



Published from : Vijayawada - Hyderabad - Delhi - Bengaluru  
Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 | 12 Pages

# CM Naidu Seeks GST Cut on Mango Pulp

Appeals to FM for relief to benefit farmers and processors

- Mango pulp GST exemption and juice tax cut proposed
- Over 1.5 lakh tonnes of mango pulp remains unsold
- Chittoor farmers and processing units face major crisis

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urging GST relief for mango pulp and fruit-based juices. In a formal appeal, Naidu called for a complete GST exemption on mango pulp and a reduction of GST from 12% to 5% on fruit juices to safeguard the interests of farmers and fruit processors, particularly in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district. Chittoor, India's largest mango-producing region, has over 80,000 hectares of mango cultivation and produces nearly 7.5 lakh metric tonnes annually. This region alone supports the livelihoods of more than 1.2 lakh farmers. It also houses 42 mango pulp processing units with a combined capacity of 4 lakh metric tonnes. Due to weak domestic demand and a sharp decline in exports, the sector is currently facing a severe crisis. Over 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of mango pulp remain unsold, severely impacting both farmers and processing industries. The All-India Food Processors Association and Chittoor District Fruit Processors Federation have jointly represented the issue to the Union Government. Supporting their appeal, Naidu stressed that mango pulp — which undergoes



only basic thermal processing without any preservatives — should be exempted from GST as it is a raw material used in products like juices, ice creams, and flavorings. He argued that exemption would ease the burden on processors and reduce input costs across related industries. Naidu further recommended that the GST rate on fruit-based juices be slashed to 5%, citing the need to promote healthier beverage consumption and stimulate demand for fruit pulp. This, in turn, would help stabilize prices and increase

procurement from farmers. He noted that similar difficulties are being experienced by mango growers and processors in other major producing states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. He appealed for urgent policy intervention at the national level to revive the sector and ensure the sustainability of mango cultivation and processing industries. The appeal has brought renewed focus on the agricultural value chain and the role of tax policy in supporting the rural economy during market downturns.



## ₹1,290 Cr Drinking Water Project Launched for Western Prakasam by Deputy CM

- ₹1,290 Cr Jal Jeevan project launched in west Prakasam by Dy CM Pawan Kalyan.
- To supply safe drinking water to 10 lakh people in 578 villages, 18 mandals.
- Project includes 5,000 km pipelines, 334 tanks, 1 WTP; to finish in 20 months.

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan laid the foundation stone for a major drinking water project under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Narasimhapuram of Markapuram constituency, Prakasam district. The ₹1,290 crore project is aimed at addressing the long-standing drinking water crisis in western Prakasam and will benefit over 10 lakh people across 578 villages in 18 mandals. Speaking at the event, Pawan Kalyan criticized the previous YSRCP government, alleging that it neglected drinking

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## Allu Family in Trouble Again

- ED questions Allu Aravind in ₹101.48 crore Ramakrishna Bank scam
- ED steps up investigation; Aravind questioned for over 7 hours
- Allegation of ₹101.48 crore loan default by Ramakrishna Electronics
- Aravind summoned again; role in company still unclear

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar

Special Desk:The Allu family has once again found itself in the spotlight, this time over financial irregularities in the Ramakrishna Electronics Bank scam. After recent headlines involving actor Allu Arjun in the Sandhya Theater stampede case, the focus has now shifted to veteran producer Allu Aravind, who was grilled by Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials for over seven hours.

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## Justice Srinivas Reddy Expresses Anger Over social media Trolls

- TDP activists accused of targeting AP High Court judge online
- Judge says It is a sorry state of affairs...
- Justice seeks transfer of all bail cases to a different bench

TPN | V.V.S Madhu Babu

Amaravati:Andhra Pradesh High Court Justice K. Srinivas Reddy has expressed strong disapproval over the ongoing online trolling campaign allegedly carried out by supporters of the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Speaking in open court, Justice Reddy stated, "I have been being trolled on social media for the last two days... It is a sorry state of affairs." The controversy stems from Justice Srinivas Reddy's recent decisions to grant bail in politically sensitive cases — including one involving an accused in the Singayya petition filed by former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, and another related to the Tirumala adulterated ghee scandal. Following these bail orders, the judge reportedly became the target of a smear campaign by TDP social media activists. The situation has raised serious concerns about the influence of political narratives on judicial independence.

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## Mega DSC Completed in 23 Days: Lokesh

- YCP tried to stall process with court cases, says Education Minister
- Lokesh says 92.9% of candidates appeared for exams
- Alleges YCP filed 31 court cases to block Mega DSC

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Education Minister Nara Lokesh has announced the successful completion of the highly anticipated Mega DSC (District Selection Committee) recruitment exams in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media, Lokesh revealed that the entire process was completed in just 23 days despite numerous challenges, calling it a historic achievement for the state education department. Lokesh alleged that the previous YSRCP government made several attempts to obstruct the recruitment process. "A total of 31 court cases were filed by those aligned with YCP to stop the Mega DSC. But we faced every legal hurdle and ensured the exams were held fairly and transparently," he said.



The Minister highlighted the enthusiastic response from aspiring teachers across the state. Out of 3.36 lakh applicants for 5.77 lakh posts, 92.9

percent of candidates attended the exams. Lokesh also confirmed that all rules — including SC sub-categorization and implementation of the sports quota — were properly followed during the process. Congratulating the education department officials, Minister Lokesh credited their efforts for the smooth conduct of the examination process. He also assured candidates that the preliminary answer key has already been released, and the final key will be published shortly after considering the objections raised. Lokesh emphasized that the government is committed to conducting recruitment processes without delay and with full transparency, ensuring merit-based selections for building a better future for the state's education sector.





## Allu Family in Trouble Again

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The questioning was linked to a ₹101.48 crore loan taken from Union Bank of India by Ramakrishna Electronics, which remains unpaid. Suspecting money laundering, the ED filed an ECIR based on a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), triggering a deeper probe. In 2024, the ED conducted raids in Hyderabad, Kurnool, and Gha-ziabad, seizing cash worth ₹1.45 crore.

According to sources, ED officials are investigating whether Allu Aravind had any direct or indirect links to the company's transactions. His name reportedly surfaced during the financial probe of the firm's dealings. Though his exact role is yet to be confirmed, the ED has summoned him for a second round of questioning next week.

Officials believe that several bank officials may have violated Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms by approving high-value loans and allegedly diverting funds. The extent of Allu Aravind's involvement, if any, remains under investigation.

Allu Aravind, a prominent figure in Tollywood, is the son of legendary actor Allu Ramalingaiah and the founder of Geetha Arts, one of the most successful film production banners in the Telugu film industry. Known for producing numerous blockbuster films, Aravind is also the father of star hero Allu Arjun and actor Allu Sirish.

As the probe deepens, the developments surrounding Allu Aravind's questioning have stirred serious discussion within the film and financial circles, with the industry now watching closely for the next moves from the ED.

## Justice Srinivas Reddy Expresses Anger Over...

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Several legal observers noted that the TDP's aggressive "Red Book" political and governance framework, which has been circulating in recent weeks, appears to be fostering public mistrust toward constitutional institutions like the judiciary.

Taking note of the trolling and its potential to damage institutional credibility, Justice Srinivas Reddy remarked that such incidents reflect a deeper malaise in the system. He also noted that the same bail orders granted by the judiciary are now being misused as content for coordinated online attacks.

In a significant move, Justice Reddy has requested that all bail-related cases currently assigned to him be transferred to another bench starting next week. This decision is being viewed as a reflection of the pressure judges may face when public discourse is manipulated through political and social media ecosystems.

Legal experts and senior advocates have expressed concern over the trend of targeted attacks on members of the judiciary, warning that such developments could erode the foundational principles of justice and rule of law.

# Yoga Research Institute Sanctioned for Guntur

- ₹94 crore Central project to be set up in Nedimpalem, says Union Minister Pemmasani
- 100-bed hospital, research centre coming up on 15 acres

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

In a major boost to public health and wellness infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government has approved the establishment of the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy in Guntur district. Union Minister Dr. Chandrasekhar Pemmasani announced that the institute will come up in Nedimpalem village of Prathipadu mandal at an estimated cost of ₹94 crore.

The state-of-the-art campus will be developed on 15 acres and include a 100-bed hospital, research centre, and residential quarters for staff. Minister Pemmasani confirmed that the facility will provide high-quality yoga and naturopathy services, completely free of charge for white ration card holders and at affordable rates for middle-class citizens.

He added that the project is expected to generate 100 to 150 direct employment opportunities in the region. "This is a transformative step for the health sector in Guntur. We are committed to ensuring both preventive and alternative healthcare is made accessible to



all," Pemmasani said. The Minister clarified that while the project had been initially approved during the tenure of the previous government, it was nearly scrapped due to the state's failure to allocate the required land. The current administration, he said, acted swiftly to provide the 15-acre site, enabling the revival and final approval of the long-pending project.

Dr. Pemmasani expressed grati-

tude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, AYUSH Minister Prataparao Jadhav, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Lokesh for their cooperation in getting the project cleared.

The Yoga and Naturopathy Institute is expected to become a hub for traditional wellness research and treatment in the southern region, offering scientifically backed therapies and holistic care.



## Point News Expose Triggers Inquiry into Tuni Municipality Corruption

TPN | Ch Raju

A major breakthrough has emerged in the alleged ₹6-crore corruption case involving Tuni Municipality's Revenue Department, originally exposed by Point News in February. The investigative report highlighted irregularities in shop lease renewals, rent collection, and re-tendering under the Urban Development Department. Nearly five months later, the issue gained official traction. Acting on directions from the Regional Director (RD) of Municipal Administration, Nag Narasimharao, an inquiry has been initiated. On Friday, a team from Ramachandrapuram Municipality began scrutinizing relevant documents and digital files. The investigation is being overseen by Ramachandrapuram Municipal Commissioner K.V.R.R. Raju, who confirmed the probe and noted that a comprehensive report will soon be submitted to the RD's office. Municipal Manager Satyanarayana Murthy, RI Chowdary, and staff are assisting in document verification and data extraction. This development affirms the significant role of Point News in advocating accountability through investigative journalism. The official response also brings renewed hope for greater transparency and reform in local urban governance.

# NCST summons Andhra officials over attack on tribal families

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued summons to the District Collector and Superintendent of Police in connection with a violent attack on tribal families in Empedu Village of Srikalahasti mandal. The Commission has called for their personal appearance before Hon'ble Member Shri Jatothu Hussain

at 11:40 AM on July 8, 2025, in the Court Room of NCST, 6th Floor, B Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi. The officials have been directed to bring all relevant records, documents, and facts related to the case during the sitting.

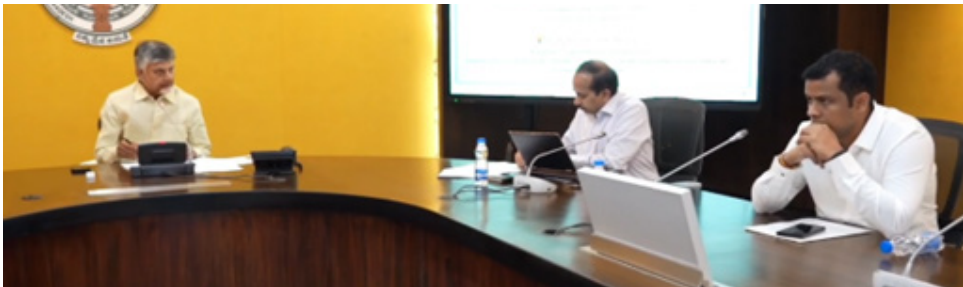
The notice was issued following a representation submitted by Dr. Gumma Thanuja Rani, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), concerning an attack on

Scheduled Tribe (Shikari) families in Eswaralah Colony of Empedu village. The NCST has made it clear that failure to attend the sitting may lead to the Commission exercising its powers under Clause (8) of Article 338A of the Constitution of India to enforce their appearance. The Commission is taking the issue seriously and has moved swiftly to ensure accountability and justice for the affected tribal families.

