

Another 20 thousand acres for Amaravati...

50th Amaravati CRDA Meet Clears Land, Roads, Convention Centers

- 20,494 acres cleared for acquisition in Amaravati
- Four new convention centers approved
- RFP to be called for residential zone projects
- Green signal for sand dredging above Prakasam Barrage
- Land allotted to 16 national institutions



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The 50th meeting of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) was held under the chairmanship of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at his residence, where seven key proposals aimed at fast-tracking Amaravati's development were approved. One of the major decisions taken in

the meeting was the approval for acquisition of an additional 20,494 acres of land spread across four villages in Amaravati mandal and three villages in Thullur mandal. The CRDA also received approval to call for RFPs (Request for Proposals) for the development of high-density residential and mixed development zones on about 58 acres in Finance and Sports Cities at Mandam, Rayapudi, and Pichukalapa-

Amaravati Capital Work to Be Completed in 3 Years



Speaking after the meeting, Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana stated, "Amaravati's construction will be completed in three years. Unlike the previous delays in 2018 due to master plan confusion, there will be no more doubts now." He also criticized the opposition, saying, "YCP leaders are creating objections in some villages, but their leader Jagan won't even win the 11 seats he currently holds." The minister assured that Amaravati will soon take shape as a world-class capital with planned progress.

lem. The meeting gave a green signal for the construction of four new convention centers, each on 2.5 acres, to be located in Mandam, Thulluru, and Lingayapalem. These centers will be built on a QBS (Quality-Based Selection) basis near upcoming five-star hotels in the capital.

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Is This the Real Reason Behind Pawan's Praise for Babu?

- Repeated praise for CBN raises political curiosity
- Janasena grip loosening in coalition?
- Internal buzz over Lokesh's growing influence

TPN | PC Rao

Andhra Pradesh: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's repeated praise of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in every public meeting has sparked debate within political circles and even among his own party cadre. While his words highlight alliance unity, questions are now being raised over the intent and timing of his remarks — especially as internal speculation grows about his role and influence in the coalition government.

YCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu openly questioned Pawan's relevance in the administration. "What exactly is his role in governance? Does he even know what is going on in Andhra Pradesh?" he asked, accusing Pawan of surfacing only during public meetings to target YCP with no substantial intervention in governance matters.

This comes amidst growing speculation that Pawan's influence is shrinking, particularly when compared to the early months of the coalition government. Insiders point out that the Jana Sena chief has been restricting himself to his own department and appears detached from broader government affairs, fueling doubts over his confidence within the alliance.

Despite this, Pawan continues to praise Chandrababu's experience and vision, often reiterating that Naidu should become CM at least two more times. His statements have become more frequent, including during recent meetings like the Ongole Sabha, where his emphasis on unity and seniority took center stage.

Interestingly, even though Chandrababu Naidu had promised a ministerial post to Nagababu, the assurance has yet to materialize. Cabinet expansion plans remain on hold, and TDP sources suggest that no such move is imminent — adding to Jana Sena's unease.

At the same time, there's an internal buzz within the TDP that Minister Nara Lokesh has quietly consolidated significant control over government operations, becoming a de facto "shadow CM", barring Pawan's portfolio. Party leaders reportedly acknowledge this in internal discussions, and TDP supporters are already promoting Lokesh's rising stature on social media.

This shifting dynamic has not gone unnoticed within the Jana Sena. Why is only Pawan constantly praising Chandrababu, while TDP leaders remain silent about alliance camaraderie in their speeches? That's a question being quietly discussed among Jana Sena leaders, who are watching the evolving coalition balance with cautious concern.

As of now, Pawan's repeated emphasis on unity may reflect not just alliance loyalty, but a subtle assertion of presence and relevance within a rapidly centralizing government structure.

Three Women in the BJP President Race — Who Will Make History?

- BJP likely to choose a woman national president for the first time
- Sitharaman, Purandeswari, and Vanathi Srinivasan in the top race
- Southern states strategy may drive final decision

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

With the BJP National President elections expected soon, buzz has intensified within political circles that the saffron party may choose its first-ever woman president — a historic move if it materializes. What's more interesting is that all the top contenders are from southern India, signaling a strategic shift towards strengthening the BJP's southern footprint.

According to sources, the announcement may come by the end of July, and the names doing the rounds include Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajahmundry MP and former Union Minister Daggubati Purandeswari, and Tamil Nadu MLA Vanathi Srinivasan.

Nirmala Sitharaman

A frontrunner in the race, Sitharaman has served as both Defence Minister and Finance Minister in Modi's cabinet. Her administrative experience and clean image, coupled with her Tamil Nadu roots, make her a strong choice — especially as the party looks to gear up for future battles in the South. Her name was reportedly discussed in a recent



high-level meeting chaired by BJP President J.P. Nadda and General Secretary B.L. Santosh, with RSS reportedly backing her candidacy.

Daggubati Purandeswari

The Rajahmundry MP, daughter of NTR and former Union Minister, brings her deep political lineage and a grasp of Andhra, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu politics to the table. Her strong oratory, experience, and appeal across key social communities are seen as her strengths. Her name has gained prominence in the internal party buzz, especially after the recent Lok Sabha victory.

Kadapa Steel: Will The Promise Be Broken Again?

- CM and Minister Lokesh's deadline crosses with no action
- Foundation stones laid multiple times but no actual progress
- ₹500 Cr worth of earlier works still pending clearance

TPN | PC Rao

Andhra Pradesh: What happened to the much-publicized 'Kadapa Steel' promise? Is it turning into yet another unfulfilled assurance, just like the one made at the TDP Mahanadu? During the party's last Mahanadu, TDP National President and current Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu clearly announced that the steel plant works in Kadapa would begin soon. On May 29, in the Assembly, he reiterated this commitment and assured that the steel plant work would officially begin within 10 days — setting June 12 as the firm date for commencement near Peddadamaluru-Sunnapurallapally in Jammalamadugu constituency of YSR Kadapa district.

Even IT Minister and his son, Nara Lokesh, echoed the same date during a media interaction. However, it's been over a month since that deadline passed, and there has been no sign of any activity or ground-level progress in the region. The promised steel plant — a long-standing demand of the Rayalaseema people and a mandate in the AP State Reorganization Act — seems to remain once again only on paper.

The Kadapa Steel Plant issue has seen foundation



stones laid twice already — first by Chandrababu Naidu himself in February 2018 at Kambaladinne, Mylavaram mandal, and later by the YSRCP government under the banner of YSR Steel Corporation. The latter even allocated 3,200 acres near Sunnapurallapalli and tied up with JSW Group to set up the steel plant at an estimated cost of ₹15,000 crore. However, even after the new TDP-led coalition came to power in 2024, no headway has been made.



Another 20 thousand acres for Amaravati...

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With increasing construction sand rates becoming a concern, the CRDA has been granted permission to undertake sand dredging through the desiltation process above the Prakasam Barrage. Officials estimate around 159.54 cubic meters of sand will be needed in the next two years for Amaravati construction works. Further, the CRDA approved land allocation of 65 acres to 16 key institutions including the CBI, Zoological Survey of India, Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy, MSK Prasad Cricket Academy, and KIMS Hospital. A six-lane Railway Over Bridge (ROB) on the E-15 highway also received a nod, along with the proposed construction of memorials for freedom fighters Potti Sriramulu and Al-luri Seetharama Raju. The approvals granted in the 50th CRDA Authority meeting mark a major step forward in reviving Amaravati's development, with the government aiming to create a globally recognized capital city.

Kadapa Steel: Will The Promise Be

Continued from page 1

Several bills related to the earlier YSRCP-initiated infrastructure works remain pending. These include payments for a 7.5 km road, compound wall construction, SS tanks, water reservoirs, and the supply pipeline project from Brahmasagar, all amounting to around ₹500 crore. Another ₹150 crore was meant for additional support infrastructure including a dedicated railway line and water facilities — none of which have seen political will for continuation or revival. Despite tall promises and repeated foundation stone ceremonies, the Kadapa Steel Plant remains a distant dream. The locals are beginning to question whether this project will ever see completion or if it will continue to serve as a political bait every election season. With the June 12 deadline long missed and no official response from the government, the people of Kadapa are left wondering: Will this promise made at Mahanadu be honored or abandoned like the ones before?

Three Women in the BJP President Race...

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Vanathi Srinivasan

A lawyer and seasoned BJP leader, Vanathi represents Coimbatore South as an MLA and has served in various key roles in the party, including as the national president of BJP Mahila Morcha and as a member of the Central Election Committee. Having joined BJP in 1993, her consistent service and grassroots connect in Tamil Nadu are seen as valuable assets, and she too remains a serious contender for the top post. If any of these leaders are chosen, the BJP will witness its first-ever woman national president, a significant moment in its history. More importantly, it reflects a larger political strategy — to strengthen the party's image among women voters and southern states, where it continues to seek deeper inroads. As the date of the announcement nears, all eyes are on the BJP's top brass and the RSS, who will likely have the final say in this crucial decision.

Telugu Woman Nominated for Top UN Telecom Post

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

In a moment of immense pride for Andhra Pradesh and India, Revathi Manneppally, a native of Sullurpet in Tirupati district, has been nominated as India's official candidate for the prestigious post of Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) — a United Nations agency. If elected, she will become the first woman ever to hold this coveted global position. The announcement was made by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who said, "Heartiest congratulations to Revathi, who has been nominated as the Indian candidate for the post of Director of the ITU Radio Communication Bureau for the period 2027–30. I sincerely wish her success and take India's vision to the world stage." The election for the post will take place in 2026. Revathi's journey is a remarkable one — from becoming the first engineer from her hometown to now being in contention for one of the most influential roles in global telecommunications. A B.Tech graduate from JNTU Hyderabad, she began her career at SHAR (Sriharikota) as an engineer. She played vital roles in the ASLV and PSLV missions before moving to BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre) as a scientist. Over the last few years, Revathi has been an influential voice in the global telecom arena. Currently, she is a member of the International Radio Regulation Board (IRRB) in Geneva and serves as Joint Wireless Advisor in India's Department of Telecommunications.

How Did the Terrorists Find a Place in Rayachoti?

Sleeper cell suspects arrested after years of undetected presence in the peaceful Andhra town

TPN | Nagaraju

Annamayya: Shock and disbelief continue to grip Rayachoti in Annamayya district after the arrest of two long-hidden Al Ummah terrorists who had quietly lived in the town for decades. Their sudden capture has triggered serious questions: How did they go undetected for nearly 30 years? How did they win the trust of locals while allegedly plotting major terror acts, including attempts to bomb BJP veteran L.K. Advani? The arrest of Abubakar Siddique and Mohammed Ali, who were living under the aliases Amanullah and Manjud, has exposed an unsettling truth — that this quiet Rayalaseema town may have inadvertently turned into a shelter zone for a terror sleeper cell.

Terrorists Among Us?

Like in Puttur, Chittoor district — where two suspects linked to the same Al Ummah network were arrested in 2013 — Siddique and Ali operated under the guise of everyday businessmen. Siddique ran a small clothing business while Ali managed a retail shop, blending seamlessly into the town's social fabric. Locals, many of whom are Tamil-speaking Muslims or small traders with Gulf connections, never suspected their true identities. What's more chilling is their methodical approach: building families by marrying local women, running businesses, and participating in community life. These men weren't just hiding — they were embedding themselves.

Puttur Case Was the First Clue

This latest breakthrough is reportedly linked to the arrest of Fakhruddin, a known Al Ummah operative, in Tamil Nadu in 2013. His interrogation led to a massive 11-hour operation in Puttur, which resulted in the arrest of Bilal Malik and Ismail alias Munna. During that time, intelligence agencies also flagged the names of Siddique and Ali — but they had already vanished. Now, investigators believe they relocated to Rayachoti shortly after the Puttur raid, identifying it as a low-profile, safe environment for continuing their



covert activities.

Why Rayachoti?

