



## SC Orders Speaker to Act on Defector MLAs in 3 Months

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major development related to party defections in Telangana, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly to take a decision within three months on the disqualification petitions filed against ten MLAs who won on BRS tickets but later joined the Congress. The verdict came from a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud (not BR Gavai as initially mentioned), which firmly stated that prolonged inaction on defection petitions undermines the spirit of democracy. While refusing to disqualify the MLAs directly, the Supreme Court made it clear that it is the Speaker's constitutional responsibility to dispose of such petitions in a timely manner. Rejecting the BRS party's plea seeking direct disqualification through the judiciary, the bench said, "We cannot assume the role of the Speaker." However, the court warned that if MLAs attempt to delay the proceedings beyond three months, the Speaker is entitled to take an adverse view.

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# Local Polls in Limbo Amid Reservation Row

TPN | Suraj Reddy

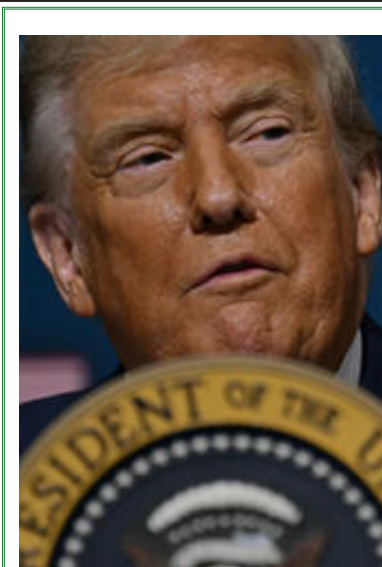
**Telangana:** There are increasing indications that local body elections in Telangana may face further delay. With the state government maintaining a silence instead of providing clarity, opposition parties are alleging that the polls are being postponed under the pretext of implementing reservations. Critics question how long the government can continue without public representatives, warning that democratic rights are being undermined at the panchayat and municipal levels. Despite a clear directive from the High Court, the government has yet to announce a timeline. With the deadline approaching, the opposition continues to target the Revanth Reddy government over its indecisiveness. Allegations are mounting that this delay is politically motivated, with accusations of "diversionary politics" being played through padayatras instead of addressing the polls directly. Political analysts argue that while the intention to provide 42% reservation for BCs is commendable, it must be backed by legally robust action and political clarity. Right now, the Congress government appears stuck—caught between the



High Court's deadline and growing public dissatisfaction. Its inability to initiate the election process is increasingly seen as both a defiance of court orders and a breach of public trust. Congress leaders claim the reservation ordinance has been sent to the Centre, but the process remains stalled due to lack of clarity from Delhi. Meanwhile, the BJP and BRS have intensified their criticism, accusing the Congress of misleading BCs and orchestrating political

drama without a concrete legal roadmap. BJP leaders are questioning whether Congress even understands that any such law placed under the Ninth Schedule would still be subject to Supreme Court review. BRS, on the other hand, mocks the Congress for scaring people with "Char Sau Bis" tactics. Adding to the speculation, Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's padayatra and meetings with BC organisations have sparked political debate. Opposition leaders argue these

events are designed to divert attention from the government's failure to hold elections and to cover up the lack of legal preparation on the reservation issue. Now, the Revanth Sarkar is left with two clear choices—comply with the High Court and conduct elections, or continue delaying them under the guise of reservation implementation. Will the government act decisively to uphold democratic norms, or will it continue to postpone the inevitable? That remains the burning question.



India, Russia are 'Dead Economies' says Trump

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## Three Months for By-Polls... Get Ready: KTR

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has welcomed the Supreme Court verdict directing a decision on the disqualification of ten MLAs who defected from the BRS to the Congress. Calling it a "victory for democracy", KTR said the apex court's judgment has reaffirmed the strength of India's democratic institutions and sent a strong message against political defections.

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## Kaleshwaram Probe Report Submitted to Govt

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The much-anticipated report on the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is now in the hands of the Telangana government. The inquiry commission led by Justice PC Ghosh, constituted to investigate discrepancies in the construction of key barrages, has officially submitted its final report. The Justice Ghosh Commission, set up on March 14, 2024, by the state government, focused its investigation on the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages. Over the course of 15 months, the commission interrogated 115 individuals and meticulously gathered evidence to assess the structural, financial, and procedural aspects of the project works. According to official sources, the final report was recently submitted to Irrigation Department Principal Secretary Rahul Bojja in a sealed cover. The details of the findings remain confidential at this stage, but the submission marks a crucial step in addressing long-standing questions about the integrity and execution of one of Telangana's most ambitious irrigation initiatives. The commission's inquiry followed widespread concerns and political criticism regarding the quality and safety of the barrages, particularly after reports of structural damage emerged. With the report now in government hands, the next course of action—whether legal, administrative, or political—is expected to unfold in the coming weeks. The state government is yet to announce when or whether the report will be made public.



# Post has been handed over... Will the voice reach the people?



TPN | Srikanth Gurram

**Hyderabad:** The criticisms were immediate and sharp. Trollers on social media branded the new Telangana BJP president as a "dummy chief." But Ramchandra Rao had just one line to silence them all:

"I am not a dummy; I am a mummy."

The remark, which quickly went viral, stunned political circles and sparked a shift in mood among party workers. What was meant to be a jibe is now echoing as a rallying cry for Telangana

BJP. The party that seemed to be lacking clarity in direction has suddenly found new traction — and Ramchandra Rao is at the center of this shift.

**The Silent Leader Speaks**

After assuming charge, Ramchandra Rao wasted no time. He launched district tours, organized meetings with local leaders, and began questioning the Congress government's six guarantees with fierce intensity. His rhetoric struck a chord — from urea shortages for farmers to poor implementation of welfare schemes — nothing was off the table.

Not even the BRS was spared. "What did KCR do in ten years? Drinking wells turned into scams. Double bedroom promises turned into political theatre," he said, stirring both outrage and attention.

**The Strategy Behind the Selection**

So why did the BJP high command, despite having prominent leaders like Etela Rajender, Bandi Sanjay, and Dharmapuri Arvind, pick a seemingly "low-profile" Ramchandra Rao? Insiders say the choice was deliberate — a strategic move. First, he is deeply aligned with RSS ideology and is seen as unwavering in party discipline. Second, as a senior figure in the party who avoids factionalism, his leadership could ease internal rivalries. Third, the high command maintains control — and trust — over Rao, who is known for his legal acumen and media-savviness. In short, the party needed a loyalist with legal brains and strategic restraint — and they found both in Rao.

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## SC Orders Speaker to Act on Defector MLAs in 3 Months

The court also set aside the Telangana High Court Division Bench ruling that had earlier limited the scope of judicial intervention in the matter. Importantly, the CJI made a sharp remark during the hearing: “The principle of ‘operation successful, but patient dead’ should not apply here,” referring to the futility of late decisions in such cases.