## CM Chandrababu Naidu Holds Crucial Review on Revenue Department at Secretariat

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday conducted a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat, focusing on the state's Revenue Department and the unresolved land disputes troubling citizens across the state. The meeting saw participation from top revenue officials, with the CM expressing serious concern over the pace and effectiveness of efforts taken in the past year to resolve land-related issues. Officials briefed the Chief Minister on widespread land disputes, unclear land surveys, and outdated records in many villages. However, the CM reportedly expressed dissatisfaction with the measures taken so far, emphasizing that mere repealing of the Land Titling Act had provided only partial relief. Chandrababu reiterated his commitment made during the Mahanadu—that all land issues would be resolved within a year—and said that goal



must be achieved. He stressed that resolving land grievances and delivering transparent, citizen-friendly revenue services are key to building public trust in the government.

The government is also examining challenges like shortage of staff, increasing workload in Tahsildar offices, and lack of ground-level accountability in revenue operations. Thousands of pending public applications at the mandal level highlight the urgent need for systemic overhaul.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need to adopt technology at scale to streamline revenue services. Initia-

tives like digitizing land records, integrating MEPA data, and preparing village-wise land maps are being considered as immediate priorities. Sources indicate that today's review could lead to critical directives and decisions aimed at restructuring the Revenue Department from the grass-roots level upward.

CM Naidu noted that unless massive reforms are implemented at the field level, results will remain limited. The focus now shifts to bringing about measurable improvement in land services, timely grievance redressal, and restoring confidence in the department.



## SICCI Delegation Explores Industrial Potential at Sri City

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

A 22-member delegation from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) visited Sri City on Friday to explore its industrial landscape, assess best practices, and evaluate business and investment opportunities. The team was welcomed by Sri City Assistant Vice President (Business Development), Bodgan George, who briefed them on the integrated business city's world-class infrastructure,

strategic location, and business-enabling ecosystem. He also highlighted Andhra Pradesh's progressive industrial policies and fast-track approval mechanisms. The delegates were informed that over 235 industries from 31 countries have already established units in Sri City, making it a promising destination for both large-scale industries and SMEs. Sri City MD Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy praised SICCI's role in driving South India's industrial growth and said the delegation's insights would further

strengthen Sri City's positioning as a preferred hub. Elangovan Rajashekar, Director of Mentor Infocomm India and SICCI team member, thanked the Sri City management for the opportunity and appreciated the facilities and environment.

The delegation, which included business and consultancy representatives, visited key industries like Blue Star, MSR Garments, and Ball Beverages. The visit was coordinated by SICCI Projects Head R. Sharanyalakshmi.



# Does Pawan Even Know What's Happening in AP?: Ambati Rambabu

- Pawan Kalyan is just a puppet in the government, alleges Ambati
- Accusations of financial support from Chandrababu and Lokesh
- Claims Pawan plays no real role in governance

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YCP senior leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has made scathing remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, alleging that the actor-turned-politician has little to no idea about what's actually happening in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to reporters, Ambati lambasted Pawan's recent comments made during the Jal Jeevan Mission event in Markapuram, branding them as nothing more than "cinematic dialogues." "Does Pawan even know that paddy farmers in Kakinada are yet to receive nearly ₹1,000 crore in dues from the government?" questioned Ambati. He alleged that Pawan Kalyan only flies down to Hyderabad for film shootings and makes fleeting appearances in AP without being in touch with the people's issues.

Accusing the Deputy CM of being a "name-sake" in the coalition government, Ambati asked, "What is Pawan Kalyan's role in governance? What department is he monitoring? What decision has he taken so far?" Further intensifying his attack, Ambati alleged that the Janaseena Party is being financially fu-



eled by Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh. "They are sending him bags of money — to fund his party, to run his cars, and even to build his party office," Ambati charged. He challenged Pawan to deny it by putting his hand on his heart. Ambati also revisited the issue of movie theater raids and the delay in the release of Pawan's film Harihara Veeramallu. "Theaters opposing Pawan were raided. But what happened after that? Why is Veeramallu still not released? Who is really behind the delay?" he asked,

hinting at political drama behind the scenes. Mocking Pawan's recent statement that he prevented the YSRCP from coming to power, Ambati said, "It is not because of Pawan or Babu that we lost power. Stop fooling yourselves. Pawan should know that YSRCP isn't afraid of the slapstick he keeps dishing out." The fiery remarks from Ambati have stirred fresh controversy, especially amid growing questions about Pawan Kalyan's real influence in the current coalition government.

# Anna Canteens Restart in Raptadu

MLA Paritala Sunitha says Jagan govt shut them down out of spite

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Marking the revival of Anna Canteens in Andhra Pradesh, Bhoomi Puja for the first canteen in the renewed initiative was held at Raptadu constituency center. Former minister and Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha led the ceremony, held near the old hospital adjacent to the national highway. The event witnessed the participation of officials, TDP leaders, public representatives, and party activists. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sunitha recalled that the foundation for Anna Canteens in the state was laid during her tenure as Civil Supplies Minister in the previous Chandrababu Naidu government. "As per CM Chandrababu's directions, I personally inspected canteens in Chhat-

tisgarh and Chennai. Amma Canteens in Chennai were impressive—hygienic, tasty, and efficient—and based on those models, we launched Anna Canteens in Andhra Pradesh," she said. However, Sunitha came down heavily on the previous YSRCP government, accusing Jagan Mohan Reddy of deliberately shutting down the canteens to prevent Chandrababu Naidu from receiving public credit. "He is a man who snatched food from the mouths of the poor," she criticized, referring to the closure of the scheme. Reaffirming the coalition government's commitment, Sunitha said that the promise to bring back Anna Canteens is now being fulfilled. The first new canteen will serve tiffin in the morning and meals in the afternoon

to more than 300 people daily, each meal priced at just ₹5. Located strategically along the national highway, the canteen is expected to benefit travelers, daily wage laborers, and those visiting Raptadu for various needs. She appealed to philanthropists and donors to support the canteen by offering meals on birthdays, weddings, and other special occasions. While the official deadline for construction is three months, Sunitha assured that the canteen will be ready and operational within two months. With this initiative, the government aims to re-establish affordable, hygienic, and accessible food services for the poor and working class—reviving a scheme that had once won widespread appreciation.



# CM Naidu insulting Dalits, YSRCP files statewide complaints

TPN Correspondent | Amaravathi

**Tadepalli:** YSRCP SC Cell President TJR Sudhakar Babu condemned Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for his repeated derogatory remarks against the Dalit community.

Speaking at the YSRCP Central Office, he announced statewide police complaints over Naidu's recent statements, which insulted a deceased Dalit, Singaiah, by comparing him to a "dog," demeaning the entire community. Sudhakar Babu highlighted Naidu's prejudice, evident in his failure to respect Singaiah, who died during a Palnadu rally. "Instead of supporting the bereaved family, Naidu shamefully politicized the death to target YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy," he said. He cited Naidu's history of offensive remarks, including those by associates like Adinarayana Reddy, who mocked Dalits' education, and Chintamaneni Prabhakar, who questioned their political rights. "This is Naidu's final warning," Sudhakar Babu declared, emphasizing YSRCP's legal action against such language.

Naidu's government prioritized real estate and kickbacks over public welfare, neglecting farmers and targeting Jagan with vindictive actions. Sudhakar Babu referenced past tragedies under Naidu, like 29 deaths during Godavari Pushkaralu, questioning why Naidu labels those accidents but blames Jagan for Singaiah's death. "Naidu's vile politics are exposed," he said, noting circulated video evidence.

Contrasting Naidu's callousness with YS Jagan's compassion, Sudhakar Babu cited Jagan's aid to those in distress. He accused Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh of fostering violence, citing attacks on a YSRCP sarpanch and Dalit youth in Tenali. "Naidu's 'Red Book' incites violence. Does this regime deserve to govern?" he asked. The YSRCP SC Cell demanded legal action against Naidu and a comprehensive probe into Singaiah's death, taking into serious account the statements made by his wife.

# Curbing Tax Evasion Through Real-Time AI-Enabled Systems: Andhra Finance Minister

AP urged AI-based live data systems to fight GST tax evasion.

Presented automated GST tools like instant return verification and analytics.

Committee discussed best practices and tech-driven enforcement across states.

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Andhra Pradesh Finance and Planning Minister Payyavula Keshav emphasized the need for curbing GST tax evasion by leveraging real-time data access and AI-enabled systems through inter-departmental integration.

Participating virtually from Anantapur NIC Centre, the Minister attended the GST Ministers' Committee meeting chaired by Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant. The committee, formed by the Centre to review GST structure, also included key finance ministers from Bihar, Chhattisgarh,

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

The meeting discussed SGST and IGST payments, tax evasion detection methods, best practices adopted by states, and innovative strategies to enhance GST collections. Issues related to e-way bills, vehicle tracking, and FASTag data were also examined. Minister Keshav presented Andhra Pradesh's best practices, including the use of an AI-enabled app that allows officials to auto-verify and download 37 GST returns instantly. He also showcased 'Jnanakshetram',

a digital platform providing GST details, SOPs, and analytics tools that are enhancing enforcement and transparency.

During his remarks, he stressed that access to live intra- and inter-state GST data across departments would build a robust monitoring system and prevent evasion effectively. He welcomed the collaborative approach in sharing data analytics and enforcement techniques among states. Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant concluded the meeting, calling it fruitful and looking forward to deeper discussions in the next session.



# YSRCP Has No Moral Right to Speak on Brahmin Welfare: Buchchiramprasad

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

TDP Brahmin Empowerment Committee Convener Buchchiramprasad challenged YSRCP leaders to publicly debate who genuinely worked for Brahmin welfare. At a press meet in TDP headquarters, he accused YSRCP of failing to benefit Brahmins during its five-year rule and of orchestrating temple desecrations to serve political motives. He cited cases like insects in prasadam, TTD queue disruptions, and vandalism at major temples, alleging YSRCP workers' involvement. He warned that continued attacks on temples could cost YSRCP even its current 11 seats.

In contrast, he highlighted key initiatives under the NDA coalition: ₹3,000 monthly for Vedic students, enhanced honorariums for priests, protection of temple assets, and temple committees including Brahmin and Nai Brahmin directors. ₹340 crore was allocated to Brahmin Corporation, and new funeral facilities are being planned in each constituency. He criticized YSRCP's manifesto for lacking any Brahmin welfare promises and failing to fulfill earlier commitments like land allotments and salary hikes. Investigations are underway into temple desecrations under the previous government, with a promise of strict action. Buchchiramprasad concluded that the current government is committed to temple development, Brahmin upliftment, and cultural preservation, while YSRCP is trying to incite unrest due to its inability to tolerate this progress.

# YSRCP demands PR to FMGs: lift police cases



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government immediately grant Permanent Registration (PR) to Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) and withdraw all police cases filed against protesting students. A delegation led by Dr. Seediri Appalaraju, former minister and YSRCP Medical Wing President, along with ex-MLAs Dr. Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy, Dr. Monditoka Jagan Mohan Rao,

Dr. Gajjala Sudheer Bhargav Reddy, and Dr. Shivabharath Reddy submitted a memorandum to medical college authorities. They condemned the government's treatment of FMGs, who have completed their education, internships abroad, compensatory classes, and all required exams. Dr. Appalaraju, speaking on behalf of former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, stressed that states like Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have already issued PR to

FMGs, while Andhra Pradesh continues to delay on baseless grounds like online classes during COVID. The delegation highlighted that the students also completed internships in India. Despite fulfilling all criteria, the coalition government allegedly imposed unnecessary restrictions and used police force against peaceful protestors. The YSRCP leaders demanded an immediate resolution and end to the harassment. They also recalled Y.S. Jagan's efforts in establishing 17 new medical colleges, contrasting it with Chandrababu Naidu's rejection of central seats and promotion of privatization. They warned that denying PR would jeopardize FMGs' careers, blocking their education and employment opportunities.