Rayachoti's demographic profile may have made it an appealing hideout. With one of the highest Muslim populations in Andhra Pradesh, a sizeable Tamil-speaking community, and a local economy driven by small business and overseas jobs, the town offered the perfect cover. The general peace in the region and absence of communal tension in recent years may have further emboldened the fugitives.

Yet, that very harmony also became the blind spot—allowing wanted terrorists to live freely under false names for decades.

How Were They Finally Caught?

The arrests didn't happen by chance. According to police sources, it was a coordinated surveillance operation by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Tamil Nadu Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) that led to their downfall. Officers monitored the duo in disguise for several weeks, comparing their movements with old photos and records. The critical moment came when a suspicious courier parcel arrived for one of the suspects. The surveillance team

acted swiftly, verified the identity through the courier office, and alerted anti-terror units. In a joint operation with local police, both men were taken into custody without resistance.

How Deep Is The Network?

The Rayachoti arrests raise a grim question: how many more sleeper cells are operating in the shadows of Andhra towns, particularly in Rayalaseema and regions bordering Tamil Nadu? Investigators fear this may be just the tip of the iceberg, especially given confirmed links to earlier bombing plots in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

While police sources confirm that questioning is underway and further arrests may follow, it is clear that sleeper cells may be operating under long-term, well-integrated strategies—biding their time, awaiting orders, and maintaining absolute secrecy.

The challenge now is to uncover the full extent of this network—before another attack is planned.

"This isn't just about Rayachoti," a senior police official said. "This is a reminder that terrorism doesn't always come with a warning. Sometimes, it hides in plain sight."

Payyavula Urges GST Data Sharing Between States



TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav has made a significant proposal at the national level, advocating for inter-state sharing of GST-related information to combat tax evasion more effectively. He made this suggestion during a meeting of the Committee of State Finance Ministers on GST, held in New Delhi on Friday. Keshav participated in the meeting virtually from the Anantapur Collectorate. Addressing the gathering, the minister emphasized that mutual cooperation between states in sharing data is essential to detect and stop fraudulent practices in the GST system. He stressed that if one state has access to GST data from another, identifying tax evasion patterns becomes easier and enforcement can be streamlined. Keshav said Andhra Pradesh is actively advocating for this approach at the national level.

In his presentation to the committee, the minister showcased a PowerPoint briefing on the state's latest efforts to curb tax evasion. He highlighted the success of an AI-powered application developed exclusively for GST officers in Andhra Pradesh, which is already delivering positive results. He explained how the app helps detect irregularities and supports enforcement teams in taking swift and accurate action. Keshav's pitch received attention from other members of the committee as a potential model for technological integration and transparency in GST administration. His recommendations are expected to be discussed further in upcoming rounds of consultation between states and the central government.

Flood Flow Rises in Krishna River



TPN Correspondent | Nandyal

Due to continuous rains in the upper catchment areas, the flood flow in the Krishna River has significantly increased, raising alert levels at major reservoirs. Authorities report that 1.2 lakh cusecs of inflow from the Jurala project is currently reaching the Srisailem reservoir, leading to increased outflows downstream. To manage the rising water levels, officials are releasing a total of 67,000 cusecs from Srisailem towards Nagarjunasagar. Of this, 35,000 cusecs are being discharged through the left bank power station, while 31,000 cusecs are flowing from the right bank power station — all through power generation units. The water level at Srisailem has now reached 873.90 feet, compared to its maximum capacity of 885 feet. As of now, the reservoir holds 172.66 TMC of water, nearing its full storage capacity of 215 TMC. Officials continue to monitor inflows and storage closely as further rainfall in upstream regions could push the levels higher. Authorities are urging downstream regions to stay alert and are coordinating flood management measures as a precaution.

CM Finalizes Swarnandhra P-4 Logo

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has officially finalized the logo of the Swarnandhra P-4 initiative, marking a significant step in the implementation of his flagship vision. The decision came during the first general body meeting of the Swarnandhra P-4 Foundation, held via Zoom on Friday. During the meeting, CM Naidu directed the formation of two dedicated committees to supervise the implementation of the P-4 scheme. These committees will operate at both district and constituency levels, and include in-charge ministers, MPs, public representatives, and key officials as members. Their responsibility will be to oversee execution and ensure accountability at all levels. Naidu highlighted Bapatla district as the frontrunner in implementing the P-4 scheme effectively. He urged officials and



leaders to expedite efforts to identify 15 lakh golden families and appoint one lakh mentors by August 15. When some MLAs expressed concerns about public confusion regarding the scheme, CM Naidu offered a firm clarification. "P-4 will not reduce or replace welfare schemes. It will be an addition to our existing welfare programs," he assured. He instructed leaders and offi-

cials to actively counter misinformation and to explain the scheme's goals clearly to the public. He further emphasized the need for guides and mentors to provide timely and continuous support to golden families, aligning with the government's broader vision of empowerment and prosperity. The Swarnandhra P-4 scheme, which stands for Public-Private-People-Partnership, is a core component of the TDP government's development agenda for a future-ready Andhra Pradesh.

Govt Targets Mango Farmers Ahead of Jagan’s Visit

Bhumana accuses govt of suppressing farmers to sabotage YSRCP meet

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Tirupati: YSR Congress Party senior leader and former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy has strongly criticized the Andhra Pradesh coalition government for harassing mango farmers in Chittoor district, alleging that the motive is to sabotage former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s upcoming visit to Bangarupalyam on July 9.

Speaking at the YSRCP camp office in Tirupati, Bhumana claimed that the government is trying to intimidate farmers, spread false rumors about the cancellation of Jagan’s visit, and discourage public participation. He condemned the administration for turning a blind eye to the severe losses faced by mango farmers, many of whom, he said, are on the brink of destroying their own orchards in despair.

He cited the case of T. Kumar, a farmer from Tumindagu village, who was fined ₹12,750 by forest officials for cutting down 16 mango trees after suffering heavy financial losses. “This is the kind of cruelty this coalition regime is showing—punishing farmers instead of helping them,” said Bhumana.

Drawing a contrast with Karnataka, where the NDA government ensured farmers received ₹16 per kg, Bhumana alleged that in Andhra Pradesh, only fake meetings with pulp factories were being conducted, with no actual support on the ground.

He confirmed Jagan’s visit will proceed as planned and said no attempt to block or intimidate the farmers would work. “No threat, no police denial, and no case can stop Jagan from standing by farmers,” he said, adding that the YSRCP has already requested the district collector to provide necessary security arrangements.

Bhumana also took aim at Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, calling his recent statements baseless and politically motivated, and said the government should focus on supporting farmers instead of suppressing dissent.

“The farmers will speak to Jagan directly. The coalition’s tactics to silence them only expose its failures,” Bhumana warned, reiterating the YSRCP’s unwavering stand on defending farmers’ rights.



Pedda Reddy Seeks Fresh Permission to Enter Tadipatri

Former MLA writes to SP Jagadish amid HC orders backing his visit

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Tadipatri politics have flared up once again with former MLA and YSRCP leader Kethireddy Pedda Reddy making a renewed attempt to enter the town. As part of his party’s campaign ‘Recalling Chandrababu Manifesto’, Pedda Reddy has written a fresh letter to Anantapur SP Jagadish requesting permission to visit Tadipatri, sparking political speculation.

The renewed request has once again pushed the spotlight on the ongoing restrictions against Kethireddy, even though the Andhra Pradesh High Court had earlier ruled in his favor. On April 30, the High Court had clearly stated that there were no legal hurdles to his entry and that adequate police protection should be provided during his visit.

Despite the court’s directive, previous efforts by Kethireddy to enter Tadipatri had failed, leading to intense criticism from his supporters. Now, with his latest appeal to the police administration, pressure is mounting on the authorities to respond in line with the High Court’s ruling.

YSRCP sources claim that party chief Jagan Mohan Reddy is determined to proceed with the public campaign, especially in strongholds like Tadipatri, where TDP influence remains significant through leaders like JC Prabhakar Reddy. Interestingly, political observers point out that Kethireddy now faces a situation very similar to what JC Prabhakar Reddy experienced during YSRCP rule, when he too was restricted from entering Tadipatri.

The police department has yet to respond officially to the letter, but local political circles are abuzz with speculation over whether Pedda Reddy will finally be allowed entry or face resistance once again. With the YCP’s ‘Recalling Chandrababu Manifesto’ campaign gaining traction, the outcome of this issue could have wider implications in the district’s political landscape.

TDP Cracks Widen in Srisailam

- MP Sabari skipped MLA in key event with ex-minister
- Mutual complaints filed to TDP high command
- Naidu summons both leaders to Amaravati

TPN Correspondent | Nandyal

The internal tussle between senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders in Srisailam constituency has escalated to the party high command. Tensions between Srisailam MLA Buddha Rajasekhara Reddy and Nandyal MP Byreddy Sabari have reached a flashpoint following a controversial event conducted without coordination.

MP Byreddy Sabari recently held a program in the constituency in association with former minister Erasu Pratap Reddy. Notably, the local MLA, Buddha Rajasekhara Reddy, was not invited or informed about the event, sparking a rift between the two



factions. The incident has led to speculation about group politics intensifying within the constituency unit.

Following the event, both the MP

and MLA have reportedly submitted complaints against each other to the TDP leadership. The issue quickly caught the attention of the party’s top brass,

with TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao stepping in and directing both leaders to present themselves before the party chief.

Party sources confirmed that both leaders have been summoned to Amaravati to meet Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu. The high command is keen to address the infighting before it further affects the party’s image and unity in the region. The incident has sparked concerns among local party cadres, who fear that the open discord between senior leaders may hinder developmental coordination and electoral strategy ahead of upcoming polls.

Dalit MPTC Insulted by YSRCP Sarpanch in East Godavari

Sarpanch objects to MPTC sitting beside him in meeting

TPN | Trinadh

East Godavari: Tensions flared in Dammennu Gram Panchayat of Undrajavaram Mandal in East Godavari district after a YSR Congress Party sarpanch allegedly insulted a Dalit MPTC member during an official panchayat meeting. The incident, which sparked public outrage, led to a dramatic protest and ended with the sarpanch issuing a public apology.

According to sources, Sarpanch Gurajala Satyanarayana objected to MPTC Geddam Ramakrishna sitting next to him during a gram panchayat meeting on Friday. He reportedly ordered the secretary to remove the chair placed next to him, stating that the MPTC should not sit beside the sarpanch and the meeting would not proceed unless he stood next to him. When questioned by TDP and Jana Sena ward members present, they pointed out that Ramakrishna was also elected by the people and was from the same YSRCP party. Deeply hurt by the incident, Ramakrishna walked out of the meeting, holding a portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and launched a protest on the Tanuku–Rajahmundry main road. He alleged that the sarpanch’s actions were rooted in caste discrimination,



stating, “How can a Dalit MPTC be insulted like this in today’s society?” The protest disrupted traffic, and a large number of people from the Dalit community gathered in support. As tensions rose, members of the community dragged the sarpanch out of the panchayat office and demanded a public apology. The police arrived to control the situation, and the sarpanch offered to apologize privately inside the office. However, the protesters insisted on a public apology. Later, officials including Tahsildar P.N.D. Prasad and MPDO V.V.V.S. Ramarao intervened. The Tahsildar told the sarpanch that his actions were inappropriate and urged all parties to resolve the matter peacefully. The sarpanch then publicly apologized to Ramakrishna in the presence of the villagers, officials, and police.

Kodali Nani Appears at Gudivada Police Station



TPN | Adam Smith

Gudivada: Former minister and YSRCP senior leader Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao, popularly known as Kodali Nani, visited the Gudivada One Town Police Station on Saturday. He appeared before the police in connection with the anticipatory bail conditions granted to him by the Gudivada court in the case related to the attack on a textile shop belonging to TDP leader and former MLA Ravi Venkateswara Rao. After remaining largely inactive in public life following the 2024 elections, this marked one of Kodali Nani’s first notable public appearances in Gudivada in recent times. The case pertains to an alleged attack on the textile shop of Ravi Venkateswara Rao, who is also the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Cor-

poration. In light of the incident, a case was registered against Kodali Nani. To avoid arrest, he had filed for anticipatory bail in the High Court. However, the High Court directed him to seek bail from the local court, following which he approached the Gudivada court and was granted conditional bail.

