



# Hyderabad Eyes Global Competition: CM Revanth

Hyderabad to compete with top world cities, not just Indian metros

CM inaugurates Malabar Gems & Jewellery unit at Maheswaram Industrial Park

Vision-2047 plan prepared for Telangana's 100-year growth

Govt assures investor-friendly environment and rapid clearances

TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy  
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy declared that Hyderabad is set to compete with global cities, not just domestic ones, as he launched a major industrial initiative at Maheswaram in Rangareddy district on Thursday. Speaking after inaugurating the Malabar Gems and Jewellery manufacturing unit at the newly built Maheswaram Industrial Park, CM Revanth Reddy said that "Vision-2047" has been drafted to guide the state's development for the next 100 years. "This is not just about Telangana or India—we're creating a future city that can stand alongside the greatest cities of the world. National and international consultants are helping us shape the state's development strategy," the CM said, emphasizing that his government guarantees safety and



profits for investors coming into Telangana. He stated that the Congress government is serious about attracting investments and is providing a transparent, safe, and proactive governance model. "We will offer all kinds of support to those setting up industries here. Our aim is to make Telangana the most attractive destination for global capital," Revanth added. Joining him at the event, In-

dustries Minister Sridhar Babu pointed out that Telangana's manufacturing sector recorded a growth of over 9% in 2023-24, outpacing the national average. He highlighted that the government recently rolled out the Green Industrial Policy and New MSME Policy 2025, further strengthening the industrial climate in the state. The Minister revealed that 4,200 applications were received for industrial setup and 98% were cleared within 15 days under the TG-iPASS system. "We're now moving to integrate AI for faster and more transparent approvals," Sridhar Babu added. With the launch of this new industrial park and manufacturing unit, the government is making clear its intention to transform Hyderabad into a global industrial and investment hub in the decades to come.

## AICC Chief Kharge Receives Grand Welcome in Hyderabad



AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge was accorded a grand welcome upon his arrival in Hyderabad. AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, TPCC President Mahesh Goud, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, several ministers, and senior Congress leaders gathered at the airport to greet him warmly. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm as party workers and leaders cheered the national president with slogans and flower garlands.

## Formula E Case: ACB Grills IAS Arvind Kumar Again



- Third round of questioning reveals KTR's WhatsApp orders
- ACB probing ₹45.71 crore payout in British pounds
- KTR named A1, Arvind Kumar A2 in ongoing investigation

case continues to intensify. On Thursday, senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar appeared before ACB officials for the third time as part of the ongoing inquiry. Arvind Kumar has been listed as Accused No. 2 (A2) in the case, while former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) is listed as Accused No. 1 (A1).

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar  
Hyderabad: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) investigation into the Formula E car racing expenditure

## Protest Intensifies at Sigachi Factory in Pashamailaram

- Family members cry for justice and demand bodies
- Father of missing worker injures himself in anguish



TPN | V. Krishna Kumar  
Sangareddy: Tensions flared on Thursday at the Sigachi Industries unit in Pashamailaram, Sangareddy district, as grieving families of missing workers continued their sit-in protest for the fourth consecutive day, demanding that authorities hand over the bodies of their loved ones who went missing in the recent industrial mishap. The factory premises, where a deadly explosion occurred earlier this week, remain sealed off, and relatives say no clear information has been provided to them regarding the fate of the missing workers. Though DNA samples have been collected, there is no progress on identifying or recovering the bodies, leaving families in despair. One tragic incident occurred today when Ramdas, the father of Justin, a young man who had joined work at the company just two days before the explosion, struck his own head with a stone in front of the police and factory gate, shouting, "Give me my son's body!" Eyewitnesses say Ramdas bled profusely, but

emergency medical responders were slow to react, and basic first aid was not immediately provided. The incident triggered further anger among the already agitated families gathered outside the factory. "We've been standing outside this factory for four days. You took DNA samples. But you still won't tell us anything. At least let us see where our sons died," cried one of the protesting relatives. Police have deployed heavy security around the factory to control the crowd, but their presence has done little to ease tensions. Families allege that authorities and factory management are stonewalling, refusing to allow them access or even communicate the current status of search operations inside the facility.

## Congress to Host Massive Social Justice Rally in Hyderabad Today

- Mallikarjun Kharge to address 40,000 party representatives at LB Stadium
- TPCC Chief lashes out at MLC Kavitha over BC, reservation claims

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad  
The Congress Party is gearing up to hold a massive "Social Justice Samara Bheri" rally at Lal Bahadur Stadium in Hyderabad today, with AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge set to participate as the chief guest. TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud announced that nearly 40,000 village, mandal, district presidents, as well as Congress ministers, MPs, MLAs and corporation chairpersons will be attending the commemorative program for village-level leadership. Speaking to the media, Mahesh Goud said, "The Congress Party is committed to real social justice. Our rally today will reflect our dedication to the welfare of SC, ST, and BC communities." He emphasized that Kharge will directly address all grassroots leaders and issue directions for future political action. Taking strong objection to a recent letter reportedly sent by MLC Kavitha to Mallikarjun Kharge, Goud ridiculed it, saying, "It's unclear whether she wrote the letter on behalf of BRS or her Bharat Jagruti organization. Either way, the content is absurd and shameful." He further questioned Kavitha's political credibility, stating, "What did Kavitha or her party do



for BCs in their 10 years of rule? Can she show a single clipping where she spoke for BCs when in power? And now, chanting BC slogans to escape a political vacuum is laughable. The Congress Party is the one that provided 42% reservation for BCs in local bodies, education, and health sectors—not the BRS." Mahesh Goud also remarked that Kavitha is currently under investigation in the liquor scam, while the Congress is issuing declarations for BC upliftment. He accused BRS of reducing local body reservations and reminded the public of how KCR compromised on Telangana's water share, alleging that BRS leaders once dined with Andhra leaders and struck secret deals, referring to Harish Rao's meeting at Roja's house.



