM Naidu is on a big leap from high-tech cities, and focusing on regular computers, he has become the proponent of “quantum” technology – a super advanced type of computing that uses the strange rules of tiny particles to solve problems way faster than anything we have today.

This “Quantum Valley” in Andhra Pradesh is designed to bring together brilliant minds, cutting-edge labs, and big companies to create new quantum computers, develop super-secure communication methods, and even invent materials with incredible properties. It’s like building the future of technology in one place, which will create lots of high-paying jobs, attract businesses, and make India a leader in this revolutionary field. He and his government is now writing a new slogan ‘Bye Bye Silicon Valley, Hello Quantum Valley’.

Andhra Pradesh’s proposed Quantum Valley is poised to become a powerful force in transforming the state and propelling India onto the global stage in quantum technology. This ambitious initiative, planned for launch in January 2026 in Amaravati, is designed as India’s first full-stack integrated quantum technology ecosystem, spanning 50 acres and integrating quantum computing, artificial intelligence, semiconductor research, and defense innovation. Its multifaceted approach promises profound changes for both Andhra Pradesh and the nation, simultaneously creating a new

landscape for future job opportunities. For the State, the Quantum Valley is set to establish itself as a leading center for quantum and deep-tech advancement in Asia. It will attract top-tier researchers, engineers, and scientists, housing significant infrastructure like IBM’s 156-qubit Quantum System Two, which will be India’s most powerful quantum computer. A key immediate impact will be substantial job creation, with estimates ranging from 90,000 to 100,000 high-end positions once fully operational. This growth will be bolstered by a vibrant startup ecosystem, supported by initiatives like the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub and a proposed ₹1,000 crore Quantum Fund.

To ensure a steady supply of skilled talent for these roles, the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education has directed universities to introduce quantum computing curricula, with Andhra University already offering degree programs from the 2025-26 academic year, and the Amaravati Quantum Academy launching India’s first Integrated Quantum Skill-ing Ecosystem. Beyond technology and employment, the Quantum Valley aligns with Amaravati’s vision for sustainable development, incorporating renewable energy sources and green infrastructure. Furthermore, it aims to establish India’s first quantum governance framework, leveraging quantum technologies to enhance public administration’s transparency, cyber resilience, and efficiency.

On a national scale, the Quantum Valley is crucial for positioning India at the forefront of the global quantum revolution. By fostering indigenous hardware development, talent growth, and secure infrastructure,



it will contribute significantly to India’s ambition of global leadership in quantum technology. While initially research-focused, the project is projected to yield long-term economic dividends by accelerating translational research, prototyping, and intellectual property creation across various sectors.

A critical national benefit is its contribution to national security and defense, supporting advancements in post-quantum cryptography, high-performance computing, photonics, and quantum-aligned aerospace and defense technologies, thus building India’s strategic deep-tech capacity. Collaborations with industry giants like IBM, TCS, and L&T will drive the development of quantum-integrated applications in sectors such as life sciences, materials science, supply chain resilience, energy optimization, and cryptography.

The Quantum Valley directly supports

national initiatives like “Atmanir-bhar Bharat” and “Digital India” by addressing critical gaps in indigenous hardware and talent development, enhancing India’s self-reliance in cutting-edge technologies. The ecosystem also envisions fostering international research partnerships and academic exchanges with institutions like Purdue University (USA) and the University of Tokyo (Japan), aspiring to become a global platform for quantum-based solutions, akin to Silicon Valley for IT.

The establishment of the Quantum Valley will directly translate into a diverse range of future job roles that are essential for building and maintaining this advanced ecosystem. Drawing on the foundational needs of quantum computing, the roles within the Quantum Valley will likely include Quantum Hardware Engineers who are the specialists involved in building quantum processors, controlling qubits, and working with cryogenics, microwave engineering, and materials science.

Job specialties like Quantum Algorithm Developers, Quantum Software Developers, who create higher-level software using quantum frameworks (like Qiskit or Cirq) to run on quantum processors. Another high-paid job will be for Quantum Error Correction Specialists who are trained and focused on improving the stability and reliability of fragile qubits.

Besides the above key positions in various companies blossoming in the Valley will be 1000s of jobs in Post-Quantum Cryptography Expertise, Application Scientists or Domain Specialists who can apply quantum techniques to specific fields such as chemistry, finance, logistics, life sciences, materials science, and ener-

gy optimization, requiring combined knowledge in a specific field and quantum concepts.

Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductor Research Engineers are also in need of thousands. Given the integrated nature of the Valley, there will also be strong demand for experts in artificial intelligence and semiconductor research. Data and AI is going to be buzzwords in the Valley.

These roles reflect the broader trend towards hybrid classical-quantum systems and the increased demand for post-quantum security measures. Students aspiring to enter these fields will need a strong foundation in mathematics (linear algebra, probability, complex numbers), quantum mechanics basics, programming (especially Python and quantum frameworks), and classical computer science fundamentals. The Quantum Valley’s emphasis on education and skill development directly aims to prepare the workforce for these specialized and high-demand future jobs, making it a critical hub for India’s technological and economic advancement.

Our present school curriculum badly needs to be modified, and the capacity of the teachers in the area of computer science and AI needs to be built to provide a robust foundation for the present-day school students in Andhra Pradesh to ensure the Valley is filled first with natives.

About the author: Ram Kamal was a working journalist who spent over 20 years in leading international dailies and news agencies abroad. He now dedicates his life to social engineering to make education inclusive for all. He is currently advising the State School Education on Inclusive education and digitally accessible pedagogy.

NHAI Capex Claims Under Scrutiny Amid Financial Tightening and Monetisation Setbacks

In 2024-2025, the Government of India lauded the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for achieving a record capital expenditure (capex) of over ₹2.5 lakh crore for national highway development, surpassing its ₹2.4 lakh crore target. However, this claim is now being questioned due to discrepancies in NHAI’s unaudited financial statements, which report a significantly lower capex of ₹1.45 lakh crore. This gap of over ₹1 lakh crore has raised concerns about possible financial window-dressing and a deepening funding squeeze on the NHAI.

According to NHAI’s unaudited 2024-2025 accounts, while the government claimed a record ₹2.5 lakh crore in infrastructure spending, a closer look reveals that a large portion of these funds was used not for highway construction but for loan repayments. Specifically, the repayment of ₹50,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) and the reduction of public sector bank loans were included in the government’s capex figures, thereby inflating the real developmental spending. Effectively, the net capex spent on actual infrastructure works was only ₹1.45 lakh crore—the amount reflected in NHAI’s accounts.

This discrepancy suggests the government’s ₹2.5 lakh crore claim includes significant debt repayments, thus overstating its investment in new highway infrastructure. The reported repayment of ₹50,000 crore to NSSF, which simply circles money back to the government, further underscores the lack of transparency. Hence, the



real support extended to NHAI stands at around ₹2 lakh crore, far below the claimed figure.

Additionally, NHAI’s asset monetisation efforts appear to be faltering. The

government has celebrated the National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT) as a success in raising ₹18,380 crore in its fourth fundraising round. However, closer scrutiny of NHIT reveals that

it remains largely government-controlled, with project management and investment oversight still under NHAI through wholly owned entities. While monetisation transactions

have nominally raised ₹43,648 crore by transferring 2,345 kilometres of roads, genuine private sector participation remains limited, with much of the funding sourced through loans rather than equity investment.