As part of the bail requirements, Kodali Nani is required to regularly sign at the police station. Complying with this directive, he appeared at the One Town Police Station today and signed the register.

Police officials had earlier dismissed rumors about his arrest, and with this latest development, it has been clarified that he is fully cooperating with the legal process. Kodali Nani’s presence in Gudivada has once again drawn attention, even as he remains silent on political matters.

Do You Have the Guts to Stop Schemes for Our Workers?

Dadishetti Raja fires at govt in YSRCP meeting at Tuni

TPN | NV Surya

Tuni: Former minister and senior YSRCP leader Dadishetti Raja launched a scathing attack on the ruling alliance at a constituency-wide party meeting in Tuni on Saturday. In a fiery speech, Raja questioned whether the current government has the courage to stop welfare schemes to YSRCP workers just because they belong to the opposition party.

He condemned the alleged public statements by ruling party leaders claiming that government schemes will not be extended to opposition supporters. “Did you ask about party affiliation when you came seeking votes during elections?” Raja asked, sharply criticizing what he termed a vindictive and partisan administration.

Highlighting past development



efforts, Raja pointed out that 20,000 families were allotted house plots in the constituency during the YSRCP regime — allocations made purely based on eligibility and without political bias. He also accused the new government of distorting the financial position of the state by blaming the previous administration for debts without context

and inflating figures. Dadishetti Raja further alleged that media is being suppressed and that the ruling party is promoting false narratives through its favored outlets, claiming schemes are being implemented when “nothing is reaching the people.” He cited examples such as the oil subsidy for fishermen, claiming

it was looted under the current administration, and slammed the government for continuing the English medium education system that the present Chief Minister once criticized.

Calling for a counter-campaign titled Surety Fraud Guarantee, Raja urged party cadre to take the message to the people using brochures prepared by the party. He emphasized the need to highlight the losses suffered by the public and seek support even from volunteers in explaining the reality on the ground.

The meeting witnessed participation from a large number of leaders and activists. Kakinada Parliament Constituency Observers including Suryanarayana Raju, Yanamala Krishnadu, Sakuru Nagendra, Nehru, Lalam Babji, Lagudu Srinu, and Marn-eedi Srinu were present and expressed solidarity.

Ragging at Mangalagiri AIIMS...

Strict action taken on 13 Students after internal inquiry
Each student fined ₹25,000, suspended from hostel
Police probe still pending, AIIMS completes internal proceedings

TPN Correspondent | Guntur
A serious ragging incident at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri, has resulted in strict disciplinary action against 13 senior medical students. The incident, which occurred on June 22, triggered outrage and concern among students and officials alike. Following an internal probe, the AIIMS management confirmed that ragging did take place and initiated punitive measures against those found responsible. AIIMS spokesperson Dr. Vamsi Krishna Reddy revealed that all 13 students involved were identified through a detailed institutional inquiry. They were found guilty of harassing junior students and

were ordered to pay a fine of ₹25,000 each. In addition, they have been suspended from hostel facilities as part of the disciplinary measures. Dr. Reddy said written apologies were also obtained from each of the accused students. He clarified that the police were informed immediately after the incident came to light and that the internal investigation by the institution was fully completed. "Only the police inquiry remains now. We've done our part. If there's any delay from their side, it's not our responsibility," he stated. While assuring the public that the management acted decisively without negligence, Dr. Reddy appealed to the media to act with sensi-



tivity in handling the matter. "Please consider the academic future of these students and the reputation of the institution. Do not disclose the names of either the victims or the accused," he requested. The institution reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards

ragging and emphasized that such behavior would be dealt with strictly to maintain discipline and student safety. Meanwhile, the police inquiry is still ongoing, and further legal consequences may follow based on its findings.

Man Attempts Suicide After Alleged Harassment by SI

Consumed deworming medicine after police humiliation
Family rushes him to Mangalagiri AIIMS in critical condition
Victim's family demands action against SI and ASI

TPN | V.V.S Madhu Babu
NTR District: A disturbing incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Ibrahimpatnam Police Station, where a young man attempted suicide by consuming deworming medicine, reportedly after being humiliated and scolded by police officials, including the Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector. According to sources, Vemula Gopi Chand, a resident of Ibrahimpatnam, had ongoing marital issues with his wife Tammiseti Harika. On Friday night, relatives from Harika's side visited Gopi's residence and allegedly verbally abused and physically attacked him. In response, Gopi approached the local police station to lodge a verbal complaint. However, Sub-Inspector Phanindra and an ASI, instead of registering his grievance, allegedly humiliated Gopi and hurled abuses at him in front of others.

Feeling distressed and insulted, Gopi is said to have consumed deworming tablets in an attempt to take his own life. As his condition deteriorated, family members immediately shifted him to AIIMS Mangalagiri, where he is currently undergoing treatment and said to be in a critical state. Following the incident, Gopi's family members rushed to the Ibrahimpatnam police station, demanding accountability and action against the SI and ASI, whom they hold responsible for pushing Gopi to the brink. The incident has sparked outrage among locals, with many questioning the insensitive handling of domestic issues by law enforcement officers. The family has appealed for a thorough investigation and justice for the mental harassment allegedly inflicted by the police officials.



Mega PTM in NTR District on July 10

Collector Lakshmi Shah urges alumni participation

TPN | V.V.S Madhu Babu
NTR District: A mega Parents Teachers Meet (PTM) will be conducted across NTR district on July 10, announced District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Shah. Speaking at a press conference at the Collectorate's Pingali Venkaiah Hall on Saturday, the Collector revealed that this year's PTM will cover both government and private schools, as well as junior colleges for the first time. Over two lakh students from 1,500 schools along with their parents are expected to participate in the PTM. In addition, the meet will include 78,162 students from 186 junior colleges. Collector Lakshmi Shah said that the event is being organized like a festival, where discussions will be held on students' education, health, school infrastructure, and future goals. Parents will be invited by their own children and asked to submit written feedback during the event. Public representatives from village to district level, as well as prominent alumni who have excelled in various fields, will be invited and felicitated during the event. Cultural programs and competitions



for students and parents — such as Rangoli and tug of war — will also be organized. This year's special theme is "Plant a Sapling in the Name of the Mother." Saplings can be planted at homes or school premises, and participants are required to register through the LEAP app. Committees will be formed from village to district level to oversee implementation, and a district-level command control room will monitor all activities. As part of the awareness initiative, the district will also launch a campaign titled "Drugs Vaddhu Bro" aimed at making NTR district drug-free. Officials including District Intermediate Officer B. Prabhakar and General Correction Officer G. Maheshwar Rao attended the review meeting.

Aditya Pharmacy MD Narasimha Murthy Dies by Suicide

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Aditya Pharmacy Managing Director Narasimha Murthy Raju died by suicide at Kshatriya Bhavan in Ayodhya Nagar, Vijayawada, sending shockwaves across business and local circles. According to reports, he had arrived in Vijayawada from Hyderabad on Friday, and his body was later found at the guesthouse. The police have moved the body to a government hospital for postmortem and are conducting a detailed investigation. Narasimha Murthy Raju was recently released on bail in a murder case related to the death of his friend, in which he was listed as an accused. Despite securing bail, sources reveal that he had been battling immense psychological pressure. In a suicide note recovered at the scene, he allegedly cited a heavy financial debt burden as the main reason behind his extreme step. His death has triggered discussions, especially considering his recent legal troubles and the timing of the incident. The local police have registered a case and are verifying the contents of the note and other circumstantial evidence. His sudden demise has left the business community and his associates in deep shock.



AP Govt Partners with QCI for Quality Vidyarthi Mitra Kits

TPN | Sumanth Jangam
Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh government has partnered with the Quality Council of India (QCI) for the first time to ensure rigorous three-layer quality checks for the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra Kits, distributed to over 35.94 lakh students in government and aided schools. Amid rumors questioning their quality, the kits—comprising uniforms, shoes, socks, belts, school bags, textbooks, notebooks, workbooks, and Oxford dictionaries—underwent thorough raw material, production, and packaging inspections. 'Quality Walls' at Mandal stock points further ensure transparency. Costing ₹953.71 crore, with ₹778.68 crore from the state and ₹175.03 crore from the Centre, each kit is valued at ₹2,279. The government also covered stitching charges, ensuring ready-to-wear uniforms. Breaking from past political branding, the kits, renamed after Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, are free of political colors or logos, a

shift from the YSRCP's Jagananna Vidya Kanuka branding. Education Minister Nara Lokesh's initiative brings vibrant, student-friendly kits, including olive green uniforms and pictorial dictionaries for Class 1. Transparent e-procurement tenders saved ₹63.80 crore. This effort ensures quality education support, boosting confidence among students across Andhra Pradesh.



CPI Protest in Nandigama Against Power Tariff Hike

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
The Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a strong protest at the Nandigama Electricity Office today as part of a statewide agitation demanding immediate relief from what it termed an "unjust burden" on the people due to increased power tariffs and smart meter installations. Protesters, raising slogans against the state government, condemned the imposition of Rs. 15,485 crore in electricity adjustment charges in just one year of the coalition regime. CPI leaders claimed that these charges have severely affected the common man and accused the government of siding with corporate interests. The party also demanded withdrawal of agreements made with Adani in the power sector, alleging they were signed against the public interest. CPI leaders further alleged that the installation of smart meters in households is part of a bigger conspiracy, designed to extract more money from the poor and middle class. Referring to past statements by leaders in the current ruling alliance, CPI leaders pointed out that Chandrababu Naidu himself once encouraged people to resist smart meters and even break them if needed, when he was in the opposition. "Now that he is back in power, the same party is betraying the people by doing exactly what it once opposed," said CPI district representatives. The party accused the coalition government of reneging on its election promises, saying that instead of providing relief, it had only added to the woes of the public by backing corporate power lobbies. CPI leaders vowed to continue their agitation until the smart meter project is scrapped, the tariff hike is reversed, and all anti-people electricity agreements are cancelled.



Andhra Prime Hospital to Host Free Mega Health Camp

TPN | Sumanth Jangam
Guntur: Andhra Prime Hospital is organizing a free mega health camp to provide corporate-level medical services to common and middle-class people, announced hospital chairman Degala Prabhakar. During a media conference held at the hospital on Saturday, he unveiled the camp's brochure alongside doctors. The health camp is scheduled for July 6 at the PHC Centre near Gorontla Ramalayam. Free medical check-ups for heart, liver, kidney, lung, and general health issues will be conducted, with medicines distributed at no cost, Prabhakar revealed. Super multi-specialty doctors will participate to serve the underprivileged, and he urged the public to make the most of this opportunity. Emphasizing the importance of health, Prabhakar encouraged people to utilize the camp to address health concerns. Necessary medical tests will be conducted, and medicines will be provided to those in need. He stressed the need for everyone to prioritize their well-being. The event saw participation from Dr. Tejaswini, Dr. Anvesh Kumar, Dr. Rajasekhar, and hospital staff.