# Telangana Eyes Trillion-Dollar Goal by 2035: Sridhar Babu

- Malabar unit to boost manufacturing vision
- New industrial policy with green, AI, and women incentives
- GSDP share of manufacturing at 19.5%, above national average

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana State Minister for Industries and IT, Sridhar Babu, said the state is on track to becoming a trillion-dollar economy by 2035, driven by its rapidly growing manufacturing sector. He was speaking at the inauguration of the Malabar Gems and Jewellery Manufacturing Unit in Maheshwaram on Thursday. Citing economic data, the Minister said Telangana's secondary sector grew at 9.6% in 2023–24, outperforming the national average of 8.3%. The Gross Value Added (GVA) in manufacturing rose from ₹1.34 lakh crore in 2022–23 to ₹1.46 lakh crore in 2023–24, marking 9% annual growth. The manufacturing share in GSDP stood at 19.5%, ahead of the national average of 17.7%. “These aren't just statistics. CM Revanth Reddy is scripting a success story for Telangana, turning it into a model for other states,” Sridhar Babu said, adding that the government is building a com-



plete industrial ecosystem even before setting up industries. He also revealed that Telangana's manufacturing exports have crossed ₹1.2 lakh crore in 2023–24. Strategic initiatives include the establishment of an electronics cluster on the outskirts of Hyderabad, a jewellery manufacturing zone in Maheshwaram, and an EV and Defense hub in Zaheerabad. The Minister highlighted the efficiency of the TG-iPASS single-window clear-

ance system, through which 4,200 units were granted approvals, with 98% completed within 15 days. He announced that the system will soon be AI-integrated to further improve speed and transparency. As part of its forward-looking industrial development plan, the government is working on a New Industrial Policy 2025, which will focus on Green incentives for clean manufacturing, Sector-specific industrial zones, Special incentives for women entrepreneurs and AI-based digital governance. “This government is pro-industry. We invite national and international investors to be part of Telangana's growth. CM Revanth Reddy leads a government that supports, not harasses businesses,” Sridhar Babu affirmed. He expressed confidence that the Malabar unit would serve as a catalyst for Telangana's emergence as a manufacturing powerhouse. The Minister also assured full cooperation in setting up furniture manufacturing units in the state and urged Malabar Group to partner with the government in skill development programs for Telangana's youth.

# Vehicle Sheds Must Be Kept Clean: GHMC Commissioner

**TPN | Srikanth Gurram**

**Hyderabad:** GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan has directed officials to maintain cleanliness at all vehicle repair and parking sheds under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. During an inspection at the Kavadiguda vehicle repair shed on Thursday, the Commissioner emphasized that pending vehicle repairs must be completed swiftly and that the premises should be kept clean and organized. He also visited the Khairatabad vehicle parking shed and instructed staff to ensure the area is maintained properly. Stressing the importance of readiness, Commissioner Karnan said mobile toilet vehicles must be repaired promptly and kept avail-



able for deployment whenever required. He noted that the availability and condition of these service vehicles are crucial for emergency and field sanitation operations, and asked departments to act accordingly. Additional Commissioner (Transport) Raghu Prasad, Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran, and Circle 18 Executive Engineer Vijay Kumar of Jubilee Hills accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

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## Formula E Case: ACB Grills IAS Arvind Kumar Again

According to ACB sources, Thursday's interrogation yielded critical information. Arvind Kumar reportedly reiterated that the release of funds to the Formula E Operations (FEO) company from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Water (HMDW) account was carried out solely on the oral and WhatsApp instructions of KTR, who served as the then Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister. Arvind Kumar stated that while he advised the minister to follow Business Rules and consult the Finance Department, KTR insisted that the funds be released immediately and assured that he would handle the procedural aspects. Acting on these instructions, Arvind Kumar said ₹45.71 crore was paid to the FEO company in British pounds via the Indi-

an Overseas Bank. Arvind Kumar also clarified that he had no personal or vested interest in the release of the funds and that he did not directly oversee the payment from the HMDW account. This marks a significant development in the ACB probe, as the agency continues to piece together the chain of administrative decisions surrounding the controversial expenditure. With financial irregularities at the center of the case, the ACB is now seeking further clarity on how funds were sanctioned and routed bypassing established procedures. Officials have asked Arvind Kumar to remain available for further questioning, indicating that the probe is far from over and may soon lead to more high-profile interrogations.

## Protest Intensifies at Sigachi Factory in Pashamailaram

Justin's story has especially shaken the local community—a young worker full of hope, dead within two days of joining his job, with his family still waiting outside the gates for a final glimpse of him. The lack of coordination between Sigachi Industries, police, and the health department is drawing sharp criticism from civil society

groups, with activists calling the official response “inhuman and sluggish.” As the standoff continues, there is growing demand for the government to intervene directly, expedite identification and recovery operations, and provide clear communication to the victims' families—something that has been glaringly absent so far.

