



## Outrage over LPS 2.0...

- **Farmers, Opposition Slam Amaravati Expansion Plan**
- **CPM's Baburao calls it a handout to corporates and TDP loyalists**

TPN Correspondent | Sumanth

The Andhra Pradesh government's announcement of Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) 2.0—targeting the acquisition of 44,000 acres for the expansion of Amaravati—has triggered sharp backlash from farmers and political leaders, with many brandings it a land grab in the guise of development.

The government claims that the scheme will benefit farmers in Guntur, Vijayawada, Mangalagiri, and Tadepalli by offering developed plots and new infrastructure. However, memories of broken promises under the 2015 LPS, where 34,000 acres were pooled but only 30% of promised infrastructure was delivered, continue to haunt the farming community. With only ₹500 crore disbursed out of ₹2,000 crore in promised annuities, the credibility of the state's assurances is under question.

CPM leader Baburao led the charge against LPS 2.0, declaring it “a shameless handout to corporates and TDP bigwigs.” He said, “The government has already taken enough land for the capital but failed to develop it. Farmers who believed in Amaravati's dream are now disillusioned. This isn't for them—it's for cronies.” Baburao also accused the ruling Telugu Desam Party of insider trading, securing benefits for allies before rolling out the scheme.

In 2015, nearly 29,000 farmers gave up their land in return for promises of developed plots, annuities, and state-of-the-art infrastructure. Today, farmers point out that only 12,000 acres have seen partial development, with roads, drainage systems, and public utilities either unfinished or completely missing. The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) claims 85% support for LPS 2.0 based on Grama Sabha consultations, but reports suggest coercion and a lack of transparency in these meetings.

The proposed new land pooling is officially meant for industrial corridors and smart city projects, but many see it as a smokescreen to funnel profits to corporate partners and political allies. “This is not development—it's exploitation,” said one farmer who participated in the original LPS and now feels betrayed by the government's failure to deliver.

The agrarian community, already battling economic hardships and distrust, fears further erosion of their land and livelihoods. As protests grow, pressure is mounting on the state government to address unresolved issues from LPS Phase 1 before moving ahead with fresh acquisitions. With elections on the horizon and political narratives sharpening, LPS 2.0 has become a flashpoint for public anger, with opposition leaders vowing to intensify their campaign against the expansion plan unless the government fulfills its long-pending promises and halts corporate-driven land grabs.

## False Propaganda Won't Last, Our Work Will: CM

- **CM slams YSRCP for politicizing Singayya's death**
- **Tata-backed Digit False Propaganda Won't Last, Our Work Will: CM Chandrababu al Nerve Center launched in Kuppam**
- **Plan to digitize and link health services across AP**

TPN Correspondent | Kuppam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu firmly stated that false propaganda cannot fool people for long, while good governance and real development will remain permanent. Speaking to the media during his visit to Kuppam, CM Naidu launched a scathing attack on the opposition, particularly the YSRCP, for attempting to politicize the death of a man named Singayya.

He expressed outrage at what he described as the inhumane handling of the victim. “Had he truly been run over by a car, he should have been rushed to a hospital. But instead, they threw the victim's body into the sedge trees, showing no humanity,” said Chandrababu. He further alleged that YSRCP leaders tried to threaten Singayya's wife and spread false narratives to cover their misdeeds.

Slamming the former Chief Minister's conduct, Naidu added, “I'm not used to politics based on lies. What we do for the people is permanent. Their attempts to deceive with untruths will fade.”

In a key step toward improving public healthcare, CM Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the state's first Tata Digital Nerve Center in Kuppam. This technologically advanced facility has been set up with the support of Tata and aims to digitally link people's health records while improving access to medical care.

As part of the initiative, 13 Primary Health



Centres (PHCs), 92 village health centers, and the Kuppam Area Hospital have been digitally integrated. The platform ensures real-time health monitoring, early diagnosis, remote consultations with medical experts, and digital storage of patient histories.

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## TDP MLA Sparks Row Over Janasena Post

Discontent brews in alliance over Market Yard chairman post

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The alliance between Telugu Desam Party and Janasena, which played a decisive role in Andhra Pradesh politics, is showing signs of internal strain—especially in some constituencies where power-sharing appears uneven. While the coalition won the mandate together, friction is now surfacing on the ground over control and recognition, particularly where Janasena leaders have been promised nominated posts.

In a key constituency on the outskirts of Vijayawada that has recently been in the spotlight across the state, a TDP MLA is facing criticism for allegedly blocking the appointment of a Janasena leader as Market Yard Chairman. Despite the post being cleared through all levels, with both Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan reportedly giving their nod, the MLA is said to be deliberately delaying the process, denying the Janasena cadre their due recognition.

Sources suggest that even after months of waiting, the TDP MLA has avoided forwarding the list of directors to the government, a necessary step in formalizing the appointment. More controversially, the MLA is believed to be lobbying to install a TDP leader of his own choice in the Market Yard Chairman role instead—openly defying the coalition spirit.

This has sparked outrage among Janasena workers, who argue that the MLA's actions not only insult the high command's decision but also send a dangerous signal to the cadre. “If the MLA himself is indulging in such tactics, what message does it send to others? Why should TDP expect support from Janasena if their leaders are humiliated like this?” questioned one disgruntled Janasena leader.

There is also talk that the MLA's arrogance is not new, and resentment among both Janasena and even TDP cadre has been simmering. Many local voices point out that the MLA's victory was largely due to the combined support of the Kapu community and fans of Pawan Kalyan, who now feel betrayed.

The TDP high command is reportedly aware of the issue, having received multiple complaints about the MLA's behavior and internal opposition. With alliance politics entering a crucial phase, pressure is mounting on the MLA to fall in line and honor coalition commitments.

Leaders from both sides are now urging the MLA to mend his ways and act in the interest of unity, not just for party discipline but to sustain the fragile alliance. “Power was given with shared trust—it's time to uphold it,” said a senior Janasena leader.

## Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Must Intervene in Journalist Padam Murthy Naidu Case: Andhra Journalists Forum

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Journalists Forum President Saladi Venkata Narayana has strongly urged Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to intervene in the case of journalist Padam Murthy Naidu, stressing the need to protect democratic values and press freedom in the state.

In a powerful statement, Venkata Narayana said, “Hating the mirror and waging war against the written word does not suit any political leader. It is not wise to suppress those who reflect the truth to the people.” He emphasized that journalists play a vital role in carrying facts to the public, and any attempts to instill fear in the media will ultimately harm society and democracy.

He warned that if the media starts operating under fear and intimidation, unsure of when or where an attack might come for reporting the

truth, it signals the arrival of dark days for democracy. “If those who bring facts to light are silenced or harassed, the public will be the ultimate losers,” he said.

Venkata Narayana further



stated that all those who believe in democratic values must stand firmly with journalists. He called upon every citizen who supports democratic ideals to unequivocally condemn the attacks on the media in Andhra Pradesh. “It is the duty of every responsible leader to ensure the media feels safe and supported,” he concluded.

## Terrorist Camp Probe Shakes Rayachoti



- **50 IED devices, bombs and weapons seized from two terrorists' homes**
- **Wives of Abubakar Siddiqui and Mohammed Ali sent to 14-day judicial remand**
- **DIG Koya Praveen supervises probe, confirms Aluma terror link**

TPN | Nagaraju

Rayachoti: The investigation into the existence of terrorist camps in Rayachoti has intensified following the arrest of wanted terrorists Abubakar Siddiqui and Mohammed Mansoor Ali by the Intelligence Bureau (IB). The two, involved in serial bomb blasts across Tamil Nadu, were nabbed three days ago and taken to Chennai. In the aftermath, police teams have uncovered alarming materials from their homes—including 50 IED-making components, knives, batteries, and suitcase bombs—sending shockwaves through the town and prompting an urgent, high-level response.

Kurnool Range DIG Koya Praveen, who rushed to Rayachoti to oversee the in-

vestigation, stated that the arrested terrorists were linked to the banned South Indian outfit 'Aluma', and had been living secretly in Rayachoti for three decades without arousing suspicion. While confirming the seizure of explosive devices, he denied that any recruitment or training operations were discovered in the area so far. “We're probing how these explosives reached Rayachoti,” he said, acknowledging that the suspects may be technical experts. The duo, believed to be linked to previous terror attacks including the 2013 Malleswaram blasts in Bengaluru, had reportedly settled in Rayachoti under assumed identities and maintained ties with other terrorist cells.

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## False...

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Further, services like the NTR Vaidya Seva Scheme and private hospital referrals have also been connected to the center. Patients will now have access to end-to-end services, including follow-up care, all under one digital platform.

The government plans to expand this model in a phased manner—first across Chittoor district and later across the entire state. Officials believe this initiative will bring much-needed transparency, accessibility, and accountability to the public health system.

## Terrorist...

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The IB had been monitoring them for months, especially after a surge in suspicious movements linked to the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir. Annamaya district SP Vidyasagar Naidu led a special team to arrest them based on inputs from central intelligence agencies.

The police also arrested the wives of the two terrorists—Sheikh Saira Bhanu and Sheikh Shamim—and produced them in court. They were remanded to 14 days in Kadapa Central Jail. Authorities are currently investigating whether the women were aware of or complicit in the activities of their husbands.

Meanwhile, the Octopus anti-terror unit successfully defused the explosives seized from the houses, including bucket and suitcase bombs, near the Rayachoti DSP office. The entire area remains under high security as central and state intelligence agencies continue the joint investigation. DIG Praveen stated, “This is proof that no matter how many years pass, the law will catch up. We are leaving no stone unturned in this case.” As Rayachoti remains under intense scrutiny, residents are anxious over revelations that terrorists lived among them undetected for decades, with suspicions now growing that others may still be hiding in the area.



## AP Liquor Scam: Bail Rejected for Top Accused

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a major development in the AP liquor scam, the ACB court has dismissed the bail petitions of key accused K. Dhanunjaya Reddy, former Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office, and Krishnamohan Reddy, who served as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to ex-CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Both were arrested in connection with the liquor scam that allegedly took place during the YSRCP regime.

The court, which had earlier reserved its verdict after hearing the arguments, issued its ruling rejecting the bail requests. Government lawyers contended that both the accused had played a significant role in the scam and should not be granted bail at this stage. The setback comes amid intensified investigation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), which continues to widen its probe into the scam. In a related development, SIT officials have also produced Balaji and Naveen, personal assistants to YSRCP MLA Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy, before the ACB court. The two had reportedly fled to Indore after Chevireddy's name surfaced in the case.

The court has ordered a 15-day judicial remand for both Balaji and Naveen, who have now been shifted to Guntur district jail. Officials revealed that the duo turned off their phones and remained underground in Indore to avoid arrest, but were traced and taken into custody two days ago.

The ACB court's decision is seen as a major blow to the accused and indicates the seriousness with which the judiciary is treating the alleged corruption during the previous government's tenure. Further arrests and developments in the case are expected in the coming days as the SIT continues its investigation.

# CM Launches State's First Digital Nerve Center

- **Tata Group collaborates with AP govt for medical digitization**
- **Digi Nerve Center to link 13 PHCs and 92 village health centers**
- **Health Minister Satya Kumar participated in the inaugural ceremony**

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday inaugurated the state's first-ever Digital Nerve Center in Kuppam, marking a major leap toward digitizing healthcare delivery. Developed in collaboration with the Tata Group, this facility aims to transform rural healthcare by offering integrated digital services across the medical system. The Digi Nerve Center will serve as a central hub for 13 Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and connect them to the Kuppam Area Hospital and 92 Village Health Centers, enabling real-time access to medical care and personal health data. The core concept of the center is to digitize personal medical records, making continuous health monitoring possible and ensuring that patients receive timely care without delay. Speaking at the inauguration, CM Naidu said, “This is a step toward a healthier and digitally empowered Andhra Pradesh. With this system, we are taking



world-class healthcare to the village level.”