The case involves ten MLAs who defected from the BRS and aligned with the ruling Congress party. Despite BRS filing disqualification petitions, the Assembly Speaker did not act on them, prompting BRS to move the High Court, which then directed the Speaker to take a decision in four weeks. The Speaker contested the High Court’s au-



thority, and the matter escalated to the Supreme Court. This ruling is expected to have a significant impact on Telangana politics, especially with by polls potentially on the horizon. It also reaffirms the Supreme Court’s consistent stand that the anti-defection law must be enforced without delay to uphold democratic principles. Political analysts believe that Damnam Nagender, the MLA representing Khairatabad Assembly Constituency, is likely to face a re-election challenge if disqualification proceedings move forward.

## Post has been handed over... Will the voice reach the people?

From Legal Circles to Political Turf

What’s raising eyebrows now is his outreach to the legal fraternity. As a seasoned advocate himself, Ramchandra Rao is building connections with lawyers around the High Court — not just for professional comfort, but as part of a clear political game plan. The lawyers’ network, with its influence and reach, is being drawn into the BJP’s broader ecosystem. Legal battles, public interest litigations, and constitutional arguments are becoming a parallel front in the BJP’s war against the Congress regime in Telangana. From Courtroom to Campaign Trail This alliance with legal voices is no accident — it’s a calculated expansion. The BJP, under Rao, is preparing to challenge the government in courts just as much as on the streets. The idea is simple: match aggressive speeches with courtroom battles and institutional support. From legal argument to emotional appeal, Rao is

trying to craft a leadership model that blends ideology, law, and organization. With his RSS background, party loyalty, and legal knowledge, Ramchandra Rao is now in a position where words alone won’t suffice. His efforts to forge professional alliances — like with lawyers — indicate a deeper strategy to build political capital. However, whether this strategy translates into electoral success remains the question. This is not just about leading a party; it’s about proving leadership itself. Ramchandra Rao’s rise could mark a turning point — or just another footnote in BJP’s Telangana journey. His “mummy” remark may have captured attention, but sustaining momentum requires more than one-liners. Will he reshape the BJP in Telangana or fade into the long line of forgotten presidents? Will the silence return? Or has a new sound just begun? **Dummy or mummy — the proof lies in the months to come.**

## Three Months for By-Polls... Get Ready: KTR

“There are three months left for by-elections in ten constituencies. The party must get ready,” KTR said, addressing party ranks soon after the verdict. He credited the Chief Justice of India for protecting constitutional values and thanked the legal team that represented BRS in the case. KTR asserted that no further investigation is needed in the case of the ten MLAs, as their party-switching is public and ongoing. He demanded their immediate disqualification, noting that they continue to participate in Congress government programs without any legal standing. He also took a direct swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, recalling the latter’s statements during the previous elections where he said party defectors should be disqualified automatically. “I hope Rahul Gandhi welcomes this verdict and sticks to his own ethics,” KTR said, challenging him to implement his Panch Nyay principles in Telangana. “If Rahul Gandhi is sincere, he should stop obstructing the Speaker’s constitutional responsibilities,” KTR added. He called on the Congress leadership to act swiftly, stating that any delay would amount to disrespecting the judiciary and constitutional values. KTR concluded by thanking the lakhs of party workers who remained loyal to BRS during challenging times. “Though ten MLAs



were lured by temptation, truth and morality have ultimately prevailed,” he said.

KCR Holds Key Meet After SC Verdict

Former Chief Minister of Telangana and BRS Chief K. Chandrababtu Naidu (KCR) held a crucial meeting with senior party leaders at his residence in Erravelli. The meeting came shortly after the Supreme Court’s significant directive to the Telangana Assembly Speaker to decide within three months on the disqualification petitions of MLAs who defected from the BRS to the Congress. BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao, senior leaders T. Harish Rao, G. Jagadish Reddy, and others were present at the strategy session. Party sources indicated that the leaders discussed the political roadmap ahead, potential by-elections in ten constituencies, and organizational preparedness in the wake of the court’s ruling.

## Janahita Padayatra Begins in Parigi

TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy

The Telangana Congress’s “Janahita” padayatra, led by TPCC Chief and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, commenced from Rangapuram near Parigi in Rangareddy district on Thursday evening. After offering prayers at the Venkateswara Swamy temple, the padayatra began with great enthusiasm and heavy public turnout. The four-day program, which includes both padayatra and Shramadanam, will cover the stretch from Parigi to Khanapur and conclude on August 4. AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan is also participating alongside Mahesh Kumar Goud. The starting point of the padayatra was decorated



with massive cutouts and banners, reflecting a festive mood. Crowds thronged to follow the procession, with long queues of vehicles trailing behind. Supporters accompanied the TPCC Chief and Meenakshi Natarajan step by step, highlighting the growing momentum behind the Congress initiative.

Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponnamm Prabhakar also joined the padayatra. Addressing the public, Mahesh Kumar Goud clarified that the padayatra is not aimed at local body elections but is a genuine effort to connect with the people and highlight the Congress government’s ongoing devel-

opment and welfare efforts. “Unlike the 10 years of KCR’s governance, which gave away valuable lands to private hands, Congress is committed to the people,” said Sridhar Babu. “BRS and its model have no place in Telangana’s future,” he added. Meenakshi Natarajan emphasized that the padayatra showcases the Congress’s direct engagement with people’s concerns, “No matter where Rahul Gandhi goes, the country now talks about the Telangana model. This is a matter of national pride.” The Congress aims to use the Janahita Padayatra to strengthen its organizational roots, spread awareness about its welfare programs under CM Revanth Reddy, and prepare for future electoral battles.

## CM Revanth Plans New DISCOM for Telangana



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a significant move aimed at reforming the power sector, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to prepare plans for establishing a new power distribution company (DISCOM) in Telangana. Currently, the state has two DISCOMs—Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (SPDCL) and Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (NPDCL). During a high-level review meeting held at his residence, the Chief Minister said the new DISCOM should oversee the implementation of 200 units of free electricity provided under schemes like Griha Jyoti, agricultural subsidies, and for government educational institutions. Revanth Reddy stressed the need for comprehensive reforms to clean up the power sector and emphasized that the creation of another DISCOM would not only improve service delivery but also help increase national ratings for the existing companies. He highlighted the financial strain on current DISCOMs, stating that they have defaulted on loans while paying interest rates of up to 10%. To address this, he instructed officials to restructure existing loans at lower interest rates and work toward reducing the overall debt burden. In a push for renewable energy, the Chief Minister also asked officials to take immediate steps to install solar power systems in government offices and buildings. He assigned district collectors the task of identifying suitable sites for these solar units. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and senior power department officials were present at the review meeting.