## Congress to Host Massive Social Justice Rally in Hyderabad Today

He also took aim at the BJP, criticizing the party for its failure to appoint a BC as Telangana state president, despite repeatedly speaking of BC empowerment. “Only Congress can deliver true social justice. The Congress government gave ₹9,000 crore under Rythu Bharosa in just 9 days, and brought back Indiramma houses for the poor. The BRS, which cheated every section, has no right to seek votes. Let them protest however they want, but they should first explain what they did in the last 10 years.” On internal discipline, Mahesh Goud stated that the Congress

Disciplinary Committee is watching MLA Anirudh Reddy's statements, and that no indiscipline will be tolerated. He concluded with a cryptic remark, “I directly ask MLC Kavitha... has the property distribution deal broken down? The people of Telangana deserve to know.” The Congress rally today is seen as a key moment in the party's build-up to the local body polls and 2028 elections, especially as it attempts to consolidate its base among backward classes and rural leadership.

# Kautika Vitthal Thanks CM Revanth for Honouring Konijeti Rosaiah

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Konijeti Rosaiah, leading Vaishya leader and National Advisor of World Arya Vaishya Mahasabha, Kautika Vitthal, hailed Rosaiah as the “jewel of the Vaishya community” and praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for officially honoring his legacy. In a special interview with Mana Telangana Patrika on Thursday, Kautika Vitthal expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Telangana government's prompt steps in installing a statue of Konijeti Rosaiah in Hyderabad, near the Secretariat. He said this act reflected the government's recognition of Rosaiah's selfless public service and unmatched integrity. Kautika Vitthal noted that Rosaiah, known for his clean image and honest governance, served as a true role model not just for the Vaishya community but for the entire country. He recalled Rosaiah's long-standing political journey and described him as a towering states-



man who left a deep imprint in the administration of un-

divided Andhra Pradesh and later Tamil Nadu as Governor. He added that the naming of the Naturopathy College in Ameerpet as Konijeti Rosaiah Naturopathy College, located near the late leader's residence, fulfilled a promise made by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy during Rosaiah's death anniversary last year. He called it a proud moment for the entire Vaishya community and thanked the Chief Minister for his sensitivity and commitment to honoring great leaders. “The Vaishya community wholeheartedly thanks CM Revanth Reddy for keeping his word and celebrating Rosaiah's birth anniversary with the honor it deserves,” said Vitthal, emphasizing that such recognition strengthens community spirit and inspires future generations. The official celebration and installation of the statue mark a significant gesture by the Telangana government in preserving the legacy of a respected leader, and it has been warmly welcomed by leaders and citizens across the state.

## Govt Raises Age Limit for Anganwadi Promotions

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**

In a significant move that brings cheer to thousands of Anganwadi helpers across Telangana, the state government has raised the maximum age limit for their promotion to Anganwadi teachers. The limit, which was previously set at 45 years, has now been extended to 50 years, opening new doors for career advancement. Minister for Women and Child Welfare Seethakka approved the key file related to this decision on Thursday, marking a crucial reform aimed at supporting long-serving Anganwadi staff. Officials from the department confirmed that this change will ben-

efit 4,322 Anganwadi helpers currently working across various districts in the state. Until now, many helpers who crossed the 45-year threshold were denied the opportunity to move up the ranks, despite years of dedicated service. With the revised age limit, thousands who were previously ineligible will now be considered for promotion, significantly boosting morale and job satisfaction among grassroots workers. Sources revealed that official government orders will be issued soon, following the minister's approval. The decision is being seen as a proactive step towards recognizing and reward-



ing the contributions of Anganwadi helpers who have played a crucial role in child nutrition, health, and early education across rural Telangana. The move also aligns with the state government's broader objective of empowering women workers and enhancing the effectiveness of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme through experience-backed promotions.

## Three-Day Rain Alert in Telangana...

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre has issued a yellow alert for multiple districts in Telangana as moderate to heavy rains are expected to lash the state over the next three days, under the influence of a monsoon trough. The alert comes amid changing weather patterns and increasing cloud activity across several regions. On Thursday, the districts of Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, and Bhupalpally are expected to witness heavy rainfall. The meteorological department has urged residents in these areas to remain cautious and take necessary precautions.



Moving into Friday, the weather office has predicted light to moderate rain in several parts of the state, including the combined Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Rangareddy, and Hyderabad districts, as well as Nizamabad, Bhupalpally, Mulugu, and Sangareddy. The forecast also warns of thun-

derstorms and lightning, along with gusty winds reaching speeds of 30 to 40 kilometers per hour. Authorities have advised people, especially farmers and travelers, to stay updated with local weather bulletins and avoid venturing into open areas during lightning or strong wind conditions. Emergency teams have been kept on alert in sensitive zones. The rains are attributed to the active monsoon trough currently affecting the region, which is expected to keep weather conditions unstable for the next few days. The government may also consider response measures depending on the intensity and spread of the rainfall.