Other monetisation models like the Toll, Operate, and Transfer (ToT) approach have been sidelined. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari himself expressed dissatisfaction with the government’s decision to discontinue the ToT model, previously an effective monetisation tool. Similarly, the government’s special purpose vehicle (SPV) model for financing new expressways has seen little traction, with only one such project—the Delhi-Vadodara expressway—currently underway, despite notable delays.

Adding to the NHAI’s challenges is the indefinite freeze on the Bharatmala Pariyojana, a flagship road development project launched in 2017-2018 with a target of 34,800 kilometres and an estimated cost of ₹6.92 lakh crore. Ongoing issues with cost overruns, land acquisition, and contract execution prompted a government review, which remains incomplete well after the 2024 general elections.

Together, these developments point to a tightening financial situation at NHAI and raise serious concerns about the government’s infrastructure spending narrative. The inflated capex claims, faltering monetisation, and stalled projects paint a more complex picture than the government’s optimistic public messaging suggests.

Hearing in Rahul Gandhi Defamation Case Adjourned to July 14 in Sultanpur Court

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The MP-MLA Court in Sultanpur on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, adjourned the hearing of a defamation case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi until July 14. The case pertains to alleged objectionable remarks made by Mr. Gandhi against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The defamation complaint was originally filed in 2018 by BJP leader Vijay Mishra. Advocate Santosh Kumar Pandey, representing Mr. Mishra, informed the court that a witness was scheduled to be examined on Wednesday. However, the hearing was deferred as the witness failed to appear. This case has been ongoing for several years. In December 2023, the MP-MLA Court had issued a warrant against Rahul Gandhi. Subsequently, in February 2024, Mr. Gandhi surrendered before the court and was granted bail after furnishing two sureties of ₹25,000 each. On July 26, 2024, Rahul Gandhi recorded his statement in the court, denying the allegations and asserting that the case was part of a political conspiracy aimed at tarnishing his reputation. The defamation suit stems from comments Mr. Gandhi allegedly made against Amit Shah during the Karnataka Assem-



bly poll campaign. Vijay Mishra had accused him of making objectionable remarks that amounted to defamation. The case has attracted significant political attention, given the stature of the individuals involved and its potential impact on public discourse. The upcoming hearing on July 14 is expected to move forward with the examination of witnesses and further arguments from both parties. As the legal proceedings continue, supporters and critics alike are closely following the developments in this high-profile defamation case, which reflects the intense political rivalry between the Congress and BJP parties in India.



China objects to Dalai Lama’s plan, says ‘seal of approval’ must

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A new diplomatic and ideological confrontation has erupted between Tibetans and China after the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, affirmed the continuation of the Dalai Lama institution and asserted that only the Gaden Phodrang Trust holds the legitimate authority to recognize his reincarnation. Reacting sharply, China dismissed the announcement on Wednesday, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning declaring that any future successor to the Dalai Lama must be approved by Beijing. She insisted that the process must adhere to Chinese domestic laws, the “Golden Urn” system, and official state approval — a requirement Beijing claims aligns with religious tradition and legal procedure. The “Golden Urn,” introduced by Qing dynasty officials in the 18th century, involves drawing lots to select religious leaders. Mao noted that its use was formally codified into Chinese regulations in 2007, banning foreign involvement in Tibetan reincarnation processes. The response drew swift and pointed criticism from the Tibetan side. Dhundup Gyalpo, Secretary of the Bureau of the Dalai Lama in New Delhi, dismissed Mao’s statement on X (formerly Twitter), calling it “Lies, damned lies and Chinese propaganda.” Gyalpo clarified that the traditional Tibetan method of identifying reincarnated lamas relies on signs, visions, or divinations such as the dough-ball method — not the Golden Urn, which he said was only used once symbolically in the selection of the 11th Dalai Lama. He asserted that the 14th Dalai Lama was identified without any Chinese involvement, and China’s delegates attended his 1940 enthronement on British-issued visas as guests — not participants. Gyalpo further pointed out that China’s state-sponsored “Han Buddhism” lacks any reincarnation system, underscoring that the lineage-based system of Tibetan Buddhism remains culturally and spiritually distinct. Notably, Mao Ning’s remarks about the Dalai Lama’s succession were omitted from the official Chinese Foreign Ministry transcript, according to Press Trust of India. The latest exchange reflects the deep-rooted tensions between Tibetan religious independence and China’s attempt to assert political control over spiritual matters in Tibet, especially as the issue of the next Dalai Lama grows more urgent with the current leader now 89.

PM Modi Embarks on Longest Diplomatic Visit in a Decade Strengthens Ties with Global South

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, began a landmark five-nation diplomatic tour — his longest in the past 10 years — with a focus on deepening India’s engagement with the Global South. His itinerary includes visits to Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia from July 2 to 9. Modi’s visit to Brazil is especially significant, marking the first by an Indian Prime Minister in nearly six decades. He will attend the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro on July 6–7, followed by a bilateral visit to Brasília. “India is committed to BRICS as a vital platform for cooperation among emerging economies. Together, we strive for a more peaceful, equitable, democratic, and balanced multipolar world order,” Modi stated before departure. Kicking off his tour in Accra, Ghana, PM



Modi will engage with President John Dramani Mahama to explore cooperation in investment, health, energy, and development. He is also scheduled to address Ghana’s Parliament, calling it a special honour shared between two democracies.

From West Africa, the Prime Minister will travel to Trinidad and Tobago on July 3–4. This year marks 180 years since the first Indians arrived in the Caribbean nation. He will meet President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, emphasizing historical and cultural ties. In Buenos Aires, Modi will hold talks with Argentine President Javier Milei. This is the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Argentina in 57 years. The discussions are expected to focus on trade, technology, agriculture, and critical minerals. Concluding his tour in Namibia, Modi will meet President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and address the Namibian Parliament, highlighting shared anti-colonial histories and development goals. The visit reflects India’s growing commitment to Global South solidarity and multilateral cooperation through platforms like BRICS, the African Union, ECOWAS, and CARICOM.

Indian Navy Rescues 14 Crew Members, Contains Fire on Palau-Flagged Tanker in Arabian Sea

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Demonstrating swift action and maritime readiness, the Indian Navy successfully contained a major fire onboard a Palau-flagged oil tanker, MT Yi Cheng 6, in the North Arabian Sea on June 29, 2025. The vessel, operating approximately 80 nautical miles east of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, had reported a severe fire in its engine room and a total power failure. Following a distress call from the ship, the Indian Navy immediately launched a high-risk firefighting and rescue operation. Warship INS Tabar was swiftly deployed and proceeded at maximum speed to the location. Upon arrival, seven of the 14 Indian crew members were promptly evacuated to the Navy ship using small boats. “All evacuated crew were safe and medically examined onboard INS Tabar. No injuries were reported,” the Navy said in an official statement. The remaining crew, including the ship’s master, stayed onboard to assist with firefighting efforts. A six-member team from INS Tabar initially joined the ship’s crew to battle the blaze, suc-



cessfully reducing the fire’s intensity and confining the smoke to the engine room. The operation was later reinforced with an additional 13 Indian Navy personnel — five officers and eight sailors — to strengthen the containment effort. After sustained firefighting over several hours, the joint team successfully brought the fire under control. INS Tabar has remained in the vicinity of MT Yi Cheng 6 to provide continued assistance and ensure safety. The Indian Navy praised the courage and professionalism of its personnel, stating, “The valiant effort of Indian Naval personnel ensured the safety of the vessel and all Indian crew members. This operation underscores the Navy’s rapid response capability, operational preparedness, and commitment to maritime safety.”