The services offered by the center include digital diagnosis, health screenings, personal counseling, remote specialist appointments, and virtual consultations, allowing patients to consult expert doctors without the need to travel. It will also ensure follow-up care, screening tests, and seamless integration with the NTR Health Scheme and private hospitals. Officials said that in the first phase, the Digital Nerve Center will operate in Kuppam. The

second phase will see expansion across the entire Chittoor district, and in the third phase, it will be rolled out across the state. The government expects the initiative to significantly enhance healthcare access in rural areas and ensure timely, data-driven health management for citizens. With this launch, Andhra Pradesh becomes one of the first states in India to implement a fully integrated digital health network at the mandal level, leveraging technology to bring urban-quality care to rural populations.

## Pattiseema Motors Restarted

- **Minister Ramanaidu says TDP built 71% of Polavaram; YSRCP managed only 3%**
- **428 TMC transferred to Krishna delta through Pattiseema so far**

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has reignited the Pattiseema and Tadipudi lift irrigation schemes, restoring the crucial water supply to the Godavari delta. The minister, accompanied by Polavaram MLA Balaraju, Gopalapuram MLA Maddipati Venkataraju, Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna, and Kovvur MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao, officially restarted the motors at the Pattiseema Delivery Point, marking a renewed phase in the state's irrigation efforts.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ramanaidu reminded the public of the ridicule the Pattiseema project faced during YSRCP's tenure. “Jagan called it Vattiseema. But today, the same Pattiseema has transferred over 428 TMC of water to the Krishna River—more than the full capacity of Nagarjuna Sagar. In our previous term (2014–2019), we successfully



moved over 263 TMC—more than the Srisailem storage capacity,” he said. Ramanaidu slammed the previous YSRCP government for allowing 450 out of 1040 lift irrigation schemes to fall into disuse. “This collapse

happened due to poor maintenance and lack of vision,” he alleged, further asserting that the TDP's earlier administration generated ₹50,000 crore revenue through timely water transfers via Pattiseema to the

Krishna Delta.

Highlighting Polavaram's status, he claimed that 71% of the project work was completed under the earlier TDP regime, while YSRCP managed only 3% in five years. “After the coalition came to power, we completed 6% within a year,” he declared. He also pointed out that the YSRCP government was clueless about the diaphragm wall, stating, “They didn't even know if it existed.” Despite the damage done under the previous regime, Minister Ramanaidu confirmed that 360 meters of the diaphragm wall have been completed and that a buttress dam has been constructed to support the upper coffer dam, ensuring uninterrupted work during the rainy season.

He concluded by affirming the government's renewed commitment to completing the Polavaram project and restoring Andhra Pradesh's irrigation infrastructure, calling the TDP's return a revival of real development and water management.

# Three-Year Rule Suspended for MEPM Resource Persons

Minister Narayana credits CM for decision benefiting 10,000 women resource staff

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a major relief to the women resource persons working under the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPM), the Andhra Pradesh government has suspended the three-year working limit imposed by the previous administration. The Urban Development Department issued Memo No. 2822995/UBS/2025 on July 2, formally revoking the earlier order that restricted MEPM Resource Persons (RPs) to just three years of service. This move was widely welcomed by the RPs, who met Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana and MEPMA MD Tej Bharat on Thursday evening at the CRDA office in Vijayawada to express their gratitude. They stated that the decision had removed the constant fear of job insecurity and described it as a life-changing intervention. “We will be indebted to the Chief Minister for



life,” said one RP emotionally, adding that they would now work with renewed confidence and deliver im-

proved results in empowering women through urban savings societies. Minister Narayana asserted that

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is deeply committed to the economic upliftment of women, particularly through institutions like DW CRA and MEPMA. He emphasized that the previous government's policy had demoralized over 10,000 RPs by limiting their service tenure. “The last government destroyed every institutional system and left a debt burden of ₹10 lakh crore,” the Minister remarked. “Despite financial constraints, CM Chandrababu is determined to honor every promise made to the people.”

The Minister assured the RPs that the coalition government is focused on restoring trust, strengthening systems, and empowering women, and that more people-friendly decisions are on the way.

This reversal is being hailed as a symbol of renewed administrative stability and a step toward rebuilding institutions weakened over the past five years.



## AP Releases Primary Keys for Mega DSC Examinations

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh School Education Department announced the release of primary keys and response sheets for the Mega DSC examinations conducted from June 6 to June 28. DSC Convener M.V. Krishna Reddy stated that candidates can access these on the official website, <https://apdsc.apcfss.in>, starting Thursday. The primary keys cover various categories, including PGT (Commerce, English, Hindi, Physical Science, Sanskrit, Social, Telugu), School Assistant (English, Physical Science), SGT (General, Special HH, Special VH), TGT (English, Hindi, Physical Science, Science, Social, Telugu), English Proficiency Test, and PET (regular, HH, VH) across all mediums.

Candidates can review their response sheets and submit objections to the primary keys with valid proof by July 11 via the website. Reddy added that keys and sheets for exams held from June 29 to July 2 will be released soon, ensuring transparency in the evaluation process.



# Everyone Should Join Swarnandhra 2047

## Mission: Minister Anitha



**TPN | Narasimhulu Vizianagaram:** District in-charge Minister Vangalapudi Anitha called upon people from all walks of life to actively participate in the Swarnandhra Vision 2047, a strategic development plan aimed at trans-

forming Andhra Pradesh into a poverty-free and prosperous state. She emphasized that public participation and departmental coordination are key to achieving this ambitious vision. Speaking at a review meeting

**Vision 2047 aims to make Andhra Pradesh a poverty-free state**  
**5-year district development plan and long-term 2047 plan launched**  
**Focus on agriculture growth, alternative cropping and agro-based industries**

held at the Collectorate conference hall in Vizianagaram on Thursday, which was also attended by Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, Minister Anitha explained the contours of the state's twin development plans — a short-term 5-year plan and a long-term Vision 2047 roadmap for district progress. She stated that development will be centered around three key sectors and five sub-sectors, with particular emphasis on the agriculture and allied sectors. The goal is to double agricultural productivity in the next five years by bringing uncultivated lands under active cultivation, promoting intercropping and alternative crops, and ensuring effective marketing channels for farmers. The minister urged officials of the agriculture and allied departments to formulate detailed plans starting from the village level to the district level, ensuring grassroots-level implementation of development goals. She stressed the need for field-level planning to attract agro-based industries to Vizianagaram district, which would boost employment and rural income. Anitha reiterated that these plans are not just paperwork but a roadmap to action. She called on officials, public representatives, and citizens to treat Swarnandhra 2047 as a collective mission, urging unified efforts to make Andhra Pradesh a model state in terms of development, equity, and sustainability.

## Sharmila Backs Karedu Farmers, Slams Land Grab for Solar Plant



**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president YS Sharmila has come out strongly in support of the farmers of Karedu village in Nellore district, opposing the state government's move to acquire fertile land for the Indosol solar power project. She criticized the coalition government for bypassing village consent and resorting to what she termed a "dictatorial" style of governance. Addressing the media, Sharmila warned the government to immediately cancel the land acquisition notification. "We are not against industries, but not at the cost of green lands and farmers' livelihoods. It is criminal to grab land where three crops are cultivated, without even conducting village council meetings," she said. Sharmila condemned the government's decision to allocate 8,458 acres to Indosol Solar Company without any public consensus. She accused the government of attempting to vacate the village forcefully. "This is not governance. This is betrayal," she said. She added that the previous YSRCP government may have given the initial permissions, but the coalition government's decision to continue the process without review or consultation is equally condemnable. The PCC chief took serious objection to the police detaining and arresting protesting villagers. "These are peaceful protestors, not criminals. Detaining them shows how insensitive this government has become towards democratic rights," she said. She questioned why the government is trying to destroy a village that sustains its people with three harvests a year. "If the lands of Karedu farmers are taken away, we will intensify our fight under the Congress banner. This is a people's movement, and the Congress will not remain a spectator," Sharmila declared. She urged the government to convene village meetings, hear out the farmers, and reconsider its decision. "Development should never come by trampling on the lives and dignity of the poor," she said. As farmer agitations grow stronger in Karedu, the Congress party's vocal support has added new political weight to the protest. Sharmila made it clear that the party will not hesitate to launch statewide agitation if the demands of the farmers are ignored.

## Vamsi Meets Jagan After Jail Release

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Former Gannavaram MLA and YSR Congress Party leader Vallabhaneni Vamsi met party chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday, just a day after being released from jail. The meeting, held at Jagan's residence, is being seen as politically significant as Vamsi had spent nearly 140 days behind bars. Accompanied by his wife Pankajasri, Vamsi extended his heartfelt gratitude to Jagan for standing by him and his family during the challenging period. Jagan, in turn, inquired about Vamsi's health condition and expressed concern, particularly since Vamsi reportedly fell ill while in jail. The YSRCP has been openly criticizing the NDA-led coalition government in Andhra

Pradesh, accusing it of targeting opposition leaders through politically motivated cases. Party leaders allege that Vamsi was harassed with 11 different cases, which ultimately led to his prolonged imprisonment in Vijayawada Central Jail. Although Vamsi had secured bail from the court, the government moved the Supreme Court seeking its cancellation. However, the Supreme Court granted relief, paving the way for his release on Wednesday. YSRCP leaders claim the cases against Vamsi are a clear example of political vendetta and assert that the party will not remain silent in the face of such actions. The meeting with Jagan reaffirms Vamsi's position within the party and has further fueled the ongoing narrative of political bias by the ruling coalition.



With Vamsi now out on bail, all eyes are on his next political moves and the party's strategy in countering what it calls targeted actions by the state government.

## Strengthen From Village Level, Expose Chandrababu's Frauds



**TPN Correspondent | Anantapur**  
YSR Congress Party Anantapur District President Ananth Venkataram Reddy gave a clarion call to intensify organized resistance against the ruling coalition government. Speaking at a meeting of the SC Cell District Executive Committee held on Thursday at the YCP district office, he accused the coalition of deliberately targeting and suppressing the Dalit community. Ananth alleged that since the

coalition came to power, there has been a sharp increase in attacks against Dalits and warned that a conspiracy is underway to weaken SC leadership across the state. He highlighted the cases being filed against YSRCP leaders including former MP Nandigam Suresh, alleging that such actions are part of a larger plot to suppress YCP's participation in local body elections. He urged party workers to set aside internal differences and strengthen the YSR Congress

Party from the village level. "During the YS Jaganmohan Reddy regime, social justice was not a slogan, but a practice," he said, citing several initiatives undertaken for the SC community. He pointed out that a Dalit woman was appointed as Home Minister, and that ₹70,000 crore was spent on SC welfare between 2019 and 2024. Ananth praised former CM Jagan as a leader who not only implemented welfare schemes under DBT and non-DBT models, but also ensured that poor children had access to higher education and quality schooling through English medium government schools, despite opposition. He also emphasized that YSRCP has honored the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by erecting a 205-foot statue in Vijayawada, symbolizing the commitment to equality and justice. But under the current government, he said, the progress made by Dalits is being reversed. He called upon the SC Cell to be proactive wherever Dalits face injustice, and suggested that mandal- and village-level SC Cell meetings be organized regularly. He also directed all members to go door-to-door from July 15 onwards, as part of the YSRCP's campaign to expose the alleged frauds of Chandrababu Naidu through the 'Recall Chandrababu Manifesto' drive. "Let us be the voice of the voiceless and the strength of the suppressed. The upcoming local body elections will be our opportunity to prove the strength and commitment of the YSR Congress Party," he said. The meeting was presided over by SC Cell District President Narasimhulu, and included participation from state, district, and constituency-level SC leaders, who later took an oath administered by Ananth Venkataram Reddy to fight unitedly against injustice.