# CM Lauds Bapatla District’s Performance in P4 Scheme Implementation

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
**Amaravati:** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday praised the collective efforts of Bapatla district officials for their effective implementation of the P4 (Public-Private-People Partnership for Poverty Alleviation) initiative. During a state-wide virtual review meeting with all District Collectors and public representatives from the Amaravati Secretariat, the CM appreciated Bapatla district’s top performance. Of the 62,388 “Bangaru Kutum-

balu” (golden families) identified in Bapatla, 44,920 have already been adopted by 3,528 mentors—placing the district at the top in terms of percentage coverage. The Chief Minister termed the 72% linkage rate as commendable and urged officials to adopt the remaining 17,000 families at the earliest. He was especially pleased to note that NRIs, NRAs, and owners of companies operating in the district were actively participating as mentors. “The Bapatla administration’s coordinated effort is

truly praiseworthy. I encourage all other districts to emulate this model,” said Naidu. He directed officials to ensure that at least 15 lakh Bangaru families across the state are adopted by mentors by August 15, emphasizing the goal of reducing economic inequalities and uplifting the poor. Bapatla District Collector J. Venkata Murali informed the CM that 13 families under the mentorship scheme have already been provided sustainable livelihoods. He said special committees have been

set up at the village, mandal, division, and district levels to guide the implementation. Services like skill development and career guidance are being extended to adopted families in a structured manner. The Collector also highlighted the involvement of well-performing NGOs and alignment with international companies. Officials including CPO Shalem Raju, DRDA PD Srinivasa Rao, and RDO Gloria attended the meeting from the district.



## Farmers’ Grievances Addressed at CRDA Office in Thulluru



**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
**Thulluru:** A Grievance Day was conducted at the CRDA office in Thulluru to address various concerns raised by farmers from the Amaravati Capital Region. Several farmers met with APCRDA Additional Commissioner G. Surya Sai Praveen Chand, IAS, and submitted petitions related to Negotiated Settlement Policy (NSP) issues, village boundary lands, assigned lands, and

other matters. The Additional Commissioner instructed officials to take immediate action on the issues raised. He assured the petitioners that grievances related to Lanka lands and assigned lands would be resolved in line with government directives. Officials from multiple CRDA departments participated and resolved the majority of complaints on the spot. For the remaining issues, quick fol-

low-up actions were assured. Authorities emphasized their commitment to responding promptly to public concerns without delay. Farmers were encouraged to make use of the Grievance Day sessions, held every Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, to seek resolutions to their issues. A total of 25 complaints were received, categorized as follows:

- Land-related issues in Amaravati: 22
- Planning Department: 1
- Estates: 1
- Social Welfare: 1

Among those present were GRM Nodal Officer P. Jayashree, Special Deputy Collectors B. Srinivasa Naik, M. Seshireddy, K.S. Bhagyarekha, P. Padmavathi, A.G. Chinni Krishna, G. Ravinder, G. Bheemarao, Assistant Director of CRDA Survey Department G. Panduranga Rao Ramakrishnan, Group Director of Social Welfare Dr. P. Krishnamohan, DCDO Borra Srinivasa Rao, Tahsildars, and other key officials.

## Stamp Papers Stolen from Gannavaram Sub-Registrar’s Office

**Thieves took ₹13.56 lakh worth of non-judicial stamps**  
**Public advised to avoid using stamps with listed serial numbers**



**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
A major theft at the Gannavaram Sub-Registrar's office has caused panic among officials and the public alike. Non-judicial stamp papers worth ₹13,56,300 were stolen by unidentified persons who broke into the office on Wednesday night using what appears to be a well-planned method. The incident came to light when staff arrived at the office on Thursday morning and discovered that the main door had been forcefully broken open. Upon inspection, it was found that the culprits had specifically targeted the storage area where the stamp paper bundles were kept. They reportedly opened a beer can in the outer room to celebrate or possibly confuse investigators, and then took off with the valuable stamp papers. Notably, the thieves wore gloves to avoid leaving behind fingerprints, adding to the challenge for police. Responding to the incident, District Registrar Gopalakrishnamurthy confirmed the total value of the sto-

len materials and appealed to the public not to purchase or use any stamp papers bearing the stolen serial numbers. He urged anyone who comes across these papers to immediately inform local authorities. Details of stolen stamp papers:

- ₹50 denomination: BA748201 to BA751000, BA751201 to BA752000
- ₹100 denomination: DE815701 to DE816000, DD827401 to DD828000

A police case has been registered, and a clues team has collected forensic evidence at the scene. Investigators are treating the case with urgency due to the high value involved and the breach of a government-secured facility. Authorities are also exploring whether insider information may have played a role in the theft. The theft has sparked concerns about security lapses in government offices handling sensitive and high-value documents. Officials are now reviewing surveillance and safety protocols across sub-registrar offices in the district.

## DGP Pays Tributes to Alluri Sitarama Raju on 128<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary

**TPN | VVS Madhu**  
**Amaravati:** The 128th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju was celebrated with reverence at the DGP office. Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta garlanded Alluri's portrait and paid floral tributes. Remembering him as a valiant hero who laid down his life in the strug-

gle to break the shackles of colonial rule, the DGP said Alluri's contribution to India's freedom movement is immortal. He added that the legendary leader's personality and leadership qualities remain a source of inspiration for today's youth. Senior police officials and staff also participated in the tribute ceremony.



## Vijayawada Fest Planned to Showcase City’s Cultural Grandeur

**‘Vijayawada Utsav’ planned during Dasara to showcase the city’s cultural and spiritual heritage. Events to include folk arts, food fests, laser shows, water sports, and mega exhibition. Key venues like Haritha Berm Park, Bhavani Island, Kalakshetram to host diverse activities.**

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
To highlight Vijayawada's cultural, spiritual, educational, and artistic richness, local MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) is working to organize a 'Vijayawada Utsav' during the upcoming Dasara celebrations, held every year at the sacred Indrakeeladri hill. At a preliminary meeting held on Friday at the District Collectorate, MP Chinni, Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, Municipal Commissioner Dhyanchand H.M., and others discussed the possibilities and planning of the festival. They deliberated on organizing diverse programs that



reflect the city's spiritual and cultural legacy, and promote tourism. Suggestions were invited on how to integrate knowledge and entertainment effectively within the festival. MP Chinni stated that lakhs

of devotees visit Vijayawada from across Andhra Pradesh and other states during Dasara. The aim is to offer visitors a memorable experience through engaging events across key locations like Haritha Berm Park, Pun-

nam Ghat, Bhavani Island, Pavitra Sangamam, and Tummalapalli Kalakshetram. Planned activities include folk arts showcases, cultural performances, food festivals, water sports, drone and laser shows, and thematic beautification of heritage spots. The MP also emphasized plans to revive the historic Exhibition Society by hosting a mega exhibition as part of the festival. He concluded that all stakeholder suggestions will be considered while finalizing the Vijayawada Fest blueprint. Officials from the Tourism Department and Exhibition Society also participated in the session.

## Peaceful Observance of Moharram Ensured: SP R. Gangadhara Rao

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna**  
District Superintendent of Police, Sri R. Gangadhara Rao, IPS, emphasized the importance of ensuring a peaceful and incident-free observance of Moharram. He personally visited locations like Barayimam and Jarjee Panja and interacted with local religious leaders regarding the arrangements. He urged that the festival be observed in a spirit of brotherhood and religious harmony, cautioning that strict legal action would be tak-

en against anyone disturbing the peace. Special instructions were issued to ensure that there are no disturbances during the chest-beating rituals held at Koneru Centre, and adequate police security arrangements were made to maintain order. SP Gangadhara Rao was accompanied by Bander DSP Ch. Raja, Special Branch Inspector Srinivas Rao, Town Inspectors Abdul Nabi, Parameshwar, Yesu Babu, and other police officers and staff during the inspection.





# Fourth Time in the Same Chair Again

Repeated postings despite vigilance probe spark outrage in Rajanagaram  
Devi served as Rajanagaram Tahsildar 4 times in 10 years  
Vigilance inquiry still active, yet got reposted  
Locals, officials question systemic failure and political lobbying

**TPN | Ch. Sri East Godavari:**Her habit is to go around in circles — and now, once again, she's come full circle. In a move that has raised eyebrows and triggered a debate over bureaucratic transparency, G.A.L.S. Devi has assumed charge as the Tahsildar of Rajanagaram Mandal for the fourth time in ten years, despite a vigilance inquiry pending against her. Devi first took charge as Tahsildar of Rajanagaram in 2015. Since then, every time she was transferred out, she returned — usually after a brief interlude, reportedly handing over charge to the Deputy Tahsildar as a mere formality. Her repeated postings in the same mandal between 2015 and 2025 — four times — have now become a subject of serious concern among locals and revenue officials alike. It is an established rule in government service that no officer should be posted in the same area for more than three years. The rule exists to avoid favoritism, develop transparency, and encourage rotation of administrative responsibility. Yet, in Rajanagaram, the same officer has found her way back into the same seat again and again — raising disturbing questions. According to sources, Devi's reappointments were carried out despite ongoing corruption allegations and a pending vigilance inquiry. The situation is so recurring that it almost appears procedural — a routine shuffling out and then quietly shuffling back in. **This time again, it's no different.**

Locals in Rajanagaram are questioning why she is being sent back here again. "Doesn't the district have any other competent officers?" a resident asked. "Why should the same person come back every time? What's the use of transfer rules then?" As per Andhra Pradesh government norms, a revenue officer, including a Tahsildar, should not serve in the same mandal for more than three years. Beyond this, any extension or re-posting in the same jurisdiction must be approved under special circumstances — such as exceptional service or in emergencies. But in Devi's case, neither reason has been officially cited. What makes this even more questionable is that her track record isn't exactly spotless. Her tenure has repeatedly seen allegations of irregularities in land permissions, misuse of authority, and circumvention of vigilance rules. Despite all this, her return to Rajanagaram — again — is being viewed as an institutional failure. Senior officers at the RDO and Collector levels are now facing uncomfortable questions. Is this a lapse from the district administration? Or has the political pressure overridden transfer norms? There are whispers of lobbying and influence within local political circles, which are suspected to be enabling her repeated reappointments. The consequences of such repeated postings are far-reaching. Public faith in the administration erodes. Old connections, local lobbying networks, and



power groups become deeply entrenched. Transparency suffers, and irregularities go unchecked. New officers are deprived of opportunities, and the perception of bias grows. **Who's accountable?** Is it the district Collector's office, the Revenue Divisional Office, or the higher authorities in the State Revenue Department? Or is it a collective failure — one that needs immediate attention? The matter calls for a departmental review and if necessary, a probe into how a vigilance-targeted officer managed to hold the same chair four times in a decade. As per the Civil Services Transfer Policy followed by the AP Government, "No officer shall be posted to the same Mandal for more than 3 years. A long stay leads to administrative compromise and loss of public trust." If the government wishes to uphold this, action must replace silence — and rules must replace influence.

## Cordon Search Held in Srikakulam City

Illegal vehicles, suspicious individuals identified in early morning operation

**TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam** To curb crime and prevent anti-social activities, the Srikakulam police conducted a major cordon and search operation across key areas of the city in the early hours of Friday, June 4. Acting on the instructions of District SP Sri KV Maheshwara Reddy IPS, the operation was carried out under the leadership of Srikakulam Second Town Police Station Circle Inspector Eswara Rao. The operation took place in Chaudhary Satyanarayana Colony within the town limits, where police teams conducted extensive inspections targeting marijuana, alcohol, herbal liquor, banned substances, and any suspicious or illegal stockpiles. Police also identified and questioned several unknown individuals and monitored the movements of previously involved offenders. Additionally, homes of old criminals were inspected thoroughly. Simultaneously, cordon and search operations were also held in villages under the jurisdiction of JR Puram and Padanur police stations. As a result of these surprise inspections, a total of 19 two-wheelers without valid documents were seized in the JR Puram limits. The police confirmed that further investigation is underway regarding the origins and ownership of the seized vehicles. District police officials stated that such cordon and search operations will continue in the coming days to maintain law and order and to ensure the safety of the public.