Gunfight Breaks Out Between Security Forces and Terrorists in J&K's Kishtwar Forests

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

An intense encounter erupted on Wednesday evening between security forces and terrorists in a dense forested region of Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir, officials confirmed. The gun battle began during a joint cordon and search operation launched by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Indian Army, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the Kuchal area of Chatroo, a remote and heavily forested region known for difficult terrain and limited visibility. Security forces initiated the operation based on credible intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists hiding in the area. As the search teams advanced into the forest, terrorists opened fire, triggering a fierce exchange of gunfire. The operation was ongoing at the time of the latest reports, with heavy firing being reported from both sides. Security forces have moved in reinforcements to the area to tighten the cordon and prevent any escape of the terrorists. “The terrorists opened fire upon noticing the search parties. The forces immediately retaliated, leading to an ongoing encounter,” an official stated. The area has been completely sealed off, and all routes in and out of the forested zone are



under surveillance to block any movement. Additional troops have been deployed to support the frontline personnel engaged in the firefight. Kishtwar, once relatively peaceful compared to other districts in the Kashmir Valley, has witnessed an uptick in terrorist activity in recent months. Security forces have increased patrolling and intelligence-gathering efforts in response to renewed threats. Officials said the objective is to neutralize the terrorists and prevent any potential threat to civilian life in the surrounding areas. The operation is being closely monitored by senior police and army officials, and further updates are awaited as the situation develops.

Trump-Backed Bill Proposes 500% Tariff on Nations Trading with Russia, Including India and China



TPN Correspondent | Washington

A controversial new U.S. Senate bill backed by President Donald Trump could impose a 500% tariff on countries that continue to trade with Russia, including major economies like India and China. The legislation, spearheaded by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and co-sponsored by Democrat Richard Blumenthal, aims to pressure these nations to cut economic ties with Moscow in an effort to weaken Russia's war economy. Graham revealed in an interview on Sunday that the bill has gained significant bipartisan support, with 84 co-sponsors in

the Senate. The proposal would authorize the U.S. President to levy steep tariffs on imports from nations still doing business with Russia, especially those buying oil and other critical goods. "India and China buy 70% of Putin's oil. They keep his war machine going," Graham told ABC News. The bill is expected to be introduced in August and represents a major shift in U.S. foreign policy tactics as the war in Ukraine drags on. President Trump, who previously hesitated on expanding sanctions against Russia, reportedly endorsed the legislation during a golf outing with Graham. "It's time to move your bill," Trump allegedly told the senator. Though initially delayed

over concerns that harsh sanctions might derail Trump's diplomatic overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the administration now appears willing to support the measure. However, there are signs the White House is pushing for changes to soften its impact, such as modifying the language to make the penalties discretionary rather than mandatory. The proposed legislation has triggered alarm in global trade circles, particularly in India, where the U.S. remains a critical export destination. If passed, the bill could significantly disrupt U.S. relations with India and China, potentially sparking economic and diplomatic backlash.

Going to Washington next week to meet with Trump: Netanyahu



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Tuesday that he will travel to Washington next week for high-level meetings with U.S. President Donald Trump and other American officials. The announcement came during a Cabinet meeting, where Netanyahu briefly outlined the agenda, highlighting a trade agreement as a central topic of discussion. While Netanyahu did not provide further details about the proposed trade deal, the visit is widely seen as an opportunity to address a range of critical issues, especially the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the broader regional tensions involving Iran. The timing of the visit is particularly significant, as it comes amid increasing pressure from the international community, including the United States, for a de-escalation in the fighting between Israel and Hamas. President Trump has recently indicated that the U.S. is ready to support efforts aimed at bringing the war in Gaza to an end. His administration has called for both sides to begin moving toward a ceasefire, signaling a shift in tone that could shape the diplomatic conversations between the two leaders. Another key item on the agenda is Iran. Following the recent 12-day war between Israel and Iranian-backed forces, concerns over Tehran's growing influence in the region are likely to dominate much of the dialogue. Netanyahu has long viewed Iran as a strategic threat, and his visit to Washington is expected to reinforce the shared concerns of both nations over Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional activities. As Netanyahu prepares for his U.S. visit, the stakes are high. The outcome of these discussions could play a significant role in shaping the trajectory of Middle East policy in the coming months, particularly regarding peace in Gaza and security challenges posed by Iran.

Pakistan Confirms Another Polio Case, Raising 2025 Tally to 14



TPN Correspondent | New York

Pakistan has reported another case of poliovirus, bringing the total number of infections in the country to 14 so far in 2025. The latest case involves a 19-month-old boy from North Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to officials at the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad. With this new case, the number of reported polio cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has increased to eight. Sindh has reported four cases, while Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan have recorded one each. Pakistan remains one of only two countries

in the world—alongside Afghanistan—where polio remains endemic. Despite consistent nationwide immunization campaigns, eradication efforts continue to face major obstacles, including security threats, vaccine hesitancy, and widespread misinformation. This is the second polio case reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa within a week. On June 27, health officials confirmed that an 18-month-old child from the Union Council Amakhel in the Tank district had also contracted the virus. In an effort to eliminate polio, Pakistan has conducted three nationwide vaccination drives in 2025—in February, April, and May. The most recent campaign aimed to immu-

nize around 45 million children under the age of five. Polio is a highly infectious and incurable disease caused by the poliovirus, which primarily affects children under five. It can lead to permanent paralysis or even death. The only reliable protection is through multiple doses of the oral polio vaccine administered during routine and mass immunization drives. Despite setbacks, the Pakistani government has reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating the disease by the end of this year. However, recurring attacks on health workers and law enforcement personnel guarding vaccination teams remain a serious challenge to the goal of a polio-free Pakistan.

Thailand PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra Suspended Over Leaked Call with Cambodian Leader



TPN Correspondent | BANGKOK

Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra was suspended from office on Tuesday by the Constitutional Court following a leaked phone call that sparked protests and political fallout. The call, made during sensitive diplomatic talks with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen, triggered an ethics investigation and widespread public backlash. The Constitutional Court unanimously agreed to take up the petition accusing Paetongtarn of breaching ethical standards, and voted 7-2 to suspend her from official duties while the case proceeds. She has been given 15 days to present her defense. The controversy intensified after a deadly border clash on May 28 left one Cambodian soldier dead. In the leaked call, Paetongtarn was heard making conciliatory remarks that critics say undermined Thailand's national interest. The fallout has fueled growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the border dispute and led to large-scale protests in Bangkok by conservative, nationalist groups. Following the court's decision, Paetongtarn said she respects the judicial process and is determined to defend her actions. "My only intention was to prevent escalation and protect our troops from harm," she stated. "If my words caused misunderstanding, I truly apologize." Deputy Prime Minister Suriya Jungrungruangkit is expected to assume the role of acting prime minister, although an official announcement is still pending. Earlier the same day, King Maha Vajiralongkorn approved a Cabinet reshuffle after a key coalition partner, the Bhumjaithai Party, exited the government over the controversy. The reshuffle removed party leader Anutin Charnvirakul from the deputy prime minister post. Paetongtarn had recently added the role of culture minister to her portfolio, though her future in that post is uncertain. She also faces a separate ethics investigation by the National Anti-Corruption Commission, which could further jeopardize her political career.