## When Will the Arrest Be Made? I'm Waiting," Says Perni Nani

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna**  
YSR Congress Party Krishna District President and former minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Perni Nani) has come down heavily on the ongoing campaign surrounding his possible arrest. Dismissing the speculation as baseless, he challenged the coalition government to arrest him if they dare, even as no First Information Report (FIR) has been filed against him. Speaking to the media

after a meeting with party workers in Machilipatnam on Thursday, Perni Nani said, "For the past month, some media houses have been running stories that I'm going to be arrested. They want to spread panic. But I want to make it clear—I will not run. I am right here." Terming the campaign as "green media mischief," he accused certain outlets of creating sensationalism for political motives.

Nani alleged that the ruling coalition is resorting to diversion politics to shift public attention away from its failures, especially as it completes one year in power. "Let them file an FIR first. How can they arrest someone without a case? This is clearly a ploy to distract people from their unfulfilled promises," Nani said. He also took aim at local minister Kollu Ravindra, claiming that Ravindra would be

more thrilled about his arrest than about progress on major infrastructure works like Bandar Port or the fishing harbor. "Is there a greater example of sadism than this?" he questioned. Reiterating that he has nothing to hide, Perni Nani asserted that all records related to house pattas in Bandar are available on official portals and in government offices. He denied any wrongdoing and declared that the allegations against him in

the so-called fake patta case are entirely fabricated. "I am prepared to fight legally if needed. Even if they file false cases, I will come out on bail and continue to hold the YS Jagan flag high," he said. With these fiery remarks, Perni Nani has set the stage for a possible legal and political confrontation, as the opposition accuses the government of misusing power to suppress dissent.



# Excellence Awards Will Inspire Entrepreneurs: Minister Parthasarathy

AP Chambers Excellence Awards 2025 nominations open  
Awards in 14 sectors to promote industrial growth  
Government committed to creating 20 lakh jobs in 5 years

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
State Housing, Information, and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said that the announcement of Excellence Awards will serve as an inspiration to budding entrepreneurs across Andhra Pradesh. He made these remarks at the AP Chambers Excellence Awards 2025 launch event, organized by the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federa-

tion at a private hotel in Vijayawada on Thursday. Minister Parthasarathy stated that the state government is actively focusing on providing incentives to industries and creating a growth-friendly environment. He explained that awards will be presented to companies registered in Andhra Pradesh across 14 sectors, with the entire selection process being highly transparent. He emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision of

generating 20 lakh jobs in five years through the P4 model is being actively implemented and cited Hyderabad's success under his leadership as an example of what vision-driven governance can achieve. Mines, Mineral Resources and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra said that a total of 15 awards will be presented across 12 sectors and added that the AP Chamber of Commerce is playing a vital role as a bridge between the government and

the industry sector. He also highlighted the government's commitment to developing 13 ports in Andhra Pradesh and said that under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, the state has a "four-engine government"—an administration committed to pushing development forward with no room for setbacks. During the event, Minister Parthasarathy launched the Audio Visual (AV) of the Excellence Awards, while Minister Kollu



Ravindra unveiled the awards brochure. NTIR District Collector Lakshmisha released the official logo of the awards. AP Chambers President Potluri Bhaskara Rao and General Secretary Rajasekhara informed that companies registered or operating in Andhra Pradesh are eligible to file nominations until July 30. They noted that

the award ceremony will be held on August 30, and interested participants can visit the website <http://apchambers.in/business-awards-2025> for more details or contact 9121221473, 9121221474, or 9912092222 for assistance. Industrialists from various sectors took part in the launch event.

## Police Crack Down on Protesting Medical Students at NTR University

*Police Crack Down on Protesting Medical Students at NTR University*



**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Tensions erupted at NTR University in Vijayawada as Andhra Pradesh police allegedly used force against medical students protesting over the non-issuance of permanent registration and unpaid stipends. The students, including both men and women, were staging a peaceful demonstration when they were forcibly dragged away by police personnel and taken away in police vehicles. The protests stem from the ongoing delay in providing permanent registration numbers for stu-

dents who have completed medical courses abroad, a responsibility that falls under the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC). Students say they have been pushed to desperation due to months of inaction, despite repeated appeals. Students also alleged that they had submitted representations and held meetings with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh six months ago, but no concrete action has been taken to address their plight. "We came to serve the people as doc-

tors, but today we are being treated worse than criminals," said one of the protesting students before being detained. The incident has drawn widespread condemnation from student unions, civil rights groups, and citizens, with demands for an immediate inquiry into police actions, accountability from the APMC, and urgent resolution to the registration and stipend issues. Political observers note that such incidents could further alienate the government from the educated youth of the state.

## Ganja Chocolates Seized During Surprise Checks at Tenali Railway Station

**TPN | B. Madhu**  
**Tenali:** In a startling incident, ganja-laced chocolates were found during surprise checks at Tenali railway station in Guntur district. The police launched the inspections following suspicions of illegal narcotics being transported through trains. The searches were carried out under the joint supervision of Guntur Women Police Station DSP Srinivas Reddy, Tenali DSP Janardhana Rao, GRP, and RPF teams. Utilizing dog squads, the police thoroughly checked bags of suspicious passengers across several trains. During the operation, a bag containing

brand-labeled chocolates made using ganja leaves was discovered. The bag was immediately seized, but officials have yet to identify the individuals responsible for carrying it. DSP Srinivas Reddy stated that the inspections were conducted on the instructions of the Guntur district SP to curb the smuggling of banned substances. He assured that efforts are ongoing to trace the culprits behind the ganja chocolate smuggling attempt. The discovery of narcotic-laced confectionery has raised fresh concerns, especially as these products are increasingly being targeted at unsuspecting youth.



## Collector Assures Action on Crushers in Paritala

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna**  
District Collector Lakshmi Shah on Thursday interacted with farmers protesting near crushing units in Paritala village, Kanchikacherla mandal, Krishna district. The farmers raised concerns about the impact of crushers on agriculture, alleging that unregulated operations were causing dust pollution, damaging crops, and affecting their livelihoods. Responding to their concerns, Collector Lakshmi Shah assured the farmers that their issues would be addressed promptly. She said that discussions would be held with relevant higher authorities and crusher unit owners to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the farming community. The Collector stressed that her administration is committed to protecting farmers' interests and ensuring environmental safety. She further warned that departmental action would be initiated against any crushing units found violating the guidelines and operating against the norms. She stated that surprise inspections will be conducted and necessary regulatory measures will be enforced strictly. The farmers welcomed the Collector's assurance and hoped that immediate relief would follow, putting an end to the ongoing difficulties they have been facing due to nearby industrial activity.



## Water Tank Built in Venkatapuram Thanda by Inner Wheel Midtown Club

**TPN Correspondent | Palnadu**  
The Inner Wheel Midtown Club of Vijayawada, under the leadership of President Kantheti Sandhyarani, has become a beacon of hope for the residents of Venkatapuram Thanda in Vinukonda, Palnadu district, by addressing their long-standing drinking water problem. For many years, the villagers of Thanda had to walk several kilometers to fetch drinking water from neighboring villages. Moved by their plight, Sandhyarani took it upon herself to resolve the issue. With the support of Trans Media Internet Company, and contributions from Inner Wheel



Club members, the club undertook a ₹24.58 lakh project that included the construction of a water tank, borewell, and pipeline network to supply clean drinking water directly

saw Inner Wheel members performing Lambadi dances alongside the local people, symbolizing unity and gratitude. The villagers expressed heartfelt thanks, saying, "The members of Inner Wheel Midtown Club, Vijayawada, who understood our difficulties and helped us without expecting anything in return, have set an example for society." This act of selfless service by the Inner Wheel Midtown Club has not only quenched the thirst of a neglected village but has also stood as a model of compassionate community service, inspiring others to follow their lead.

## Agri Department Tackles Land-Related Issues in Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme

**TPN | Sumanth Jangam**  
**Vijayawada:** Sri Dilli Rao, IAS, Director of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, has urged field-level agriculture officers to deepen their understanding of revenue-related challenges impacting the Annadata Sukhibhava - PM KISAN scheme. Speaking ahead of the release of a dedicated grievance module on July 4, Rao highlighted critical land module issues af-

fecting farmers' eligibility for the scheme. Key problems include Aadhar mismatches for living khata holders, deceased khata holders still active in Webland, and unassigned or notional khata holders lacking proper documentation. In districts like Nellore and Godavari, society lands awaiting mutation into individual khata holders further complicate benefit distribution. These errors, stemming

from data entry mistakes or Webland migration issues, have rendered many farmers ineligible for financial assistance. Rao emphasized the need for field officers to coordinate closely with revenue officials to resolve these issues through field-level verification, Aadhar corrections, and proper mutation processes. He also stressed educating farmers to raise awareness at the

grassroots level. The forthcoming grievance module aims to streamline solutions, ensuring farmers receive their entitled benefits. "Officers must proactively address these challenges to support our farmers effectively," Rao stated. The initiative reflects the government's commitment to resolving systemic issues, though its success hinges on efficient implementation.



# Durgesh Vows Beach Makeover at Rushikonda

Minister Durgesh visits Rushikonda with officials and MLA Ganta  
Promises to maintain Blue Flag certification and beautify the beach  
EV double-decker tourist buses to be launched soon  
Rs. 24 lakhs allocated for beach beautification

**TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam**  
Andhra Pradesh Tourism and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Thursday visited Rushikonda Beach in Visakhapatnam, promising to preserve the international Blue Flag certification and enhance tourist facilities. Accompanied by Bhimili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, District Collector Harindira Prasad, and GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, the minister inspected the beach and interacted with local shopkeepers and lifeguards, assuring that all reported issues will be addressed. Durgesh said that efforts will be intensified to maintain cleanliness, safety, solid waste and grey water management, along with improved traffic and infrastructure. “We are not only maintaining international Blue Flag standards but also committed to increasing tourism through beautification,” he said. He

highlighted that all departments, from the district administration to municipal officials and local representatives, would work in coordination to upgrade the facilities. As part of the visit, the minister also inspected hop-on hop-off double-decker electric buses, soon to be launched for beachside tourism. These eco-friendly buses will offer an enjoyable travel experience along the beach road for both tourists and locals, he added. Durgesh emphasized the global importance of the Blue Flag certification, awarded by Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). He said the initiative will boost revenue, attract foreign tourists, and generate local employment. Citing difficulties caused by previous government policies, he noted that the department is now investing Rs. 24 lakh for revitalization, including plans to remove



unwanted structures and improve play areas and greenery. Durgesh also stated that measures are being taken to ensure permanent Blue Flag status for Rushikonda and to expand the certification to more beaches across Andhra Pradesh's 974-km coastline. He promised focused development of water sports, wellness centers, eco, and adventure tourism. He further said that efforts to revive Cordelia cruise tourism, stalled in recent years, have been successful. After negotiations with Puducherry officials during a

tourism summit in Bengaluru, operations have resumed, with four sailings planned till September, and an aim for year-round service from Visakhapatnam's international cruise terminal. Plans are underway to develop coastal tourism circuits linking sea travel with visits to local landmarks. Minister Durgesh concluded by saying that tourism in Andhra Pradesh will undergo a major transformation under the new administration, turning Visakhapatnam into a national and international destination.