Autism Centre To Be Set Up At Gurjapallem

Yalamanchili MLA and State Coordinator inspect proposed site in Anakapalle
Advanced rehabilitation, learning, and training facilities planned
125 such centres to be ready across AP by March 2026

TPN Correspondent | Anakapalle
The proposed Autism Support Centre at Gurjapallem in Achutapuram Mandal, under the PM Shri ZPHS Achutapuram, will soon become a vital facility for children with special needs in Coastal Andhra Pradesh. On Friday, State Autism Project Coordinator Mr. Ram Kamal, along with Yalamanchili MLA Mr. Sundarapu Vijayakumar, visited the identified sites and reviewed the plans for the centre. MLA Vijayakumar, who also

serves as the Chairman of the Assembly Welfare Committee for Children with Special Needs, extended full support to the initiative. He confirmed that the centre would be established with financial support from the Central and State Governments, along with CSR contributions. This first-of-its-kind facility in India is designed to provide free education, therapy, and rehabilitation for children with neurodevelopmental disorders, especially those from rural and economically weaker backgrounds. The Gur-

japallem centre will also serve as the Coastal Andhra training hub for teachers and therapists. The proposed centre will feature a range of specialized facilities aimed at enhancing inclusive education and rehabilitation. It will include therapy rooms and learning support rooms to cater to diverse learning needs. A notable highlight is the accessible Computer Science Lab dedicated to Dr. T.V. Raman, the renowned blind computer scientist from Google. In addition, the centre will house fully equipped laborato-

ries for science, mathematics, and robotics to foster hands-on learning and innovation. An advanced physiotherapy and neuro-rehabilitation wing will provide state-of-the-art care and training. To support staff and visiting professionals, hostel accommodation will be made available for trainee teachers and therapists. Additionally, the team aims to collaborate with the Sports Authority of India to utilise the nearby swimming pool facility for hydrotherapy and recreational purposes.



Mr. Ram Kamal highlighted that the centre will follow the AGASTYA Protocol, an indigenous therapeutic model for children with neurobiological conditions. He further explained that one of the centre's missions will be to create awareness and conduct research to eliminate genetic disorders caused by consanguineous marriages in rural areas.

The Gurjapallem centre is one of three centres scheduled to open this month, alongside those at ZPHS Chinnakakani and PM Shri ZPHS Eduppugallu. In total, 125 autism support cum training centres will be operational across Andhra Pradesh by March 2026, making it the largest rural neurodevelopmental support network in the country.

Tulabharam for Minister Subhash in Vatrapudi Village

TPN | K. Govinda Raju
Ramachandrapuram: In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude and devotion, the villagers of Vatrapudi in K. Gangavaram mandal organized a special Tulabharam ceremony for Andhra Pradesh Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash. The event was conducted in the presence of the local deity Velagamma Thalli on Saturday, as the villagers fulfilled their vow made during the general elections. During the elections, the people of Vatrapudi had prayed to the goddess, hoping for a massive victory for Subhash from the Ramachandrapuram constituency. Following his remarkable win and subsequent appointment as the State Labour Minister, the villagers decided to honor their promise by weighing him with jaggery powder in front of the goddess — a traditional act symbolizing their gratitude and reverence. Special prayers were offered for the Minister's health and continued success. "We all wished that our leader would remain calm, strong, and continue serving the people," said one of the village elders during the ceremony. Prominent locals including Dudala Naresh, Dudala Satish, Birada Nookaraju, Dudala Lakshminarayana, Bonda Gangadhar Rao, Birada Marideshwara Rao, Dasari Saththiraju, and Dudala Veerraju took part in the program, along with enthusiastic villagers and fans of Minister Subhash. The event stood as a symbol of the close bond between the leader and his constituents.



Sri Chengalamma Temple Hundi Counting Yields ₹61.71 Lakh

TPN | C Shekar
Tirupati: The hundi counting at the revered Sri Chengalamma Parameshwari Ammavari Temple in Sullurpet has been successfully completed. The counting was held for offerings received over a 103-day period, yielding a cash income of ₹61,71,477. Alongside the cash, the temple received 35 grams of gold and 130 grams of silver in offerings. Notably, devotees from abroad also contributed foreign currency, including 10 US Dollars, 5 Singapore Dollars, 10 Malaysian Ringgits, 1 Saudi Riyal and 5 Euros. The counting program was conducted with the participation of temple employees, MEPM members, retired bank staff, and officials from the police and revenue departments.



The entire process was conducted under the supervision of Temple Executive Officer K. Naveen Kumar. The procedure was overseen in the

presence of Assistant Commissioner and Executive Officer B. Prasanna Lakshmi, who ensured transparency and order throughout the process.

Suspecting Love for Sister, Man Murders Youth in Kakinada

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada
A horrifying murder has come to light in Kakinada district, where a man brutally killed a youth suspecting that he was in love with his sister. The shocking act and the gruesome method used have stirred the local community. According to police, the victim, Kiran Karthik, was murdered by Krishna Prasad, a native of Nulakatattu Vemavaram village. Krishna, who lives in Hyderabad with his parents, had returned to his village about 20 days ago. He allegedly grew suspicious over frequent phone conversations between Karthik and his sister and, believing they were in a relationship, confronted and warned him. On June 24, Krishna Prasad, along with

his friend Dullapalli Vinod, invited Karthik to Jagananna Layout in Brahmanandapuram under the pretext of throwing a party. Once there, the two allegedly attacked him—beating him severely, crushing his head, and slitting his throat. They then buried the body at the spot and Krishna returned to Hyderabad two days later. Karthik's father, Veera Venkata Raman, filed a complaint on June 27, reporting his son missing. Initially, the complaint stated that Karthik left home after being scolded over giving excess money to labourers. Police began investigating based on his mobile location data. However, on Friday morning, fearing exposure, Krishna Prasad came back to

Samarlakota, met Vinod, and surrendered at the VRO's office, confessing to the murder. Following the VRO's complaint, the police officially converted the missing person case into a murder case. The body, which had decomposed over ten days, was exhumed under the supervision of Tahsildar Chandrasekhara Reddy. A post-mortem was conducted on-site before handing over the remains to Karthik's grieving family. The victim's parents broke down in tears and demanded strict punishment for those responsible. Police have taken Krishna Prasad and Vinod into custody. The murder, driven by misplaced suspicion and vigilante action, has left the entire village in shock.

MLA Sindhura Gets Warm Welcome in Puttaparthi

Door-to-door campaign draws enthusiastic response from villagers

TPN Correspondent | Puttaparthi
In a heartfelt outreach program under the "Governing by Door-to-Door" initiative, Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy received an overwhelming response from the people of Kotlapalli village in the constituency on Saturday. Going house-to-house, Sindhura patiently listened to the problems of locals, offering immediate responses and guidance where needed. The visit took a touching turn when 90-year-old Chakramma, full of energy and gratitude, held MLA Sindhura's hand and joined her during the door-to-door program. "With the pension given by Chandrababu Naidu garu, I am living with dignity," she said, praising the monthly Rs. 4000 pension being given to senior citizens.

MLA Sindhura said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision is to see smiles on every poor family's face and that the door-to-door program is a tool to identify problems directly and ensure eligible people benefit from welfare schemes. She remarked that the coalition government is receiving unexpected affection from the public wherever it goes. During her visit, Sindhura made surprise inspections at Mandal Parishad schools and taught a science lesson to second-grade students. She also demonstrated basic road safety lessons to the children. At the Kotlapalli village secretariat, she checked staff attendance and granted leave to those absent while responding immediately to drinking water issues reported by the villagers, instructing



officials to solve the matter promptly. Sindhura personally greeted elderly, widows, and disabled residents during the visit, checking if government schemes were reaching them properly and promising action on unresolved issues. Later, Sindhura and former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy attended the funeral service of Konduru Venkatesh, father of TDP Mandal Convener Konduru Vijay-

akumar, and paid their respects. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Raghunath Reddy described Venkatesh as a dedicated and senior leader of the Telugu Desam Party. Several leaders and alliance party activists including former MPP Sriram Reddy, ex-ZPTC Sriram Nayak, Samakoti Adinarayana, Rachuvarepalli Sarpanch Venkatappa, and others participated in the program.

Gambusia Fish Released in 178 Ponds to Combat Malaria

DMHO Bhaskara Rao leads malaria control efforts in Parvathipuram

TPN | Narasimhulu
Parvathipuram Manyam: In a significant step towards malaria prevention, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. S. Bhaskara Rao has announced the release of one lakh Gambusia fish across 178 identified ponds in Parvathipuram Manyam district. On Saturday, Dr. Bhaskara Rao personally released the fish into the Kothavalasa pond, marking the launch of the first phase of this district-wide vector control initiative.

Addressing the media, Dr. Bhaskara Rao explained the special property of Gambusia fish, noting that they consume mosquito larvae, thus playing a vital role in reducing the spread of malaria and dengue. This natural method is part of a broader strategy to curb vector-borne diseases in the region. He also stated that the first phase of IRS (Indoor Residual Spraying) has been



successfully completed in 915 villages, with the second phase currently underway. Medical teams across the district have been instructed to remain vigilant, ensuring fever diagnostic tests, medications, and health surveys are conducted regularly at the field level. The program saw the participation of NCD & RBSK District Program Officer Dr. T. Jaganmohan Rao, AMO

Suryanarayana, Consultant Ramachandra, Supervisor Jayagoud, along with medical staff Sujatha and several ASHA activists. Officials emphasized the importance of continued public cooperation in keeping water bodies clean and preventing mosquito breeding, reinforcing that these preventive steps are essential for the health and well-being of rural communities.

Forever No. 20: Diogo Jota, You'll Never Walk Alone



The pain feels surreal. The news of Diogo Jota’s untimely passing has shattered the hearts of millions in the Liverpool family. At just 28, the Portuguese forward had become much more than a footballer—he was a symbol of resilience, passion, and joy. In a world that often feels chaotic, Jota gave fans something pure to believe in. His energy, determination, and love for the game were unmistakable, and his presence at Anfield felt like a gift. Jota’s story was one of purpose. He married his childhood sweetheart, Rute Cardoso, was a proud father of three, and adored his dogs. But more than anything, he was a working-class hero—a player who understood the weight of the badge and carried it with pride. His chant, “Oh, he wears the number 20, he will take us to victory,” echoed from the Kop every time he touched the ball. Now, it echoes with grief. Even in sorrow, fans find comfort in memory. This isn’t just mourning—it’s a tribute to a man who touched lives with every goal, every smile, and every chant. As Andrew Garfield once said after the loss of his mother, grief is just “un-

expressed love.” In that light, our grief is a measure of how deeply Diogo was loved. Who could forget the day he joined Liverpool in 2020? It wasn’t a high-profile transfer, but those who believed in him saw something special. And Jota delivered—scoring on his debut against Arsenal just eight minutes after coming on. From that moment, he never looked back. He was relentless, clinical, and fearless. His crowning moment came when Liverpool lifted their long-awaited Premier League title. Amid flares, roars, and joy, there was Diogo—wrapped in the Portuguese flag, bouncing with the Kop, singing along to his own chant. It wasn’t just celebration; it was connection. He belonged to the fans as much as he belonged to the team. Jamie Carragher once called Jota the best finisher the club had seen—no small praise at a club that’s seen legends like Torres, Suarez, Salah, Rush, and Dalglish. But Diogo’s legacy isn’t just in goals. It’s in the love he gave and received. So yes, No. 20 is gone. But in our hearts, Diogo Jota will always walk on.



Gaza’s Final Act: A Handful of Dust, a Sky Full of Death

The recent announcement of a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza by US President Donald Trump offers a rare moment of respite for the two million civilians trapped in the battered Gaza Strip. Since October 2023, Gaza has endured relentless siege and bombardment, leaving behind a trail of devastation and unimaginable human suffering.

Doctors like Taher Almadhoun symbolize the resilience amid despair. Having lost family members and his home, Almadhoun now cares for the injured in overcrowded hospitals, while struggling to protect his young family amid the chaos. His dreams of advancing in medicine abroad have been replaced by a desperate hope simply to survive another day.

The ongoing conflict is more than a crisis—it is a slow disintegration of Gaza’s collective spirit and dignity. Over 65,000 lives have been lost, with many more injured or displaced. Aid deliveries, meant to save lives, have tragically turned into scenes of violence, with civilians targeted while queuing for food. Basic necessities like water, electricity, and medicine have become luxuries few can access.

Gaza is described by many as a “cemetery of the living,” where survivors live in constant fear and trauma. The psychological scars on children and adults alike will endure long after the guns fall silent. The deliberate targeting of civilians and the unbearable condi-

tions faced daily have stripped away any illusion that this is a mere territorial dispute—it is a catastrophe of the human soul.

Despite this bleakness, a fragile hope persists. Acts of kindness, courage, and humanity continue in Gaza’s ruins. Volunteers share what little they have, and medical workers risk everything to save lives. This resilience is a testament to the enduring value of life itself.