Rupee Falls 9 Paise to Close at 85.68 Against U.S. Dollar Amid Market Caution and Rising Oil Prices

The Indian rupee weakened by 9 paise to settle at 85.68 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, July 2, 2025. The decline was attributed to weakness in domestic equity markets, rising crude oil prices, and a marginal recovery in the U.S. dollar. Forex traders pointed to market participants' cautious stance ahead of the anticipated conclusion of the India-U.S. trade deal, which is reportedly in its final stages. While optimism around the trade agreement supported early gains in equities, the uncertainty over tariff terms and market access continued to weigh on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 85.59 against the dollar and fluctuated



within a range of 85.57 to 85.75 during the trading session, before closing at 85.68—down from its previous close of 85.59 on Tuesday, when it had appre-

ciated by 17 paise. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, edged up by 0.14% to 96.95, further pressuring the rupee. Meanwhile, Brent crude futures rose by 0.92% to \$67.73 per barrel, adding to India's import bill and impacting currency sentiment. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, noted, "We expect the rupee to decline further on trade tariff uncertainty as the July 9 deadline approaches. Remarks from U.S. President Donald Trump on tariff policies are also keeping markets cautious." Talks between Indian and U.S. officials continued for a sixth day in Washington, with India pushing for better

market access for its labor-intensive goods. The Indian negotiating team, led by Commerce Department Special Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, is aiming to finalize an interim trade agreement before the July 9 deadline. Despite pressure, improved global risk sentiment, including a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, may provide some support to the rupee. Choudhary expects the USD-INR spot rate to remain in the range of 85.45 to 86.05 in the near term. In domestic markets, the BSE Sensex fell by 287.60 points to 83,409.69, while the Nifty dropped 88.40 points to 25,453.40. On a positive note, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers, purchasing ₹890.93 crore worth of equities on the day.

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



ICICI Bank has forecast that India's trade deficit will widen to USD 300 billion in the financial year 2025-26, even though oil prices are expected to remain moderate. This would mark an increase from the USD 287 billion deficit recorded in FY25 and USD 245 billion in FY24, representing 7.0% of the country's GDP. According to the bank's report, the main driver of the growing trade deficit is the weak performance of India's non-oil exports, which have struggled to keep pace with rising imports. On the other hand, strong domestic economic growth is expected to sustain high import levels, further widening the gap between imports and exports. Despite the widening trade deficit, ICICI Bank projects that steady inflows from services exports and remittances will help maintain the current account deficit (CAD) at a manageable USD 30 billion,

or approximately 0.7% of GDP. The current account deficit includes not only the trade balance but also other international financial flows such as investment income and remittances. A trade deficit occurs when a country imports more goods than it exports, and India's persistent deficit highlights ongoing challenges in boosting export competitiveness outside of the oil sector. Meanwhile, imports remain robust, driven by strong domestic demand and economic expansion. The report underscores the importance of strengthening non-oil exports to reduce India's reliance on imports and improve the overall balance of payments. As the economy continues to grow, addressing these structural trade imbalances will be crucial for sustaining external stability and economic resilience in the coming years.



Mumbai: The Indian stock market opened flat on Monday, buoyed by positive global cues and early buying interest in the PSU bank and IT sectors. At 9:27 am IST, the Sensex edged up marginally by 1.35 points to 84,057.55, while the Nifty rose 6.50 points, or 0.03%, to 25,644.30. Nifty Bank showed slight gains, up 15.15 points or 0.03% at 57,459.05 in early trade. Market analysts pointed to easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a sharp decline in

ing the market sentiment. Additionally, reports suggesting positive developments in trade negotiations between the US and China, as well as the US and India, have boosted investor confidence. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, noted that recent market rallies have been driven by large-cap stocks like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries (RIL), and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), which have seen strong institutional buying. The Nifty Midcap 100 index climbed 220.90 points

Markets End Lower as HDFC Bank, Foreign Outflows Drag Indices Amid Tariff Concerns

Indian equity markets closed in the red on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, as the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty reversed early gains due to sustained selling pressure in key stocks like HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, and Reliance Industries. Investor sentiment remained cautious amid concerns over the approaching U.S. tariff deadline, foreign fund outflows, and mixed global cues. After opening on a positive note, the 30-share BSE Sensex lost steam and closed 287.60 points or 0.34% lower at 83,409.69. It had dropped as much as 546.52 points during intraday trading to hit a low of 83,150.77. The broader NSE Nifty also declined by 88.40 points or 0.35% to settle at 25,453.40. Major laggards in the Sensex pack included Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, Bharat Electronics, and Kotak Mahindra Bank. On the other hand, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, and Trent emerged as the top gainers, offering some resistance to the market slide. According to market experts, the ongoing withdrawal of foreign institutional investments and the uncertain global trade outlook are key factors behind the current volatility. "Mixed global cues, particularly ahead of the im-



pending tariff deadline, are driving investor caution. Attention is now shifting to upcoming Q1 earnings, which are carrying high expectations," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Despite the market dip, some domestic economic indicators remained strong. India's manufacturing sector showed solid momentum, with the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI rising to a 14-month high of 58.4 in June, up from 57.6 in May. Employment levels also

reached record highs, indicating positive sentiment in the industrial sector. However, gross GST collection slipped to ₹1.84 lakh crore in June, down from over ₹2 lakh crore in each of the previous two months, though still up 6.2% year-on-year. Asian markets ended on a mixed note, with South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, and China's Shanghai Composite finishing lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended higher.

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

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

The latest data from the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) — which tracks changes in the volume of production in factories, mines, and utilities — points to broad-based weakness, with particular stress in energy and



resource-linked industries. Electricity output contracted sharply by 5.8%, while mining output saw a marginal decline of 0.1% year-on-year.

In contrast, manufacturing, which constitutes the bulk of the IIP, provided some support with 2.6% growth, driven by increased

production in machinery, non-metallic minerals, and basic metals. However, this was still notably below the 5.1% growth recorded in the same month last year, indicating persistent softness in industrial momentum.

Sector-wise, consumer goods remained weak, re-

flecting subdued demand, while capital goods and infrastructure-related output offered modest positive contributions to overall industrial performance.

The IIP reading for May stood at 156.6, up slightly from 154.7 in May 2024, but the slow pace of expansion raises concerns about the resilience of India's industrial recovery amid global uncertainties and domestic demand challenges.

This deceleration in industrial activity may influence monetary policy discussions, especially as the Reserve Bank of India weighs the implications of softening growth against ongoing inflation risks.

Indian Stock Market Opens Flat Amid Positive Global Cues

Brent crude prices to \$67 as key factors support-

(0.37%) to 59,606.05, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index rose 153.35 points (0.81%) to 19,130.15. Among the Sensex constituents, M&M, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, NTPC, and UltraTech Cement were the top losers. On the other hand, Trent, SBI, L&T, Axis Bank, and Hindustan Unilever Limited led the gains. Weakness in the US dollar index continues to encourage foreign institutional investor (FII) inflows, alongside ongoing retail optimism supporting domestic fund investments. Experts advise that while staying invested in this bullish market makes sense, caution should be exer-

cised when making fresh investments at current high valuations. On June 27, FIIs were net buyers, acquiring equities worth ₹1,397.02 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers, offloading shares worth ₹588.93 crore. Asian markets also showed mixed trends, with China, Bangkok, Japan, Seoul, and Jakarta trading in green, while Hong Kong slipped into the red. In the US, the Dow Jones closed Friday at 43,819.27, up 1%, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq also posting solid gains.