## Mega Mock Drill Conducted at Vijayawada Railway Station

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada** To enhance disaster preparedness, South Central Railway's Vijayawada Division conducted a large-scale mock drill on 4th July 2025 at the Mineral Siding, Up Yard area of Vijayawada Railway Station. Conducted in coordination with NDRF's 10th Battalion, Civil Defence, Fire Services, Railway Breakdown Staff, and State Emergency Teams, the drill simulated a train accident involving fire and derailment. Rescue demonstrations by NDRF and Civil Defence included fireman lifts, cradle lifts, and chair knot techniques. CPR



## Let's Make Rottela Festival a Grand Success

Collector holds review at Barashahid Dargah, inspects arrangements

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore** District in-charge Collector K. Karthik has directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the famous Rottela Festival at Barashahid Dargah in Nellore. Reviewing the arrangements at the Dargah on Friday, he emphasized that no devotee should face inconvenience and that all departments must be proactive and vigilant throughout the event. Speaking during a review meeting held at the Dargah premises, Collector Karthik instructed that staff should be deployed round-the-clock, and their details must be reported to district authorities. He stressed the need for special focus on creating proper infrastructure and pointed out negligence in ghat maintenance. The Collector instructed that CCTV cameras should be installed in critical areas and continuously monitored. Public announcement systems must be put in place to manage crowds and guide devotees. Adequate parking facilities with quick entry and exit should be arranged, and vehicles should not be allowed to remain idle in sensitive areas. Separate and sufficient toilet facilities for men and women, regular sanitation, and proper staffing for cleaning tasks were highlighted as top priorities. He collected information on the sanitation workforce and their deployment plan. Officials were also advised to ensure all work vehicles exit promptly after their assigned duties are completed. The education department was



asked to take preventive steps to avoid any short circuits. The medical and health department was told to set up accessible and clearly visible first aid centers, ensure the availability of clean drinking water, and implement continuous garbage clearance mechanisms. Adequate sand should be kept ready for the fire department in case of emergencies. Karthik further instructed traffic officials to take strict measures to prevent traffic jams around the venue. Later, he visited the ghats and inspected barricades at the Dargah and Swarnala Cheruvu along with District SP Krishna Kant and Municipal Commissioner Nandan. He offered necessary suggestions and advice to the respective authorities, ensuring all preparations meet required standards for the safety and convenience of the devotees.

## RGUKT-Ongole Admissions Begin at Nuzvid Campus



**TPN Correspondent | Eluru** The admission process for the 2025–26 academic year at RGUKT campuses began on June 30 and will continue until July 5. As part of this, admissions for the Ongole campus commenced on July 4 at the SAC Auditorium in Nuzvid. Call letters were issued to 505 students, and the administration arranged food and accommodation for both students and their parents to ensure a smooth process. Admissions began at 8 AM, with Ongole Campus Director Dr. Bhaskar Patel welcoming the selected candidates. He informed them that, following the Governing Council's decision, classes for Ongole students would be conducted at the Nuzvid campus this year. Dr. Patel congratulated the students and urged them to focus on their studies and bring pride to their families and the institution. He also praised the support extended by the Nuzvid staff for successfully coordinating the process. Students Anuradha, Naveen, and Charishma, who secured admission on merit, received confirmation certificates from Dr. Patel. The event was also attended by Ongole Dean of Academics Rupesh Kumar and Administrative Officer Chandrasekhar. RGUKT Registrar and Admissions Convenor Prof. Sandra Amarendra Kumar supervised the process along with faculty and staff from both campuses.

## ABVP Celebrates 77<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day in Dharmavaram

**TPN Correspondent | Sri Sathya Sai Dharmavaram:** Marking the upcoming National Students' Day on July 9, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) celebrated its 77th Foundation Day with a grand rally in Dharmavaram town. The event was flagged off by Minister's constituency in-charge Harish Babu, who hoisted the flag to commence the procession. Over 3,000 students marched through the main streets, waving flags and raising slogans, turning the town into a vibrant display of student unity. Addressing the gathering, Harish Babu lauded ABVP's long-standing efforts in championing student rights and its role during the Emergency period. He also praised Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav for inspiring youth towards national service and taking impactful steps in education and healthcare sectors. Several ABVP leaders, student representatives, BJP and BJYM members including Giri, Vasudev, Rajesh, Vishnu, Shashi, Charan, and others participated in the event.





# The Dragon-Scorpion Embrace, And Why India Can't Afford To Ignore It

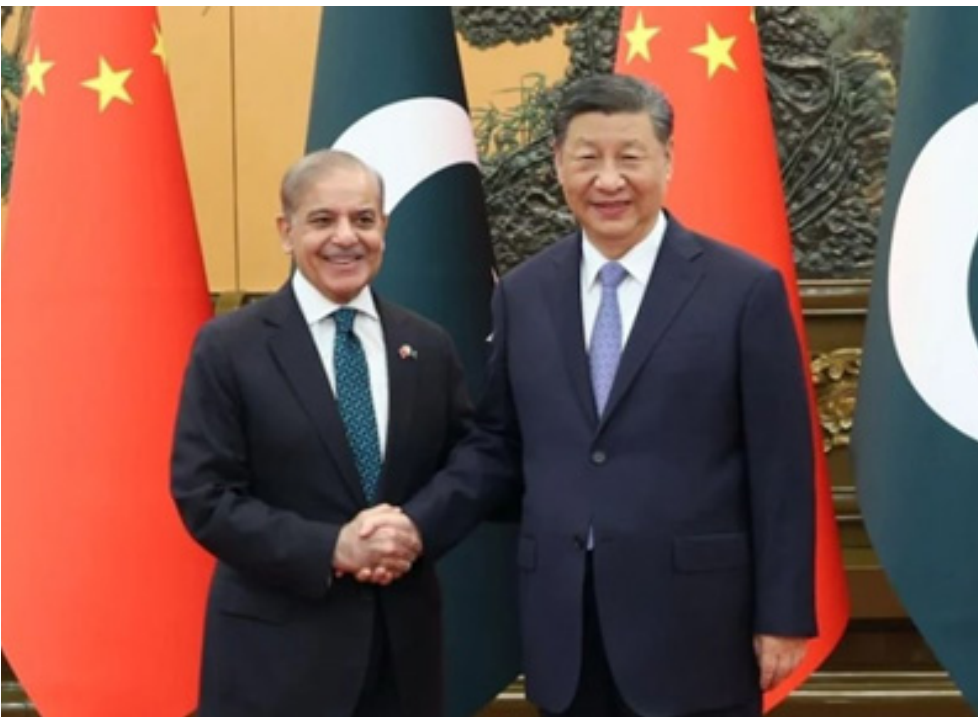
## The China-Pakistan Nexus: A Strategic Challenge for India's Future

The geopolitical landscape of South Asia has always been complex, marked by long-standing rivalries and calculated moves. In recent years, however, one development has drawn increasing strategic concern from New Delhi: the deepening and more assertive alliance between China and Pakistan. This relationship is far more than a simple partnership born of shared antagonism towards India. It represents a sophisticated and multi-layered collaboration with serious implications for India's security, economic progress, and regional influence.

Historically, India's understanding of the China-Pakistan relationship has often been limited to Pakistan's dependence on Chinese military hardware and Beijing's diplomatic protection at global forums like the United Nations. While these factors remain relevant, they only scratch the surface of a far broader and more complex engagement.

### Beyond Military Ties: Economic and Strategic Depth

The China-Pakistan partnership extends deeply into economic and strategic spheres, exemplified most clearly by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). As a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its largest foreign investment in dollar terms, CPEC is more than a developmental venture for Pakistan. It is



a strategic conduit that secures China's foothold in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. The corridor runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, a territory India claims as its own, and links Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea directly to China's western provinces. This connection bypasses longer and more vulnerable shipping routes like those through the Malacca Strait or the Suez Canal, drastically cutting transit time and costs. For China, Gwadar is not just a commercial hub but a strategic naval outpost, enabling it to project power into the Indian Ocean and challenge India's maritime dominance.

### Mutual Dependence and Strategic Calculus

For Pakistan, China is an indispensable partner, providing critical economic support and diplomatic shielding, especially on sensitive issues like cross-border terrorism that India highlights on international platforms. Beijing's consistent blocking of UN sanctions against Pakistan-based terrorist entities underscores this protective stance. China, on the other hand, views Pakistan as a vital geostrategic ally that counters India's rising economic and diplomatic power. By fortifying Pakistan, Beijing ensures that India re-

mains entangled on its western front, limiting its ability to expand influence regionally and globally.

### India's Imperative: Vigilance and Strategic Response

India cannot afford complacency. The reality of a "two-front" challenge from China and Pakistan demands constant vigilance and readiness. Recent border clashes, featuring advanced Chinese military equipment in Pakistani hands, starkly illustrate this evolving threat.

Moreover, China's efforts to foster a "trilateral nexus" involving Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan—ostensibly for regional stability—are in fact calculated moves to marginalize India and forge a China-centric regional order. This subtle diplomatic encirclement aims to shift South Asian power balances decisively in Beijing's favor.

### A Multi-Pronged Strategy for India

India's response must be comprehensive, combining robust defense with strategic diplomacy and economic resilience.

- 1. **Strengthening Defense:** *Maintaining a credible, modernized military posture is essential to deter aggression on both western and northern fronts. Investments in indigenous defense technologies and continuous modernization are critical imperatives.*

- 2. **Diplomatic Outreach:** *India should deepen partnerships with regional neighbors and global allies wary of China's ambitions. Collaborations with Southeast Asian nations, Quad countries, and other like-minded powers can create a counterbalance to China's hegemonic designs.*
- 3. **Economic Growth and Connectivity:** *Accelerating domestic economic growth and expanding alternative connectivity projects, such as the International North-South Transport Corridor and the Chabahar Port, can reduce dependency on Chinese infrastructure and increase India's strategic reach.*

Ultimately, India does not need to match China's resources pound for pound but must develop credible means to resist and counterbalance China's expansive ambitions.

### Conclusion

The China-Pakistan nexus is no transient alliance but a deeply entrenched geopolitical reality that India must engage with through foresight and strategic depth. India's resilience, economic dynamism, and diplomatic skill will determine its ability to safeguard national interests and assert its rightful place on the global stage. Ignoring or underestimating this evolving challenge risks conceding influence and security to a Beijing that is steadily reshaping the regional order to its advantage.

## India's Manufacturing Renaissance: Building a Global Export Powerhouse

India is rapidly repositioning itself on the global economic stage, expanding its footprint in international export markets through strategic infrastructure upgrades, policy reforms, and a visionary long-term plan anchored in 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. This transformation is driven by initiatives aimed at boosting manufacturing competitiveness, simplifying business processes, and fostering an ecosystem conducive to innovation and growth.

Key government programs like 'Make in India' and 'Ease of Doing Business' reforms have created a robust foundation for manufacturers by enhancing efficiency, scalability, and resilience. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been pivotal, removing inter-state trade barriers, simplifying compliance, and integrating the economy. These measures have reduced logistics costs and strengthened India's export competitiveness.

### Production Linked Incentive (PLI): A Catalyst for Growth

The Production Linked Incentive scheme, launched in 2020 and now covering 14 critical manufacturing sectors, has been instrumental in accelerating India's economic resurgence. By rewarding incremental production, exports, and investment, the PLI program has attracted investments exceeding Rs 1.61 lakh crore and stimulated production worth Rs 16.5 lakh crore. It has also bolstered exports, which reached approximately \$61.76 billion by March 2025.

These achievements underscore the PLI's success in positioning India as a competitive manufacturing hub globally. The government's commitment to scaling up the PLI budget further highlights its central role in India's growth strategy.