# Major Fire Near Govindaraju Swamy Temple in Tirupati



**TPN Correspondent | Tirupati**  
A major fire incident occurred near the Govindaraju Swamy Temple in Tirupati on Thursday, causing panic among devotees and resulting in significant property damage. The blaze, which is believed to have been caused by a short circuit, broke out suddenly and quickly engulfed the canopies set up in front of the temple. Responding to emergency calls, firefighters arrived promptly

at the scene and managed to bring the fire under control before it could spread further into the temple complex or nearby structures. However, by the time the fire was extinguished, a considerable amount of property—particularly the temporary shelters and surrounding stalls—had already been damaged. Temple officials and local police cordoned off the affected area and initiated a preliminary

investigation. While no casualties or injuries have been reported, authorities are assessing the extent of the material loss. The temple management has assured that devotee safety remains a top priority and that the damaged areas will be restored at the earliest. Local officials are also expected to review electrical safety protocols in the temple surroundings to prevent such incidents in the future.

# 51st Week of Dokka Seethamma Annadana Program Held in Srikalahasti

**TPN | C Shekar**  
**Tirupati:** The 51st week of the Dokka Seethamma Annadana Program was successfully conducted at the RTC Bus Stand Circle in Srikalahasti, continuing a tradition of service inspired by Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan's aspirations. The event was held under the coordination of Nandu Peta Brothers, who have been consistently

organizing this program with the support of local Janasena leaders and volunteers. The program witnessed active participation from several key party figures. Joint Chittoor District Secretary Kotte Sai, along with Annadana organizers Peta Chandrasekhar, Peta Chiranjeevi, General Secretary Pradeep Kumar, and others including

Mani, Mohan, Dr. Nakka Prasad, Arif, Eerla Chiranjeevi, Maharshi, Nagarjun, Hanumanthu, Prabhakar, Naveen, Chandu, Muni Kumar, Ramesh, and Venkatesh played a key role in organizing the event. Prominent leaders such as Garikapati Chandra, Kapunadu Constituency In-charge, Pagadala Pratap, Kapu Town Pres-

ident, along with Nagavaram Madhava, Parvatala Harikrishna, Murali Jonnalagadda, Raja, and Muni Chandra were also present and extended their support to the noble cause. Many brave women volunteers including Kavitha, Battema, Sarada, and Gayatri participated with enthusiasm, ensuring smooth execution of the food distribution drive.

# Godavari Rages at Polavaram, Temple Path Submerged

Floodwater rises to 27.23 meters; 48 gates opened to release surplus flow

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
The Godavari River is surging with fury at the Polavaram project site due to continuous heavy rainfall in upstream areas. Officials have sounded an alert as the floodwaters have begun to rise sharply. The current water level has reached 27.230 meters at the upstream of the spillway, while the downstream level stands at 18 meters. To handle the rising inflow, project authorities have opened all 48 gates of the spillway, releasing an enormous 1,13,436 cusecs of water back into the river through the channel. As a result of this discharge, the access road to the historic Mahanandeeswara Swamy temple has been completely submerged, cutting off access and halting vehicular movement. The sand dunes situated between Polavaram and Gootala villages have also been engulfed by the floodwaters, raising concerns among locals and authorities alike. Officials are closely monitoring the situation and taking preventive measures to ensure safety as the flood situation develops. Authorities have advised residents living in low-lying areas to remain vigilant and follow updates, as the flood level is expected to continue fluctuating based on rainfall patterns in the coming days.



# Piracy Kingpin Busted Man Arrested for Leaking 65 Movies to MovieRulez, Tamil MV

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
In a major breakthrough in the fight against film piracy, a man named Kiran Kumar from East Godavari has been arrested for illegally recording and selling Telugu and Tamil movies to piracy websites like MovieRulez and Tamil MV, causing massive financial damage to the South Indian film industry. According to police, Kiran Kumar, who worked as an AC technician in an NGO colony in Vanasthalipuram, is accused of pirating over 65 films in 2024 alone. He allegedly recorded the movies directly from theaters using his mobile phone and then sold each copy to piracy sites for amounts ranging from ₹40,000 to ₹80,000. Authorities estimate that his actions have led to a staggering loss of ₹3,700 crore to both Tollywood and Kollywood during the current year. Police sources confirmed that they are still tracking the entire piracy network and that more arrests are likely. The investigation revealed that Kiran operated discreetly, often attending early shows of newly released films to record them. Officials are now working with cybercrime teams to shut down mirror links and trace the handlers of piracy platforms that have long plagued the film industries. The arrest of Kiran is being seen as a significant step forward in curbing illegal movie distribution in South India. Producers and film bodies have welcomed the police action, urging for stricter punishment and a fast-track trial in piracy cases to deter future offenses.



# Solving Public Problems Is Our Priority: MLA Prashanti Reddy

**TPN | Seshu**  
**Nellore:** Kovur MLA Vemiredy Prashanti Reddy stated that the main goal of the Telugu Desam Party's door-to-door program is to identify and solve public problems and ensure that eligible people receive government welfare schemes without any discrimination. As part of the campaign, she visited Yellaya Palem village in Kodavaluru mandal, where locals welcomed her warmly with traditional Mangala Aarti. MLA Prashanti Reddy went from house to house, greeting residents and patiently listening to their issues. She

noted down the problems that needed attention and promised swift action where possible. Speaking to the media, she emphasized that this outreach was being carried out as part of the “First Step in Good Governance” program on the instructions of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Prashanti Reddy stated, “We are committed to creating a corruption-free and controversy-free Kovur. If we were to misuse power like the previous government and start filing false cases, police stations wouldn't be able to handle the load. We don't believe in that kind of politics.”

She assured that under her leadership, there would be no political vendettas or illegal cases filed for personal gain. She highlighted that Education Minister Nara Lokesh is focused on improving the public education system with the ‘one teacher per class’ policy and is actively working to create employment opportunities for youth by attracting industries. She also revealed that plans are underway to reopen the Kovur Sugar Factory and use it as a hub to generate jobs for locals. Expressing her satisfaction with the way the party is

connecting with the people through this program, Prashanti said, “I am very happy to be working under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, who is known for his administrative expertise.” She urged the public to bring any problem directly to her attention so that timely solutions can be provided. TDP State Executive Secretary GVN Sekhar Reddy, party leaders Ketha Venkata Ramana Reddy, Bhulokam Vijayakumar, Ekollu Vamsidhar Reddy, Garikipati Rajendra, booth committee conveners, cluster in-charges, and others participated actively in the program.





# Bihar: Is Nitish Kumar King, Kingmaker, Or Just Clinging On?

The 'Ajatashatru' Who Still Holds Bihar's Political Pulse in 2025

As Bihar heads towards another crucial assembly election, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, often dubbed the "Ajatashatru" — one who has no enemies — remains the defining figure of state politics. Once described as such by former Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Nitish's political journey reflects resilience, adaptability, and a deep understanding of Bihar's fragmented electorate.

Having ruled Bihar for nearly two decades, with only a brief interruption, Nitish Kumar continues to be the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) face in the state, even at 74. His party, the Janata Dal (United), suffered a major blow in 2020, managing just 43 seats in the 243-member assembly. Yet, through alliances — first with BJP, then RJD, and back with BJP — he held onto power.

Today, JD(U)'s 12 Lok Sabha MPs are crucial to the BJP-led NDA's narrow majority at the Centre, giving Nitish significant leverage. His current tenure could extend beyond the 2025 elections, unless the opposition INDIA bloc, led by RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, pulls off a surprise.



But the Grand Alliance (Mahagathabandhan) struggles to expand beyond its traditional Muslim-Yadav base. Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party adds a third dimension, although

it's yet to prove its electoral mettle. The INDIA bloc also faces internal seat-sharing tussles, with AIMIM and CPI(M) demanding relevance, potentially shrinking the Congress's space.

Meanwhile, NDA's fortunes have brightened post-Operation Sindoor and the Centre's caste census announcement. Chirag Paswan, now a Union Minister, is eyeing a bigger role in state politics. His Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) was instrumental in JD(U)'s 2020 defeat, and he could again undercut Nitish, possibly with BJP's tacit approval. Chirag is reportedly seeking 42 seats, aiming to emerge as NDA's youth face, possibly for 2030.

The BJP, despite its strong organization and Modi's popularity, lacks a towering state leader post the demise of Sushil Modi. Leaders like Samrat Chaudhary, Vijay Sinha, and Giriraj Singh carry caste appeal but lack state-wide charisma. Nitish, as the tallest Kurmi leader, still holds sway over the Luv-Kush (Kurmi-Koeri) base, a demographic the BJP has yet to consolidate on its own.

Seat-sharing within the NDA will be critical. The BJP is unlikely to offer JD(U) the 115 seats it did in 2020, especially with Chirag back in the mix and demands from allies like Upendra Kushwaha, whose RLM now lacks

a Lok Sabha presence. The Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) led by Jitan Ram Manjhi adds further complexity but also strengthens the NDA on paper.

Despite repeated political obituaries, Nitish Kumar remains Bihar's great survivor. His ability to read the pulse of Bihar's fragmented social fabric — from EBCs and Mahadalits to Pasmanda Muslims — has kept him relevant. He isn't grooming a successor either, with his son Nishant showing no interest in politics.

Prashant Kishor, once Nitish's political aide, is attempting to replicate that long-game strategy. Backed by RCP Singh, a former JD(U) insider, Kishor's Jan Suraj could tap into the vacuum that might emerge post-Nitish. Still, converting grassroots mobilisation into electoral success is a steep challenge.

In what could be his final election, Nitish Kumar once again stands at the center of Bihar's political equation — tested, underestimated, and still in control. Whether the voters of Bihar grant him one last hurrah or turn the page remains the question of 2025.

## Karnataka Crisis: A Defining Test for Mallikarjun Kharge's Leadership



As political rumblings in Karnataka intensify, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge finds himself at the center of an unexpected leadership test—one that may define his tenure and legacy within the party. Open discussions among Congress MLAs about a possible change of Chief Minister have escalated into a full-blown intra-party crisis, yet Kharge has remained noticeably noncommittal. His recent statement—that the matter is for the "party leadership" to decide and that "no one can say what is going on in the high command"—has only deepened the confusion.

What makes this all the more curious is that Kharge hails from Karnataka and should ideally be best positioned to take charge of the situation. His reluctance to assert authority has puzzled many Congress leaders. Some even wonder whether the BJP's repeated jibes about Kharge being "remote-controlled" by the Gandhis are beginning to stick. An opposition MP sarcastically compared the Congress leadership to a ghost: "unseen but heard and felt"—a comment that's starting to feel uncomfortably accurate.

Within the Congress ranks, there's genuine disappointment. Many had hoped Kharge's election as party president—over Shashi Tharoor in a rare internal contest—would revive the idea of an empowered, independent Congress chief. A senior Dalit leader noted, "From Indira Gandhi's time to now, we've always treated the Congress president as the final authority. Kharge's apparent detachment is hard to understand."

Kharge's age (now 82) and possible disinterest in day-to-day political maneuvering are likely factors. Party insiders acknowledge that it's usually Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who handle campaign trail responsibilities and strategic decisions. Despite being president, Kharge is perceived more as a ceremonial head than a driving force. In fact, Rahul Gandhi has gradually assumed a de facto leadership role—

making key calls on policy, ticket distribution, and organizational reshuffles. Even Priyanka's undefined role as AICC general secretary is said to stem from this top-heavy decision-making style.

The Congress's broader organizational efforts have also revealed this imbalance. Declaring 2025 as the "year of the organisation," Rahul Gandhi initiated a bottom-up revamp of district committees. However, in practice, it's been a top-down effort, with external teams being parachuted into states—a move that's alienated local leaders and grassroots workers.