‘I Can’t Stay Silent Anymore’: Former Zepto Employee Exposes Food Safety Violations

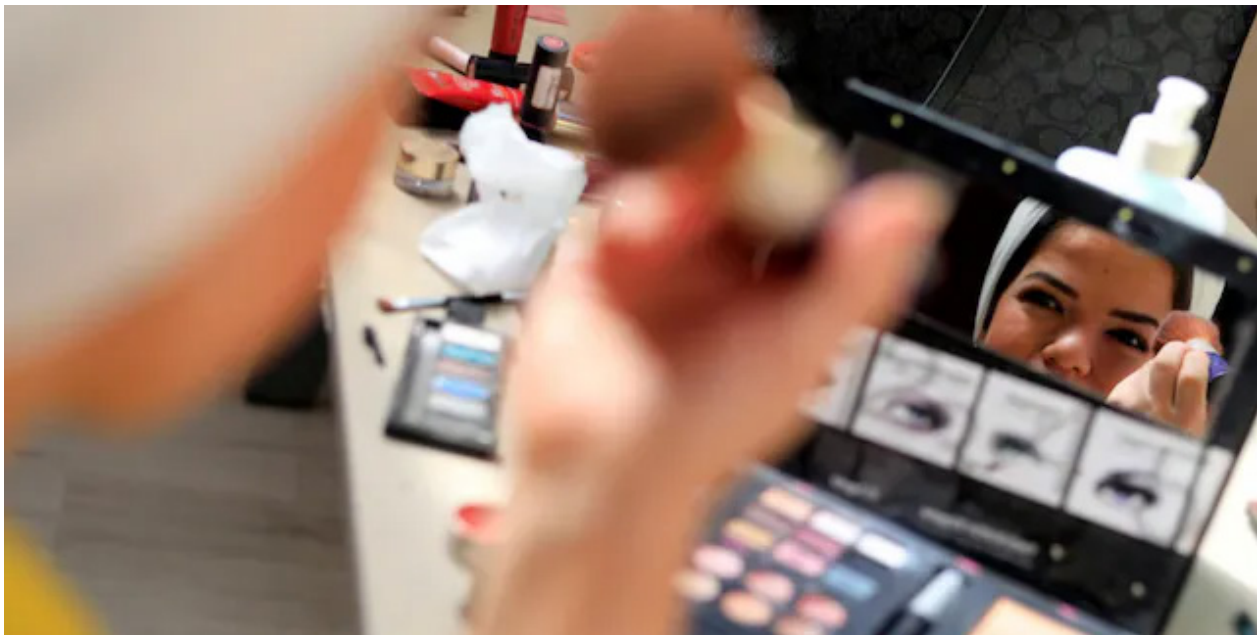
Quick-commerce start-up Zepto is under fire after a former employee exposed alarming food safety violations and poor working conditions, prompting public outrage and regulatory action. The revelations come as the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already suspended Zepto’s food business license in Mumbai’s Dharavi for breaching hygiene and safety standards. The whistleblower, who claims to have worked at Zepto for three years, detailed disturbing practices in a now-viral Reddit post. “I can’t stay silent anymore,” the post begins. One specific instance describes expired Greek yogurt being knowingly delivered to a customer after management allegedly said, “Give it anyway.”

The employee paints a grim picture of daily operations, including packing groceries in monsoon-flooded warehouses in Pune, often filled with gutter water. “We worked more than 9 hours in that dirty water without shoes. Many of us fell sick, but no medical compensation was given,” the post reads. Damaged fruits, rotting vegetables, and expired products, the employee claims, were routinely packed and sent to customers. Public reaction has been swift. Several social media users shared their own experiences with delayed deliveries, spoiled groceries, and



lack of customer support. “These apps were supposed to make life easier—now they’re just unreliable,” one user commented. Others pointed to competitors like Blinkit and BigBasket as better alternatives. Earlier this month, a raid by the Maharashtra FDA on a Zepto facility found fungal contamination on food, poor cold storage, and generally unsanitary conditions—leading to the license suspension. The incident raises serious concerns about food safety in India’s booming quick-commerce sector. While Zepto has yet to issue a detailed public response, calls for greater regulation and consumer transparency are growing louder in light of the controversy.

Woman Wears Makeup Daily for 22 Years, Suffers Severe Skin Damage



A Chinese woman’s shocking skincare journey has gone viral after she revealed the devastating effects of wearing makeup every single day for 22 years—without ever properly removing it. Known online as Niuyoumian, the 37-year-old from China’s Jilin province shared her painful story, drawing attention to the long-term risks of poor skincare and heavy cosmetic use. In a video widely circulated on social media, Niuyoumian appears with visibly inflamed, red, and swollen skin—symptoms of what she refers to as “hormone face,” a chronic skin condition caused by prolonged exposure to cosmetic chemicals and inadequate cleansing routines. According to South China Morning Post, her skin problems began as early as age 14 after using an unsuitable acne cream. By 15, she was wearing makeup daily and continued the habit for over two decades. Working in the beauty and hair industry, she was also regularly exposed to strong salon chemicals. Using inexpensive, low-quality foundations only worsened her condition.

Despite suffering early signs like redness and itching, she ignored them. “I thought it could be fixed with some ointment,” she admitted. “But after 25, everything changed.” Niuyoumian eventually turned to facial injections in 2011, hoping to improve her skin. However, these treatments backfired, further damaging her complexion. She has since been diagnosed with rosacea and Demodex mite infestations. “At its worst, it felt like ants crawling on my face,” she said. Reflecting on her journey, she acknowledged that her impatience and constant switching of skincare products only made things worse. Now, with nearly 30,000 followers, she urges others: “Don’t blindly trust beauty products just because someone else says they work.” Her experience has sparked widespread discussion online about responsible makeup use, the importance of proper skincare, and the hidden costs of beauty standards.

Ramen Lovers Stunned as Cancer Warning Found on Instant Noodle Packet



A viral video has sparked a widespread concern among ramen lovers after revealing a shocking warning label printed on an instant noodle packet. The label read: “Warning: Cancer and Reproductive Harm,” leaving many stunned and questioning the safety of their favorite go-to snack. The video, posted on Instagram by a concerned user, shows him flipping over the back of the ramen packet and pointing to the printed warning. “I eat this all the time,” he said, clearly in disbelief. The clip quickly gained traction online, with viewers flooding the comments section with reactions ranging from confusion to alarm. Ramen noodles have long been a staple for students, busy professionals, and anyone looking for a quick, affordable meal. But this video is making people take a hard look at the ingredients and manufacturing standards behind these convenient packets. Nutrition expert Cara Harbstreet weighed in on the matter, explaining that most packaged instant noodles rely heavily

on sodium, preservatives, and artificial flavor enhancers for taste. “Many instant noodle products contain chemicals that, in large quantities or over time, may pose health risks. Labels like these are mandated under specific regional laws to inform consumers,” she said. In the United States, such warnings often appear due to California’s Proposition 65, which requires products containing certain chemicals to carry notices about potential cancer or reproductive risks. This doesn’t necessarily mean the product is unsafe in standard consumption levels, but it does highlight the presence of certain flagged substances. While the warning may be routine in some regions due to regulatory policies, the video has ignited debates over food transparency, health risks, and the need for clearer consumer education on packaged foods. As the discussion continues, health experts urge consumers to enjoy instant noodles occasionally and balance them with a nutritious, whole-food-based diet.