## Uttam Orders Action on Land Encroachments

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Irrigation Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has ordered a state-wide crackdown on encroachments of Irrigation Department lands, directing officials to reclaim the properties on a war footing and take strict legal and administrative action against illegal occupation. Chairing a high-level review meeting at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, the Minister emphasized zero tolerance towards encroachments, especially of lands worth hundreds of crores. He instructed departments to immediately fence off vulnerable properties and reclaim illegally occupied lands without delay. The Minister called for the appointment of a special Government Pleader for the Irrigation Department to handle legal hurdles, particularly in ongoing court disputes. Highlighting major encroachments in Hyderabad, Uttam Kumar Reddy said 131.31 acres out of 426.30 acres under WALAMTARI and TGERL near Gandipet and Rajendranagar were encroached. Of this, 81.26 acres fall under the ITIR zone and are under litigation, while 50.13 acres are directly encroached. Twenty cases are pending in district courts, with two more in the High Court.

The Minister instructed the Irrigation, HYDRRAA, Revenue, and R&R departments to work in close coordination and prepare a full inventory of all Irrigation Department lands, quarters, and buildings across the state. He also directed the repossession of illegally occupied government quarters and sought a detailed report. Officials present at the meeting included Irrigation Special Chief Secretary Prashant Je-



evan Patil, HYDRRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath, R&R Commissioner Shivakumar Naidu, ENC Afzal Hussain, ENC Admin Ramesh Babu, WALAMTARI DG Anitha, and HYDRA SP Ashok. Uttam Kumar Reddy also suggested exploring the feasibility of installing solar power plants on irrigation lands adjoining canals and project sites. He said this proposal was discussed in the recent cabinet meeting, with the aim of using solar power for major lift irrigation schemes across the state.

## Minister Bids Farewell to US Consul General

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu formally bid farewell to Jennifer Larson, the outgoing US Consul General in Hyderabad, marking the end of her successful tenure. The farewell event was held, where the Minister extended warm wishes on behalf of the state government and recognized her valuable contributions to India-US relations, particularly with Telangana. As a token of appreciation and cultural respect, Minister Sridhar Babu presented Larson with a handwoven saree, a traditional symbol of Telangana’s rich textile



heritage. The gesture reflected the state’s gratitude and deep respect for her efforts in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. Speaking at the event, the Minister praised Larson for her outstanding service and

proactive role in enhancing bilateral ties. He highlighted her significant involvement in strengthening collaboration across key areas such as education, cultural exchange, and trade. Under her leadership, the US Con-

sulate in Hyderabad actively supported initiatives that brought both regions closer together. Sridhar Babu also acknowledged Larson’s consistent support of the Telangana government’s efforts to build global partnerships. He noted that her vision and cooperative spirit played a crucial role in shaping a positive and productive relationship between Telangana and the United States. Expressing his heartfelt thanks, the Minister wished her continued success in her future assignments and urged for continued cooperation to further deepen the Telangana-US partnership in the years ahead.



# BJP Blames Congress for Urea Shortages

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BJP Telangana State General Secretary Gujjula Premender Reddy, addressing a press conference at the party's state office, accused the Congress-led Telangana government of spreading false propaganda about urea shortages. He said that under the UPA regime, farmers faced fertilizer scarcity, but the Modi government resolved the issue by reviving shut-down fertilizer factories, including the ₹6,300 crore Ramagundam plant in Telangana. He highlighted that ₹3.80 lakh crore has been deposited into farmers' accounts through PM-Kisan, and ₹1.40 lakh crore is provided annually as fertilizer subsidy. Refuting the state's claim of shortages, he explained that of the 6.14 lakh metric tonnes required this Kharif season, 6.12 lakh tonnes have already been dispatched, 4.36 lakh tonnes sold, and 1.76 lakh tonnes remain in stock, with more in transit. Despite global supply issues due to geopolitical tensions and reduced exports from China, the Centre is ensuring sufficient supply. He alleged that any perceived shortage is due to mismanagement, black marketing, and diversion for non-agricultural use at the state level. Reddy challenged Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao to provide evidence of the alleged shortage and said the BJP is ready for a discussion. He further criticized the Congress government for failing to implement its poll guarantees and for not providing MSP or bonuses to farmers as promised. He demanded that the state government act responsibly, apologize to farmers, and correct the lapses in fertilizer distribution.



## Joined Congress For People of Constituency: MLA

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkat Rao responded to the Supreme Court's direction to the Telangana Assembly Speaker to take a decision within three months on the disqualification petitions filed against ten MLAs who defected from BRS to Congress. He made it clear that he joined the Congress party solely for the development of the Bhadrachalam constituency. Speaking to the media after the verdict, Tellam Venkat Rao expressed full confidence in the support of the people. "Even if by-elections come, I will win again. I have the people's blessings," he said. He emphasized that his political move was not for personal gain but to ensure progress for his region. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue serving the public as long as he remains in office. "I will continue my journey in public service. The people gave me this opportunity, and I will not let them down," he stated.

# BJP Slams Congress, Hails Key Verdicts

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchandra Rao has welcomed the NIA court's verdict acquitting seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case. Addressing the media at the BJP State Office, he alleged that the Congress party had previously conspired to disrupt national security and communal harmony. "This verdict proves that the Congress party's conspiracy has failed," he said. He also expressed support for the Supreme Court's recent direction to the Telangana Assembly Speaker to decide within three months on the disqualification petitions filed against MLAs who defected from BRS to Congress. "This is a positive development. The Speaker



must now act in accordance with the court's verdict to uphold democracy," he added. Drawing parallels to past political practices, Ramchandra Rao accused the Congress of abusing

the Anti-Defection Law — which he noted was amended under Rajiv Gandhi — by encouraging defections, much like BRS did in the past. He further questioned the mo-

tive behind the Congress Party's ongoing "Janahita Padayatra" in Telangana, asking whether it truly served public interest or was merely political posturing. Highlighting the party's unfulfilled promises, he said, "The Congress deceived students, youth, BCs, SCs, STs, farmers, and women by failing to implement its poll declarations." Rao demanded that the Congress release a white paper on the implementation status of its six guarantees and other manifesto promises. "Only then will it have the moral right to undertake a padayatra. Without transparency, it has no credibility to face the people," he asserted.