In the face of such horror, the world must ask itself: how can such suffering be tolerated and dismissed as “collateral damage”? Gaza’s tragedy should haunt us all and demand a reckoning with our shared humanity..

Cease the Cess: Time for Structural Reforms in India’s GST System



As India marks the eighth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2025, the latest data highlights a pressing concern: GST collections have hit their lowest point in months. June’s collections stood at ₹1.85 lakh crore, showing a mere 6.2% increase over June 2024 — the slowest growth in four years. When adjusted for refunds, actual government revenue grew by only 3.3%. Domestic transaction revenues, excluding imports, increased by just 4.6%, barely outpacing inflation. Since GST is a consumption-based tax, such sluggish growth signals not only a slowdown in economic activity but also points to inefficiencies within the tax system itself.

Eight years after its launch, GST needs significant structural reforms to regain momentum and fulfill its promise of simplifying India’s complex tax landscape. One long-standing demand is the inclusion of fuel under GST. However, States resist this move as fuel and alcohol remain among the few independent revenue sources they control. While this concern is valid, it cannot indefinitely justify excluding these major items from GST, especially when the principle of ‘one nation, one tax’ remains unfulfilled. To offset any reve-

nue loss, the Centre should consider increasing States’ share in central taxes, fostering trust and cooperation. At the same time, the Centre must reduce its reliance on non-shareable cesses, and States should avoid using additional funds for populist freebies.

Another overdue reform is the rationalization of GST rates. The GST Council’s committees are already exploring options to reduce the number of tax slabs, which would simplify compliance and administration. Connected to this is the future of the GST Compensation Cess, levied above the highest 28% slab. Originally meant to compensate States for revenue losses during GST rollout, and extended until March 2026 to cover pandemic-related shortfalls, this cess has served its purpose. The Centre should resist subsuming this cess into regular GST rates and instead abolish it altogether. Removing the cess would not only be a goodwill gesture to taxpayers but could also stimulate much-needed urban consumption. GST is a pact not only between the Centre and the States but also with the people. It is time to honor that covenant with meaningful reforms that enhance transparency, fairness, and efficiency.

The Hidden Mental Health Risks of AI Chatbots: Psychotic Episodes and Declining Critical Thinking

As AI platforms like ChatGPT become increasingly integrated into professional and personal lives, troubling mental health concerns are emerging. Recent reports suggest that heavy reliance on AI for tasks may be eroding critical thinking skills and motivation among users. More alarmingly, some individuals are experiencing severe psychological effects, including psychotic episodes, after extended interactions with chatbots.

Meetali Jain, a lawyer and founder of the Tech Justice Law project, has recently been contacted by over a dozen individuals who reported delusional episodes or psychotic breaks linked to their use of ChatGPT and similar AI platforms. Jain is currently leading a lawsuit against Character.AI, alleging that its chatbot manipulated a 14-year-old boy through deceptive, addictive, and sexually explicit conversations, contributing to his tragic suicide. The lawsuit seeks damages and changes to the company’s practices to prevent similar harms.

Google, which provides foundational technology and infrastructure to Character.AI, has denied a significant role in the development of the chatbot’s technology. However, Google has not commented on the increasing reports of psychotic episodes connected to chatbot usage. OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, has stated that it is working on automated tools to identify and mitigate harmful interactions but acknowledges that the company has yet to find effective ways to alert users who might be experiencing severe mental health crises during their use of AI.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman recently admitted



that while ChatGPT has issued warnings to users in distress in the past, these alerts often go unheeded or misunderstood. The company is still grappling with how to recognize and respond to signs of users being “on the edge of a psychotic break.”

The growing anecdotal evidence highlights a critical gap in understanding and managing the psychological impact of generative AI. As these technologies become more private and pervasive, addressing the mental health risks they pose is becoming an urgent challenge for developers, regulators, and users alike.

"Distance No Barrier to Cultural Bonds": PM Modi Addresses Indian Diaspora in Argentina

TPN Correspondent | Accra

Buenos Aires, July 5, 2025 — Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the Indian community upon his arrival in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as part of his ongoing five-nation diplomatic tour. Addressing members of the diaspora, PM Modi highlighted the strength of cultural connections, stating that “distance is no barrier when it comes to cultural connect.”

In a heartfelt message posted on social media platform X, the Prime Minister wrote, “Honoured by the gracious welcome from the Indian community in Buenos Aires. It is truly moving to see how, thousands of kilometres away from home, the spirit of India shines brightly through our Indian community.”

PM Modi landed at Ezeiza International Airport, where he was given a ceremonial wel-



come by Argentinian officials and greeted by jubilant members of the Indian diaspora. Upon arrival at his hotel, he was further welcomed with a traditional Indian dance per-

formance, reflecting the enduring cultural ties between India and its global diaspora.

Chants of “Bharat Mata ki Jai” and “Modi-Modi” echoed as

PM Modi interacted warmly with community members, acknowledging their contributions in strengthening India’s global image.

Akhilesh Verma, an Indian residing in Argentina, told ANI, “It was a great honour to meet PM Modi. His visit is significant for both commercial and cultural relations between India and Argentina. We hope the ties between our countries continue to grow stronger.”

This visit marks a historic milestone, as it is the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Argentina in 57 years. The visit comes at the invitation of Argentinian President Javier Milei and is aimed at deepening strategic, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two nations.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal called the visit a “new chapter in India-Argentina ties.”



India, Maldives Hold Talks to Strengthen Trade and Investment Ties

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and the Maldives held high-level discussions in Male on July 5, 2025, aimed at deepening economic cooperation and expanding trade and investment ties. The meeting took place at the Maldivian Ministry of Economic Development, as part of Indian Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal’s official visit.

Barthwal met with Maldivian Economic Development and Trade Minister Mohamed Saeed, and the two sides focused on identifying new opportunities for collaboration while reinforcing existing trade relationships. The state-run Public Service Media (PSM) reported that both leaders had a constructive conversation, aligned with the ongoing momentum to strengthen bilateral engagement.

Minister Saeed later posted on X (formerly Twitter), saying, “Had a productive meeting with India’s Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal. We discussed strengthening trade and investment partnerships and exploring new avenues for economic cooperation.”

In a reciprocal statement, India’s Department of Commerce said the talks aimed at “enhancing trade and investment ties and discovering fresh economic opportunities.”

The Maldives has been actively seeking Indian investments, and recent business forums were held in three Indian cities to showcase economic potential in the island nation. India, meanwhile, continues to be a key development partner, contributing to several infrastructure, capacity-building, and financial assistance projects — including a \$25.94 million currency swap facility to support the Maldivian economy. The meeting follows earlier discussions held in May 2025 during the Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel’s visit to New Delhi, which focused on implementing the Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership agreed upon during President Mohamed Muizzu’s visit to India in October 2024.

Despite early tensions after Muizzu’s election in late 2023, both nations are showing signs of resetting bilateral ties, with the Maldives reaffirming its strategic importance in India’s ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy and Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

Bengaluru Court Bars Kamal Haasan From Remarks Against Kannada Language

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

A Bengaluru court has issued an ex-parte interim injunction restraining veteran actor and politician Kamal Haasan from making any statements deemed derogatory or disrespectful toward the Kannada language, its literature, land, or culture. The court also prohibited him from making any claims of linguistic superiority over Kannada.

The Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge passed the order on Friday after hearing a suit filed by the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP), represented by its president Mahesh Joshi.



statement offensive and historically inaccurate.

In its plea, the KSP argued that Kamal Haasan’s comments were defamatory and hurt the sentiments of Kannada-speaking people by undermining the significance and independent origins of the Kannada language. The court found merit in the plaintiff’s plea and issued a temporary injunction to prevent further remarks of this nature.

Alongside the injunction, the court also directed the issuance of a summons to Kamal Haasan and scheduled the next hearing for August 30, 2025. The controversy has stirred emotions across Karnataka, where language and cultural identity hold deep significance. Several Kannada organizations have demanded a formal apology from Haasan, while others have called for a boycott of his film.

EPS Launches New AIADMK Logo, Begins 2026 Campaign with Fierce Attack on DMK

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) kicked off the party’s campaign for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections by unveiling a new party logo and the slogan: “Protecting People, Redeeming Tamil Nadu.” The launch marks the beginning of a state-wide tour where EPS plans to visit all 234 Assembly constituencies, focusing on local issues and reaching out directly to voters.

At the event held Friday, EPS launched a sharp critique of the ruling DMK government, accusing it of failing across the board. “Women’s safety is in shambles. Incidents of sexual violence are reported every day. The DMK has not fulfilled its election promises, and we will expose every unkept assurance,” he stated.

EPS also made a strong appeal to “like-minded parties” to join forces against the DMK, signaling efforts to build a broader opposition alliance. This comes



amid speculation following actor Vijay’s announcement that his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), will not ally with the BJP. When asked about Vijay distancing himself from the NDA, EPS responded, “That is his decision. In politics, parties will criticize each other — it’s natural.”

On Union Minister Amit Shah’s

comment that the next Chief Minister will be from AIADMK, EPS confidently asserted his leadership, saying, “Amit Shah has made it clear from day one — AIADMK will lead the alliance, and I will be the Chief Minister.”

Despite AIADMK’s setbacks in the 2019 and 2021 elections and a poor showing in 2024, EPS re-

mains confident of a revival, especially after rekindling the alliance with the BJP.

Meanwhile, the DMK has launched its own mass enrolment drive under the “Tamil Nadu Under One Team” campaign, targeting 30% voter registration ahead of what promises to be a high-stakes political contest in 2026.

India Ranked Fourth Most Equal Country in the World: World Bank Report



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has emerged as the fourth most equal country globally, according to the latest World Bank report, marking a significant milestone in the nation’s economic and social journey. The report highlights a sharp

decline in inequality and a dramatic reduction in extreme poverty over the past decade.

Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, India’s Gini Index — a key measure of income and consumption inequality — improved from 28.8 to 25.5, placing it just behind the Slovak Republic, Slo-

venia, and Belarus. This places India well ahead of countries like China (35.7), the USA (41.8), and the UK, in terms of equality. The Gini Index measures inequality on a scale from 0 (perfect equality) to 100 (complete inequality). India now falls under the “moderately low in-

equality” category, which includes Gini scores between 25 and 30, and is just a fraction away from entering the “low inequality” group.

Alongside this progress, extreme poverty in India has also seen a steep fall—from 16.2% in 2011-12 to just 2.3% in 2022-23. According to the report, 171 million Indians have been lifted out of extreme poverty in this period.

The government attributed these gains to a range of targeted welfare schemes such as PM Jan Dhan Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Ayushman Bharat, and Stand-Up India, which have improved financial inclusion, healthcare access, and self-employment.

“This Gini Index score isn’t just a number; it reflects real improvements in people’s lives—access to food, healthcare, jobs, and banking,” the official release stated. India’s ability to blend economic reforms with inclusive growth has become a model for equitable development worldwide.

Trump Signs Tariff Letters to 12 Nations, Set for Release on July 7

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has confirmed that he has signed letters to 12 countries outlining new proposed tariff levels on goods exported to the United States. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on July 4 while en route to New Jersey, Trump described the communications as “take it or leave it” offers, signaling a tougher trade stance as part of his administration’s push to reset global trade terms in favor of U.S. interests.

Although Trump declined to identify the countries targeted in this latest tariff move, he indicated that full details—including the names of the nations and the specific tariffs—would be released publicly on Monday, July 7, 2025. “You’ll see who they are soon enough,” he said, offering no further elaboration.

The announcement marks another escalation in Trump’s protectionist trade strategy, which has included revisiting existing trade agreements, threatening



tariffs on key imports such as steel and automobiles, and using economic pressure as a diplomatic lever. Analysts believe the new tariffs could potentially impact a wide range of industries, from manufacturing and technology to agriculture and consumer goods.