TPN Correspondent |  
Hyderabad

The internal factionalism within the Telangana Congress has taken a serious turn, especially in the united Warangal district, with Minister Konda Surekha and senior Congress leader Konda Murali meeting AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan in Hyderabad. The couple submitted a detailed report to the high command outlining their version of recent political developments and factional issues within the party in the district. The meeting gains importance as it occurred just a day before AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge's visit to Hyderabad. After the meeting, Minister Surekha addressed the media and clarified that she has not committed any wrong as a

# Warangal Congress Rift Widens??

*Konda Couple Meets AICC In-Charge Meenakshi Natarajan*

**Kona Murali demands resignation of migrant MLAs.. Defend daughter's right to political future in Parakala**



minister and is open to scrutiny. "Anyone can check my ministry's files. I am discharging my duties sincerely," she

asserted. Defending her daughter Sushmita's political aspirations, Surekha said, "She has every right to shape her political future. There is nothing wrong with that." Konda Murali, on the other hand, launched a sharp attack on certain leaders within the party, particularly those who migrated from BRS. He demanded the resignation of MLAs Kadiyam Srihari, Revuri Prakash Reddy, and MP Kadiyam Kavaya. "If they joined Congress from BRS, they should step down from their

posts and seek fresh public mandate," Murali stated. Responding to the internal unrest, Murali said, "I represent BCs and the common people. I'm not scared of any threats or cases. I want to see the Congress strengthen and Rahul Gandhi become the Prime Minister." His comments come amid growing tension with other Warangal Congress leaders. His earlier remarks targeting several MLAs and MPs from the district triggered widespread backlash and led to

multiple complaints to the TPCC Disciplinary Committee. Despite appearing before the committee and offering a clarification, Murali was issued a show-cause notice. Adding to the controversy, Murali accused Warangal in-charge Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy of neglecting his wife, Minister Surekha. He also pointed to repeated conflicts with Revuri Prakash Reddy's faction in Parakala, as the Konda family aims to field their daughter Sushmita from that constituency. As the Congress high command evaluates the situation, the Konda couple's meeting with Meenakshi Natarajan has become a focal point in the party's internal affairs in Telangana, especially ahead of national-level visits and upcoming political strategies.

## If KCR Speaks, I Will Speak: Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

*Says KTR and Harish Rao have no significance in current politics*

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

State Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has launched a sharp attack on BRS leader and former Chief Minister KCR, stating that he will only respond if KCR himself speaks, not to comments made by KTR or Harish Rao. Speaking to the media after a review meeting with top officials on road development, Komatireddy said the Congress government is prepared to debate every issue in the Assembly — but only if KCR attends in person. "We won't respond to Harish Rao or KTR. They are just former ministers and current MLAs, not floor leaders. If KCR speaks, I will speak. Otherwise, there's no value in debating with them," said Komatireddy, making it clear that the Congress party does not consider them politically significant anymore. He emphasized that the Congress party was the one that granted Telangana and reminded that many senior Congress leaders had played a pivotal role in the statehood movement. Komatireddy urged KCR, now the leader of the opposition, to come to the Assembly and confront the government directly over the issues being raised by the BRS. "The opposition has the right to question, and we are ready to answer — but KCR must come forward himself, not send proxies," he asserted. His remarks underline the Congress government's stance of not engaging with second-tier BRS leaders while calling for a direct political face-off with KCR on the floor of the Assembly.



## Kusumanchi to See Khammam-Level Development: Ponguleti

**Revenue Minister vows full implementation of poll promises ₹1,500 crore spent in Paleru in 18 months**

TPN Correspondent | Khammam

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy asserted that the government is committed to comprehensive development in Kusumanchi, stating that the headquarters will be developed on par with Khammam city. Addressing a public meeting in Kusumanchi, the Minister highlighted the progress achieved under the Indiramma government and reassured the people that all election promises will be fulfilled. "We are executing numerous development and welfare programs across the Paleru constituency, with an investment of ₹1,500 crore in just 18 months," he stated. The Minister said that since the formation of the new government, they have prioritized both infrastructure and social security

schemes to uplift all sections of society. He also assured that white ration cards, which were not issued in the last ten years, would soon be distributed to eligible families. Referring to the previous government, Ponguleti said, "While the BRS government waived off ₹17,000 crore in loans over ten years, the Indiramma government has already waived ₹21,000 crore, setting a new record." Highlighting the government's support for farmers, he said ₹9,000 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme has been credited to farmers' accounts within nine days of the government's formation. Ponguleti urged people to continue supporting the Indiramma government, stating that their blessings are essential for sustained progress. "Your trust empowers us



to serve better. Let that trust grow stronger in the coming days," he concluded. The Minister's remarks come at a time when the state government is actively reinforcing its commitment to welfare-driven governance and rapid rural development.

## Maganti Vajranath Pays Tribute to Gopinath

*Vajranath says BRS family will stand united, regardless of ticket decision*

TPN Correspondent |  
Hyderabad

BRS leader and elder brother of late MLA Maganti Gopinath, Maganti Vajranath, paid heartfelt tribute to his brother's portrait alongside their mother during a condolence meeting held at their office on Road No. 66, Jubilee Hills, on Thursday. The program was attended by several TRS/BRS division leaders and supporters. Speaking at a media briefing following the tribute, Vajranath recalled his political journey with his younger brother since 1983. He noted that they both began their careers with the TDP under the leadership of

N.T. Rama Rao and highlighted Gopinath's electoral victories — first as a TDP MLA from Jubilee Hills in 2014, and later as a three-time MLA from the TRS (now BRS) after joining the party in 2016. He emphasized that he had been an active part of every election campaign in the constituency alongside his brother and had built strong ties with party workers across all divisions. Addressing concerns among grassroots activists after Gopinath's passing, Vajranath said, "No activist should fear. I will stand by all of you, just like my brother did." He added that regardless of



whether the BRS high command allots the ticket to him or to Gopinath's wife in the

upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election, the family would remain united. "We will work together, and we will win again," he asserted. The late MLA's mother also made an emotional appeal, saying she fully supports her elder son Vajranath just as she stood by Gopinath and called upon the people of the constituency to extend their support in the by-poll. Several TRS division leaders and women activists, including Basava Raju, Chinna Adilakshmi Ratnakumari, Kausar Ammaji, and Yusuf, were present at the event, showing solidarity with the family.