## Kavitha Seeks ₹35L for Displaced Farmers



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Jagruthi president and BRS MLC K. Kavitha has demanded that the State government pay a compensation of at least ₹35 lakh per acre to farmers displaced by

the Kodangal-Narayanpet Lift Irrigation Scheme. She alleged that the authorities were currently offering only ₹14 lakh per acre, falling short of the ₹20 lakh per acre earlier promised by Chief Minister

A. Revanth Reddy. Speaking at a meeting with affected farmers in Kanukurthy village of Kodangal constituency, Kavitha also criticised the government for shelving the Karivena package under the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. She said that the package, with 95% of head works completed by the previous BRS government, was planned to irrigate 1.8 lakh acres in the region. In contrast, the new scheme under the present government reduces the irrigation potential to just 1 lakh acres. She raised concerns over the change in the water source, stating that instead of drawing water from the Jurala project, the

government now plans to use the Bhoothpur link of the Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, limiting water supply to the Makthal area. Kavitha also questioned the sharp escalation in the project cost from ₹2,900 crore to ₹4,500 crore without any groundwork. She alleged the increase could be intended for kickbacks. Furthermore, she criticised the release of ₹600 crore each to two contractors as mobilisation advance before the commencement of any work. She urged the government to provide employment to one member of each displaced family and construct a housing colony to rehabilitate them.

## BJP to Hold Protest for BC Rights

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

BJP State General Secretary Dr. Kasam Venkateswarlu announced that the party's OBC Morcha will hold a major protest (Mahadharna) at Dharna Chowk, Indira Park, on August 2, demanding justice for BCs (Backward Classes) and criticizing the Congress-led state government for its alleged betrayal. Speaking at a press conference at the BJP Telangana state office, he said that key BJP OBC Morcha leaders from Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and nearby districts met earlier in the day. BJP State President N. Ramchandra Rao also attended. A meeting of BJP Yuva Morcha office bearers was held later. Dr. Venkateswarlu accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of betraying the BC community by not fulfilling promises made in the Kamareddy Declaration. He alleged that the CM walked away from responsibility by saying the 42% BC reservation issue was not in his control and left for Delhi after a cabinet meeting. He called this an insult to the people and questioned



why such basic constitutional knowledge was lacking in the state leadership. He said the BJP demands immediate implementation of all BC-related promises made by the Congress during the elections. He claimed that neither the CM nor the Congress government has taken meaningful action for BC welfare despite being in power. Dr. Venkateswarlu also criticized BRS leader Kavitha, accusing her of suddenly showing interest in BC issues for political survival. "After enjoying power for ten years, she is now talking about BC rights and planning a 72-hour hunger strike. This is nothing but an attempt to whitewash her political record," he remarked. He alleged that the Congress

and BRS are both using BC reservations as a political tool and that the BJP will expose their true intentions. He also questioned the inclusion of Muslims in the 42% BC quota, calling it an attempt to implement religion-based reservation in Telangana, which he said could later be extended nationwide. The BJP leader stated that national and state-level BJP leaders will take part in the August 2 protest, and appealed to all BC organizations, leaders, and intellectuals to join in large numbers. He concluded by reiterating that if BJP comes to power in Telangana, the state will have a BC Chief Minister — and challenged the Congress to make the same promise.

## SC Supported Speaker, Not BRS: Dayakar

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**

Congress MLC Addanki Dayakar clarified that the Supreme Court did not question the constitutional powers of the Assembly Speaker in deciding disqualification petitions but only offered procedural suggestions. Addressing the media at the CLP media point on Thursday, he said the apex court reaffirmed that it is solely the Speaker's responsibility to safeguard the rights and dignity of the legislature. Taking a swipe at the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Dayakar criticised its leaders for misinterpreting the verdict. "BRS leaders are misleading the public by claiming the judgment is in their favour. They should first read and understand what the court actually said," he remarked. He accused BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) of subverting democratic norms during his tenure. "KCR has a track record of engineering defections and merging other parties into his own. His government violated constitutional values for a decade," he alleged. Dayakar said that KCR's intolerance toward a Dalit leader heading the Congress Legislature Party was the reason behind the controversial merger of the CLP with the BRS. "KCR couldn't stand a Dalit leading the opposition and orchestrated the merger. He even tried to destroy the communist parties. But our alliance with them helped save democracy," he added. The MLC also questioned KCR's continued absence from the Assembly despite being Leader of the Opposition. "Should we approach the court against KCR for shirking his legislative responsibilities? The Speaker must take action against him for avoiding Assembly proceedings," Dayakar demanded.

## Endowments Dept Rolls Out e-Office System

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

In a major administrative reform, the Telangana Endowments Department has adopted the e-Office system to enhance transparency, speed, and efficiency in internal operations. The system was formally launched by Endowments Minister Konda Surekha at the Telangana Secretariat. Speaking at the launch, the Minister called the initiative a milestone in digital governance. "The e-Office system



will streamline file processing, eliminate delays, and ensure complete transparency. With real-time tracking and digital

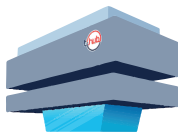
documentation, there will be no room for confusion or miscommunication between staff and officials," she said.

Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the e-Office replicates the conventional file structure but al-

lows files to be processed and approved from any location. It enables officials to mark urgent files for priority and reduces dependence on intermediaries like personal assistants or clerks. Minister Surekha emphasized that the digital system will safeguard files from damage, loss, or theft, even during emergencies such as fire. She also announced plans to expand the platform to temples including Yadagirigutta and 30 other institutions across Telangana.

The Minister approved the first official file on the platform—a compassionate appointment order for Sri Naveen Kumar. She lauded Endowments Commissioner S. Venkata Rao for directly overseeing implementation, noting his efforts in staff training and system roll-out over the past fortnight. NIC Joint Director Raghavachary and Technical Manager Kavita were also present at the event. "This is a proud and progressive step for the Endowments Department," Minister Surekha said. "The e-Office will strengthen accountability and bring about meaningful, technology-driven governance."





# Cyberabad Police Bid Farewell to Retiring Officers

TPN Correspondent |  
Hyderabad

The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate organized a dignified farewell ceremony, at the Commissioner's Office auditorium to honor three officers who retired from service. The event was presided over by Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, IPS, along with Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS. Both officers acknowl-



edged the contributions of the retirees and commended their long-standing service to the department. During the ceremony, the Commissioner presented pension

documents to the retiring officers and conveyed his deep appreciation for their commitment and discipline throughout their careers. He emphasized their vital role in maintaining

law and order and contributing to the overall growth and efficiency of the Cyberabad Police. In his address, he encouraged the officers to lead a fulfilling post-retirement life by spending quality time with family, pursuing hobbies, and engaging in community service. The farewell was marked by a warm and emotional atmosphere, as family members and colleagues joined the retirees in celebrating their ca-

reers. Several senior officials were present at the event to convey their best wishes and gratitude. These included W&CSW DCP Srujana Karnam, CAR Headquarters DCP Sanjeev, Admin ADCP Ravichandan Reddy, Madhapur SB ADCP Ravikumar, CAR Headquarters ADCP Shameer, Crimes-1 ADCP Ram Kumar, Balanagar L&O ADCP Satyanarayana, Rajendranagar L&O ADCP Srinivas Rao, CAO Venkat Reddy, CAO Admin

Geetha, and ASI Co-operative Society Incharge G. Mallesham. The retiring officers honored at the ceremony were P. Srinivas Reddy, ADCP of SOT Madhapur; M. Chandra Shekar Reddy, Head Constable from CTC CAR Headquarters; and V. Kondala Rao, Head Constable from MTO CAR Headquarters. The Cyberabad Police extended heartfelt gratitude to them for their exemplary service and wished them all the best for the future.