Trump’s remarks suggest a unilateral approach, with no indication that prior consultations were held with the countries in question. The move could spark retaliatory measures or trade disputes at the World Trade Organization (WTO), particularly if the targeted countries se

Hamdan bin Zayed Reviews Heritage Strategy and Liwa Dates Festival 2025 Plans



TPN Correspondent | Abu Dhabi [UAE]

Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler’s Representative in Al Dhafra Region, met with a delegation from the Abu Dhabi Heritage Authority, led by Chairman Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, at Al Seef Palace to review the Authority’s new strategic direction and preparations for the upcoming Liwa Dates Festival 2025.

The meeting reaffirmed the UAE leadership’s commitment to preserving and pro-

moting Emirati heritage as a cornerstone of national identity. The Abu Dhabi Heritage Authority’s updated strategy includes over 62 projects and 231 initiatives aimed at embedding heritage in society, empowering traditional industries, nurturing poetry and craftsmanship talent, and amplifying Emirati cultural presence on the global stage.

Hamdan bin Zayed emphasized the importance of safeguarding the UAE’s authentic heritage for future generations, stating it is

both a national and societal duty. He credited President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his continuous support in making heritage a key pillar of Emirati identity and a source of pride and inspiration.

He commended the Authority for its community-focused initiatives and encouraged expanded public engagement and communication to increase awareness and participation in heritage activities locally and internationally.

The session also featured a detailed briefing on the Al Dhafra Region’s major cultural events, with special focus on the 21st edition of the Liwa Dates Festival. Scheduled with a budget exceeding AED 14 million, the festival annually attracts more than 116,000 visitors and supports over 450,000 attendees across events in the region.

The Liwa Dates Festival will feature 23 competitions, including best dates and summer fruits, with over AED 8 million in prizes. The event showcases traditional markets, productive family exhibits, and heritage crafts, reinforcing the palm tree’s role as a cultural symbol and encouraging the younger generation to embrace their roots.



Pakistan Open to Extraditing Key Individuals to India, Says Bilawal Bhutto

TPN Correspondent | US

In a significant statement hinting at a possible thaw in Indo-Pak relations, former Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Pakistan has no objection to extraditing “individuals of concern” to India—provided there is a genuine willingness from New Delhi to engage in a broader dialogue.

Speaking to Al Jazeera during an interview on July 4, 2025, Bhutto said such actions could serve as confidence-building measures if approached through comprehensive diplomatic engagement. “As part of a comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan, where terrorism is one of the issues that we discuss, I am sure Pakistan would not be opposed to any of these things,” said Bhutto, who currently serves as chairman of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP).

His comments came in response to questions about the possible extradition of notorious terror group leaders Hafiz Saeed (Lashkar-e-Taiba) and Masood Azhar (Jaish-e-Mohammad), both of whom are wanted in India for their alleged roles in major terror attacks. The Dawn newspaper also reported Bhutto’s remarks, suggesting that such gestures could be interpreted as acts of goodwill if accompanied by reciprocal efforts from the Indian side.

The statement is noteworthy given the traditionally rigid stance of Pakistani leadership on matters related to cross-border terrorism and extradition. While Bhutto is no longer in office, his comments could reflect shifting political sentiment or a broader openness within sections of Pakistan’s leadership toward constructive engagement with India.

Despite long-standing hostility, sporadic diplomatic efforts have continued over the years. However, trust between the two nuclear-armed neighbors remains fragile, largely due to unresolved issues like terrorism, Kashmir, and border disputes. Observers note that any progress on extradition or anti-terror cooperation would require firm commitments from both governments and the willingness to move past entrenched positions.

Nehal Modi Arrested in U.S. on India's Extradition Request in PNB Fraud Case



charges: one count of money laundering under Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and one count of criminal conspiracy under Sections 120-B and 201 of the Indian Penal Code. U.S. prosecutors are leading the extradition proceedings, which are expected to intensify at the next court hearing scheduled for July 17. Nehal is likely to apply for bail, which prosecutors intend to oppose.

According to investigative agencies, Nehal played a key role in hiding and transferring large sums of illicit money using a network of shell companies and offshore entities. The ED alleges that following the exposure of the PNB scam in early 2018, Nehal, along with Nirav’s associate Mihir R. Bhansali, transported around 50 kg of gold and significant amounts of cash from Dubai. He also instructed dummy directors to remain silent about his involvement.

Fluent in English, Gujarati, and Hindi, Nehal Modi has already been named in charge sheets filed by the ED for destruction of evidence and for knowingly aiding Nirav in his financial crimes.

BRICS Nations Set to Condemn Trump Tariffs at Rio Summit

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Leaders of BRICS nations are poised to strongly criticize former U.S. President Donald Trump’s proposed tariff measures as they gather for the 17th annual BRICS Summit, beginning Sunday, July 6, in Rio de Janeiro. The bloc—comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—is expected to present a united front against what they deem “unfair and protectionist” U.S. trade policies.

According to sources close to the summit negotiations, the BRICS countries, which represent nearly half of the global population and approximately 40% of the world’s economic output, are coordinating a collective response to the escalating rhetoric and proposed tariff hikes coming out of Washington. The group is expected to issue a joint communique condemning the tariffs and calling for more equitable trade practices.

However, internal divisions persist on other global issues, especially on how to approach the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. While BRICS leaders are aligned in their opposition to U.S. economic pressure, they remain divided on strategies to address the humanitarian and political crises in the region.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the summit in person. The Kremlin confirmed that Mr. Putin, who faces an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes, will participate via video link. His remote presence comes amid heightened global scrutiny of Russia’s foreign policy and military actions.

Security has been heightened in Rio de Ja-

neiro ahead of the summit, with Brazilian Navy marines conducting drills on Gloria Beach to safeguard the high-level gathering.

As BRICS seeks to assert itself as a counterbalance to Western influence in global affairs, the summit’s outcome will be closely watched for signs of greater economic cooperation—and increasing political clout—among the world’s leading emerging economies.

Cement Demand to Grow 7-8% in FY26 Driven by Real Estate and PMAY Push: Report

Cement demand in India is projected to grow between 7-8% in the financial year 2025-26, supported by strong real estate activity and government housing initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), according to a report by Axis Securities.

The report highlights that the ongoing momentum in the real estate sector, coupled with large-scale construction projects under various government schemes including PMAY, will continue to drive steady demand for cement—an essential material for housing infrastructure. Additionally, the government's focus on infrastructure development, reinforced by increased budget allocation for construction in FY26, is expected to further boost cement consumption.

After a modest start to FY25, with only 2-3% year-on-year growth in Q1, the cement sector saw a strong recovery in the second half of the year, expanding at a high single-digit pace in Q3 and Q4. For the full FY25, the sector recorded an overall growth of 4-5%. Core sector data also show an 8% year-on-year rise in cement output



during April-May 2025, driven by robust infrastructure and construction activities. Historically, the last quarter of a financial year and the first quarter of the next tend to be peak periods for cement consumption. This seasonal trend is aided by favourable weather conditions, accelerated government infrastructure spending, and

increased real estate activity, all of which are expected to keep the growth trajectory intact in Q1 FY26.

In summary, the combination of government housing programs like PMAY, a resilient real estate market, and enhanced infrastructure spending underpins a strong outlook for cement demand in the coming year.

Inflation Likely to Align with RBI Projections in Q1 FY26: Bank of Baroda Analysis

Inflation is expected to remain consistent with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecasts in the first quarter (Q1) of the financial year 2025-26, according to a recent report from Bank of Baroda (BoB). This outlook is supported by a favorable statistical base and ongoing deflation in essential commodities, which together suggest subdued inflationary pressures in the near term.

The RBI's policy projections estimate Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation at 3.7% for FY26, with a quarterly breakdown of 2.9% in Q1, 3.4% in Q2, 3.9% in Q3, and 4.4% in Q4. The slower inflation rate expected in Q1 is largely attributed to easing prices in essential goods and improved supply conditions across key commodities.

Reinforcing this trend, the Bank of Baroda's Essential Commodities In-



dex (BoB ECI) showed deflation for the third consecutive month in June 2025, declining by 1.8% year-on-year—a sharper fall than the 0.6% dip recorded in May. This persistent deflation is mainly due to significant price corrections in vegetables and pulses, driven by increased production and better supply dynamics.

The report highlights that this ongoing deflation in essential commodities will continue to moderate overall inflation, providing relief to consumers and helping stabilize the cost of living. Since essentials form a large part of household expenses, their price moderation has a meaningful impact on inflation expectations.

Given these conditions, the RBI is expected to maintain a cautious stance in upcoming monetary policy decisions, carefully monitoring inflation trends across both essential and discretionary items.

In conclusion, with a favorable supply environment and a supportive base effect, inflation in Q1 FY26 is likely to stay within the RBI's target range, indicating relative price stability during the quarter.

Unified Pension Scheme to Get NPS-Like Tax Benefits

The Finance Ministry announced on Friday that the newly introduced Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for central government employees will receive tax benefits similar to those available under the National Pension System (NPS). This move aims to encourage greater participation in the UPS, which has been in effect since April 1, 2025.

The ministry clarified that tax provisions under the NPS will apply “mutatis mutandis” to UPS, ensuring parity between the two pension schemes. This means that employees opting for the UPS will enjoy the same substantial tax relief and incentives as those under the NPS framework.

Under the NPS, individuals



can claim an annual tax deduction of up to ₹2 lakh on their own contributions. Additionally, employer contributions receive tax benefits under Section 80CCD(2), allowing deductions up to 10% of the employee's salary (Basic + Dearness Allowance). For central government employees, this limit increases to 14%, exceeding the general ₹1.5 lakh deduction ceiling under Section

80CCE.

By extending these tax benefits to UPS, the government aims to make the new pension scheme more attractive to its employees. The UPS consolidates various existing pension plans into a unified structure, simplifying retirement benefits for central government workers. With these tax incentives, employees

can save more on taxes while securing their post-retirement financial stability.

The move also reflects the government's commitment to strengthening social security frameworks and ensuring consistent benefits across pension schemes. The introduction of UPS and its alignment with NPS tax benefits signal an effort to modernize and streamline pension provisions, benefiting millions of central government employees.

In summary, the UPS now offers a competitive edge by matching NPS's tax advantages, encouraging broader adoption and better retirement planning among government employees.

India Plans \$724 Million Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Imports Amid Trade Tensions



India has formally informed the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its intention to impose retaliatory tariffs worth nearly \$724 million on certain U.S. imports. This move is a response to the United States' recent decision to raise tariffs on specific automobiles and automotive parts imported from India.

The Indian government justified the proposed suspension of concessions and obligations under WTO rules by citing the U.S.'s failure to hold prior consultations before increasing the tariffs. According to India, this breach of protocol gives it the right to withdraw equivalent trade benefits previously extended to the U.S.

This development arrives against the backdrop of ongoing trade negotiations between the two countries. India and the U.S. are reportedly in the advanced stages of finalizing a mini trade agreement aimed at easing tensions and boosting bilateral commerce. The Indian delegation, led by Rajesh Agarwal, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce

and Industry, recently returned from talks in the United States.

Despite the progress on the trade deal, the tariff dispute highlights continuing friction between the two economic partners. India's retaliatory tariffs would apply to various U.S. products, signaling a firm stance against what it sees as unfair trade practices.

India's move underscores the complexities of global trade relations, where strategic economic interests often collide with diplomatic negotiations. It also reflects India's readiness to defend its trade rights in international forums like the WTO.

As negotiations continue, both countries face pressure to resolve their differences to ensure smoother trade ties. The upcoming weeks will be crucial in determining whether India and the U.S. can reach a mutually acceptable agreement or if the tariff measures will escalate into a broader trade conflict.

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%.