In Lucknow, King-Size ‘Lauki’ on Cooker Grabs Eyeballs: Is Binod Watching?

Lucknow residents got quite the surprise when an enormous bottle gourd (lauki) appeared at the busy 1090 Chauraha, instantly grabbing the attention of passersby. The unusual sight of this giant vegetable, perched atop a cooker, left many curious and amused, prompting several to stop and take photos. A video capturing the massive lauki quickly went viral on social media. The person filming encouraged viewers to guess why such an enormous vegetable was placed in such a public spot, sparking intrigue and fun speculation among online audiences. As it turns out, this giant lauki was a creative promotional stunt for the upcoming release of Panchayat Season 4, set to premiere on Prime Video on June 24.



While it remains unclear if the show’s cast or crew will make an appearance at the location, this quirky marketing move has successfully caught public attention, sparking conversations and excitement ahead of the series launch. The use of the lauki, a common vegetable in Indian households, adds a play-

ful, relatable touch to the campaign, making it stand out among typical advertisements. The stunt also taps into the growing trend of unusual and eye-catching promotions designed to engage audiences in real-world spaces. Whether or not this giant vegetable has anything to do with the character Binod, who has become a viral meme figure, viewers are left entertained and curious. The fun and unusual spectacle reflects the vibrant spirit of Lucknow and its knack for blending tradition with modern creativity. With Panchayat Season 4 just around the corner, this giant lauki is sure to remain a talking point for many, proving once again that sometimes, the simplest ideas make the biggest impact.

Brain’s Built-In Signal Threshold Helps Distinguish Imagination from Reality

New research reveals that the brain uses a built-in “signal threshold” to differentiate between real visual experiences and imagined ones. This discovery sheds light on how our minds distinguish reality from imagination and has important implications for understanding mental health conditions like schizophrenia, where this distinction often blurs. Scientists at University College London conducted a study using functional MRI scans on 26 volunteers. Participants were shown diagonal lines on a noisy screen—sometimes real, sometimes imagined. When participants imagined lines that matched the expected visual input, they were more likely to report seeing something even if nothing was actually shown. This suggested that strong internal signals from imagination can trick the brain into perceiving something as real.



Both real and imagined visuals activated the fusiform gyrus, a key brain region involved in visual processing. However, the brain only recognized the input as “real” when the activity in this region passed a certain intensity threshold. Alongside the fusiform gyrus, the anterior insula—a region linked to decision-making—also became active, possibly acting as a “reader” that evaluates the strength of the visual signal.

Lead researcher Nadine Dijkstra explained that although imagination stimulates the same brain area as real visuals, the signal generated by imagination is usually too weak to convince the brain that it is perceiving actual external input. Understanding this threshold system offers new insights into hallucinations and other mental health disorders that affect perception. Experts say these findings represent a significant step forward in understanding how the brain monitors reality versus imagination. Future research will explore more complex visual stimuli and real-world perceptions, including faces and animals. There is also interest in whether brain stimulation techniques could enhance imagined perception or help address perception-related disorders. This study provides a crucial foundation for unraveling the neural mechanisms behind how we experience and interpret reality.

Jyothi Yarraji Suffers Knee Injury, Puts Season on Hold Ahead of World Championships



India's top sprint hurdler Jyothi Yarraji has suffered a significant setback in her athletic career. The 25-year-old national record holder in the women's 100m hurdles announced on July 2, 2025, that she has sustained a knee injury during training, forcing her to pause her current season. The injury comes just months before the World Athletics Championships, scheduled to be held in Tokyo from September 13 to 21. Yarraji took to social media to share the news with her fans and supporters. "Due to an unfortunate injury to my knee during training a few days back, I've had to put a pause on my season," she wrote. "I'm working with my medical team to assess my options and take a decision on the way forward. Injuries are part of an athlete's journey and I'm viewing this as just another hurdle I'm going to overcome soon. With all your support and blessings, I'll be back stronger."

Her coach, James Hillier, confirmed the severity of the injury to PTI, calling it a "freak" incident. "Unfortunately, she picked up a freak injury to her knee in training. It's pretty bad, so we are assessing our options at the moment," Hillier said, indicating that her participation in the World Championships may now be in doubt. Yarraji, who recently clocked sub-13 seconds—a first for an Indian woman—has been a standout performer in Indian athletics. Her performances over the past two years have elevated her to one of the country's top track stars, with consistent results in international meets. A recent Instagram reel posted by her—titled "Athlete's life"—foreshadowed the incident, showing clips of her stumbles both in training and during competition. Fans and fellow athletes have poured in support as she begins her road to recovery.

India Women Defeat England by 24 Runs, Take 2-0 Lead in T20I Series

India Women secured a crucial 24-run win over England Women in the second T20I at County Ground, Bristol on Tuesday, taking a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. The victory was powered by stellar half-centuries from Amanjot Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues, along with a decisive bowling spell from Shree Charani. Batting first after winning the toss, India had a shaky start, losing three wickets early. Shafali Verma was dismissed for just 3 in the second over, caught by the wicketkeeper off a bouncer from Lauren Filer. Smriti Mandhana, the hero of the first match, followed soon after with a run-a-ball 13, and captain Harmanpreet Kaur, returning from a head injury, was dismissed for just 1. At 31/3, India were in deep trouble before Jemimah Rodrigues (63) and Amanjot Kaur (63*) rescued the innings with a crucial 93-run partnership. Amanjot remained unbeaten, registering her maiden T20I half-century in just her ninth appearance. Richa Ghosh's quickfire 32 off 20 balls helped India post a competitive 181/4. England's reply faltered early with a run-



out in the first over and Deepti Sharma removing Danni Wyatt-Hodge the very next ball. Captain Nat Sciver-Brunt attempted a counterattack but was dismissed by Amanjot, thanks to a sharp catch by Harmanpreet. Tammy Beaumont (54) and Amy Jones (32) stitched a 70-run stand, but India struck back when Beaumont was run out. Shree Charani's twin strikes in the 15th over removed Jones and Alice Capsey, crushing England's chase. With this win, India are one victory away from clinching their first-ever T20I series win in England. The third match will be held at The Oval on Friday—a venue rich in history for Indian cricket.