Kharge's current predicament has historical echoes. After the Congress was defeated in 1996, then-party president P.V. Narasimha Rao was pressured to step down when legal troubles loomed. He eventually resigned, only to be abandoned by his party during his court battles. Though later acquitted, the isolation he faced left a lasting impression on Congress history. Some now fear that Kharge could suffer a similar fate—being gradually sidelined, especially if Karnataka becomes a flashpoint that weakens his credibility.

Complicating matters is the internal dynamic around the "one person, one post" principle. After Kharge was elected Congress president, he defied party convention by retaining his Rajya Sabha role as Leader of the Opposition. While that decision was constitutionally justified, it raised questions about whether Kharge truly intended to fully embrace the presidency's responsibilities.

Now, as Karnataka teeters and factions jostle for influence, Kharge has a decision to make: step up and lead decisively, or risk being remembered as a placeholder president at a time when the party needed a commanding voice. Either way, the crisis could be his moment of reckoning.



## Trump vs Musk vs Mamdani: A Three-Way Tug-of-War Reflecting America's Deeper Divide

The brewing conflict between Donald Trump and Elon Musk is not just a clash of egos or economic ideologies. To fully understand its deeper implications, one must look beyond these two headline-grabbing figures—and focus on an emerging political wildcard: Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist and immigrant-turned-politician who could soon become the next mayor of New York City.

Trump and Musk, both billionaire disruptors in their own right, find themselves at odds over the future of U.S. government spending. Trump's 940-page "One Big, Beautiful Bill" recently passed the Senate, aiming to slash expenditures on healthcare, food assistance, and—crucially—subsidies for electric vehicles and space programs. This hits Elon Musk's ventures directly, with Tesla and SpaceX heavily benefiting from federal support. Musk didn't hold back, calling the bill a betrayal and even hinting at forming his own political party, the "America Party," if things spiral further.

Trump, meanwhile, has ramped up his attacks on electric vehicles and space projects, suggesting that scrapping them would save the country "a fortune." The war of words escalated further when Trump invoked the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE—a fictional-sounding agency Musk had once headed—saying it may have to "eat Elon." It's political theater, yes, but it reflects real tensions about America's fiscal priorities.

Enter Zohran Mamdani, a rising star in the Democratic Party and a democratic socialist from Queens, New York. The son of filmmaker Mira Nair, Mamdani brings immigrant grit and progressive fire to a political scene long

dominated by old-guard power players. Unlike Trump or Musk, Mamdani focuses not on billion-dollar space ambitions or tax cuts, but on the struggles of everyday Americans. His platform targets economic inequality, skyrocketing living costs, and stagnant wages—issues that resonate far more deeply with average voters than any rocket launch.

Trump has branded Mamdani a "communist lunatic," but Mamdani insists he is fighting for the same working-class Americans Trump once claimed to champion. His appeal lies in channeling the frustrations of voters left behind by both corporate-driven capitalism and anti-immigrant populism. In essence, Mamdani challenges the assumption that America must choose between Trump-style nationalism and Musk's techno-utopianism.

This three-way political rift reflects broader tensions in American society. On one hand, there are the ultra-rich who despise taxes and exploit loopholes to accumulate generational wealth. Wealthy Americans often pay capital gains taxes only when selling assets, and federal estate taxes apply to a tiny fraction of inheritances. Meanwhile, millions of low- and middle-income Americans live paycheck to paycheck, facing rising costs with little institutional support.

Trump capitalizes on cultural fears, especially among less-educated white voters who feel displaced by more competent immigrants and alienated by rapid social change. Musk blames an inefficient government for stifling innovation. Mamdani, however, offers a third path—demanding that America's prosperity benefit all, not just the elite.



# India Will Soon Be World's Third Largest Economy: PM Modi In Ghana

TPN Correspondent | Accra

In a landmark address to Ghana’s Parliament on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is undergoing a profound transformation and is poised to become the world’s third-largest economy, built on the foundations of political stability and good governance.

“Today, India is the fastest-growing emerging economy, contributing nearly 16% to global growth,” PM Modi told Ghana’s lawmakers. He highlighted that India’s demographic strength is paying dividends, noting that the country now hosts the world’s third-largest start-up ecosystem and is a global hub for innovation and technology.

PM Modi also emphasized India’s rising stature in science, space, and industry. “India landed on the Moon. Today, an Indian is in orbit as part of our human spaceflight mission. Indian women are leading in science, aviation, space, and sports,” he said, adding that India is globally recognised as the ‘Pharmacy of the World.’

Looking ahead, PM Modi reaffirmed India’s national resolve to become a developed country by 2047, marking a century of independence. He extended India’s solidarity with Ghana, saying, “As Ghana continues its journey of



progress, India shall walk with you—shoulder to shoulder.”

PM Modi underscored India’s growing engagement with Africa. Since hosting the 2015 India-Africa Summit and the 2017 African Development Bank annual meeting, India has expanded its diplomatic presence to 46 African nations. Over 200 infrastructure and development projects are underway across the continent.

In Ghana, India recently inaugurated

the Tema–Mpakadan rail line, the region’s largest infrastructure project. PM Modi also welcomed Ghana’s leadership in promoting economic integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area and noted its potential as a regional IT and innovation hub.

Earlier in the day, President John Mahama conferred Ghana’s highest civilian honour—the Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana—on PM Modi, who called it a “matter of immense pride.”

## India to Monitor US Proposal for 500% Tariff on Russian Oil Imports: Jaishankar



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on Thursday responded to a US Senate bill proposing a 500 percent tariff on oil imports from countries trading with Russia, stating that India will closely watch developments that may affect its energy security.

Addressing the issue at a press confer-

ence, Jaishankar said, “Regarding Senator Lindsey Graham’s bill, any development happening in the US Congress is of interest to us if it impacts our interest. We have been in touch with Senator Graham. Our embassy and ambassador have communicated India’s concerns and interests regarding energy security to him. We will have to cross that bridge when we come to it, if we come to it.” The bill, introduced by Senator Lindsey

Graham and backed by over 80 co-sponsors in the Senate, seeks to impose a 500 percent tariff on products imported from any country that continues trading oil, gas, uranium, or other products with Russia. Graham described the bill as a strong measure against countries like India and China, which account for around 70 percent of Russia’s oil imports, saying it aims to cut off funding to Russia’s war efforts.

Despite Western sanctions following the Ukraine conflict, India has maintained its long-standing relationship with Russia by continuing oil imports, citing its energy needs. While some Republican lawmakers are cautious, the bill reportedly has the backing of former US President Donald Trump, who encouraged Graham to advance the legislation. A possible exemption may be included for countries that are assisting Ukraine’s defense efforts.

For India, a major export partner of the US, the proposed tariffs could have significant economic and diplomatic repercussions. New Delhi remains watchful as discussions continue in Washington.



## Air India Cancels Delhi-Washington Flight Due to Extended Maintenance at Vienna Stopover

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Air India cancelled its New Delhi to Washington, DC flight on July 2, 2025, following a technical snag detected during a routine stopover in Vienna, leading to extended maintenance work, the airline confirmed. This disruption also resulted in the cancellation of the return flight AI104 from Washington, DC to Delhi via Vienna.

The flight AI103 made a planned fuel stop in Vienna where the aircraft underwent routine checks. During these checks, an extended maintenance issue was identified that required immediate repair before the next flight. As a result, the Vienna to Washington segment was cancelled, and passengers were disembarked in Vienna.

Passengers with valid Schengen visas or eligible for visa-free entry were provided hotel accommodation in Vienna until the next available flight. Those without entry permission were also being accommodated pending immigration and security clearance by Austrian authorities.

The cancellation affected the return flight AI104 as well, and Air India has rebooked impacted passengers on alternate flights or offered full refunds based on individual preferences.

An airline spokesperson said the cancellations were part of Air India’s “voluntary enhanced pre-flight safety checks” initiative, aimed at prioritising safety and minimising last-minute inconveniences. Despite efforts to maintain operational stability, challenges such as airspace closures, airport curfews in Europe and East Asia, and air traffic congestion occasionally cause delays or cancellations.

Air India operates over 1,100 daily flights and carries more than 150,000 passengers. The airline reiterated its commitment to safety and assured passengers of timely notifications to reduce inconvenience whenever possible.

The spokesperson expressed regret for the disruption and reaffirmed Air India’s dedication to safe and reliable air travel despite unpredictable operational challenges.

## "Had 30-45 Seconds To React": Pak PM's Aide On India's BrahMos Attack



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A senior Pakistani politician has revealed that during the recent India-Pakistan military standoff, the Pakistan Armed Forces had only 30 to 45 seconds to determine whether an incoming Indian BrahMos missile carried a nuclear warhead—a window that could have triggered a catastrophic response.

Rana Sanaullah, adviser to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, made the admission during an interview with a Pakistani news outlet. He referred to India’s missile strike on the Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi as part of ‘Operation Sindoor,’ a major Indian military campaign launched in response to a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam that killed 26 tourists.

“When India fired the BrahMos missile at the Nur Khan airbase, our military had mere seconds to evaluate whether it was conventional or nuclear. That level of uncertainty could have led to an irreversible decision,” Sanaullah said. He acknowledged the restraint shown by both sides but warned that a miscalculation could have escalated into global nuclear conflict.

India’s operation targeted key Pakistani military facilities, including airbases at Sargodha, Chaklala (Nur Khan), Bholari, Jacobabad, Sukkur, and Rahim Yar Khan. Satellite imagery revealed significant damage to runways, aircraft hangars, and support infrastructure. This was not the first Indian strike on Nur Khan; the base was previously hit during the 1971 war by the Indian Air Force’s 20 Squadron flying Hawker Hunters.

Indian forces also destroyed multiple terrorist camps linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, and Hizbul Mujahideen, killing over 100 militants.

Following retaliatory drone and missile launches by Pakistan, which were intercepted by Indian defenses, India responded with precision strikes deep inside Pakistani territory. After four tense days, both nations agreed to a ceasefire.

## AAP to Contest Bihar Assembly Elections Independently, Says Arvind Kejriwal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party’s (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal announced on Thursday that the party will contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections without forming any alliance with the Congress or the I.N.D.I.A. bloc allies. Speaking at a press conference in Ahmedabad, Kejriwal clarified that the I.N.D.I.A. coalition was formed solely for the Lok Sabha elections and does not extend to state polls like Bihar.

Kejriwal emphasized, “We are going to contest Bihar polls solo. There is no alliance with the Congress from our side.” He pointed out the contradiction in Congress’s approach, referencing the recent Visavadar bypoll where Congress contested against AAP candidates, effectively working to defeat them. “If there was truly an alliance with Congress, then why did they contest the Visavadar bypoll? They came to defeat us. BJP sent Congress to cut our votes,” he stated, responding to questions from reporters.

The AAP leader was in Gujarat on a



three-day visit to kickstart the party’s membership drive ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections in the state. This comes on the back of AAP’s significant victory in the Visavadar by-election, which Kejriwal hailed as a turning point for the party’s growth in Gujarat. At the membership drive launch in Ahmedabad, Kejriwal took a dig at Congress, accusing the party of being “hand-in-glove with the BJP” and claimed that AAP is emerg-

ing as a strong alternative to both the BJP and Congress. With this strategy, AAP aims to strengthen its foothold in Bihar and Gujarat, positioning itself as a key player in Indian politics outside the established alliances.

As the Bihar polls approach, AAP’s decision to contest independently signals a new political equation and a challenge to the traditional players in the state.



# Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill" Awaits Final Vote: How It Will Impact Indians

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump's major tax-and-spending legislation, dubbed the "One Big, Beautiful Bill," is heading for a final vote in the House of Representatives after a turbulent passage through Congress. The bill, central to Trump's second-term agenda, has sparked controversy within his own Republican Party and among Democrats, mainly due to concerns over soaring national debt and cuts to social welfare programs.

Originally passed by the House in May, the bill returned for approval after narrowly clearing the Senate by a single vote, following several key revisions.

One significant update in the new version of the bill brings notable relief to non-resident Indians (NRIs) and Indian professionals working in the US who regularly send money home. The proposed tax on remittances to foreign countries, including India, has been substantially reduced. The earlier House version imposed a 3.5% tax, which was then lowered to 1% in the Senate's revised draft released on June



27. This tax applies to all US residents who are not US citizens—such as Green Card holders, temporary visa holders (including H-1B and H-2A), and foreign students. Nearly 4.5 million Indians living in the US, including around 3.2 million persons of Indian origin, are expected to benefit from this reduced tax on international money transfers.

According to the updated draft, "There is hereby imposed on any remittance transfer a tax equal to 1 per cent of the amount of such transfer... The tax imposed by this

section with respect to any remittance transfer shall be paid by the sender."

Moreover, the bill exempts transfers made from accounts held by financial institutions or funded using US-issued debit or credit cards, providing further relief for legitimate financial transactions.

This adjustment is seen as a significant win for the Indian diaspora in America, easing the financial burden on those supporting families back home through remittance fees.

## Thailand's New Cabinet Sworn In, Suspended PM Paetongtarn Takes Oath as Culture Minister



TPN Correspondent | Bangkok

Thailand's new Cabinet members took their oaths of office on Thursday, July 3, 2025, including suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who is currently under an ethics investigation.

Paetongtarn was suspended as Prime Minister on Tuesday by the Constitutional Court, which unanimously agreed to review allegations of ethical breaches linked to her handling of a border dis-

pute with Cambodia. Despite the suspension, the King approved a Cabinet lineup naming her as the new Minister of Culture. Smiling but silent, Paetongtarn arrived at Government House in Bangkok for the swearing-in ceremony alongside other Cabinet members but declined to answer questions from reporters.

The ceremony was led by Acting Prime Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit, who took the oath along with the rest of the Cabinet

before King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida. Suriya is expected to transfer his acting Prime Minister responsibilities to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Phumtham Wechayachai, who was also sworn in Thursday. Phumtham had previously served as Defence Minister under Paetongtarn's government.

Paetongtarn's suspension stems from a controversial phone call leaked with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen, during which she sought to ease tensions following an armed border clash in May that resulted in the death of a Cambodian soldier. Critics accused her of overly conciliatory remarks that hurt Thailand's national image, sparking protests.

The Constitutional Court gave Paetongtarn 15 days to present evidence in her defense, but the timing of its final ruling remains uncertain. Meanwhile, Thailand moves forward with its new Cabinet amid political uncertainty, balancing governance and ongoing tensions at the border.

## Drive-By Shooting in Chicago's River North Kills 4, Injures 14

TPN Correspondent | CHICAGO

A drive-by shooting in Chicago's River North neighborhood left four people dead and 14 others injured late Wednesday night, police reported on Thursday, July 3, 2025. Among the injured, at least three are in critical condition.

The incident took place outside a restaurant and lounge that had recently hosted an album release party for a rapper. According to police, an unidentified individual opened fire into a crowd gathered outside the venue before fleeing the scene in a vehicle that sped away immediately.

The victims range in age from 21 to 32 and include 13 women and five men. The four fatalities include two men and two women. The injured were rushed to multiple hospitals across the city for treatment.

Chris King, spokesperson for Northwestern Medicine, confirmed that the hospital's emergency depart-



ment was actively evaluating several shooting victims but did not disclose the exact number of patients or their conditions.

Chicago police are currently investigating the shooting, but no arrests have been made yet. Authorities are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information about the incident to come forward to assist in the ongoing investigation.

This violent event adds to Chicago's

ongoing struggles with gun violence, prompting renewed calls for enhanced community safety measures. Law enforcement officials have vowed to increase patrols in the area and intensify efforts to prevent such tragic occurrences.

The police department continues to work diligently to identify suspects and ensure justice for the victims and their families while striving to improve public safety in the city.



## PM Modi Honoured with Ghana's 'Officer of the Order of the Star'

India-Ghana Sign Key Cooperation MoUs

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India-Ghana relations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Ghana's prestigious national honour, 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana,' by President John Dramani Mahama during Modi's official visit to the West African nation. The accolade recognises Modi's "distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership."

Expressing his gratitude on X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi said, "Honoured to be conferred with 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana.'" In his acceptance speech, he emphasised that the award was not just a personal achievement but a tribute to the 140 crore people of India. He dedicated the honour to India's youth, rich cultural heritage, and the enduring friendship between India and Ghana.

"This award deepens the friendship between our nations and places a new responsibility on me to further enhance our bilateral ties," Modi remarked, highlighting his confidence that his "historic" visit would inject fresh momentum into

The Ministry of External Affairs described the award as a symbol of the growing and close ties between the two democracies. During extensive talks, PM Modi and President Mahama agreed to elevate bilateral relations to a comprehensive partnership.

As part of the visit, India and Ghana signed four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors. These included a Cultural Exchange Programme to foster collaboration in art, music, dance, literature, and heritage, and an MoU between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Ghana Standards Authority to boost coordination in standardisation and certification.

Notably, this visit marks the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Ghana in three decades. PM Modi's trip is part of a broader five-nation tour, with upcoming visits to Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, and Namibia, where he will pay tribute to Namibian liberation icon Sam Nujoma.

## Three Indians Abducted in Mali Amid Al-Qaeda-Linked Terror Attacks

India Seeks Their Safe Release



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has expressed deep concern following the abduction of three Indian nationals in Mali amid a surge of terror attacks in the West African nation. The three Indians, employed at the Diamond Cement Factory in Kayes, were forcibly taken hostage during a coordinated armed assault on July 1, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Though no group has yet claimed responsibility for the kidnappings, the Al-Qaeda-linked Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) has claimed credit for coordinated attacks across Mali on the same day. The situation has heightened fears about escalating violence in the region.

In response, the Indian government has urgently called upon the Malian authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure the safe and speedy release of the abducted citizens. The Indian embassy in Bamako is maintaining close and continuous communication with local law

enforcement, government officials, and the management of the Diamond Cement Factory.

The MEA confirmed that senior officials are actively monitoring developments and engaging at multiple levels to facilitate the hostages' early and safe return. The families of the abducted individuals are also being kept informed and supported during this distressing time.

India strongly condemned the attack, describing it as a "deplorable act of violence," and reiterated its commitment to securing the well-being of its nationals abroad.

Meanwhile, the MEA has issued a cautionary advisory for all Indians residing in Mali, urging them to remain vigilant, exercise utmost care, and stay in regular contact with the Indian embassy in Bamako for updates and assistance. India remains determined to provide all possible support and to ensure the safe return of the abducted individuals at the earliest opportunity.





India's services sector marked a robust expansion in June, reaching a ten-month high driven by a sharp increase in new business, both domestic and international, according to the latest HSBC India Services PMI report released on July 3, 2025.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index climbed from 58.8 in May to 60.4 in June, signaling strong growth in the sector. In PMI terms, a reading above 50 indicates expansion, while below 50 denotes contraction.

The surge was largely fueled by a significant rise in new orders, with domestic demand leading the way and export orders also growing, albeit at a slower pace. According to Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, "New orders expanded at the quickest rate since August 2024." The increased overseas demand mainly came from key markets in Asia, the Middle East, and the U.S.

The ongoing sector growth positively impacted employment, with job creation continuing for the 37th consecutive month in June. Although the rate of employment growth slowed compared to May's record, it

still outpaced the long-term average, highlighting sustained hiring momentum.

On the pricing front, cost pressures were most pronounced in consumer services, while output price increases were highest in the finance and insurance sectors. However, input cost rises remained below the increase in output charges, supporting margin improvements for service providers.

Despite the strong performance, optimism among service companies about future growth softened slightly, with only 18% expecting output to increase over the next year— the lowest confidence level since mid-2022.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite PMI, which combines manufacturing and services data, rose from 59.3 in May to 61 in June, marking the fastest expansion in 14 months.

The survey reflects responses from about 400 service sector firms and offers a clear snapshot of ongoing growth and evolving business sentiment in India's key economic sector.

## Sugar Production Expected to Rise 15% to 35 Million Tonnes in 2025-26

India's sugar production is projected to increase by 15 percent to around 35 million tonnes in the 2025-26 sugar season, driven by a favourable monsoon that is expected to boost sugarcane acreage and yields, according to a Crisil Ratings report released on Friday.



The report highlights that above-average monsoon rains will particularly benefit key sugar-producing states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka, helping improve cane output. This growth in sugar production is likely to ease domestic supply shortages that have plagued the industry in recent years.

The increased supply could also support higher ethanol diversion, as sugar mills ramp up production of ethanol for blending with gasoline. Additionally, improved output may revive sugar exports if backed by appropriate government policies.

The report also noted the challenges faced by sugar mills in the previous fiscal year, including high sugarcane costs, subdued ethanol prices, and weak exports, which compressed operating profitability by 200 basis points to around 8.7–9 percent in FY25.

Looking ahead to fiscal 2026, the report anticipates a recovery in sugar mills' operating margins to about 9–9.5 percent, supported by improved supplies and potentially greater ethanol blending.

Overall, the forecasted rise in sugar production marks a positive turn for the industry, offering some relief to producers and contributing to a more stable sugar supply in the domestic market. The potential boost in ethanol diversion aligns with India's broader energy blending goals and may help reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

As the sugar sector continues to recover, policy support will remain critical to sustain growth in exports and improve the financial health of sugar mills amid fluctuating global and domestic market conditions.

## Stock Market Closes Lower Amid Profit Booking and Cautious Sentiment Ahead of Economic Data



Indian equity markets ended lower on Thursday, reflecting profit booking in key sectors and cautious investor sentiment ahead of important upcoming economic data. The Sensex declined by 170.22 points (0.20%) to close at 83,239.47, while the Nifty slipped 48.10 points (0.19%) to settle around 25,405.30 after a volatile trading session.

Market breadth remained almost balanced with 1,947 stocks advancing, 1,912 declining, and 154 unchanged. On the Nifty, Apollo Hospitals, Hero MotoCorp, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, ONGC, and Maruti Suzuki emerged as the top gainers. Conversely, SBI Life Insurance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, JSW Steel, and Bajaj Finserv were among the major laggards.

Sector-wise, metal, realty, and PSU banks declined by about 0.5% each. In contrast, pharma, media, oil & gas, auto, and consumer durables posted gains ranging from 0.3% to 1%.

Sundar Kewat, Technical and Derivatives Analyst at Ashika

Institutional Equity, noted that the Nifty opened flat at 25,505 and touched an intraday low of 25,384 before rallying to a high of 25,587. However, renewed selling pressure in the second half pushed the index lower, ending the day on a subdued note. He pointed out sectoral strength in media, consumer durables, healthcare, and automobiles, while PSU banks, metals, and realty stocks faced pressure.

Investor caution stemmed largely from uncertainty over the ongoing US-India trade negotiations. Market participants remained on the sidelines, awaiting clarity on the trade deal and the approaching US tariff deadline set by President Donald Trump. Despite hopes for a breakthrough, this uncertainty weighed on overall market sentiment.

In the previous session on Wednesday, the Sensex had slipped over 300 points, and the Nifty dropped nearly 100 points, wiping out earlier gains fueled by positive macroeconomic and global trade cues.