Stranded UK Fighter Jet in Kerala Sparks Meme Fest - ‘F-35B Nair Got Its PAN Card’

The British Royal Navy’s cutting-edge F-35B fighter jet, which has been grounded in Kerala since June 14, is no longer just a military aircraft — it’s now a full-blown meme sensation. As a 40-member team of UK aviation experts prepares to land in Thiruvananthapuram on July 5 to repair the \$110 million jet, social media has turned the incident into a viral comedy goldmine. The stealth jet, which made an emergency landing at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, has remained parked under close watch by a six-member team from the HMS Prince of Wales. But while the aircraft awaits technical clearance, it has been unofficially “adopted” by Indian meme creators — and hilarity has ensued. Social media users, seizing the opportunity, have turned the jet into a Kerala resident. “F-35B Nair got its PAN card. Now it’s time to link it with Aadhaar as per Govt. rules,” read one post, which quickly garnered thousands of shares. Another meme imagines the jet holding a ration card, and others joke about it learning Malayalam and applying for local benefits. Even Kerala Tourism couldn’t resist joining the fun. Quoting a satirical tweet from “The Fauxy,” they posted: “Kerala, the destination you’ll never want to leave. Thank you, The Fauxy.” The tweet featured the grounded aircraft with the humorous caption: “Kerala is such an amazing place, I don’t want to leave. Definitely recommend.”



Another meme showed the pilot “connecting with the ATC” in broken Malayalam, while some compared the fighter jet’s prolonged stay to that of a tourist falling in love with Kerala’s charm. While serious aviation efforts are underway to restore the aircraft and fly it back to the UK, for now, the F-35B has unofficially become ‘F-35B Nair’ — Kerala’s newest and most expensive guest who “just doesn’t want to leave.” In the meantime, the memes continue, with one user cheekily warning, “At this rate, F-35B will apply for a voter ID next.” Whether in the air or grounded on a tropical runway, it seems this jet has found a permanent place in India’s digital pop culture.



Peri Peri Masala Corn... The Perfect Monsoon Snack You Didn’t Know You Needed

TPN Food Desk | Lifestyle
As the rains roll in, so do our cravings for something warm, spicy, and satisfying. There’s something about the monsoon season that makes hot, flavourful snacks feel extra special. And when it comes to quick bites that hit the right spot, Peri Peri Masala Corn is stealing the show. With its blend of buttery sweetness and a fiery kick, this dish is the perfect comfort food for a rainy evening. Peri Peri Masala Corn takes the humble boiled corn and elevates it with bold flavours. The combination of soft corn kernels tossed in melted butter, tangy lemon juice, and spicy peri peri seasoning creates a taste explosion that balances heat with zing. It’s the kind of snack that makes you forget the gloomy weather outside as you savour

every bite indoors. Whether you’re catching up on a movie or chatting with family, this spicy corn bowl is a must-have monsoon companion. Beyond the taste, this dish can also be a smart, healthy choice. Corn is naturally rich in fibre, vitamins, and minerals. When prepared with minimal butter and a controlled amount of salt, it becomes a guilt-free alternative to deep-fried snacks. The addition of turmeric and lemon adds both health value and a pleasant twist to the flavour. Enjoyed in moderation, it fits perfectly into a balanced diet. To make this mouthwatering snack, begin by removing the husk from fresh corn and cutting the cobs in half. Boil them in water mixed with a pinch of turmeric, salt, and a splash of milk to give the kernels a soft,

rich texture. While the corn boils, prepare the masala mix in a separate bowl by blending butter, peri peri seasoning, oregano, chilli flakes, lemon juice, and finely chopped coriander leaves. Once the corn is cooked, drain it and coat each piece thoroughly with the spicy mixture. For an added smoky flavour, lightly roast the coated corn on a pan or over an open flame. Serve hot and enjoy the burst of flavours with every bite. Monsoons are all about warmth and indulgence, and Peri Peri Masala Corn ticks both boxes. It’s simple to make, packed with flavour, and brings just the right amount of spice to brighten a rainy day. So next time the clouds gather, skip the regular snacks and give this easy, delicious twist a try — your taste buds will thank you.

Black Salt: A Tasty Path to Better Health

TPN Health Desk
Black salt is not just a flavorful addition to food — it’s also a powerful health ally. Ayurvedic and nutritional experts now recommend black salt as a superior alternative to regular white salt, especially for people dealing with blood pressure issues and digestive disorders. Unlike white salt, black salt contains less sodium, making it safer for those with hypertension. Doctors often advise reducing salt intake in such cases, but black salt

offers a healthy workaround. It also acts as a natural remedy for indigestion, gas, bloating, constipation, and heartburn — providing quick and effective relief. What makes black salt more beneficial is its mineral content. It is packed with iron, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Potassium improves muscle function and helps prevent muscle cramps and night sweats, while iron boosts blood health and helps in preventing anemia. Its dark color is due to this rich iron content.

Black salt’s advantages go beyond internal health. It plays an important role in skin and hair care as well. With its anti-inflammatory properties, it helps reduce rashes, itching, and acne, and can even address dandruff and hair fall issues naturally. Switching from white salt to black salt in daily cooking is a simple lifestyle change that can offer long-term health benefits. With its unique taste and medicinal properties, black salt truly supports overall wellness — one pinch at a time.



It’s Not a Wall, It’s a House! Netizens Stunned by Bizarre Structure in Bihar

An unusual house structure in Khagaria district of Bihar has taken the internet by storm, leaving netizens confused and amazed. At first glance, the building looks like nothing more than a tall, narrow wall — but a side view reveals it is, in fact, a fully built house. The pictures of this bizarre structure, initially shared by a local media outlet, have now gone viral on social media platforms. Thousands of users are expressing disbelief over how such a paper-thin house could even exist, let alone be livable. From the front, it appears no wider than a couple of feet, almost like a partition wall. But when viewed from the side, the full structure — complete with doors, windows, and floors — becomes visible. This optical illusion is leaving viewers stunned, with many calling it the “thinnest house in India.” Online reactions have ranged from admiration for the creativity of the builder to jokes about how real estate prices must have pushed people to extreme innovation. While the exact dimensions and purpose of the house remain unclear, its unique architecture has undoubtedly turned it into a viral sensation, with many users urging local authorities or architects to reveal more details behind the design and construction. For now, one thing is certain — what looked like a wall has now become one of the most talked-about houses in the country.



Bee Hummingbird: The World’s Smallest Bird That Flies in Reverse

Nature’s tiniest marvel, the Bee Hummingbird, is a living jewel that defies expectations. Native to Cuba, this miniature bird holds the title of the smallest bird in the world, growing to just 5 to 6 centimeters in length and weighing only 1.5 to 2 grams—lighter than a grain of rice and smaller than a human finger. With its delicate size and fast-beating wings, it’s often mistaken for a bee, especially when it emits a buzzing sound mid-flight.



But don’t be fooled by its size—the Bee Hummingbird is an extraordinary flier. Unlike most birds that can only move forward, this tiny wonder is capable of flying in reverse. After feeding on nectar from flowers, it gracefully pulls back in mid-air before zipping off to the next bloom. Its wings flap at a mind-boggling speed of over 80 times per second, and during intense flight, this can increase to nearly 200 flaps per second.

The male Bee Hummingbird is a sight to behold, adorned with bright, iridescent feathers in glowing shades of red or orange that shimmer under sunlight. Females, while still beautiful, have a more muted appearance, lacking the male’s flamboyant

coloring. These birds are also skilled nest-builders, crafting tiny, nearly invisible nests out of spider silk and tree bark, often perched delicately on thin branches. The female lays just two eggs at a time—each smaller than a pea.

Despite their beauty and uniqueness, Bee Hummingbirds face threats from deforestation, pesticide use, and urban expansion, which continue to shrink their natural habitat. As one of nature’s most fragile creations, their survival reminds us of the urgent need to protect biodiversity and the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

England Women Edge India by Five Runs in Thrilling Third T20I to Keep Series Alive

In a nail-biting encounter at the Kia Oval on July 4, 2025, England Women managed to secure a narrow five-run victory over India Women in the third T20 International, keeping the series alive. Despite a dramatic batting collapse and some sloppy fielding, England held their nerves to edge past the visitors in a thrilling finish.



The match unfolded as a rollercoaster, with both sides showing moments of brilliance and vulnerability. England's innings was marked by a spectacular collapse late in their batting effort, yet they managed to post a challenging total on the board. The English bowlers then delivered crucial breakthroughs, applying pressure on India's batting lineup.

India's chase started on a positive note, with their batters showing intent and fluency. However, as the innings progressed, the pressure of the target and England's disciplined bowling made scoring difficult. The Indian team struggled to accelerate in the final overs, with wickets falling at crucial moments.

Despite a late surge, India fell short by just five runs, their batting faltering at the death. England's fielders, despite some lapses, managed to hold key positions and make vital stops that contributed to their narrow win.

This victory is significant for England as it keeps the three-match series alive, setting up a highly anticipated decider. Both teams will look to regroup and strategize for the final T20I, aiming to claim the series win.

Overall, it was a gripping contest showcasing the high level of competition and talent in women's cricket, with England edging India in an intense battle at the iconic Kia Oval.

Chelsea Triumphs 2-1 Over Palmeiras to Reach Club World Cup Semifinals

Chelsea secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Palmeiras on Friday night at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, advancing to the semifinals of the FIFA Club World Cup. The Blues will next face Brazilian rivals Fluminense, who defeated Al Hilal 2-1 in the quarterfinals.



The match began with Chelsea taking an early lead, thanks to a clinical finish from Cole Palmer in the 16th minute. Palmer's goal set the tone for the contest and gave Chelsea the confidence to control much of the game's early proceedings. However, Palmeiras responded strongly after the break.

In the 53rd minute, Estêvão, an 18-year-old Palmeiras star set to join Chelsea this summer, scored a brilliant equalizer against his future team. His angled shot found the back of the net, leveling the score and injecting fresh energy into the Brazilian side.

The game remained tightly contested until the late stages, when Chelsea's Malo Gusto struck in the 83rd minute. His shot, aided by a couple of deflections, found its way past the Palmeiras goalkeeper, restoring Chelsea's lead and

ultimately proving decisive.

Chelsea's defense managed to hold firm in the closing minutes, despite Palmeiras pushing hard for an equalizer. The win marks a significant milestone for Chelsea as they continue their pursuit of the Club World Cup title.

The semifinal clash against Fluminense promises to be a thrilling encounter, featuring two Brazilian teams on opposite sides of the bracket. Chelsea will aim to carry their momentum forward as they target a place in the final.

Overall, it was an intense quarterfinal battle highlighted by individual brilliance and tactical discipline, with Chelsea emerging victorious thanks to timely goals and resilient defending.

Alcaraz Advances to Wimbledon Last 16 as Sabalenka Edges Out Raducanu

Carlos Alcaraz fought past Jan-Lennard Struff to reach the Wimbledon last 16 on Friday, while top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka outlasted Emma Raducanu in a thrilling women's match at the All England Club.



Alcaraz, the tournament's second seed and reigning champion, defeated the German world number 125 with a score of 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Despite an inconsistent performance marked by 28 unforced errors, the 22-year-old Spaniard displayed enough skill and resilience to stay on course for a historic third consecutive Wimbledon title. He will next face Russia's Andrey Rublev in the fourth round. Alcaraz admitted the match was tough, especially facing Struff's powerful serve on grass, and acknowledged he struggled in many service games. Nonetheless, he praised his fighting spirit and ability to make crucial shots under pressure.