## HC Reserves Verdict on Deverakonda's Plea

TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court reserved its judgment on a petition filed by popular Telugu actor Vijay Deverakonda seeking to quash a First Information Report (FIR) registered against him at the Rayadurgam police station. The case pertains to allegations that Deverakonda made derogatory remarks against tribal communities.

Justice N Tukaramji presided over the proceedings and heard arguments from both sides. Appearing for Deverakonda, his counsel argued that the complaint was filed with malicious intent, highlighting a two-month delay between the actor's alleged comments and the registration of the FIR. The counsel further informed the court that Deverakonda had already issued a public apology via social media regarding the remarks.

On the other hand, the respondent's counsel opposed the plea, stating that the actor's apology should not have any bearing on the legal process and urged the court to allow the case to proceed. Following detailed submissions, the court reserved its verdict.



## GHMC Steps Up Mosquito Control Drive



TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has intensified anti-larva operations across the city to curb mosquito-borne diseases during the monsoon season. Acting on the instructions of Commissioner R.V. Karnan, the civic body has launched a comprehensive mosquito eradication campaign across more than 15,500 colonies in July alone. As part of this initiative, thousands of personnel are conducting door-to-door inspections and awareness drives. So far, officials have inspected over 34.45 lakh houses two to three times and found larval presence in approximately 1.5 percent of them. Additionally, 1.10 crore water containers were checked, with 0.5 percent found to be affected. To educate the public, awareness programs have been conducted in more than 1,700 schools and 320 colleges about Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) and mosquito prevention. Commissioner Karnan is closely monitoring the program, reviewing daily updates, and addressing gaps in implementation. He has directed staff to carry out operations more efficiently to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. GHMC officials said these consistent efforts have led to a noticeable reduction in mosquito-related illnesses compared to previous years. (CPRO – GHMC)

## Collector Calls for Quality Care in Govt Hospitals

TPN Correspondent |  
Sangareddy

Sangareddy District Collector Pravinya has emphasized the need for improved medical services in government hospitals, directing health officials to ensure timely, efficient, and patient-friendly care.

During a surprise inspection of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Kandi mandal, the Col-



lector reviewed staff attendance, health records, and patient registers. She

assessed outpatient and inpatient numbers, bed availability, and monthly

delivery statistics. Pravinya instructed the medical staff to ensure that prescriptions are written clearly and legibly for the benefit of patients. She also called for proactive measures to prevent medicine shortages by maintaining adequate stock of essential drugs. The Collector interacted with patients to gauge the quality of services being provided and stressed

the need for doctors to be available round-the-clock to meet healthcare demands. Reiterating the government's commitment to public health, Pravinya urged medical staff to perform their duties with dedication and ensure that no patient is denied proper treatment. Local medical officers and staff were present during the inspection.

## GHMC Sweep on Food Safety Violations



TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

Responding to public complaints about unhygienic food handling and poor quality, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) food safety wing conducted surprise inspections across 27 commercial establishments, including retail storage units and delivery points, on Thursday. During the inspections, officials collected 36 food samples and identified several violations. Common issues included the absence of mandatory medical fitness certificates for food handlers, unsanitary storage conditions, and lack of proper documentation. Several establishments were found operating in violation of basic hygiene protocols, raising concerns about consumer safety.

The crackdown was ordered by GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, who directed the food safety team

to intensify checks across outlets operating under major e-commerce and quick-commerce platforms. These include Zepto, Amazon Fresh, InstaMart, Blinkit, Big Basket, Swiggy, Zomato, and others. The inspection teams were tasked with examining food quality, expiry dates, storage standards, employee hygiene, and compliance with licensing requirements. Establishments found in violation were issued notices and instructed to take corrective measures immediately. Officials have confirmed that this is part of a larger, ongoing drive aimed at tightening food safety enforcement in Hyderabad. More inspections are expected in the coming days to ensure that food supplied to consumers—especially through online platforms—meets regulatory standards.

## Leopard Trapped by Forest Team

TPN Correspondent |Rangareddy

Forest officials successfully captured a leopard that had been creating panic among locals after being sighted multiple times in and around the Manchirevula area of Rangareddy district. The animal was caught in a cage set up inside the Forest Tech Park, also referred to as the Ecotic Park, in Manchirevula.

According to officials, the leopard had been roaming for several days near the Mrigavani National Park and the Greyhounds police training camp, triggering safety concerns among residents and security forces in the area. A few days ago, patrol personnel from the elite Greyhounds force spotted the big cat and immediately alerted forest authorities. Acting swiftly, the Forest Department launched a tracking operation, deploying eight trap cameras and four cages across likely move-

ment zones within the park and surrounding areas. After continuous monitoring, the leopard was finally trapped in one of the cages



installed in the Forest Tech Park. Officials confirmed that the animal is in good health and will be shifted to Nehru Zoological Park soon for further care and observation. Forest officials have urged citizens living near forest fringes to remain alert and report any sightings immediately to prevent human-wildlife conflict.

## Bathukamma Kunta Sets National Model



TPN Correspondent |  
Hyderabad

A team from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs visited Bathukamma Kunta in Amberpet and praised it as a model urban lake restoration project. Led by Additional Chief Town Planner Monis Khan, the officials reviewed the transformation of the site—from a dump yard filled with waste to a functional and well-maintained pond. Khan, impressed by the rejuvenation, said Bathukamma Kunta could serve as a national model for lake conservation efforts. He also appreciated the efforts of the Hyderabad civic

body (HYDRA), particularly after watching video footage of the Gangamma Thalli idol re-emerging during excavation. The team examined the flood-water inlet, which diverts excess rainwater from nearby drainage channels into the pond without allowing sewage, helping reduce flooding in surrounding colonies. Officials also interacted with residents and reviewed plans for further improvements. The delegation included MoHUA Associate Town Planner Sandeep Rao, GHMC officials, HYDRA engineers, and Vimos Technocrat MD P. Yunus, who is overseeing the project.