Infrastructure Modernisation: Rail and Maritime Sectors Lead the Way  
Modernising infrastructure is critical to reducing costs and enhancing supply chain reliability. Indian Railways, a lifeline of the nation, is undergoing a



sweeping transformation with an unprecedented \$109 billion capital outlay planned for 2026-31. This investment is driving demand for rolling stock and enabling India's emergence as a global rail technology player. The success of the Vande Bharat Express—India's indigenously developed semi-high-speed train—and recent export orders, such as the Rs 2,000 crore locomotive contract from Guinea, showcase India's engineering prowess and export potential. Collaborative manufacturing ventures with global firms like Alstom further strengthen India's position in international rail markets. In maritime manufacturing, India aims to become a top-five shipbuilding nation by 2047, supported by the Rs 25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund and policy reforms that boost domestic competitiveness. The Sagarmala programme is modernising ports, enhancing multimodal connectivity, and reducing logistics costs. Inland waterway cargo movement has surged 320% since 2014, signaling a shift toward efficient, eco-friendly freight options.

Connectivity and Logistics: The Backbone of Competitiveness  
India's flagship projects like the Dedicated Freight Corridor and PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan are revolutionising logistics by cutting transit times, reducing costs, and streamlining infrastructure development across sectors. The integration of 434 projects under PM Gati Shakti, backed by an ₹11.17 lakh crore investment, is transforming India's logistics landscape. The warehousing sector is also expanding rapidly, propelled by e-commerce growth and automation, and

contributing to India's improved ranking (38th) on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index.

### Broadening Horizons: Construction and Beyond

Infrastructure growth is driving demand across sectors like construction equipment and building materials. India's expertise in prefabrication, energy-efficient materials, and low-carbon technologies is enabling sustainable, high-quality manufacturing that supports mega infrastructure projects domestically and abroad. This ecosystem reduces import dependence and elevates indigenous technological capabilities.

### The Export Engine: Policy, Talent, and Opportunity

India's competitive labour costs, abundant skilled workforce, and supportive policies attract global companies diversifying supply chains. Exports are diversifying beyond traditional sectors, with strong gains in electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and food processing. While challenges remain in meeting global quality benchmarks, India's manufacturing transformation is robust and poised for further growth.

### Conclusion: From Build to Innovate

India's manufacturing resurgence is comprehensive and forward-looking, spanning diverse sectors and emphasizing technology and value addition. Continued infrastructure investment and policy support will cement India's role in global supply chains, especially as businesses seek to mitigate over-dependence on single markets. Poised to be a strategic global partner, India offers scale, innovation, and resilience, ready to lead in the evolving landscape of global trade. This is India's historic opportunity to move from 'build and export' to 'innovate and lead' on the world stage.

## Is AAP's Fortune Turning? Two Bye-Election Wins Offer Hope but Not Certainty

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) recently celebrated victories in the Gujarat and Punjab bye-elections, signaling a possible resurgence after setbacks earlier this year. These wins in states traditionally dominated by the BJP have sparked discussions about whether the party, once seen as a Delhi-centric outfit, is now poised for a broader national role. However, political analysts caution that two wins alone cannot definitively predict AAP's future trajectory.

Founded in 2012 by Arvind Kejriwal, the AAP emerged from the anti-corruption movement led by Anna Hazare. Kejriwal quickly rose to prominence by becoming Delhi's youngest Chief Minister in 2013, and the party ruled the capital uninterruptedly from 2015 until early 2025. However, the February 2025 Delhi Assembly election saw a dramatic shift, with AAP losing power to the BJP, which won 48 of the 70 seats. The defeat was a major blow, with Kejriwal himself losing his seat and some top leaders facing electoral setbacks.

The recent bye-election victories, however, offer a glimmer of hope. AAP retained the Ludhiana West seat in Punjab with Sanjeev Arora defeating Congress candidate Bharat Bhushan Ashu by over 10,000 votes. In Gujarat's Junagadh district, Gopal Italia won against BJP's Kirit Patel in Visavadar by a margin of 17,554 votes. Both wins came with double the margins of AAP's previous performances in 2022, suggesting growing voter support in these regions.

Atishi, former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and a key AAP leader, emphasized the importance of these victories. She said they reflected the public's demand for effective governance and urged critics not to underestimate Kejriwal's model, which the party aims to replicate nationwide. The wins suggest that despite recent losses, AAP remains a relevant force capable of bouncing back. Still, the challenges for AAP remain significant. The party's welfare-centric policies primarily target lower-income groups, including slum dwellers, migrant workers, and daily wage earners, who constitute its



core voter base. Meanwhile, the middle class—once a stronghold of AAP support—has grown disenchanted, feeling overlooked by the party's focus on subsidies and cash transfers rather than policies benefiting salaried professionals. This alienation contributed to the party's loss in Delhi.

Moreover, AAP's reputation took a hit when Kejriwal and some senior leaders were jailed on corruption charges, further damaging the party's image. Though Kejriwal handed over power to Atishi before the Delhi elections, the damage was done. Despite this, Kejriwal's political charisma has not completely faded, and his unpredictable political moves continue to keep the party in the spotlight.

Looking ahead, AAP is also expected to gain a seat in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, with speculation that Kejriwal himself might enter the upper house, despite his earlier reluctance. This could signal a renewed phase of political activity and strategic repositioning.

In national politics, AAP is part of the Opposition coalition INDIA and worked with Congress in the 2024 general elections. However, the alliance did not deliver the desired results for either party. Following the bye-election wins, Kejriwal announced that AAP might contest future elections independently, marking a potential shift away from coalition politics.

In conclusion, while the recent bye-election victories provide a boost and signal that AAP is far from politically finished, two wins cannot guarantee a dramatic turnaround. The party faces the critical task of regaining the trust of the middle class, repairing its image, and expanding its appeal beyond its core base.



# PM Modi Conferred with Trinidad and Tobago's Highest Civilian Honour

TPN Correspondent | Accra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean nation's highest civilian honour, during his two-day visit to the country. The award recognises Modi's influential global leadership, humanitarian contributions during the Covid-19 pandemic, and his efforts to strengthen ties with the Indian diaspora worldwide. Accepting the honour, PM Modi said, "Honoured to be conferred with 'The Order of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago'. I accept it on behalf of 140 crore Indians." This is Modi's first visit to Trinidad and Tobago as Prime Minister and marks the first Indian prime ministerial-level bilateral visit to the nation since 1999. The honour was announced by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who praised the visit as a celebration of shared values and a historic cultural bond between the two nations. The recognition comes as part of Modi's ongoing five-nation tour, which also included Ghana, where he was earlier awarded The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana, one of the



country's highest national honours. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) cited Modi's "distinguished statesmanship" and growing influence on the world stage as reasons for the series of accolades. This latest award adds to a growing list of foreign honours conferred upon the Indian Prime Minister. As of now, Modi has received over two dozen in-

ternational awards for his diplomatic leadership, global outreach, and development-focused policies. The honours from Ghana and Trinidad and Tobago reflect India's rising profile in the Global South and Prime Minister Modi's ongoing efforts to deepen bilateral relationships with key nations across Africa, the Caribbean, and beyond.

# Actor Vijay Declared TVK's Chief Ministerial Candidate, Rules Out Alliance with BJP or DMK



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has officially named actor-turned-politician Vijay as its Chief Ministerial candidate for the upcoming 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The decision was finalized during the party's state executive committee meeting held today at the TVK headquarters in Chennai. A special resolution passed during the meeting also confirmed that TVK will not align with either the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or the ruling Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).

The party emphasized its independent political path and outlined plans for a large-scale state conference to be held next month. Additionally, it announced a village-level outreach campaign aimed at spreading TVK's ideology directly to the people.

Vijay, who chaired the executive committee meeting, played a central role in shaping these decisions. The meeting also addressed various national

and state-level issues, notably Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent remarks on the English language. The party strongly criticized his comments, labeling them as "malicious" and an attack on Tamil Nadu's long-standing two-language policy.

TVK reiterated its firm opposition to the imposition of Hindi or Sanskrit in Tamil Nadu, stating that such moves go against the cultural and linguistic identity of the state. The party made it clear that it would resist any central attempt to undermine Tamil linguistic heritage.

Furthermore, the executive committee condemned the Election Commission of India's recent electoral roll revision drive. TVK claimed the move was politically motivated, aimed at reducing minority votes and boosting support for the BJP, calling it a threat to democratic principles. As part of its campaign strategy, several decisions were also taken to expand Vijay's public outreach programs, marking the beginning of an assertive political push ahead of the 2026 elections.

# 'India's Interest More Important, Not Deadline': Piyush Goyal On US Trade Talks

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India will not rush into finalising any trade deal under deadline pressure, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal affirmed today, highlighting that only a "win-win" agreement that safeguards national interest will be acceptable. His remarks come amid heightened speculation that India and the United States are nearing the final stage of an interim trade deal, with the suspension of US reciprocal tariffs set to expire on July 9. Speaking at the 16th Toy Biz B2B Expo in Delhi, Goyal emphasized that India's approach to global trade negotiations remains firm, strategic, and centered on securing long-term benefits for the country. "India never enters into trade deals based on deadlines or time pressure. A deal is accepted only when it is fully matured, well-negotiated, and in the national interest," he stated. India is pushing for greater market access for its labour-intensive sectors, while the US seeks tariff concessions for its agricultural exports. These points remain under discussion as negotiators from both countries work toward a balanced outcome. Goyal said trade discussions are ongoing not just with the US but also with



multiple other partners, including the European Union, Oman, New Zealand, Chile, and Peru. "It should be a win-win agreement, and only when India's interests are safeguarded. National interest will always be supreme," he reiterated. Experts believe the India-US interim deal aims to lay the foundation for a broader, more comprehensive agree-

ment in the future. Atul Keshap, president of the US-India Business Council, noted the complexity of negotiating around agriculture, calling it a sensitive sector due to its cultural and political importance in both countries. Goyal's remarks echo a consistent Indian trade philosophy: economic engagement without compromising sovereignty or core interests.



# Nara Lokesh Offers Land at 99 Paise to IT Giants, Says Inspired by PM Modi's Gujarat Model

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh has launched an aggressive investment strategy to turn the state into a major tech hub by offering land to top IT companies at a nominal lease rate — as low as 99 paise. Lokesh said the move was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2008 strategy as Gujarat Chief Minister, when he attracted Tata Motors by offering land at Re 1. Speaking to NDTV, Lokesh confirmed that software giants Cognizant and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have already taken up his offer. Cognizant has been allocated 21.31 acres in Visakhapatnam on lease for Re 1 and is expected to invest ₹1,582.98 crore and generate 8,000 jobs. Similarly, TCS was given 21.16 acres at 99 paise per acre and has committed ₹1,370 crore, with plans to create 12,000 jobs. Lokesh declared this offer open to the world's top 100 IT companies, signaling Andhra Pradesh's ambitions to become a major destination for global tech investments. He emphasized Visakhapatnam's potential as a future IT hub and global center for chemical manufacturing, alongside plans for a new airport and India's largest steel plant. On political matters, Lokesh dismissed the three-capital plan pushed by former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, pointing to the TDP's sweeping victory in the 2024 elections, especially in Visakhapatnam, where the YSRCP didn't win a single seat. He said the mandate was a rejection of the plan and a call for development-focused governance. Addressing the water-sharing issue with Telangana, Lokesh advocated cooperation and conservation, while also stressing his administration's commitment to legal accountability, referring to his "redbook" of past irregularities under the previous regime.



# India Backs Religious Freedom Amid Dalai Lama Succession Row; China Warns Against 'Interference'

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid escalating tensions over the Dalai Lama's succession plan, India reaffirmed its commitment to religious freedom while refraining from direct involvement in religious matters. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated on Friday that the government "does not take any position or speak on matters concerning beliefs and practices of faith and religion," but added that it "has always upheld freedom of religion for all in India and will continue to do so." The statement came just hours after China sharply objected to recent comments made by India's Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who supported the Dalai Lama's right to decide on his own reincarnation. China has claimed it must approve the successor to the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. Earlier this week, the Dalai Lama declared that the "institution of the Dalai Lama will continue" and that only the Gaden Phodrang Trust — his official institution — will have the authority to recognize his reincarnation. He categorically rejected any Chinese involvement in the process, stating that "no one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter." China responded strongly, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning urging India to recognize the "anti-China separatist nature" of the Dalai Lama. She called on India to avoid interfering in Beijing's internal affairs and to act with caution on Tibet-related issues to avoid damaging bilateral ties. India, while avoiding a direct diplomatic confrontation, stood firm on its principles of religious freedom. The Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in India since 1959, remains a sensitive issue in India-China relations. The latest developments underline the growing geopolitical and ideological divide between the two countries over Tibet and religious autonomy.