## Bandi Sanjay Visits MP Raghunandan Rao After Surgery

*Inquires about health; BJP leaders extend support*

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay Kumar visited Medak MP Raghunandan Rao at his residence in Hyderabad on Thursday. The BJP leader, who recently underwent leg surgery, is currently recuperating at home. Bandi Sanjay personally met Raghunandan Rao and inquired about his health, wishing him a speedy recovery. The visit comes as part of a series of support gestures by senior BJP leaders following the MP's medical procedure. Earlier this week, Telangana BJP President G. Ramachandra Rao and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy also paid a visit to Raghunandan Rao in the hospital. Patancheru MLA Mahipal Reddy had similarly visited him four days ago to check on his recovery. BJP sources said the visits reflect the solidarity and camaraderie within the party leadership as they extend support to Raghunandan Rao during his recovery.



## TPCC Chief Warns Jadcherla MLA Over Covert Remarks

*Mahesh Kumar Goud says no place for baseless claims or indiscipline*

TPN Correspondent |  
Telangana

TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud has come down strongly on Jadcherla MLA J Anirudh Reddy for alleging that covert operatives linked to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu were functioning in Telangana. Speaking to reporters at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Goud said the remarks were baseless and that party discipline would be strictly enforced. "We are seriously looking into Anirudh Reddy's comments. No one should cross the party's disciplinary line," Goud said, asserting that the

Congress would not tolerate such unverified claims. "Covert elements exist in every political party. If one makes such allegations, they must be backed by concrete evidence," he added. Goud clarified that discipline was paramount and the party's integrity must be maintained at all levels, regardless of position or influence. Responding to the growing discontent among various community groups within the Congress over lack of cabinet representation, the TPCC chief reiterated the party's commitment to social justice. He said that steps were already taken to address



concerns, such as the Deputy Speaker post being given to an ST leader, and that discussions were ongoing with BC leader and government whip Aadi Srinivas. Goud assured that the leadership



was carefully reviewing the profiles of leaders who didn't receive cabinet berths to ensure fair representation. The party, he emphasized, would move forward with unity and discipline as its foundation.



# Centre to scientifically close 143 mines across India

Singareni and Coal India sign MoU with Heartfulness for greenery projects  
Union Minister Kishan Reddy chairs key meeting at Kanha Shantivanam

**TPN | Srikanth Gurram**  
**Hyderabad:** A high-level meeting of the Consultative Committee on Coal and Mines was held on Thursday (July 3) at Kanha Shantivanam, located on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The meeting, chaired by Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy, focused on issues of mine closure, environmental sustainability, and mineral exploration. Senior officials from the Coal and Mines Department, committee members, and MPs engaged in a comprehensive discussion on the current chal-

lenges and proposed strategies for post-mining land use. Officials presented efforts made so far, while committee members suggested further steps to be taken to improve the process. Kishan Reddy emphasized that the central government is committed to responsible mine closure, worker welfare, and environmental protection. “Since Independence, mining has been carried out without any focus on what comes after. We are now scientifically closing exhausted mines and reviving those lands for public use,” he said.

He added that a total of 143 coal mines across India, where coal extraction is completed, are being targeted for scientific closure. “Work has already begun in 10 mines and 7 to 8 mines have been closed this year alone. We will proceed to close the remaining mines step-by-step with a focus on ecological restoration,” he stated. Highlighting worker safety, the minister said that in addition to the existing insurance, the government is offering an additional ₹1 crore insurance cover to each coal worker. He also noted that measures are being

strengthened to reduce mining-related accidents. In a key development, Coal India and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) signed MoUs with the Heartfulness Institute at Kanha Shantivanam. Under this, Singareni will take up the construction of a green wall at Ramagundam, while Coal India has agreed to promote forest wealth development in coal mine-affected regions across the country. Kishan Reddy praised the Heartfulness organization’s work in afforestation and sustainable living at Shadnagar



and said the Ministry intends to replicate similar models in closed coal mine areas. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Coal Mines Satish Chandra Dubey,

Department Secretary V.L. Kantha Rao, Coal India Chairman PM Prasad, SCCL CMD Balaram Nayak, and senior officials from various public sector undertakings.