## India Set to Become Third-Largest Economy by 2030, Says Hardeep Puri

India has surged from being the eleventh to the fourth-largest economy globally and is on track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced at the 77th Foundation Day of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in New Delhi.

Puri highlighted India's impressive GDP growth, which more than doubled from \$2.1 trillion in 2014 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025. This remarkable progress is attributed to the nation's resilience amid global challenges, driven by bold policy reforms, extensive social welfare initiatives, and strong financial management.

The minister underscored the success of flagship programs, such as lifting over 27 crore citizens out of multidimensional poverty, sanctioning nearly four crore homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and providing piped water to 15.4 crore rural households through the Jal Jeevan Mission. Additionally, Ayushman Bharat has extended health coverage to more than 70 crore individuals, offering a Rs 5

lakh insurance benefit.

India's ability to attract foreign investment also saw significant growth, with \$748 billion in foreign direct investment between 2014 and 2025—a 143% increase from the previous decade. The number of source countries investing in India expanded from 89 to 112.

Key policy reforms such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Production-Linked Incentive schemes, GST implementation, and the elimination of thousands of compliances have strengthened India's business environment. The tax administration has evolved, with annual income tax returns increasing from 3.6 crore in FY 2013–14 to 8.5 crore in FY 2024–25, 95% processed within 30 days.

Looking forward, Puri urged chartered accountants to adopt artificial intelligence and advanced analytics to enhance strategic decision-making and maintain competitiveness in the evolving financial landscape, stressing that embracing AI is now essential for innovation and growth.

## 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, reflecting 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.





## Stunning Aerial Video Shows Infosys Mysore Campus Resembling a Mini-City

An aerial video of the Infosys campus in Mysore is going viral, giving viewers a breathtaking look at what is arguably one of the most iconic corporate training centres in the world. Spanning 350 acres, the campus looks more like a self-sufficient mini-city than a traditional tech training facility.

The footage, originally shared on Instagram, opens with an impressive top-down view of buildings cleverly arranged so that their rooftops spell out “INFOSYS.” The drone then glides over the striking dome-shaped Infosys Multiplex, a popular landmark on the campus known for screening movies every weekend. Following this, it showcases the Infosys Global Education Centre (GEC), a massive building that serves as the heart of the training operations.

The campus features well-planned roads, traffic systems, lush green zones, and residential blocks—making it feel like a self-contained urban environment. Viewers were quick to react with admiration and nostalgia.



One user commented, “It’s heaven on Earth,” while another shared, “I got trained here. Infosys taught me coding. It was the seed of my career.”

With a capacity to train 10,000 students at once, Infosys Mysore is one of the world’s largest corporate education centres. The drone footage has already racked up over four million views, sparking memories among for-

mer trainees and drawing praise for its scale, architecture, and thoughtful planning.

One nostalgic viewer wrote, “Thank you for this drone shot. I just went back in my memory by 15 years.” For many, the video is more than just a visual treat—it’s a trip down memory lane and a testament to Infosys’ legacy in India’s IT sector.

## Man Pays Rs 1.5 Lakh to Live in Cupboard-Sized Flat in London’s Elite Kensington Area

In the heart of London’s upscale Kensington district, surrounded by millionaires and royalty, 47-year-old Cesar Mendez lives in a flat that’s barely larger than a cupboard. Despite its size — just 11.7 square metres — the space comes with a hefty monthly rent of £1,400 (about Rs 1.5 lakh).

Originally designed as a watchman’s cupboard, the flat has been converted into a compact living space in one of the city’s most prestigious neighborhoods. Its prime location, just minutes from Hyde Park and the Natural History Museum, is a major draw — contributing to its current market value of approximately £230,000 (Rs 2.7 crore).

Cesar, who hails from Tenerife, says the flat’s location makes up for its lack of space. He often spots members of the British royal family, including King Charles, Queen Camilla, and Prince William. “Hyde Park is five minutes away, and seeing royalty passing by, I feel like I’ve chosen the right place,” he shared.

However, living in such tight quarters does come with challenges. There’s no washing machine, limited storage, and barely enough space to move around. Cesar jokes that dating would be impossible due to the constant need for cleanliness and the absence of personal space. “If I had a girlfriend, we’d be fighting all the time,”



he quipped.

The flat is currently listed for sale, and the owner, Nick Minns — whose mother once lived there — revealed he too stayed in the flat for six months and even hosted a party. Despite its impending sale, Cesar hopes to remain in what he calls his perfect home. “It’s small, but the location and atmosphere make it special,” he said, embracing the charm of micro-living in one of London’s most desirable areas.

## Indore’s Viral Gold Mansion: A 24-Carat Dream Home That Blends Luxury with Humility

In Indore, Madhya Pradesh, a mansion covered in real gold has captured the internet’s imagination. Owned by government contractor Anoop Agarwal, this 24-carat gold-plated home has gone viral after influencer Priyam Saraswat shared a video tour — now viewed over 10 million times.

What truly sets this opulent mansion apart isn’t just the gold-plated switches or palatial design — it’s the grounded and welcoming spirit of the family living there. “We started with just one petrol pump for a family of 25,” Agarwal reveals in the video. “I realised survival would be tough, so I became a government contractor. Today, we’re constructing a 300-room hotel.”

His journey from modest beginnings to living in a golden palace is inspiring. But instead of flaunting his wealth, Agarwal gives a heartfelt tour, filled with warmth and hospitality.

The centerpiece of the home is a stunning spiral staircase, straight out of a Bollywood film. With gold curves and a grand chandelier overhead, it adds dramatic flair and elegance. The living room opens to a beautifully landscaped garden, complete with fountains and blooming flowers,



while the balcony provides a sweeping view of the estate.

The dining hall is built for celebration, able to host dozens at once. The home includes 10 lavish bedrooms, each with a unique theme. Gold-plated furniture, silk curtains, oversized mirrors, and detailed statues adorn the interiors. From classical art pieces to spiritual symbols, every corner reflects tradition and taste.

This Indore mansion isn’t just a showcase of wealth — it’s a symbol of dreams realized through hard work, all wrapped in golden glamour and family values.

## From Bangles to Bottles: Firozabad Emerges as Global Hub for Liquor Bottle Manufacturing



Firozabad, a city in Uttar Pradesh traditionally known for its colorful glass bangles, is now making global headlines for a different kind of glasswork — liquor bottles. The city, long synonymous with craftsmanship, has evolved into a major manufacturing hub for high-quality glass bottles used by premium foreign liquor brands around the world.

These bottles, often seen on shelves of international liquor stores, are crafted in Firozabad’s glass factories. The process involves melting glass at extremely high temperatures — up to 1,400°C — and moulding it into customized bottles designed to match the branding needs of global clients. Each order is tailored, with factories producing bottles in various shapes, sizes, and textures as per the specifications of popular brands.

Local businessman Krishna Mohan Gupta shared that his factory alone caters to numerous foreign

clients. Renowned liquor labels like Johnnie Walker, Captain Morgan, Elephant Gin, Tuborg, and multiple vodka brands rely on bottles made in Firozabad to package their products. The bottles are shipped in bulk to countries across Africa and neighboring regions, where they are filled and distributed.

Firozabad’s transformation from a bangle-centric economy to a crores-worth glass bottle industry is a significant shift. While it still produces bangles and decorative items, the city’s growing reputation as a supplier for the international liquor industry reflects its adaptability and skilled workforce.

What once was a small-town glass industry is now a key player in the global supply chain. With increasing demand, Firozabad is proving that Indian craftsmanship, when combined with industrial precision, can shape not only tradition but also global commerce.

## Squirting Pink Foot Fountain in NYC Divides Public: Art or Obscene?

A bold new art installation in New York City is sparking debate and turning heads for all the right—and wrong—reasons. Installed along the High Line near 30th Street, Foot Fountain (Pink) is a 10-foot-tall sculpture that looks like a giant pink leg and foot, complete with bright red-lipped mouths and protruding tongues.

Created by Argentine-born artist Mika Rottenberg, the piece was unveiled in April 2025. While many passersby see it as a whimsical, surreal take on traditional fountains, others are not amused. What makes the sculpture even more interactive—and controversial—is that it squirts water when someone pedals a nearby bike. A viral video posted by user Colling Ruggs shows exactly how pedestrians can make the foot “squirt,” sparking both curiosity and discomfort.

According to the artist’s press release, the sculpture is an “irreverent take on classical fountains” and is meant to challenge the norms of public art. But the reaction online has been mixed. Many social media users have slammed the installation, calling it “disturbing,” “gross,” and “inappropriate for public space.” One user commented, “This is what happens when you remove beauty and morality from art.”



However, not everyone is disgusted. Danny R., a visitor from San Francisco, admitted the sculpture made her uneasy but found it “really cool” overall. Angie R., a local mother, said her kids love running around it and see it as a fun sprinkler. Tourist Katie Sareno from Italy added, “It’s fun for kids, but adults will see the deeper art.”

Despite the polarized opinions, Foot Fountain (Pink) has undeniably become a conversation piece. It’s scheduled to remain on display until May 2026—leaving New Yorkers and tourists alike plenty of time to decide: bizarre brilliance or public eyesore?



# Women’s Euro 2025: Hegerberg Leads Norway to Comeback Win Over Hosts Switzerland

Norway’s Ada Hegerberg delivered a commanding performance to guide her team to a 2-1 comeback victory over host nation Switzerland in their Women’s Euro 2025 opener at St. Jakob-Park, Basel, on Wednesday, July 2.

The Swiss side dominated the first half and took a deserved lead in the 28th minute through Nadine Riesen, who capitalized on defensive chaos in the Norwegian box to score off the left post. Switzerland nearly doubled their lead when Géraldine Reuteler’s powerful shot rattled the crossbar.

Norway, however, regrouped after the break. Star striker Hegerberg equal-



ized in the 54th minute, heading home Vilde Bøe Risa’s corner kick. Just four minutes later, Norway seized the lead when Switzerland’s Julia Stierli inadvertently turned in a Caroline Graham Hansen cross while trying to block Hegerberg.

The Norwegian forward had a chance to extend the lead from the penalty spot in the 70th minute after a handball by Reuteler, but she missed, sending the ball wide of the left post.

Switzerland thought they had a penalty soon after, but a VAR review ruled the play offside, denying them the chance to draw level. Despite spirited support from the home crowd and a

late push, the Swiss couldn’t recover.

“I told the team at halftime — we have high standards, and we had to raise our game,” Norway coach Gemma Grainger said post-match. Swiss coach Pia Sundhage, who had earlier called managing Switzerland her “biggest challenge,” looked dejected after the defeat. The team was aiming for only its second win in European Championship history.

The match followed a visually striking opening ceremony celebrating Swiss traditions, diversity, and unity, marking a grand start to the tournament in the nation’s largest stadium, which will also host the final.

## Kidambi Srikanth Advances to Second Round at Canada Open with Thrilling Win Over Priyanshu Rajawat

India’s Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the men’s singles second round of the Canada Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Calgary after a hard-fought three-game victory against fellow Indian Priyanshu Rajawat on Wednesday. Srikanth, the 2021 World Championships silver medallist, bounced back from losing the first game to secure a 18-21, 21-19, 21-14 win in a thrilling 53-minute clash.

This intense match featured two academy teammates who had met twice before, with Rajawat winning both previous encounters, including straight-game victories at the German Open earlier this year and the 2023 Australian Open. The rivalry added extra spice to the contest, and both players showcased impressive skill and determination.



The first game was tightly contested, with the scoreline closely matched from 6-6 to 17-17. Rajawat then surged ahead to take the opening game 21-18. However, Srikanth displayed great resilience in the second game. Though he fell behind early after the change of sides, he gradually fought back to level at 9-9 and then pulled ahead to 12-9. Both players battled neck and neck until 18-18, when Srikanth managed to break free and clinch the game 21-19, pushing the match into a deciding third game.