# Trump Proposes UFC Fight at White House to Celebrate America’s 250th Independence Anniversary

TPN Correspondent | Washington

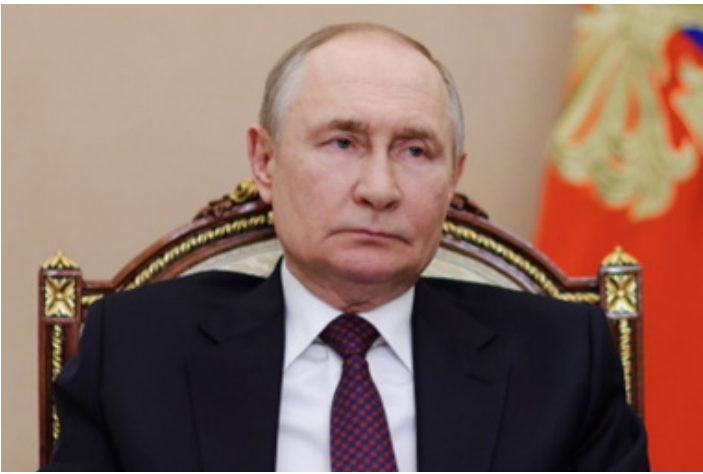
President Donald Trump has unveiled a unique plan to mark the 250th anniversary of American independence by hosting a UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) match on the grounds of the White House. Announcing the idea during an event in Iowa, Trump said he envisions a full-scale UFC fight with an audience of 20,000 to 25,000 spectators to kick off a year-long celebration leading to July 4, 2026. “We have a lot of land there,” Trump said, referring to the White House grounds, highlighting his enthusiasm for the sport. An avid UFC fan, Trump has attended multiple mixed martial arts matches recently and shares a close friendship with Dana White, the UFC president. The announcement was made



during the official launch of nationwide festivities commemorating America's 250th birthday. Trump also revealed plans for a grand festival on the Nation-

al Mall in Washington, D.C., along with a nationwide athletic competition featuring high school athletes. “So every one of our national parks, battlefields,

and historic sites are going to have special events in honor of America 250. And I even think we’re going to have a UFC fight,” Trump added enthusiastically. Details on the logistics and security measures for the proposed UFC event remain sparse, as a White House spokesperson stated there was no additional information to share beyond the president’s initial remarks. Trump’s proposal has generated significant buzz, given his recent high-profile appearances at UFC events, including attending fights immediately following his 2024 reelection and a recent championship event alongside Dana White. If realized, the UFC fight at the White House would be a historic and unconventional way to celebrate a major national milestone, blending American sports culture with patriotic festivities.



## Trump and Putin Maintain Firm Stances on Ukraine in Phone Call

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

In a recent hour-long phone conversation on Thursday, US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin held discussions over the ongoing conflict in Ukraine but stuck to their respective positions. According to Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov, Putin reaffirmed that Russia’s military campaign in Ukraine will continue until all of Moscow’s objectives are fully achieved.

While Putin emphasized that Russia remains open to pursuing a diplomatic solution to the conflict, he insisted that the root causes of the crisis must not be ignored. “Moscow will continue to seek a diplomatic resolution but will not leave the underlying issues unaddressed,” Ushakov said during a briefing after the call.

On the other hand, President Trump urged Putin to halt hostilities as soon as possible. Trump’s appeal reflects growing international pressure to find a peaceful end to the war that has caused significant human and economic tolls on both sides.

The phone call comes amid escalating violence and intense fighting in Ukraine, including recent large-scale missile and drone strikes targeting Kyiv. These ongoing attacks underline the high stakes and complexity of the conflict.

In related news, Major General Mikhail Gudkov, deputy head of the Russian Navy and a former marine brigade commander active in Ukraine’s Kursk region, was reportedly killed in action. Gudkov was one of Moscow’s most senior military officers engaged in the conflict, and his death marks a significant loss for the Russian armed forces.

As the war continues, both leaders remain entrenched in their views, with no immediate breakthrough expected. The world watches closely as diplomatic efforts and military actions unfold, shaping the future of Ukraine and international relations.



## 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.

# Tulsi Gabbard Accuses Washington Post Reporter of Harassment; Newspaper Defends Journalism

TPN Correspondent | US

US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard has publicly accused Washington Post senior reporter Ellen Nakashima of harassing intelligence officials and using deceptive methods to gather information. Gabbard claimed Nakashima bypassed official channels, calling senior intelligence officers from a burner phone, refusing to identify herself, and demanding sensitive information.

In a post on X, Gabbard said, “Washington Post reporter @nakashimae appears to be actively harassing ODNI staff.” She added that instead of contacting her press office, Nakashima lied about her identity and her association with the Washington Post, calling senior officers covertly. Gabbard described the incident as part of a politically motivated campaign, accusing the reporter and the newspaper of stalking her family in Hawaii and sabotaging the President’s agenda.

Ellen Nakashima, an award-winning journalist with decades of experience covering



national security, has been part of three Pulitzer Prize-winning teams. Her work includes reporting on sensitive intelligence operations and foreign threats. The Washington Post’s executive editor, Matt Murray, responded firmly, defending Nakashima’s professionalism. “For three decades, Ellen Nakashima has been one of the most careful, fair-minded, and highly regarded reporters covering national security,” Murray said. He em-

phasized that reaching out to sources beyond official statements is fundamental journalism, not harassment. Murray called Gabbard’s accusations “unfounded” and “personal,” highlighting a misunderstanding of journalism’s role to hold government accountable without fear or favor. This clash reflects ongoing tensions between government officials and the media. Recently, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth

criticized reporters for allegedly undermining US military efforts, while former President Trump demanded CNN fire national security correspondent Natasha Bertrand over her reporting. CNN reaffirmed its support for Bertrand, standing “100% behind” her journalism. The dispute underscores the complex relationship between national security, media scrutiny, and political interests in the current US political landscape.

# Russia Launches Massive Overnight Missile and Drone Strike on Kyiv, Injuring 23

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

In the largest aerial assault since the war began, Russia unleashed a barrage of 550 missiles and Shahed drones across Ukraine overnight, primarily targeting the capital Kyiv. The relentless attack left 23 people injured, with 14 hospitalized, and caused extensive damage across multiple districts of the city.

The Ukrainian Air Force reported that its air defenses successfully intercepted 270 targets, including two cruise missiles. Additionally, 208 other objects vanished from radar, believed to be jammed by electronic warfare. Despite these efforts, Russian forces managed to strike eight locations with nine missiles and 63 drones, scattering debris over at least 33 sites in Kyiv. The assault involved mainly Shahed drones, supplemented by 11 missiles. Kyiv bore the brunt of the attack, with emergency services reporting damage across five of the city’s ten districts. In the Solomianskyi district, a five-story residential building was partially de-



stroyed, and a seven-story building suffered a rooftop fire. Fires also broke out at a warehouse, a garage complex, and an auto repair shop. Throughout the night, residents and journalists in Kyiv heard the constant drone buzz, explosions, and machine-gun fire as Ukrainian forces engaged to repel the aerial offensive.

The strike followed closely on the heels of President Donald Trump’s phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin and his public comments about the U.S. decision to pause shipments of certain weapons to Ukraine. The pause affects key munitions such as Patriot missiles, AIM-7 Sparrow air-to-air missiles, and Stinger missiles,

all crucial for defending against drone and missile attacks. This latest massive strike comes less than a week after a similar large-scale Russian assault, when Moscow launched 537 drones, decoys, and 60 missiles against Ukraine. The ongoing attacks highlight the intense and escalating aerial warfare in the region.



# SEBI Bars US Firm Jane Street from Indian Markets Over Alleged Market Manipulation

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken strict action against US-based trading firm Jane Street and three of its related entities by barring them from participating in the Indian securities market. The regulator has ordered the entities to deposit illegal gains amounting to Rs 4,843.5 crore into an account in favor of SEBI and imposed a freeze on their bank accounts. The entities affected include Jane Street's Indian and Asian arms: JSI2 Investments Private Ltd, Jane Street Singapore Pte. Ltd, and Jane Street Asia Trading Ltd. According to SEBI's order, Jane Street earned an extraordinary profit of Rs 43,289.33 crore through trading in index options on Indian exchanges between January 2023 and March 2025. The investigation revealed that on 14 expiry days, Jane Street followed a pattern of heavily buying Bank Nifty futures and selling large volumes of



Bank Nifty options during the morning session. Later in the afternoon, the firm aggressively sold substantial amounts of Bank Nifty futures, thereby influencing the index's closing levels on expiry days. A notable example cited in the SEBI

order is January 17, 2024, when Jane Street bought Bank Nifty futures worth Rs 4,370 crore in the morning and sold Bank Nifty options worth Rs 32,115 crore. By afternoon, it sold futures contracts worth Rs 5,372 crore, resulting in a significant short position of Rs 46,620 crore in Bank Nifty options. This strategy softened the Bank Nifty's closing price, enabling Jane Street to pocket Rs 735 crore in profits in the options segment, offset by a Rs 61.6 crore intraday loss in cash and futures, culminating in a net gain of Rs 673.4 crore on that day alone. SEBI's order prohibits all Jane Street group entities from trading or engaging in any market-related activities in India. The firm has contested SEBI's interim findings and indicated plans to engage with the regulator further. This enforcement underscores SEBI's commitment to maintaining fair and transparent market practices.

# Indian Stock Market Opens Marginally Higher Amid Mixed Global Cues

Mumbai: The Indian stock market opened slightly higher on Friday, with benchmark indices showing modest gains amid mixed global signals. Early buying interest was seen in the IT, PSU bank, and financial services sectors. At 9:34 am, the Sensex was trading 32.52 points, or 0.04%, higher at 83,271.99, while the Nifty gained 3.45 points, or 0.01%, to 25,408.75. The Nifty Bank index rose by 9.90 points, or 0.02%, to 56,801.85. Despite the positive start, the Nifty 50 failed to maintain momentum and slipped below its intraday support level of 25,450, forming a bearish candlestick on the daily chart. Hardik Matalia, Derivative Analyst at Choice Broking, noted that this could signal a potential trend reversal, though confirmation is still awaited. He added that a sustained move above 25,600 could open the way for a rally toward 25,750. On the downside, immediate supports lie at 25,222 and 25,120, which could be considered entry points for long positions. The Nifty Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 indices showed healthy gains of 0.15% and 0.13%, respectively, with midcaps trading at 59,771.65 and smallcaps at 19,051.80. Among Sensex constituents, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, BEL, HDFC Bank, and Hindustan Unilever Limited were top gainers, while Trent, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, and Titan



lagged behind. On the institutional front, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their selling streak for the fourth day, offloading equities worth Rs 1,481.19 crore on July 3. Conversely, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) remained net buyers with purchases totaling Rs 1,333.06 crore. Globally, most Asian markets including Bangkok, Hong Kong, Japan, Seoul, and Jakarta traded lower, while China closed in positive territory. Meanwhile, US markets closed sharply higher on Thursday, with the Dow Jones, S&P 500, and Nasdaq ending up by 0.77%, 0.83%, and 1.02%, respectively. Viram Shah, CEO of Vested Finance, attributed the US gains to a stronger-than-expected jobs report and a dip in unemployment to 4.1%.

# 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.

# 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.



by 200 basis points to around 8.7-9 percent in FY25.

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

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.