## Hyderabad Tops Salaries, Chennai Leads for Freshers

Survey reveals shifting job trends in Indian cities  
Southern cities outperform metros in pay satisfaction and opportunities

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

A recent ‘Paymap Survey’ by job portal Indeed has revealed a major shift in the salary landscape across Indian cities, placing Hyderabad at the top for experienced professionals and Chennai as the most favorable destination for freshers. This trend challenges the long-standing dominance of metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru in offering high-paying jobs. The survey compiled insights from 1,311 employers and 2,531 employees nationwide to assess post-pandemic salary trends, sector performance, and cost-of-living comparisons. According to the findings, freshers (0–2 years of experience) in Chennai earn an average of ₹30,100 per month, making it the top city for entry-level jobs. On the other hand, Hyderabad emerged as the most lucrative destination for mid and senior-level professionals (5–8 years of experience), with average monthly salaries reaching up to ₹69,700. Indeed India’s Head of Sales, Shashi Kumar, explained, “The



salary equation is changing rapidly. Our data shows that employees are increasingly drawn to cities offering a balance between salary and cost of living. Southern cities and emerging job hubs are leading this change.” However, the report also revealed dissatisfaction in expensive metros, with 96% of employees in Delhi, 95% in Mumbai, 94% in Pune, and 93% in Bengaluru stating that their salaries do not match their living expenses. In contrast, cities like Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata are seen as more financially

sustainable for working professionals. With the rising demand for digital and AI-related skills, especially in the IT sector, employees are increasingly prioritizing growth opportunities, quality of life, and financial flexibility when choosing cities for employment. The Paymap Survey clearly signals a new direction in India’s employment geography, with Southern cities emerging as ideal choices for both freshers and experienced professionals seeking better pay and balanced lifestyles.

## Residents Demand Reopening of Key Road in Borabanda

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

A formal complaint has been lodged with the Hydra Commissioner demanding the reopening of a crucial internal road from Navabharat Nagar to Madhapur, which has been blocked by a local builder. The complaint was submitted on Thursday by Kotha Venkatesh, a resident of Site H3, Borabanda, highlighting the hardships faced by residents due to the sudden road closure. The road in question, located in Survey No. 17/2 of Guttala Begumpet, has reportedly been in use for over 30 years. However, it has now been completely shut off by the builder, forcing commuters—especially pedestrians and two-wheeler users—to take a detour of over three kilometers to reach their destinations. In the complaint, Venkatesh stated that BJP leaders had twice approached the landowner and requested the reopening of the blocked route. Despite those efforts, the landowner has not taken any action, prompting local residents to seek intervention from the authorities. The closure has affected people across 26 bastis, including Ambedkar Nagar, HF Nagar, Devaiah Basti, Bhavani Shankar Nagar, Sewalal Basti, Peddamma Nagar, Sunil Nagar, Jyoti Nagar, Sairam Nagar, SPR Hills, and several Weaker Section colonies. Residents, many of whom rely on this road for daily commuting, have raised concerns about the lack of accessibility and urged the municipal authorities to act immediately. Locals are demanding that the municipal and civic bodies step in to resolve the issue at the earliest. The blocked road is seen as a vital lifeline for thousands of residents in the densely populated Borabanda and Madhapur stretch.



## Kwid Car Catches Fire Near Mailardevpally Petrol Pump

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

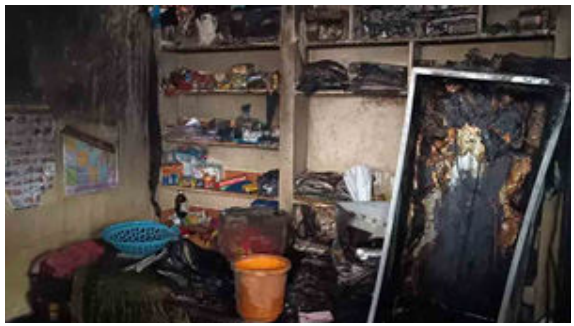
A shocking incident took place near Mailardevpally Police Station in Hyderabad on Thursday, where a Kwid car caught fire just moments after refueling at a Bharat petrol pump. The driver, identified as Sudarshan, was on his way from Shadnagar to Dilsukhnagar when the incident occurred. According to eyewitnesses, the fire broke out soon after the vehicle was filled with fuel, raising suspicion about the circumstances. Initial reports suggest that the petrol pump staff were allegedly involved, with claims emerging that they deliberately set the car on fire using petrol cylinders. The exact motive is yet to be verified. The Mailardevpally police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident, including reviewing CCTV footage and questioning the staff present at the time. The role of the petrol pump workers and the cause of the fire are under serious scrutiny.

## Fridge Blast Triggers Fire in Sanathnagar Home

No casualties as family was away during the incident

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

A major fire accident was narrowly averted in Sanathnagar on Thursday morning after a refrigerator exploded inside a house in Rajarajeshwari Nagar. Fortunately, no one was at home when the explosion occurred, preventing any loss of life. The incident took place in the residence of Sattyanarayana, a local resident, when the refrigerator suddenly exploded with a loud noise. The resulting fire rapidly spread throughout the house, engulfing all the furniture and personal belongings in flames. As the family members had gone out during the time of the incident, a major tragedy was avoided. Upon receiving an alert, the fire brigade and Hydra teams rushed to the spot and managed to control the fire before it could spread to neighboring houses. Local MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav visited the site soon after the incident, consoled the affected family, and as-



sured them of necessary support. Police officials have registered a case and initiated an investigation to determine the exact cause behind the refrigerator explosion. Preliminary reports suggest an electrical malfunction could be the reason, but a detailed inquiry is underway. Residents in the area have been urged to take precautions with electrical appliances, especially during peak summer months when overload-related accidents are more likely.