Real Madrid Edge Juventus 1-0 in Club World Cup as Mbappe Makes Return

Real Madrid secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Juventus in the FIFA Club World Cup Round of 16 clash held in Florida on July 1, 2025. The win also marked the return of Kylian Mbappe, who came on as a second-half substitute after recovering from a bout of gastroenteritis that kept him out of the group stage. Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso expressed optimism about Mbappe's fitness improving ahead of their upcoming quarter-final on Saturday against either Borussia Dortmund or Monterrey. "Day by day he will get better, and by the time of the quarters he should be in much better shape," Alonso said in the post-match press conference, adding that the medical staff would continue to monitor him closely. In Mbappe's absence, young forward Gonzalo Garcia has stepped up remarkably. He scored the only goal of the match against Juventus—his third in the tournament—proving his value as a reliable attacking option. Federico Valverde was another standout performer, orchestrating Madrid's midfield with energy and precision. Alonso lauded the Uruguayan's leadership and versatility, calling him a "complete player" whose presence lifts the entire squad. Vinicius Jr also drew attention with his attacking play, especially after Alonso made tactical adjustments in the second half to shift him back to his pre-



ferred position on the left flank. "We saw that giving him width allowed him to attack better from outside in," Alonso explained. Defensively, Real Madrid displayed strong discipline, effectively shutting down Juventus's attacking threats. The team has now conceded just two goals across four matches in the tournament, highlighting a marked improvement in their defensive structure. With momentum on their side and Mbappe nearing full fitness, Real Madrid look poised for a strong run in the Club World Cup.

US Open 2025: Ayush Shetty Clinches Maiden BWF World Tour Title; Tanvi Sharma Finishes Runner-Up

Rising Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty claimed his first-ever BWF World Tour title with a dominant straight-games win over Canada's Brian Yang in the men's singles final at the US Open Super 300 on June 30, 2025. The 20-year-old, who won bronze at the 2023 Junior World Championships, defeated the third seed 21-18, 21-13 in just 47 minutes, ending India's title drought this season.

Shetty's impressive run included a comeback victory against top seed Chou Tien Chen in the semifinals, highlighting his growing confidence on the senior circuit. This win marked his third career victory over Yang, having previously beaten him twice earlier this year at the Malaysia and Taipei Opens.

"It means a lot; it's my first senior circuit title, so I'm really happy," Shetty said after the win. He praised his own game improvements, explaining how varying his



global stage. smashes and mixing in drops helped him break down Yang's defence. Shetty now looks forward to continuing his momentum at the upcoming Canada Open.

In the women's singles final, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma, making her World Tour final debut, finished as runner-up after a tough three-game loss to top-seeded Beiwen Zhang of the USA. Tanvi lost 11-21, 21-16, 10-21 in a 46-minute battle.

Tanvi admitted to nerves affecting her early play but was proud to reach her first Super 300 final. She bounced back strongly in the second game but couldn't maintain the intensity in the decider as Zhang pulled away comfortably.

Both Shetty's breakthrough win and Tanvi's promising performance signal a bright future for Indian badminton on the



Wimbledon's Hottest Opening Day: Carlos Alcaraz Survives Thrilling Five-Set Battle, Aryna Sabalenka Advances Comfortably

On the hottest opening day in Wimbledon's history, with temperatures soaring above 32°C (89.6°F), world No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz survived a tough five-set clash against 38-year-old Fabio Fognini. The Spaniard eked out a 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 victory in a grueling 4-hour-37-minute match on Centre Court, marking the first time since 2010 that a defending Wimbledon champion was taken to a fifth set in the opening round. Despite an inconsistent perfor-

mance with 62 unforced errors, Alcaraz showed resilience in the extreme heat, even pausing mid-match to help a collapsed spectator by handing over a bottle of water. The 22-year-old, aiming to become the fifth man in the Open Era to win three consecutive Wimbledon titles, will next face British qualifier Oliver Tarvet.

Meanwhile, top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka advanced smoothly, beating Canadian qualifier Carson

Branstine 6-1, 7-5 on Court One. The Belarusian, a three-time Grand Slam winner, used ice packs to combat the heat and expressed gratitude for being fit and ready after missing last year's tournament due to injury. Sabalenka faces Czech Marie Bouzkova in the next round. Other notable events included two-time Wimbledon finalist Ons Jabeur retiring in tears against Viktoriya Tomova due to an unspecified issue, and former US Open champ Daniil Medvedev losing after a heated

meltdown. Upsets were rife, with eighth seed Holger Rune, former finalist Matteo Berrettini, and Stefanos Tsitsipas (retired due to injury) exiting early.

Wimbledon's heat rule allowed players to take breaks between sets when temperatures exceeded 30.1°C, aiming to protect their health during the intense conditions. The tournament continues with many top players battling both their opponents and the soaring mercury.

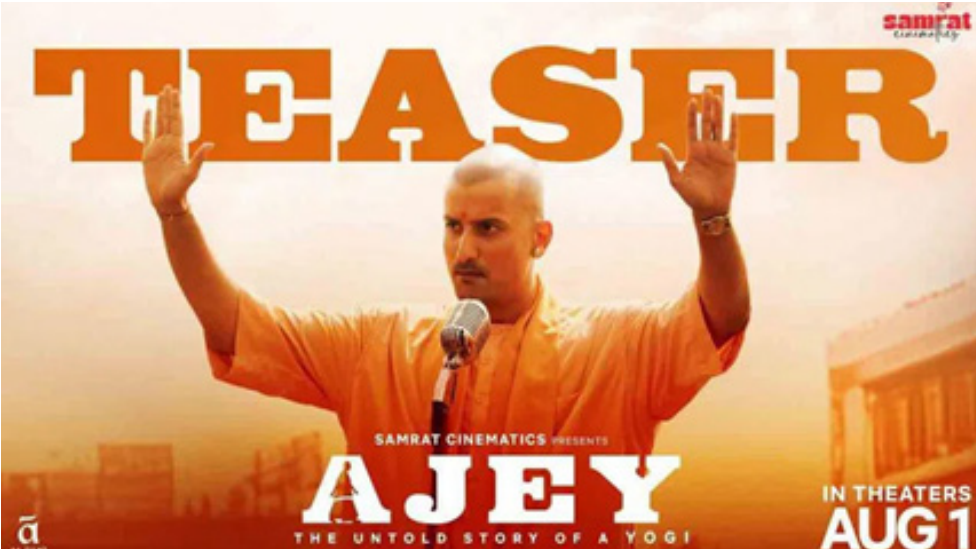


Ajey Teaser Out: Biopic on UP CM Yogi Adityanath Promises a Powerful Portrayal

The much-awaited teaser of *Ajey: The Untold Story of a Yogi*, a biographical film based on the life of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has finally been released. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ravindra Gautam, the film stars Bollywood actor Anant Joshi in the lead role, portraying the journey of Yogi Adityanath from a humble background to becoming one of India's most prominent political figures. Veteran actor Paresh Rawal is also play-

ing a pivotal role in the film, which is based on the bestselling book *The Monk Who Became Chief Minister* by author Shantanu Gupta. The film is slated for a theatrical release on August 1, 2025. The teaser offers a glimpse into the early life of Yogi Adityanath, born in a small village in Uttarakhand to a middle-class family. It hints at the hardships he faced, his spiritual path through the Gorakhnath Math, and his eventual entry into politics where he

rose to become the Chief Minister of India's most populous state. With powerful visuals and a stirring background score, the teaser sets the tone for what appears to be an inspiring story of determination, discipline, and leadership. The film is expected to delve into the personal and political evolution of Yogi Adityanath, shedding light on both his spiritual roots and political journey. As anticipation builds, *Ajey* is poised to



be a compelling narrative for audiences interested in politics, leadership, and biographical storytelling. The film's release just ahead of Independence Day is

likely to spark national conversations, drawing both supporters and critics alike to theaters.



Rana Daggubati Presents “Kothapallilo Okappudu”: A Whimsical Tale Rooted in Rural Life

Renowned actor and producer Rana Daggubati has announced a new film under his Spirit Media banner titled *Kothapallilo Okappudu*. Known for backing content-rich cinema, Rana continues that tradition with this unique project that promises both heart and humor.