# RBI Announces Underwriting Auction for Rs 32,000 Crore Government Securities



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an underwriting auction for government securities worth Rs 32,000 crore, scheduled for Friday, July 4, 2025. The auction will include both the issuance of a new government security and the re-issuance of an existing bond. The securities up for auction comprise a new Government Security (GS) maturing in 2040 and a re-issue of the 6.90% GS maturing in 2065. Each security carries a notified amount of Rs 16,000 crore. The auction will be conducted through a multiple price-based method via the RBI's Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system, allowing Primary Dealers (PDs) to submit their bids electronically. An underwriting auction is a mechanism RBI uses to ensure that the entire amount of government bonds on offer is fully subscribed, even if market demand is uncertain. Primary Dealers play a crucial role as underwriters in this process, committing to purchase any unsold

portion of the bonds. This commitment helps the government raise funds smoothly to meet its expenditure requirements. Under the RBI's underwriting commitment scheme, each Primary Dealer has a Minimum Underwriting Commitment (MUC) of Rs 381 crore for each of the two securities. They are also required to place bids for at least Rs 381 crore under the Additional Competitive Underwriting (ACU) auction. The underwriting commission, or fee paid to PDs for their underwriting commitment, will be credited to their accounts on the day the securities are issued. This auction forms part of the government's regular borrowing program and underscores the RBI's role in ensuring smooth functioning of debt market operations. By conducting such auctions, RBI effectively manages government borrowing, maintaining stability and investor confidence in the debt markets.



# Six Indian Cities Featured Among World’s Top 100 Food Destinations, Mumbai Ranks 5th

India’s rich and diverse culinary heritage has earned global recognition, with six Indian cities featured in TasteAtlas’s list of the Top 100 Food Cities worldwide. Mumbai leads the pack, securing an impressive 5th place, followed by Amritsar (43), Delhi (45), Hyderabad (50), Kolkata (71), and Chennai (75). Often oversimplified as “spicy” or “rich,” Indian cuisine is far more complex, shaped by geography, culture, and centuries-old traditions. Each city’s food scene tells a unique story—from the bustling streets of Mumbai to the sacred kitchens of Amritsar’s gurudwaras. Food historian Alok Singh explains that Indian cuisine’s magic lies in how common ingredients like rice, lentils, spices, and vegetables are transformed using distinct regional techniques and cultural influences. Mumbai’s Kheema Pav and Koliwada Prawns reflect the city’s vibrant, coastal spirit. In Amritsar, dishes like Kulcha-Lassi and the simple, soulful



langar meals speak of deep-rooted traditions. Delhi’s culinary identity blends Mughal grandeur with street food energy, exemplified by iconic Chole-Bhature. Hyderabad’s famed biryani showcases Iranian and Mughal origins, fused with Telangana’s spices and flavors. Kolkata offers Kathi rolls and Mughlai parathas, combining British and Mughal legacies with Bengali flair, while Chennai’s crispy dosas, fluffy idlis, and tangy sambhar echo the region’s climate and cultural fabric. These rankings celebrate authentic street food and local flavors, not just upscale restaurants. The emotional connection to food is integral to Indian culture—each dish is a sensory memory passed down generations. Indian cuisine continues to evolve and inspire globally, with dishes like butter chicken, masala dosa, and paneer tikka gaining international popularity. This recognition by TasteAtlas affirms India’s position as a world leader in culinary diversity and heritage.

## 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 ca-

reer.”

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 former 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.

## 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.

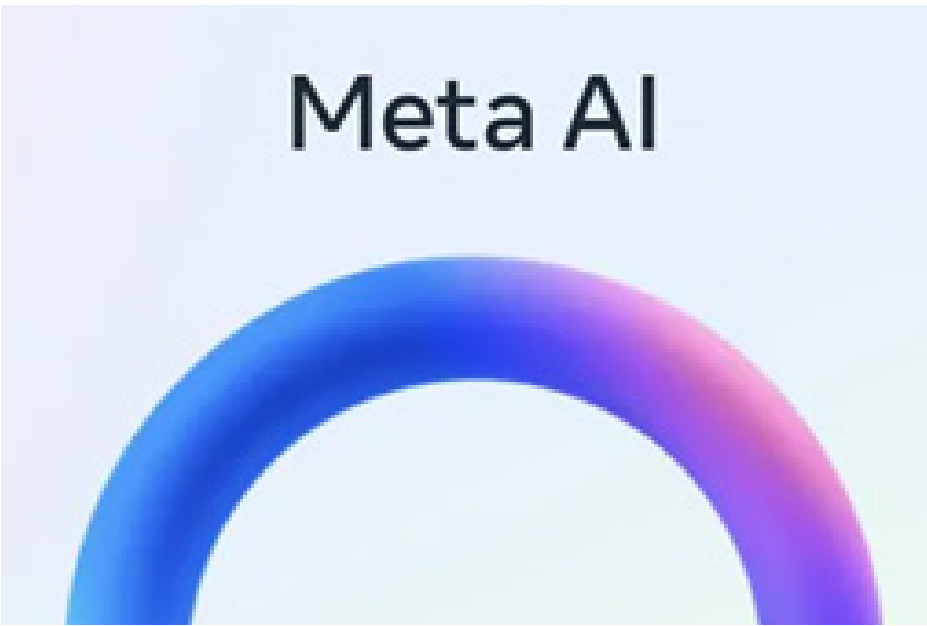
Firozabad’s transformation from a bangle-centric economy to a crores-worth glass bottle industry is a significant shift. While it still produces bangles and decorative items, the city’s growing reputation as a supplier for the international liquor industry reflects its adaptability and skilled workforce.

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.

## Meta Tests AI Chatbots That Could Slide Into Your DMs

Meta is exploring new AI chatbots that may proactively message users first, initiating conversations in direct messages (DMs). These customizable chatbots, part of an internal initiative called “Project Omni,” are designed to re-engage users by following up on previous conversations and remembering past interactions. For instance, a chatbot named “The Maestro of Movie Magic” might reach out with a friendly message like, “I hope you’re having a harmonious day! Have you discovered any new favorite soundtracks or composers? Or would you like recommendations for your next movie night? Just let me know!” This approach aims to make conversations feel more natural and personalized. Meta confirmed that while these chatbots can send follow-up messages, they will only do so after a user starts the initial conversation. If a user does not respond, the chatbot won’t continue messaging. The follow-up message window is limited to 14 days after the first contact, and users must have sent at least five messages within that period to trigger a follow-up. This ensures users aren’t spammed and keeps interactions meaningful.

These AI chatbots are built through Meta’s AI Studio, a no-code platform available via Facebook and Instagram. Launched last year, AI Studio allows anyone to create chatbots with distinct personalities and memories. Users can design chatbots for various purposes—like a chef suggesting recipes or an interior designer offering home decor advice. Creators and influencers can also use these bots to manage fan interactions and respond to messages more efficiently. Overall, Meta’s new chatbot initiative aims to enhance user engagement by providing tailored, ongoing conversations across its social apps, while respecting user control and interaction preferences.



## Instagram Service Restored for US Users After Widespread Outage

Instagram experienced a significant outage on Wednesday that impacted thousands of users across the United States. According to Downt detector, a popular outage tracking website, the number of reported incidents has sharply decreased, indicating that the service disruption is easing. At the peak of the outage, Downt detector recorded 16,747 problem reports from users experiencing issues with Instagram. However, by 12:10 p.m. ET, the number of reported incidents had dropped dramatically to 849, suggesting that Instagram’s services were being restored and returning to normal functionality. Downt detector aggregates outage reports from various sources, providing real-time updates on service disruptions. The sudden spike in reports highlighted the widespread nature of the Instagram outage, which affected user access and functionality on the platform. While the exact cause of the outage has not been officially disclosed by Instagram or Meta, such disruptions often arise from server issues, software bugs, or maintenance glitches. Instagram users across the United States reported difficulties in loading the app, sending messages, and accessing content during the peak of the outage. Instagram’s leadership, including head Adam Mosseri, has been actively outlining the platform’s roadmap for 2025, focusing on improv-



ing user experience and introducing new features. Despite this recent hiccup, the platform continues to be a key social media space for millions of users. As of now, Instagram is back up and running for most users in the US, and the platform is expected to continue monitoring its systems to prevent future outages. Users experiencing lingering issues are advised to check Downt detector and Instagram’s official communication channels for updates. This incident serves as a reminder of the challenges large social media platforms face in maintaining seamless service for their vast user base.





## Wimbledon 2025: Jannik Sinner Cruises Past Vukic to Reach Third Round

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner delivered a dominant performance on Centre Court as he powered past Australia's Aleksandar Vukic 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the third round of Wimbledon 2025. The Italian star was in complete control from start to finish, showcasing his class in a match that never truly looked competitive. Sinner, aiming to win his first Wimbledon title, was far superior to the 93rd-ranked Vukic in the opening two sets, barely giving his opponent a chance. Though Vukic showed brief resistance in the third, Sinner closed out the match—albeit needing six match points—under fading light, sealing the win with his 12th ace. “I struggled a bit to close it out. I’m very happy, Centre Court is such a special occasion,” said Sinner after the match. Reflecting on the tense final game, he added, “Yes, I enjoyed it because I won the game! If not, I don’t know—things can change quickly. If he breaks me

there, it can go a long distance.” Despite his French Open heartbreak last month, where he lost a dramatic final to Carlos Alcaraz, Sinner has bounced back impressively. Except for a minor setback in Halle where he lost to Alexander Bublik, his Wimbledon campaign has been flawless so far. In a surprising move, Sinner parted ways with long-time trainer Marco Panichi and physiotherapist Ulises Badio just days before the tournament. Yet, the shake-up hasn’t affected his form. The 23-year-old has yet to drop serve and has conceded only 12 games in his first two matches. Next, he faces unseeded Spaniard Pedro Martinez in the third round as he continues his pursuit to become Italy’s first Wimbledon champion. “Every match is tough in Grand Slams,” he said. “I’m staying focused and trying to improve each round.”

## President Murmu Flags Off Trophies for 134th Durand Cup

President Droupadi Murmu officially unveiled and flagged off the trophies of the prestigious Durand Cup Tournament 2025 at a ceremonial event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on Friday. The event marked the beginning of the 134th edition of Asia’s oldest football tournament, set to kick off later this month.

In her address, the President emphasized the vital role sports play in shaping society. “Sports promote discipline, determination, and team spirit,” she said. “They have the power to unite people across regions and cultures. In India, sports have become a strong force for national integration, inspiring pride when the tricolour flies high on global stages.”

Speaking specifically about football, the President described it as more than a game—calling it a passion shared by millions. She highlighted how tournaments like the Durand Cup not only preserve the spirit of the sport but also nurture emerging talent and provide a platform for future football stars. President Murmu also lauded the Indian Armed Forces for their continued support in keeping the Durand Cup tradition alive. The 134th Durand Cup will be held from July 22 to August 23, spanning six venues across five Indian states. Imphal in Ma-



nipur makes a return as a host city after two years, while Kokrajhar in Assam retains its hosting status for the third straight year. Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) and Shillong (Meghalaya), which debuted as venues last year, also continue as hosts. The tournament’s heart remains in Kolkata—India’s football capital—which

has served as the home base since 2019. Matches will take place at top venues including Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan and Kishore Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata. Defending champions North East United FC will aim to retain their title after a memorable win against Mohun Bagan last year.

## Women’s Euro 2025: Spain Crushes Portugal 5-0 in Dominant Opener

Reigning world champions Spain made a resounding start to their UEFA Women’s Euro 2025 campaign by thrashing Portugal 5-0 in their Group B opener at Bern’s Wankdorf Stadium on Thursday.

Veteran striker Esther González, 32, etched her name in history as the oldest player to represent Spain at the tournament—and opened the scoring just 87 seconds into the game. Moments later, 18-year-old Vicky López, the youngest player on the squad, added Spain’s second goal in a memorable generational handoff. Captain Alexia Putellas, returning to a major tournament after missing Euro 2022 due to a knee injury, netted Spain’s third goal with a classy finish in the 41st minute. Her leadership and poise in midfield proved vital throughout the match. “It’s something we’ve looked forward to



for so long, and we’ve finally shown what we’re capable of,” Putellas told Spanish broadcaster TVE. “There’s a lot to be proud of.”