## 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.



## Pond Beautification Plans in Serilingampalli

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Serilingampalli Division Corporator Ragam Nagerud Yadav has announced that comprehensive steps will be taken to restore the former glory of the ponds in the area by ensuring cleanliness, sewage diversion, and beautification works. On Thursday, the Corporator conducted an inspection of Gopi Cheruvu and Chakali Cheruvu in the Serilingampalli Division, accompanied by officials from the Irrigation Department and local community leaders. During the visit, he reviewed the current condition of the water bodies and discussed restoration plans. He assured residents that pollution caused by sewage water will be eliminated, and special channels will be constructed to divert drainage away from the ponds. He added that steps will also be taken to supply clean water to these water bodies and beautify the surroundings to create a more pleasant and livable environment for nearby residents. Ragam Nagerud Yadav stated, “We are committed to protecting the ponds and ensuring they become assets to our neighborhoods. Once cleaned and beautified, these ponds will not only be sources of water conservation but also attractive public spaces.” Officials present at the inspection, including Irrigation Department DE Nalini and AE Shashank, said they would soon draft appropriate project plans in consultation with the Corporator and local residents. Residents from Gopi Nagar, Adarsh Nagar, Hanuman Nagar, and Bapu Nagar colonies, along with party workers and local leaders, participated in the program and welcomed the initiative. Many expressed hope that the long-neglected ponds will soon become rejuvenated community spaces.



# Raja Singh’s Resignation Isn’t the End — It’s the Beginning of a New Chapter in National Politics

**TPN | Srikanth Gurram Hyderabad:** When he speaks, the political atmosphere across the state shifts. He is the face of firebrand Hindutva politics in Telangana. Known for his unapologetically aggressive counters whenever Hindus are attacked verbally or otherwise, Raja Singh has become synonymous with controversy and mass appeal. Within the BJP, he has long been considered a fierce and uncompromising voice. Now, he seems poised to script a bold new chapter—this time, on the national stage. Many initially assumed his recent resignation from the BJP and his MLA post was a reaction born out of temporary dissatisfaction. But political observers now suggest otherwise. This wasn’t an emotional outburst—it was a calculated political move. With discussions reportedly

underway with Maharashtra’s Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction), independent Hindutva platforms, and various Hindu organizations, Raja Singh’s political game is now operating on a much larger canvas. He has dropped his MLA title. He has let go of his BJP membership. But he hasn’t dropped his ideological mission. In fact, his journey now seems more purposeful than ever. His current objective is clear—he aims to play a leadership role in organizing and unifying Hindutva forces across the country. Even when his steps appear to retreat, the political tremors echo far and wide within the Hindutva circles nationwide. His exit from BJP made headlines across Telangana, but insiders say it is Maharashtra that has caught Raja Singh’s eye. Dissatisfied with the BJP’s handling of state affairs and deeply critical of how he was



sidelined within the party, he made it clear that continuing with them was no longer a viable path. But what sets this apart from past disgruntlements is how str-

ategically he’s been moving since—laying the groundwork for something much bigger. Reports indicate Raja Singh has already initiated discussions with various Hindu organizations in Maharashtra, where his appeal is growing steadily. Most notably, he is rumored to be in active talks with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Though currently allied with the BJP, Shinde’s faction has shown signs of wanting to assert an independent Hindutva identity. Bringing Raja Singh into their fold would not only boost their headline image but also help them tap into a broader ideological voter base. Yet, sources suggest that Raja Singh’s ambitions go far beyond aligning with one party. There’s talk of forming a new, pan-India Hindutva political platform—one that brings together like-minded leaders and organizations under a unified

banner. All of this, while keeping channels with the BJP cautiously open, possibly leaving room for a return under more favorable terms in the future. The most critical takeaway from these developments is this: Raja Singh is no longer just a Telangana leader. His sights are now firmly set on becoming a national voice for the Hindutva cause. Whether through a revived Shiv Sena alliance or a new political experiment, the intent is evident—this is not merely a resignation, but the birth of a new phase in his political journey. No matter where he contests or which platform he represents, three things define Raja Singh—his clarity of speech, his aggressive political stance, and his fearless challenge to political norms. These are the traits that will likely ensure his emergence as a unique force in national politics.



## Government Boosts Kandi Cultivation in Manakondur MLA Kavvampally distributes free seeds to Ganneruvaram farmers

**TPN | Srikanth Gurram Karimnagar:** Manakondur MLA Dr. Kavvampally Satyanarayana said that the Telangana government is actively encouraging yam cultivation by supplying free seeds under the National Food Security Mission. He participated in a seed distribution program held at the Rythu Vedika in Ganneruvaram Mandal on Thursday, where kandi seeds were handed over to farmers. Speaking at the event, the MLA stated that a new kandi variety developed in Hyderabad would bring significant transformation in the pulses sector across India. “This variety will not only increase crop yield but also boost farmers’ income. Farmers must make full use of this opportunity,” he said. He explained that cultivating high-quality seeds would help reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides and advised farmers to focus on organic methods and crop rotation to maintain soil health and ensure long-term profits. District Agriculture Officer Bhagyalakshmi also emphasized the benefits of cultivating Kandi using newly introduced seed varieties. She said the experimental cultivation in Telangana, Odisha, and Karnataka has delivered excellent results, with higher yield and lower input costs. “Three crops a year can be grown with this method, and the market demand for Kandi is steadily rising,” she said. She also distributed cheques to the farmers during the program. Officials encouraged farmers to adopt profitable and sustainable agricultural practices, stating that this shift would improve their financial stability and reduce dependency on traditional high-investment crops. The event saw the participation of District Additional Director Sridhar, Mandal Agriculture Officer Kirmanai, Bejjanki Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Puli Krishna, District Co-operative Central Bank Director Aluvala Koti, Mandal Congress Party President Musku Upender Reddy, and other local leaders including Alluri Srinath Reddy, Matangi Anil, and Srikanth.