In the final game, Srikanth maintained a narrow lead for most of the time. Rajawat fought hard to equalize at 14-14, but the senior shuttler raised his intensity in the crucial moments, winning seven of the last eight points to seal the victory.

Meanwhile, in another men’s singles match, young Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty was defeated by Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian in straight games, 23-21, 21-12, in 44 minutes, ending his run in the tournament.

## Liverpool Forward Diogo Jota Dies in Tragic Car Crash in Spain

Liverpool and Portugal forward Diogo Jota tragically passed away in a car accident near Zamora, northwestern Spain, on July 3, 2025. The 28-year-old football star died alongside his brother Andre, 26, when their vehicle crashed and burst into flames shortly after midnight, according to the regional fire department of Castille-Leon.



role in Liverpool’s success, helping the club secure the Premier League title last season, as well as victories in the FA Cup and League Cup.

Before joining Liverpool, Jota made his mark at Wolverhampton Wanderers from 2017 to 2020, which paved the way for his high-profile move to Jurgen Klopp’s team. Internationally, Jota earned 49 caps for Portugal and was instrumental in winning the UEFA Nations League twice, including the latest triumph last month.

The Portuguese Football Federation also expressed grief over the news. Federation president Pedro Proença described Jota as “more than a fantastic player” and “an extraordinary person.” He praised Jota’s infectious joy and the respect he commanded among colleagues and opponents alike. “Portuguese soccer is completely devastated by this loss,” Proença said.

Jota’s sudden death leaves a profound void in the world of football, where he was admired for both his talent and character.

Liverpool Football Club expressed deep sorrow at the loss of their player. In an official statement, the club confirmed Jota’s passing and asked for privacy for the families, teammates, and staff as they mourn the devastating loss. “Liverpool FC will be making no further comment at this time and requests that the privacy of Diogo and Andre’s family, friends, teammates, and club staff is respected,” the club said.

Jota’s career was marked by impressive achievements. The Portuguese forward recently celebrated his wedding on June 28, just days before the fatal accident. He played a key

## Tyson Fury Teases Comeback for Oleksandr Usyk Trilogy in 2026

Former heavyweight world champion Tyson Fury has hinted at a possible return to the boxing ring, sparking excitement among fans and pundits alike. The British boxer, who had announced his retirement a month after his second defeat to Ukrainian Oleksandr Usyk last year, posted a cryptic message on social media on July 3, 2025, suggesting a trilogy fight scheduled for April 18, 2026, at Wembley Stadium.

Fury, 36, lost both encounters against Usyk in high-profile matches held in Saudi Arabia in 2024. The first bout in May ended with a narrow split decision in favor of Usyk, who became the first undisputed heavyweight champion holding all four major belts. Usyk then cemented his dominance with a unanimous decision win in their December rematch, retaining his heavyweight titles.



The announcement of Fury’s potential comeback comes as a surprise, considering his earlier decision to retire after the December loss. However, his social media post — “April 18 2026 Wembley Stadium. The trilogy!” — suggests he is gearing up for a third and decisive fight against Usyk, aiming to reclaim his heavyweight crown.

The trilogy fight would be one of the most anticipated events in boxing, bringing closure to one of the sport’s most intense rivalries in recent years. Fans are eagerly awaiting official confirmation and details surrounding the bout.

For now, Tyson Fury’s message has reignited hopes of an epic showdown, promising another chapter in the heavyweight saga between Fury and Usyk.

## 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.





## Nitesh Tiwari’s Epic ‘Ramayana’ to Release in Two Parts for Diwali 2026 & 2027

Indian mythology is set to return to the big screen with grandeur, as director Nitesh Tiwari’s much-anticipated two-part film *Ramayana* is officially scheduled for release on Diwali 2026 and Diwali 2027. Backed by Namit Malhotra’s Prime Focus Studios, the film promises a visually spectacular and emotionally powerful retelling of the age-old epic.

The cast includes Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash in a menacing new avatar as Ravana. While the teaser doesn’t reveal much, it offers a glimpse of an intense battle for Dharma, hinting at the divine struggle involving Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva before Ram’s entry to restore balance. The brief visuals also tease side shots of Ranbir and a half-revealed look of Yash, leaving fans eager for more.

This version of *Ramayana* is not just a retelling — it’s being envisioned as a cinematic experience for the global audience. With Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer teaming up with India’s musical legend A.R. Rahman, the soundtrack is expected to be a masterpiece.



Adding to the spectacle, the film is being shot entirely for IMAX to provide an immersive visual journey.

Joining the ensemble cast are Sunny Deol as Lord Hanuman and Ravi Dubey as Lakshmana. The screenplay is penned by Shridhar Raghavan, and high-end VFX work will be handled by a world-class studio, signaling a major leap in Indian cinematic storytelling.

While *Ramayana* is a story deeply rooted in Indian culture, its cinematic reimagining will aim to engage a new generation with a fusion of tradition, cutting-edge visuals, and universal themes of good versus evil. With its stellar cast, top-tier music, and Diwali releases locked in, *Ramayana* is shaping up to be one of Indian cinema’s biggest spectacles.

## Pawan Kalyan Shines as a Fearless Outlaw in Intense ‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’ Trailer

The trailer for *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* Part 1: *Sword Vs Spirit*, starring Power Star Pawan Kalyan, is finally out — and it’s nothing short of electrifying. Clocking in at three minutes, the trailer unveils a grand historical epic that blends action, faith, and rebellion, with Pawan Kalyan at its fiery core.

Pawan plays Veera Mallu, a courageous outlaw-turned-warrior, determined to uphold Sanatana Dharma against the might of the Delhi Sultanate. Set against the backdrop of the Mughal Empire, the story revolves around a high-stakes battle for the legendary Kohinoor diamond, and an epic clash with the tyrant ruler Aurangzeb, played by a formidable Bobby Deol.

Pawan Kalyan delivers a fierce, intense performance — capturing the soul of a rebel who’s ready to sacrifice everything for dharma and justice. His powerful presence dominates the trailer, especially with dialogues like “Aandhi vacchesindi,” which resonate deeply with fans and reflect his political journey. Another standout line, “Andaru nenu ravalani devudini prarthistharu... kani meeru matram nenu rakodudani korukontunnaru,” mirrors his real-life persona.



Directed by Jyothi Krishna, the film is mounted on an epic scale with impressive visuals, stirring action, and rich period detail. Nidhi Aggarwal looks graceful as Panchami, while cinematographers Gnana Shekar V.S. and Manoj Paramahansa craft stunning frames that immerse viewers in the Mughal-era world. Production designer Thota Tharani’s opulent sets add grandeur and authenticity.

Elevating the emotional and dramatic stakes is MM Keeravaani’s stirring background score, complemented by sharp editing from Praveen KL.

Presented by AM Rathnam and produced by A Dayakar Rao under Mega Surya Production, *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* is set for a grand release on July 24, 2025 — promising a powerful cinematic experience led by a commanding Pawan Kalyan.

## Tamil Film ‘3BHK’ Explores the Emotional Journey of Building a Dream Home

How hard is it to build your dream home? The Tamil film *3BHK*, releasing on July 4, delves into this deeply emotional and relatable question. In a year where smaller Tamil films have captured hearts, *3BHK* hopes to continue the trend by telling a heartfelt story centered around family and aspirations.

The film stars Siddharth, Sarath Kumar, Devayani, and Meetha Raghunath as members of a family striving to own their own house. The trailer has received warm responses, with many praising its emotional depth and realistic portrayal of struggles faced by ordinary families.

Director Sri Ganesh shared that the



inspiration came from a poignant short story by Aravind Sachidanandan, which touched upon the emotional journey of a family dreaming of a home. “While the plot of *3BHK* differs, the emotions from that story stayed with me. I wanted to create a full narrative around that feeling,” he explained.

Produced by Arun Viswa, the film captures how buying a dream home can become a lifelong pursuit, often defined by financial sacrifices or enduring EMIs. Ganesh noted, “For some, owning a home shapes their entire life.”

Despite today’s trend of OTT viewing and spectacular visuals, Sri Ganesh

believes cinema’s core is emotional connection. “The big screen is not just for spectacle; it’s for emotional experiences. If *3BHK* leaves you emotionally moved, then we’ve succeeded.”

The film boasts a strong technical team, including cinematographers Dinesh Krishnan B and Jithin Stanislaus, art director Vinoth Rajkumar, and young music composer Amrit Ramnath. Sri Ganesh aims to tell “heartful stories” that connect deeply with audiences, moving beyond flashy thrills to meaningful drama.

With its heartfelt narrative and talented cast, *3BHK* promises a touching cinematic experience about dreams, family, and the meaning of home.

## War 2: Jr NTR and Hrithik Roshan to Skip Joint Promotions, Fans Express Disappointment

*War 2*, the high-octane action thriller starring Jr NTR and Hrithik Roshan, is one of the most eagerly awaited films set to release on August 14, 2025. However, recent reports reveal that the makers, Yash Raj Films, have decided that the two stars will not appear together for the film’s promotions.

This decision is part of a strategic marketing plan aimed at building suspense and curiosity around the film. While the studio may have its reasons, the news has left many fans disappointed. Audiences had been excited to see Jr NTR and Hrithik Roshan share screen time beyond the film — hoping for fun, engaging moments, viral videos, and dynamic interactions during joint promotional events.

Fans believed that a collaborative promotional campaign featuring both stars could have generated immense buzz and heightened anticipation for the movie. The chemistry between these two popular actors on promotional platforms was expected to create waves on social media and bring a unique charm to the marketing efforts.

By choosing to keep their promotions separate, the makers may be missing an opportunity to amplify the excitement around *War 2*. The combined star power of Jr NTR and Hrithik could have sparked greater fan en-



gagement and media attention ahead of the theatrical release.

As the film’s release date approaches, viewers are eager to see how this promotional strategy unfolds. Whether this choice will pay off in building suspense or dampen the hype remains to be seen. For now, fans can only wait patiently for August 14 to witness the much-anticipated action-packed collaboration on the big screen.

## OTT Release: Kamal Haasan’s Thug Life Now Streaming on Netflix

After nearly two decades, the much-anticipated collaboration between versatile actor Kamal Haasan and legendary filmmaker Mani Ratnam, *Thug Life*, has finally arrived on Netflix. Despite the immense star power and high expectations surrounding the film, it failed to impress critics and audiences alike, opening to largely negative reviews and struggling at the box office.

Now available for streaming on Netflix in five languages — Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi — *Thug Life* hopes to find a new audience and a second life on the OTT platform. Fans of Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam are eager to revisit the film and see if it resonates better outside the theatrical experience.

Interestingly, the film’s early OTT release came with its own controversy. Netflix reportedly imposed a penalty of Rs. 25 lakh on the producers for reducing the usual theatrical-to-OTT window from eight weeks to just four. Initially, the streaming rights deal was valued at Rs. 135 crore, but due to the shortened release gap, the final



deal was downsized by ₹110 crore. Produced by Raaj Kamal Films International, Madras Talkies, and Red Giant Movies, *Thug Life* also features a talented supporting cast including Abhirami, Joju George, and Ashok Selvan. The film’s music, composed by the iconic AR Rahman, is one of the highlights, receiving praise even as the film itself struggled to gain traction.

With *Thug Life* now streaming on Netflix, viewers have the chance to watch the film from the comfort of their homes and form their own opinions. Whether the film will fare better on OTT or remain a disappointment remains to be seen, but the digital release certainly opens the door for renewed discussion and interest.