Portugal goalkeeper Inês Pereira had a busy night, making several key saves but unable to keep Spain at bay. Mariona Caldentey set up López’s goal after Pereira

cleared a cross, and Claudia Pina’s strike rebounded off the post for González to tap in her second and Spain’s fourth in the 43rd minute. Substitute Cristina Martin-Prieto capped the rout with a header in stoppage time. Despite a slightly less sharp second half, Spain remained in total control, dominating possession and executing a seamless passing game. Notably, two-time Ballon d’Or winner Aitana Bonmati, recently recovered from viral meningitis, was introduced late in the game, replacing López in the 81st minute. “We’re thrilled she’s back,” said Putellas. The match began with a moment of silence for Portuguese and Liverpool forward Diogo Jota, who tragically died in a car crash. Spain next faces Belgium on Monday, who edged past Italy 1-0 earlier in the day.

## India vs England 2nd Test Day 3: Shubman Gill Shines, India Push for Early Breakthroughs

India resumes Day 3 of the second Test against England at Edgbaston in a commanding position, with their sights set on early wickets to build on the momentum created by a record-breaking performance from Shubman Gill on Day 2.

After England stumbled to 25/3 in their first innings, they managed a mini-recovery to close Day 2 at 77/3. Joe Root (18\*) and Harry Brook (30\*) will continue the innings for the hosts, hoping to consolidate and close the gap on India’s massive first-innings total. The day belonged entirely to Shubman Gill, whose sensational knock of 269 propelled India to a mammoth 587. In the process, the young Indian batter shattered five major records, including becoming the youngest Indian to score a double century in England and the highest individual score by an Indian at Edgbaston.

Gill’s innings was a blend of composure and aggression, featuring exquisite stroke play and relentless focus. His innings helped India gain complete control of the match and put England under immense pressure. On the bowling front, India made early inroads with debutant pacer Akash Deep impressing in his first outing. Filling in for Jasprit Bumrah,



Deep struck twice with the new ball, removing openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley. Mohammed Siraj added another crucial breakthrough by dismissing Ollie Pope, putting England on the back foot.

With England still trailing by a significant margin and India’s bowlers fired up, the third day promises to be a crucial one. India will look to break the Root-Brook partnership early and potentially push for a follow-on.

All eyes will also remain on Shubman Gill, who, after rewriting the record books, now eyes more milestones in what is becoming a defining Test series for the young star.

## Djokovic Marches On, Sinner Cruises, Swiatek, Krejckikova Survive Scares

Novak Djokovic continued his quest for a historic 25th Grand Slam title with a commanding performance at Wimbledon, sweeping aside British wildcard Dan Evans 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 in just one hour and 47 minutes. The 38-year-old Serbian superstar, tied with Margaret Court at 24 majors, is determined to make history on the lawns he holds close to his heart.

“It means I’ve been playing quite a long time!” joked Djokovic after sealing his 99th Wimbledon match win. “Wimbledon has a special place in my heart. Any history made here is extra special.”

Despite losing the last two Wimbledon finals to Carlos Alcaraz, Djokovic believes the All England Club offers him the best shot at that elusive 25th Grand Slam.

Meanwhile, world number one Jannik Sinner also eased into the third round. The US and Australian Open champion dismantled Australia’s Aleksandar Vukic 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, dropping just 12 games across his first two matches. He now faces Spaniard Pedro Martinez. “There have been so many upsets, so we try to stay focused,” Sinner said.

For British fans, hopes took a hit as Jack Draper fell to 36-year-old Marin Cilic. The Croatian, making a comeback after major knee surgery, fired 53 winners en route to a 6-4, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 victory. “The emotions are incredible,” said Cilic, a 2017 Wimbledon fi-



nalist. In the women’s draw, top seeds continued to struggle. Only Aryna Sabalenka remains among the top five. Defending champion Barbora Krejckikova battled past Caroline Dolehide 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while Iga Swiatek came from behind to beat Caty McNally 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. Former champion Elena Rybakina crushed Maria Sakkari 6-3, 6-1, and 18-year-old Russian Mirra Andreeva edged past Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), continuing her dream run.





## Power Star Pawan Kalyan to Launch Theatrical Trailer of RK Sagar’s The 100

RK Sagar, who rose to household fame with the iconic television serial Mogali Rekulu, is making a powerful return to the big screen with his upcoming film The 100. Stepping into the role of a dynamic IPS officer named Vikranth, Sagar promises to showcase a never-before-seen avatar in this high-octane action drama. The film has already generated buzz with its intriguing teaser, which was unveiled by none other than Anjana Devi, the mother of Megastar Chiranjeevi. The teaser's gritty visuals and compelling tone have set high expectations among fans and moviegoers alike. In a major boost to the film's promotions, Power Star Pawan Kalyan has now come on board to launch the theatrical trailer of The 100. The trailer will be officially released on July 5th. RK Sagar, a known admirer of Pawan Kalyan and an active supporter of the Jana Sena Party, had earlier participated in the party's election campaigns. His connection with Pawan Kalyan has now translated into this strong show of support for his cinematic comeback. Directed by Raghav Omark Sasidhar and jointly produced by Ramesh Karutoori and Venki Pushadapu under the banners of KRIA Film Corp and Dhamma Productions, The 100 is shaping up to be a gripping action entertain-



er. The film is slated for release in cinemas on July 11th, exactly a week from now. With RK Sagar's return, a riveting storyline, and Pawan Kalyan's backing, The 100 is poised to make a notable impact at the box office. All eyes are now on July 5th as fans eagerly await the theatrical trailer launch.

## Keerthy Suresh’s Uppu Kappurambu Now Streaming on Amazon Prime Video

The long-awaited satirical drama Uppu Kappurambu, starring National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh and actor Suhas, is now available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video. Directed by Ani I.V. Sasi, who previously helmed Nuvvila Nuvvila, the film brings an unconventional story to the screen with a blend of humor and social commentary. Set in the quirky, fictional village of Chitti Jayapuram, Uppu Kappurambu revolves around an unexpected and rather bizarre crisis involving the village graveyard. What begins as a seemingly ordinary rural tale quickly unfolds into a satirical exploration of tradition, bureaucracy, and community dynamics, all laced with sharp wit and emotion. Keerthy Suresh delivers yet another standout performance, this time in a character that balances vulnerability with resilience. Suhas adds charm and depth to the narrative, complementing Keerthy's role with a grounded portrayal. The supporting cast features notable names such as Talluri Rajeswari, Shatru, Babu Mohan, Vishnu Oi, and Duvvasi Mohan, each adding their own flavor to the vibrant village setup. The film's music, composed by Sweekar Agas-



thi, elevates the emotional and comedic beats of the story, while Radhika Lavu's production underlines a strong commitment to fresh, content-driven cinema. Now streaming in Telugu along with several other Indian languages, Uppu Kappurambu offers viewers a refreshing alternative to conventional storytelling. With its unique setting, layered performances, and satirical edge, the film is sure to strike a chord with audiences looking for something different on OTT. Stay tuned for more updates and reviews as the film continues to make waves on streaming platforms.

## Hari Hara Veeramallu Trailer Breaks Records, Surpasses Pushpa 2 Milestone

Power Star Pawan Kalyan's upcoming period action adventure Hari Hara Veeramallu is already making waves ahead of its theatrical release on July 24. The film's trailer, which dropped just yesterday, has received a staggering response from audiences across the globe. Within 24 hours of its release, the Telugu version of the trailer alone amassed over 48 million views, setting a new all-time record. In total, across all language versions, the trailer has clocked an astonishing 61.7 million views—surpassing all expectations and setting a new benchmark in Indian cinema. The makers proudly declared, “This is not just a record—it's a warning for all future films.” One of the major talking points is how Hari Hara Veeramallu has officially overtaken the trailer view record set by Pushpa 2. Until now, Pushpa 2 held the 24-hour record in South India with 44.67 million views. However, Hari Hara Veeramallu surged past it, even outperforming Pushpa 2's fastest milestone of 47 million views in 23 hours. Starring Pawan Kalyan as a fierce and intelligent warrior from the 17th century during the Muslim rule in India, the film is set to be a grand historical spectacle. Nidhhi Agerwal plays the female lead, while acclaimed actors like Bobby Deol, Anupam Kher, and Sathyaraj will be seen



in significant roles. The film is produced by A. Dayakar Rao under the Mega Surya Productions banner, with presentation by A.M. Ratnam. Originally directed by Krish, the film saw a change in leadership mid-production, with Jyothi Krishna, Ratnam's son, stepping in to complete the remaining portions. With sky-high expectations and record-breaking numbers, Hari Hara Veeramallu is shaping up to be a major cinematic event.

## NC24: Naga Chaitanya Gears Up for a Mythological Thriller With Renewed Energy

Following the massive success of Thandel, Naga Chaitanya is back in the spotlight with his upcoming film, tentatively titled NC24. Directed by Karthik Dandu of Virupaksha fame, this unique mythological thriller is being produced by BVSN Prasad under SVCC in association with Sukumar Writings. Bapineedu is presenting the film, which has already sparked curiosity with its concept and striking visuals. The makers recently dropped a behind-the-scenes video, which received a great response from fans and film circles alike. The team has already wrapped up a key schedule and is reportedly thrilled with the footage shot so far. Now, the production moves into its next major phase, with a new schedule kicking off today in Hyderabad. This one-month-long shooting phase will be held across three major locations in the city, focusing on some pivotal sequences. Naga Chaitanya, affectionately known as Chay, is seen back on set with renewed energy. A newly released image shows him in an intense avatar, gripping an axe and rope—hinting at the action-packed and mystical tone of the film. Joining Chay are other key cast members, who are also participating in this schedule. The team is currently tight-lipped about their identities but promises to reveal the full cast soon. Ragul Dharuman is handling the cinematography, while the music is being composed by the talented Ajaneesh B Loknath. Naveen Nooli takes charge of the editing. NC24 is touted to be the most expensive film of Naga Chaitanya's career, and expectations are sky-high.



The official title announcement is expected shortly, further fueling anticipation for this one-of-a-kind cinematic experience.

## Coolie: Aamir Khan’s Rugged Look Unveiled in Rajinikanth’s Gangster Epic

In a thrilling promotional reveal during the events for Sitaare Zameen Par, Bollywood icon Aamir Khan confirmed his much-rumored cameo in Coolie, the high-voltage gangster drama headlined by Superstar Rajinikanth. Directed by the ever-sensational Lokesh Kanagaraj, Coolie has already captured the attention of fans across the country, and Aamir's involvement has taken the buzz to another level.

This evening, the makers of Coolie dropped the highly awaited first-look poster of Aamir Khan—and it has set the internet ablaze. Aamir is seen in a gritty,

massy avatar as Dahaa, a character that exudes raw power and swagger. With a cigarette pipe tucked between his lips, a worn-out baniyan, and an intense glare, Aamir's look signals a strong, impactful presence in the film's narrative.

Though his role is a cameo, sources reveal that Aamir's screen time is around 15 minutes, making a grand appearance during the film's climax. His scenes with Rajinikanth are expected to be explosive, and fans are eagerly anticipating this rare cinematic face-off between two of Indian cinema's biggest icons.

Coolie also boasts a stellar ensemble cast featuring Nagarjuna, Upendra, Shruti Haasan, Soubin Shahir, and Sathyaraj in key roles. The film is backed by Sun Pictures, with music composed by Anirudh Ravichander, adding further weight to the project's commercial appeal. Slated for a grand release on August 14, 2025, Coolie is shaping up to be a mass entertainer with high emotional stakes, intense action, and a dash of star-studded magic. With Aamir Khan now officially part of the mix, expectations are soaring for what could be one of the year's biggest cinematic spectacles.