## Locals Protest Encroachment in Navabharat Nagar

TPN Correspondent |  
Hyderabad

Residents of Navabharat Nagar, located under Guttala Begumpet in Serilingampalli mandal, have strongly objected to the illegal dumping of soil and construction debris on vacant government land in their locality. They allege that certain individuals, with vested interests, are bringing in lorry loads of earth and rubble from other areas under the pretext of leveling the ground, but with the hidden agenda of land encroachment. According to locals, the soil includes foundation excavation waste and debris from demolished houses. They claim this material is being systematically dumped to fill government land, with the intention of occupying it illegally. Residents fear that once leveled, this land will be further sold off as private plots—a process which, they say, has already begun with the alleged involvement of local leaders. Despite these developments, residents complain that revenue officials have turned a blind eye. "We have been wit-

nessing truckloads of material arriving day and night, but there has been no response from the authorities," said one local. The growing frustration among residents has prompted demands for immediate action.

BJP leader Vinod Kumar, along with community members including blacksmith Satish Chari and Gopal Reddy, have joined hands with the residents in raising their voice. They urged the revenue department to halt the illegal dumping and take steps to protect the remaining government land from being encroached upon.

Slum dwellers and residents from weaker sections in the area have also supported the protest, expressing concern that such encroachments are shrinking public space and limiting access to potential future community development projects. Locals are now urging the authorities to intervene without delay, stop the incoming waste-laden lorries, and initiate strict action against those responsible for this illegal activity.





# Jupally Visits Srisailam, Inaugurates Choultry



TPN Correspondent | Srisailam  
Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao visited the sacred Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam. He was warmly welcomed

na Rao visited the sacred Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam. He was warmly welcomed

with traditional temple honors by priests and temple officials. The Minister performed special pujas to Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy (popularly known as Srisaila Mallanna), received Vedic blessings, and was offered Tirtha Prasadam as part of the rituals. Following the temple visit, Minister Jupally participated in the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed Kurmayyagari Shantamma-Narayana Rao Bhavan located within the Tandra Paparaya Velama Choultry premises in the Srisailam temple town. The Bhavan has been established to serve pilgrims and visitors, offering accommodation and facilities during their stay. Speaking at the inauguration, Minister Jupally highlighted the importance of community service and collective

social responsibility. “Politics and positions are not permanent. Wherever one may be, the true purpose of life is to serve society,” he remarked. He appreciated the efforts of the executive committee for building a residential facility in Srisailam and described it as a commendable initiative that reflects a sense of familial unity and devotion. The event was attended by key community leaders, including representatives of the Puluvaru community from Telangana, All India Velama Association President Krishnamaneni Paparao, Vice President Tandra Srinivasa Rao, and other prominent members of the association. The gathering celebrated both the cultural and spiritual significance of the occasion, with a focus on community development and tradition.

## SLBC Tunnel Work to Resume with Safer Method

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

Work on the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel is set to resume with a revised excavation strategy, months after a tragic collapse in February halted progress. Authorities have decided to bypass the collapse zone by shifting the tunnel alignment by 100 metres to avoid the geologically unstable section. Abandoning the earlier Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) method, officials will now adopt the drill-and-controlled-blast technique for the remaining 9 km stretch. This method allows for better assessment of rock conditions ahead of excavation and is considered both safer and more cost-effective. The 44-km-long SLBC tunnel is a crucial infrastructure project aimed at transferring Krishna River water from the Srisailam reservoir to drought-affected regions of Nalgonda and Nagarkurnool districts.



On February 22, a portion of the tunnel collapsed in Nagarkurnool, trapping eight workers — including two engineers. Only two bodies have been recovered so far; six remain untraced. Officials estimate the cost of completing the remaining stretch using the new method at ₹900 crore — approximately ₹100 crore per kilometre. This is significantly lower than the ₹2,000 crore projected for the TBM-based approach. The decision to revise the method and route is intended to enhance worker safety and ensure timely completion of the long-pending project.

## Rajanarsimha Reviews Padayatra Plans

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy  
State Medical and Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha visited Choutakur, Andole, and Vatpally mandals in the Andole constituency on Wednesday. During the visit, he met with the family of senior Dalit Congress leader Krishnam Raju in Hunnapur village of Choutakur mandal, who had recently passed away due to illness. The Minister expressed condolences and assured the family of his support. Earlier, he participated in the death anniversary programme of former Sarpanch Dakuri Joginath at the Congress Party office in Jogipet, where he paid floral tributes and recalled Joginath's service to the party and the community. As part of preparations for the Janahita Padayatra scheduled for

August 1 and 2, the Minister reviewed the arrangements being made for the visit of AICC Telangana Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud. He conducted a field-level inspection to ensure a smooth and successful padayatra, which was expected to draw thousands of party workers from across the constituency. The Minister also visited Dakur village in Andole mandal and Marvelli village in Vatpally mandal to assess infrastructure and logistics. He was accompanied by PCC Vice Presidents Sangameshwar and Silarapu Trisha Rajanarsimha, Congress mandal presidents, AMC Chairman, Atma Committee Chairman, former ZPTC members, ex-public representatives, and other key party leaders.



# RTI Chiefs Push for Transparency in Bhadradri

TPN Correspondent | Bhadradri Kothagudem

Telangana State Chief Information Commissioner BoReddy Ayodhya Reddy, accompanied by Commissioners P.V. Srinivasa Rao and Deshama Bhupal, visited Bhadradri Kothagudem district as part of a state-wide Right to Information (RTI) Act awareness campaign. The visit began with a ceremonial reception at the Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam, where the commissioners offered prayers and were accorded temple honours. Following this, they took part in a Vanamahotsavam programme by planting saplings at the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) premises, joined by District Collector Jitesh V. Patil, Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju, and Trainee Collector Saurabh Sharma, promoting environmental consciousness alongside administrative



outreach. The core purpose of the visit was to conduct a detailed RTI awareness seminar with Public Information Officers (PIOs) and other government officials. During the session, Chief Commissioner Ayodhya Reddy highlighted that the Right to Information is not just a law but a vital constitutional tool that empowers citizens, promotes transparency in governance, and strengthens democracy. He stressed that

all RTI applications must be addressed within the stipulated 30-day period, as mandated by law, and urged all departments to prominently display citizen information boards in their offices for better public access to information. He informed the gathering that over 18,000 RTI appeals and complaints are currently pending across the state, and efforts are being taken to clear the backlog within two months, partic-

ularly from 30 key departments. He assured that steps are being taken to streamline the RTI grievance redressal process through regular hearings and improved administrative coordination. Collector Jitesh V. Patil expressed the district administration's full support towards the proper implementation of the RTI Act and emphasized the ongoing training being imparted to government staff to handle RTI queries more effectively. The seminar concluded with an interactive session where PIOs raised practical concerns and doubts about RTI procedures, which were addressed by the commissioners. The event saw active participation from senior district officials, local body representatives, and departmental heads, marking a significant step toward strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms at the grassroots level.