## Grand Nitya Kalyanam Performed at Bhadrachalam

**TPN Correspondent | Kothagudem** A divine atmosphere prevailed at the Sri Sita Ramachandraswamy Devasthanam in Bhadrachalam, where the temple priests performed the Nitya Kalyanam of the Lord in a grand and traditional manner. The celestial wedding drew large crowds of devotees, all eager to witness and receive the blessings of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita. As part of the elaborate rituals, the Vishwaksena Puja, Punya Aahvanam, and Deepa Dhooa Naivedya Puja were performed first. These rituals prepared the sanctum and surroundings for the auspicious Kalyanam ceremony. Following the poojas, the Lord’s ornaments were ceremonially displayed to the wedding couple participating

in the divine event. Temple priests explained the spiritual and symbolic significance of each ornament and the traditions associated with the wedding. The event culminated with the Lord performing the Mangalya Dharana on the divine consort’s hand, signifying the sacred union. The ceremony was celebrated with devotional fervor, music, and spiritual chants, enhancing the holy atmosphere. A large number of devotees from across the region participated in the event, offered prayers, and received the divine blessings of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita. The temple management ensured smooth arrangements for the devotees, making the spiritual experience memorable for all present.



## MLA Tellam Venkat Rao Inaugurates Free Cervical Health Camp



**TPN | Anvesh Reddy Bhadrachalam:** MLA Dr. Tellam Venkat Rao Garu inaugurated a free cervical disease check-up camp for women on Wednesday in Bhadrachalam constit-

uency. The camp, organized jointly by Sri Jeeyar Math Nandu Vikasa Tarangani and Lions Club Bhadrachalam, was held at Rajaveedhi, drawing participation from women across the

region. Dr. Tellam Venkat Rao, who attended the event as the chief guest, formally launched the camp by cutting the ribbon and interacted with the organizers and beneficiaries. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of preventive health care for women and said, “Women’s health development is the foundation of a progressive nation. Everyone in the constituency should make full use of these services for a healthier future.” The initiative aims to spread awareness and provide early screening facilities for cervical-related diseases, which remain a serious but preventable health concern among women. The MLA praised the efforts of

both Jeeyar Math and the Lions Club for their commitment to public welfare and health. In recognition of his support, the MLA was honored with a shawl by the organizers. The event witnessed the participation of mandal leaders, local activists, former public representatives, Youth Congress leaders, and members of the community, who expressed appreciation for the initiative benefiting rural women. The camp marks a significant step in enhancing health-care outreach for women in Bhadrachalam and reflects the collaborative efforts of public representatives and service organizations in addressing key health issues at the grassroots level.

## Govt School Gets ₹46 Lakh Upgrade in Gundlapochampally

**TPN Correspondent | Medchal** Significant infrastructure development was completed at the Gundlapochampally Government High School with a funding of ₹46 lakh, courtesy of Integrated Cleanroom Technologies Private Limited (Aiclean Company). The upgraded facilities, including new classrooms, a canteen, a stage shed, and a fresh coat of paint for the entire campus, were inaugurated on Thursday. Speaking at the event, Aiclean Chairman Katamaneni Gopi said the initiative was driven by a deep commitment to community development and education. He recalled his own government school background and emphasized the need to create a better learning environment for students in public institutions. “Our teachers are skilled, and students should make the most of these fa-

cilities to bring a good name to their families and the village,” he said. Gopi added that the contribution was made after understanding the specific requirements of the school, based on suggestions from BJP leader Amaram Mohan Reddy. He said that the company has been extending support to this school for over 20 years as part of its social responsibility. The inauguration ceremony saw participation from Aiclean MD Okjim, Vice Chairman Madhav Rao, Vice President Srikanth, and HR head Gopichand, along with BJP leaders Amaram Mohan Reddy, former councilors Dodla Mallikarjun, Amaram Saraswathi, and Municipal President Kaveri Sridhar. School teachers and students expressed gratitude for the much-needed upgrade.

## BRTU Calls for Success of Nationwide Strike on July 9

**TPN Correspondent | Medchal** Medchal District BRTU President Sambu Prabhakar has called upon workers and company owners to ensure the success of the nationwide general strike scheduled for July 9. Addressing labor representatives on Thursday, he emphasized that the strike is a united stand for workers’ rights across the country. As part of the preparations, Prabhakar personally handed over strike notices to workers and managements of several companies in the district. He appealed to all stakeholders to support the bandh and cooperate in ensuring complete closure of operations

in Medchal district on the day of the strike. The BRTU leader highlighted key demands driving the strike, including the payment of minimum wages, repeal of new labor codes, and strict implementation of existing labor laws to safeguard the rights of workers. “This strike is not just symbolic. It reflects the voice of the working class demanding fair treatment and legal protection,” he said. The event also saw participation from BRTU leaders Sirajuddin, Bhim Naidu, and others, who echoed Prabhakar’s sentiments and urged all unions and workers in the district to come together for the success of the strike.





# 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

## Indian Services Sector Growth Hits 10-Month High in June on Surge in New Business Orders

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.