The film marks the directorial debut of Praveena Paruchuri, who earlier gained attention as both actor and producer for critically acclaimed films like *C/o Kancharapalem* and *Uma Maheswara Ugra Roopasya*. With *Kothapallilo Okappudu*, she steps into the director's chair, bringing her signature storytelling style to a fresh narrative set in rural India.

The story revolves around a young man from a quiet, traditional village. His ordinary life takes an unexpected turn after one seemingly minor incident sets off a surprising chain of events. The plot unfolds with a mix of local mischief, deep-rooted customs, and playful twists, all while exploring broader themes such as identity, fate, and the contradictions within tradition.

What sets this film apart is its visual presentation. Shot by an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, the movie blends the vibrancy of Indian rural life with a sophisticated global visual language. This fusion promises a cinematic experience that is emotionally grounded yet aesthetically modern.

Kothapallilo Okappudu offers a light-hearted yet poignant look at how small moments can shape lives, especially in close-knit communities where every gesture matters. With its mix of comedy, drama, and cultural depth, the film is expected to strike a chord with both urban and rural audiences.

Currently in the final stages of post-production, *Kothapallilo Okappudu* is gearing up for a theatrical release soon. It stands as another promising addition to Rana Daggubati's growing slate of meaningful and entertaining cinema.

Nag Ashwin Launches Niharika Konidela’s Second Production – PEP 2 Promises Fantasy and Fun

Following the success of her debut production *Committee Kurrollu*, actress and producer Niharika Konidela is back with her second venture under the Pink Elephant Pictures banner. The new film, tentatively titled *PEP 2*, was officially launched on July 2, 2025, with a grand pooja ceremony held at the Glass House in Annapurna Studios, Hyderabad. The launch event was graced by some of Tollywood's notable filmmakers, including Nag Ashwin, Mallidi Vassishta, and Kalyan Shankar. The ceremonial first shot saw Nag Ashwin giving the first clap, Vassishta rolling the camera, and Kalyan Shankar directing the inaugural scene—adding star power and blessings to the project right from its start. *PEP 2* marks the directorial debut of Mana-



sa Sharma and stars Sangeeth Shobhan and Nayan Sarika in the lead roles. The film is described as a fantasy-comedy, aiming to blend whimsical elements with humor and

charm—promising an entertaining experience for audiences of all ages. Shooting is scheduled to commence on July 15 in and around Hyderabad. The film also boasts an impressive supporting cast, including popular comic and character actors such as Vennela Kishore, Brahmaji, Tanikella Bharani, Ashish Vidyarthi, and Getup Srinu, among others. Music for the film is being composed by Anudeep Dev, who is expected to bring a lively and engaging soundtrack to complement the film's fantastical tone. With a fresh genre, promising cast, and energetic production team, *PEP 2* is shaping up to be an exciting addition to the Telugu film industry. Fans of light-hearted cinema and fantasy storytelling have much to look forward to in this upcoming project from Pink Elephant Pictures.

Harshali Malhotra to Make Her Telugu Debut in Akhanda 2 Opposite Balakrishna

Harshali Malhotra, who captured hearts across the nation with her memorable role as Munni in *Baajranghi Bhaijaan*, is all set to make her grand debut in Telugu cinema. She joins the cast of the much-awaited action sequel *Akhanda 2*, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna in the lead role and directed by Boyapati Sreenu. The makers revealed Harshali's first look from the film today, introducing her character as Janani. Dressed in a traditional outfit, Harshali's serene and composed expression suggests that her role will carry emotional weight and possibly a spiritual connection to the story's central theme. Her character appears to be deeply rooted in the narrative, hinting at a powerful subplot that goes beyond just a cameo or supporting role. *Akhanda*, released in 2021, was a massive blockbuster and marked a turning point in Balakrishna's career with its intense action sequences,

spiritual overtones, and mass appeal. The announcement of *Akhanda 2* has generated tremendous excitement among fans, and Harshali's casting has only heightened the buzz. This marks a significant transition for Harshali as she steps into a new industry after a long gap from her Bollywood debut. Her inclusion brings a youthful and fresh dynamic to the film, and audiences are eager to see how she adapts to a powerful narrative alongside a seasoned star like Balakrishna. Directed once again by Boyapati Sreenu, known for his high-octane action dramas, *Akhanda 2* is expected to deliver another intense and emotionally charged cinematic experience. With a strong blend of action, sentiment, and spirituality, and now the added charm of Harshali Malhotra, the film is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu releases.



Confessions of a Superstar: Unveiling the Aamir Khan We Never Knew

If the story of Hindi cinema had a protagonist, Aamir Khan would be a compelling choice. Known for his calculated risks, deep emotional range, and dedication to craft, Khan has carved a unique space among Bollywood's trinity of superstars. Unlike his contemporaries Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan—who leaned into charisma and familiarity—Aamir has thrived on unpredictability, choosing roles and stories that often challenge mainstream expectations. From producing a nearly four-hour sports drama (*Lagaan*), to playing a supporting role to a child in *Taare Zameen Par*, to transforming his body to play the father of two wrestlers in *Dangal*, Khan has repeatedly defied the norms of commercial cinema. Yet, despite his larger-than-life presence and critical acclaim, he has remained a deeply private figure—until now. **A Shift in Persona** In 2025, something changed. Aamir Khan, long known for his guardedness, has become strikingly visible and emotionally open. As part of the promotions for his latest film, *Sitaare Zameen Par*, he has appeared across podcasts, TV shows, and social media platforms. Dressed simply in round-neck t-shirts and



thick-rimmed glasses, he has played games, shared personal anecdotes, and even shed tears—offering a raw, unfiltered version of himself rarely seen before. Interestingly, while the promotional campaign is officially for *Sitaare Zameen Par*—a remake of the Spanish film *Champions*, featuring a neurodivergent cast—the real subject of these appearances seems to be Khan himself. In one interview, he revealed regrets about being an absent parent. In another, he shared lesser-known personal details, like learning Marathi at 44, or naming one of his dogs 'Sundari.' He's confessed to eloping with his first wife and even considered quitting acting after the failure of *Laal Singh Chaddha*. This new phase feels like a rebranding, perhaps in response to past controversies and on-line backlash, or simply a man at 60 becoming

more comfortable in his own skin. His past remarks about growing intolerance in India led to widespread trolling and boycotts, and this new visibility could be seen as an attempt to reclaim his public image. Still, the authenticity in his voice and the vulnerability in his demeanor suggest something more heartfelt. **Marketing or Meaning?** Cynics might view this transformation as a calculated marketing move, aligning Aamir's personal narrative with *Sitaare Zameen Par*'s core message—"Sabka apna apna normal" (Everyone has their own normal). His public appearances, steeped in emotional honesty, reflect the same individuality and acceptance the film champions. Whether he's eating vada pav at Dadar station, acknowledging his complex relationships, or crying on camera, Aamir is redefining what stardom looks like—one that allows space for flaws, feelings, and fallibility. This strategy isn't new for Khan. Over the years, he's employed innovative promotional tactics—disguises during *3 Idiots*, thematic haircuts for *Ghajini*, and even appearances on TV serials for *Talaash*. But this time, the promotional lens has turned inward.