## More Solar Plants Coming Soon: Singareni CMD

TPN Correspondent | Manuguru

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director N. Balaram has directed officials to complete the construction of 122 MW of solar power plants currently underway by October. He also instructed them to begin work immediately on an additional 137 MW of solar capacity, for which tendering has already been completed, aiming to reach a total capacity of 504 MW. Balaram issued these directives during a comprehensive review meeting held at Singareni Bhavan to assess the progress of solar projects and other business expansion strategies. Emphasising timely execution, he warned implementing agencies and supervising officers that delays would not be tolerated, and strict action would be taken in case of any negligence. Referring to a recent feasibility report on setting up a green hydrogen plant in Ramagundam, he directed officials to expedite the groundwork for the project. Once operational, the plant is expected to produce five tonnes of green hydrogen per day, providing a significant financial boost to the company. In addition, Balaram highlighted the potential for a large-scale geothermal power project in the Manuguru area,

in collaboration with ONGC. He ordered immediate preparatory steps for setting up the joint venture plant. He also instructed officials to fast-track feasibility studies on establishing wind power plants on overburden dumps of open cast mines, and to explore the viability of pumped storage hydro power projects in Medipalli and other locations. The CMD noted that a high-level team of officials would soon visit Rajasthan, following an agreement signed with the Rajasthan State Power Generation Nigam Limited to set up a 1,500 MW solar power project there. Directors D. Satyanarayana Rao, L.V. Suryanarayana, K. Venkateswarlu, and Gautam Potru; GM (CDN) S.D.M. Subhani; GM (CPP) A. Manohar; Singareni Thermal Power Station ED Chiranjeevulu; and Power Projects Head Vishwanatharaju were among the senior officials present.



## Karimnagar IVF Centres Under Watch

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar

All IVF (fertility) centres in Karimnagar district have been designated as “special centres” and placed under heightened monitoring to ensure compliance with the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act. District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Venkataramana announced this during an advisory council meeting held at his office

on Wednesday. He said inspection teams would begin visits to IVF centres starting today to assess adherence to the Gender Determination Prohibition Act. Of the 15 IVF centres registered in the district, four fall under Level 1 category and the remaining under Level 2. Several new applications are currently under review by the state health department. Since January, 43 centres have been

served notices for suspected violations of gender determination regulations. The DMHO also emphasized the need for strict implementation of surrogacy guidelines at all fertility clinics. Earlier in the meeting, Dr. Venkataramana reviewed services being offered at the District Central Hospital. Dr. Sana Javeria and other senior medical officers were present.

## Liquor Seized Inside Shiva Temple

TPN Correspondent | Bhadradri Kothagudem

A controversy erupted in Manuguru village after liquor bottles were found inside a prominent Shiva temple, prompting swift action from the Telangana Endowments Department. Acting on complaints from locals, officials conducted an inspection and discovered the bottles stored within the temple premises. The head priest, reportedly battling health issues, is alleged to have developed a dependency on alcohol. Officials reprimanded him and issued a formal warning, stressing that such behavior would not be tolerated in sacred spaces. The incident has triggered wider



conversations around regional traditions. In many tribal and rural parts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, it is customary to offer Mahua liquor—locally known as Ippah Sara—to deities like Lord Shiva during festivals. Due to seasonal unavailability and regulatory restrictions on Mahua, commercial

liquor is sometimes used as a substitute. Alcohol and toddy are also traditionally offered to folk goddesses such as Yellamma, Maisamma, and Pochamma. While such offerings are part of longstanding local customs, officials clarified that storing or consuming alcohol inside the temple's inner sanctum is strictly prohibited. The Endowments Department emphasized that religious tradition must not be misused to justify personal misconduct. Authorities have urged temple staff to uphold sanctity and discipline, warning of stricter action if similar violations occur again.



# The Hour of Reckoning: Reimagining Governance

The hour of reconciliation is upon us. There's nowhere left for the incapable to hide. Let's call all government employees what they truly are: the very machinery that runs our government. No longer can we simply tinker at the edges; the entire apparatus of governance teeters on a precipice. The choice is stark: undertake a monumental repair of its creaking gears, or boldly forge an entirely new engine capable of seizing the visionary future that beckons.

No matter how visionary a national or state leader might be, the machinery meant to translate that vision into a mission often grinds its cogs, its momentum faltering, threatening to leave the State's dreams in the dust. But we refuse to yield to stagnation!

Eminent economist Lord Meghnad Desai, a prominent figure and former Labour politician who recently passed away at 85, once offered a poignant insight into India's developmental dilemmas. I had the privilege of discussing these issues with him when he was a Professor Emeritus of the London School of Economics (LSE). This scholar, who wrote extensively on Marxian economics, famously declared that India's curse lay in its very own labor laws, which "protect those who are irresponsible, corrupt, or incapable of the jobs they are designated for."

One of the most glaring management failures is the blind adherence to hierarchy over merit. This embodies the Peter Principle, which posits that individuals rise to their level of incompetence. In government, promotions are too often based on tenure, not on genuine capability. The result: decision-making is led by those ill-equipped to innovate or take bold action. Overcoming this requires cultivating a merit-based culture, where tangible outcomes, not years served, determine responsibility and advancement.

Another significant flaw is the obsession with procedures rather than purpose. Max Weber's model of bureaucracy, though once revolutionary, now shackles modern governance with excessive paperwork, rigid rules, and agonizingly slow response times. While rules are intended to ensure accountability, overregulation frequently becomes a tool for evasion and delay. The solution lies in simplifying rules, decentralizing authority, and digitizing workflows to significantly increase speed and transparency. Politics further aggravates the problem. Political patronage leads to overstaffing, misplaced loyalties, and appointments based on connections rather than competence. This culture erodes accountability, as the "small wheels" become untouchable due to their political

backing. A clear firewall between politics and administration is necessary. Civil servants must be empowered and protected to act in the public interest, not merely for political convenience. Failed government programs, such as India's earlier Five-Year Plans or Venezuela's centrally controlled economy, demonstrate that rigid, top-down planning without room for feedback or course correction is destined to collapse. Flexibility, adaptability, and responsiveness must replace these outdated central planning models.

**Thoughts towards a leaner, smarter government for a quantum leap.**

To repair this ailing machinery, governments must adopt agile, citizen-centric management practices. This includes flattening hierarchies, leveraging data for informed decision-making, implementing real-time monitoring systems, and eliminating overlapping departments. Public servants must receive comprehensive training in modern governance principles, digital tools, and practical problem-solving, moving beyond mere rule-following. I am increasingly convinced that many departments within the Andhra government are driven by a strong determination to make Andhra a leader in digital governance, striving to rise above



**Ram Kamal**  
Social Engineer, Advisor to Inclusive Education, Government of AP

the outdated, inaccessible, and dysfunctional flywheels that have long become redundant.