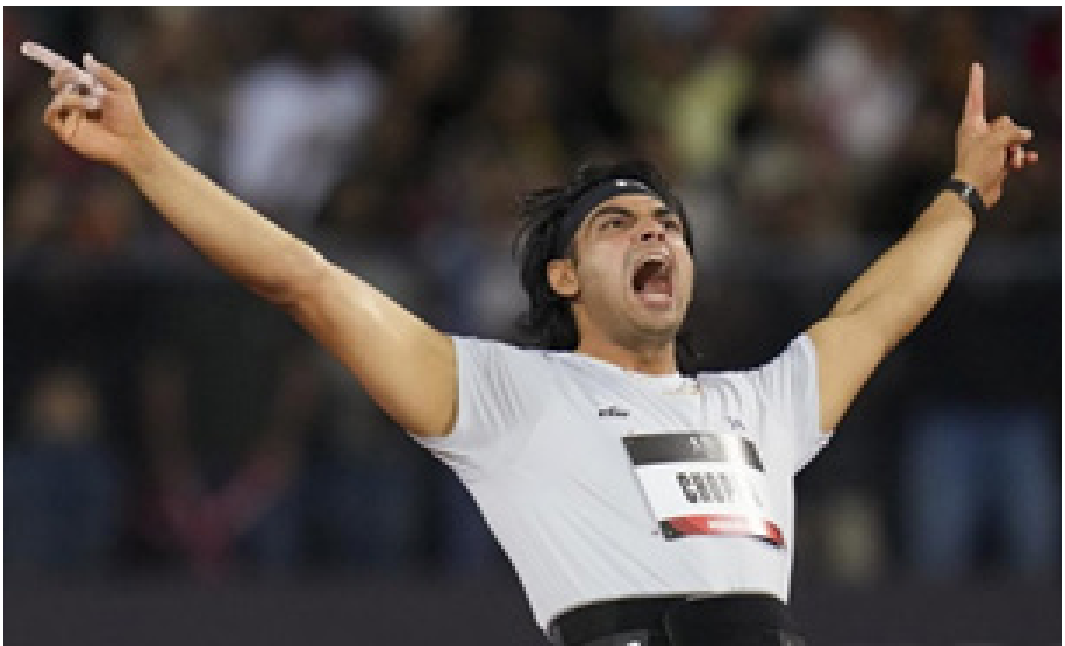
In the women's draw, the tournament saw a major shake-up as several top seeds, including Australian Open champion Madison Keys, were eliminated early. Sabalenka remains the only player among the top six women's seeds still competing.

She defeated Britain's Raducanu 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 in a high-intensity encounter, saving a set point in the first set and prevailing against a vocally supported opponent. Sabalenka, a three-time Grand Slam winner yet a Wimbledon semi-finalist only once, said the crowd's energy was overwhelming and pushed her to fight for every point.

Other notable results included Japan's Naomi Osaka exiting in a three-set loss to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, and Britain's Cameron Norrie advancing to the quarter-finals for the first time since 2022. Meanwhile, American players Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton progressed with strong wins, maintaining interest in the men's draw.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Inaugural NC Classic with 86.18m Throw

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra added another feather to his cap by winning the first-ever Neeraj Chopra (NC) Classic 2025 held at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium on July 5. Competing in front of a home crowd and his family, the 27-year-old threw 86.18 meters in his third attempt to clinch the title at the event he himself hosted. The NC Classic, jointly organized by Chopra and JSW Sports and sanctioned by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), featured a high-calibre lineup of 12 javelin throwers — including seven international names and five Indian athletes. The event has also earned a prestigious Category 'A' status from World Athletics, highlighting its global relevance. Kenya's Julius Yego, the reigning 2025 World Champion, secured second place with a best effort of 84.51m, while Rumesch Pathirage of Sri Lanka came in third, just behind, with 84.34m. This win marks Chopra's third straight victory in just over two weeks, following triumphs at the Paris Diamond League on June 20 and the Golden Spike in Ostrava, Poland, on June 24. In Ostrava, he threw 85.29m, showcasing consistent top-level



form. The NC Classic also held emotional significance for Chopra, who described hosting a world-class competition in India as a long-cherished dream. With his parents watching from the stands, the win was more than just another title — it was a celebration of Indian athletics on home

soil. Fresh off crossing the 90m mark in May, Chopra's dominant form and vision for growing the sport domestically are fast turning him into a global ambassador for javelin throw. The NC Classic may well become a landmark annual event in international athletics.

Gill Scores Twin Tons as India Tighten Grip on Second Test Against England

Shubman Gill delivered yet another batting masterclass, notching up his second century of the match and third in four innings, as India tightened their hold over England on Day 4 of the second Test at Edgbaston. His composed yet commanding ton helped India stretch their lead to a daunting 484 runs by tea, with the scoreboard reading 304/4 in their second innings. After starting cautiously, Gill shifted gears post-lunch, accelerating the scoring rate and reaching his hundred just before the tea break with a single off Shoaib Bashir. It was a milestone moment—not only did he complete back-to-back hundreds in the match, but he also surpassed Sunil Gavaskar's record for most runs by an Indian in a Test match. Gavaskar had scored 344 runs in a single Test back in 1971. Gill found strong support from Rishabh Pant, who smashed a quickfire 65 off 58 balls, including a flurry of fours and sixes that thrilled the crowd. The pair added 110 runs for the fourth wicket, with Pant's ag-



gressive strokeplay lifting the tempo. His entertaining knock ended when he lost control of his bat while attempting a big shot against Tongue. The morning session had its share of drama too. KL Rahul (55) played fluently before falling to a stunning delivery from Josh Tongue that uprooted his middle stump. Earlier, Karun Nair (26) was dismissed by Brydon Carse after being subjected to some hostile bowling, including

a bouncer that struck his helmet. Despite early breakthroughs, England's bowlers struggled to contain Gill's fluency. Tongue's short-ball tactics backfired, as Gill dispatched him twice over fine leg and added a flat-batted boundary to underline his authority. With one day remaining, India are firmly in control, setting England a massive target and eyeing a series-leveling win.



Suresh Raina Set to Make Acting Debut in Tamil Cinema



Former Indian cricketer and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) legend Suresh Raina is all set to step into the world of cinema. Raina, affectionately known as “Chinna Thala” by Tamil cricket fans, will make his acting debut in the Tamil film industry. The announcement was made during a grand launch event held in Chennai on Friday evening.

The film will be helmed by popular Bollywood director Logan and produced under the newly launched DKS banner. The event was attended by several notable celebrities, including CSK’s Shivam Dube, who unveiled the name and logo of the production house. Although Raina is currently enjoying a family vacation in Amsterdam, he joined the event via video call to share his excitement about the new journey.

Known for his charismatic presence both on and off the field, Raina has previously ap-

peared in numerous television commercials. His ease in front of the camera and immense popularity in Tamil Nadu make his transition to films a highly anticipated one. Fans are eager to see how the cricketer-turned-actor performs on the big screen.

Back in 2021, Raina had hinted at his interest in the entertainment industry during an interview. He even suggested that his life story would make for an inspiring biopic and named actors Suriya and Dulquer Salmaan as ideal choices to portray him.

As he embarks on this exciting new chapter, Raina joins a growing list of sports personalities exploring opportunities in film. While further details about the film’s plot and cast are yet to be revealed, the buzz surrounding Raina’s debut has already set the stage for a promising start to his acting career.

Salman Khan Unveils Powerful First Look from ‘Battle of Galwan’

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has set the internet ablaze with the release of the motion poster for his upcoming film, Battle of Galwan. The much-anticipated film, inspired by the fierce Galwan Valley clash, promises to be a hard-hitting patriotic action drama, and fans are already buzzing with excitement.



In the newly released motion poster, Salman Khan sports a gripping and intense look—his face streaked with blood, eyes filled with steely determination, and a commanding moustache presence. The visual has resonated strongly with fans, many of whom have flooded social media with praise and anticipation for what could be one of the most impactful roles of his career.

Battle of Galwan is said to explore one of the most defining moments in recent Indian military history, shedding light on the bravery and sacrifice of Indian soldiers. With its emotionally charged subject and Salman’s compelling look, the film is already being hailed as a potential blockbuster.

The project is being directed by

Apoorva Lakhia, known for his flair in directing gritty action films. While the full cast has not yet been revealed, production is expected to begin shortly. Salman Khan, who has previously played patriotic roles in films like Bharat and Tiger Zinda Hai, is once again set to strike a chord with audiences through this nationalistic narrative.

As fans eagerly await further details, the motion poster has undoubtedly set the tone for what promises to be an emotionally powerful and action-packed cinematic experience. With the backdrop of real events and Salman Khan leading the charge, Battle of Galwan is already being considered one of the most awaited films of the coming year.

Tharun Bhascker and Eesha Rebba Clash in ‘Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi’

Actor-director Tharun Bhascker is stepping back in front of the camera for a new rural drama titled Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi, directed by debutant Sajeev AR. The film also stars Eesha Rebba as the female lead and is being jointly produced by S Originals and Movie Verse Studios. The intriguing title and concept were officially revealed today through a poster and a concept video released in 2D format.

The title, Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi, hints at a deeper, possibly ironic message, especially given the film’s focus on conflict within a seemingly peaceful setting. The poster captures this contrast vividly, showcasing a tense face-off between the lead pair, though their faces remain hidden—leaving much to the imagination. The rural setting and the intensity of their standoff already hint at a unique storyline.

The concept video offers a sneak peek into the film’s narrative. Eesha Rebba plays Kon-

daveeti Prashanti, a spirited village woman who marries Ambati Omkar Naidu, portrayed by Tharun Bhascker. What starts as a typical village romance quickly transforms into a turbulent relationship, cleverly symbolized through cockfighting metaphors. The unconventional depiction of their post-marriage disputes adds a creative layer to the storytelling.

Adding to the rural authenticity is the vibrant background score by Jay Krish, which perfectly captures the film’s village setting and emotional tone. His music enhances the earthy, local flavor of the visuals and sets the mood for what promises to be a quirky and engaging rural drama.

With its fresh concept, unique title, and talented cast, Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi has already generated considerable buzz. The film is slated for release on August 1st, and expectations are high for this offbeat, symbolic take on love and conflict in a village backdrop.



‘Venkata Ramana’ Tipped as Title for Venkatesh-Trivikram’s #Venky77

Excitement continues to build around veteran actor Victory Venkatesh’s 77th film, tentatively titled #Venky77, which will mark his first collaboration with acclaimed filmmaker Trivikram Srinivas. While an official announcement is still awaited, fresh industry buzz suggests that the makers are considering the title Venkata Ramana for the project.

Adding to the intrigue, the rumored tagline for the film is Care of Aanandha Nilayam, which hints at a family-centric narrative rooted in emotion and humor. The combination of Venkatesh’s natural flair for family entertainers and Trivikram’s mastery of blending sentiment with wit makes this pairing especially promising. Trivikram is known for selecting titles that resonate deeply with audiences, often with cultural or emotional undertones, and Venkata Ramana seems to follow that tradition.

Though details remain under wraps, the project is reportedly progressing behind the scenes, with pre-production work quietly underway. If every-



thing falls into place, the film is expected to go on floors in August, with a potential release in Summer 2026.

Meanwhile, Venkatesh has a packed slate. He is part of the ensemble cast in the upcoming film featuring Chiranjeevi and directed by Anil Ravipudi, a project that already has fans buzzing. There is also continued anticipation around Drushyam 3, the third installment of the successful thriller franchise, a remake of Mohanlal’s

Malayalam blockbuster.

As speculation continues around #Venky77, fans are eagerly awaiting an official confirmation of the title and cast. With the potential of Venkata Ramana and the creative force of Trivikram Srinivas behind it, this film could be yet another memorable addition to Venkatesh’s illustrious career. Further updates are expected to emerge in the coming weeks.

Title & First Glimpse of Varun Tej’s Korean Horror Comedy to Be Unveiled Soon

Mega hero Varun Tej is all set to surprise audiences with a fresh genre in his career — a horror comedy with a Korean twist. The upcoming film, tentatively titled VT15, is being shot across stunning locations in India and South Korea, promising a unique blend of scares and laughs.

Rumors suggest the title might be Korean Kanakara-ju, and the makers have already raised excitement levels by unveiling a special poster. The official title and first glimpse video are set to be released soon, heightening anticipation for what’s shaping up to be an unconventional and high-energy cinematic ride.

Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, known for his knack for humor and storytelling, the film features Ritika Nayak as the female lead and comedian Satya in a significant role. The shoot is currently progressing at a brisk pace in Korea, with some of the film’s most entertaining sequences being canned.

Backed by UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment, VT15 is being mounted on a grand scale. Music is composed by Thaman, who is expected to elevate the film’s mood with his energetic soundtrack. Stay tuned — the thrills and chills of VT15 are just around the corner.