I propose establishing a new, crucial ministry: the 'Ministry for Simplicity'. Currently, most Indian governments have a minimum of 22 to 30 ministries. Andhra Pradesh, for instance, has 25 portfolios. Let us create a minister with one single, overarching portfolio, the Ministry of Simplicity. The primary mandate of this ministry would be to oversee all other ministries' projects and to systematically simplify them. This new ministry would implement a real-time check on every project, preventing the escalation of costs

due to extravagances and unwarranted dues that often plague initiatives that could otherwise be completed within 60% of their allocated budget.

My all-time favorite management guru, the pragmatic Edward de Bono, consistently advocated for the critical importance of simplifying our increasingly complex world. He argued that complexity often results not from the inherent nature of problems, but from poor design, outdated structures, and an inability to think creatively. De Bono, renowned for pioneering lateral thinking, emphasized that simplicity isn't about "dumbing things down," but about making systems more effective, efficient, and easier to use or understand.

In conclusion, repairing government machinery is not merely about replacing parts; it is about fundamentally reengineering the entire system. It demands the courage to remove dead weight, the political will to insulate administration from undue interference, and a mindset that values simplicity, speed, and genuine public service over entrenched tradition and the status quo.

**Disclaimer: The content and views of the article are the author's personal views only.**

## Trump's 25% Tariff on India Sparks Diplomatic Crisis and Global Concerns



In a dramatic announcement posted on Truth Social, U.S. President Donald Trump declared a 25% tariff on all imports from India starting August 1, citing high Indian tariffs, trade imbalances, and continued purchases of Russian oil and weapons. The statement, heavy on rhetoric and light on diplomacy, has sent shockwaves across global markets and diplomatic circles.

While Trump began by calling India a "friend," he quickly pivoted to accusations, claiming India imposes "obnoxious" trade barriers and contributes to "unfair" trade deficits. He also hinted at further penalties, specifically targeting India's longstanding defence and energy partnerships with Russia — partnerships that have historically been a key part of India's strategic autonomy.

India's response was measured. The Commerce Ministry said the government is "studying the implications" and reaffirmed its commitment to a "fair and balanced" bilateral trade agreement with the U.S., which had been under negotiation for several months. But behind the calm exterior, policymakers are clearly on high alert. Indian exports to the U.S., which include textiles, pharmaceuticals, jewellery, and electronics, are now at risk of losing competitiveness in the American market. Countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh, which face lower or no such tariffs, are poised

to benefit.

Economists warn the tariff could drag India's GDP by 0.2 percentage points in the coming fiscal year, while businesses express concern about supply chain disruptions and lost contracts. The move also threatens key sectors like agriculture and dairy, which Trump has previously insisted be opened to U.S. firms—a demand India has resisted, citing its massive rural employment base.

Trump's tariff blitz, which also targeted Brazil on the same day, fits a now-familiar pattern of aggressive, one-sided trade actions cloaked in populist messaging. Experts say it reflects a shift from multilateral diplomacy to performance-driven geopolitics, where tweets often carry more weight than treaties.

India now faces a crucial choice: retaliate and risk escalation, or diversify trade relations and bolster domestic industries. Strengthening regional ties, expanding trade with South-east Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and investing in initiatives like Make in India may be key strategies.

Trump's tariff theatrics may dominate headlines, but the long-term path forward, for India and others, lies in building resilient, multipolar trade partnerships grounded in dialogue—not disruption.

## TCS Layoffs Signal Deeper Crisis in India's IT Model



Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) decision to lay off 12,000 employees has sent shockwaves across India's IT sector. While the company has attributed the move to skill mismatches and evolving client needs, the broader message is clear — India's traditional IT services model is under severe strain in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation.

For years, Indian IT companies thrived on volume. They built a reputation for delivering cost-effective solutions through large workforces capable of handling diverse projects. However, this "scale-first" approach is now struggling to keep pace with rapidly changing global demands. Clients today expect specialised digital solutions, not just manpower. This shift from scale to skill is exposing the deep fault lines within India's IT model.

The education system compounds the problem. Nearly 400,000 computer science engineers graduate annually from AICTE-recognised institutions, part of a larger pool of one million engineering graduates. Yet many lack the deep-tech knowledge and hands-on experience required to work with emerging technologies such as AI, machine learning, blockchain, and cloud computing. The system, experts argue, is optimised

for producing generalists, not specialists.

TCS's move should be seen not merely as a cost-cutting measure but as a wake-up call. The industry must go beyond minor reskilling programs and reimagine how talent is nurtured. This calls for a new compact — between companies and employees, and between the industry and academia. Employers must take responsibility for continuous skill development, while educators need to align curricula with industry needs and emerging tech trends.

Equally important is the need to retain and deepen existing talent. The current hire-fire cycle, driven by short-term project requirements, discourages long-term professional growth. Companies must incentivise learning, provide career visibility, and build a culture that values adaptability over routine execution.

India's IT sector has been a symbol of national pride and a key economic driver. But the ground is shifting. Without serious structural reform in how talent is trained and retained, Indian IT risks losing its competitive edge. TCS's layoffs are not just about one company — they signal a deeper reckoning for an industry at the crossroads of disruption and transformation.



# Rahul Backs Trump’s ‘Dead Economy’ Jibe



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s endorsement of former US President Donald Trump’s “dead economy” comment about India has sparked a political row, drawing criticism not only from the ruling BJP but also from his own party colleagues and allies. Responding to Trump’s controversial statement that India and Russia “can take their dead economies down together,” Rahul Gandhi told reporters at Parliament, “Yes, he is right. I mean, everybody knows this except PM Modi and the finance minister. It is a dead economy. I am glad that the US

President has stated facts... The entire world knows that BJP has ended the Indian economy to help Adani.” Gandhi went on to allege that, “The government has destroyed India’s foreign policy, economic policy, and defence policy. PM Modi works for only one person. You just see that this deal will happen and Donald Trump will define how this deal will be done and PM Modi will do everything that Donald Trump says.” However, senior Congress leaders distanced themselves from Gandhi’s remarks. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said Trump’s comments were “unreasonable” and emphasized that India should not give in to Washing-

ton’s pressure. “We have ongoing negotiations with the EU, we already concluded a deal with the UK, and we are talking with other countries also. If we can’t compete in America, we may have to diversify our markets. We are not out of options,” he said. Congress Rajya Sabha MP Rajiv Shukla also rejected Trump’s remarks as “completely wrong.” Speaking to ANI, he stated, “Our economic condition is not at all weak. If someone claims they can finish us economically, it’s likely due to a misunderstanding. Trump is living in a delusion.” He later told NDTV that “India’s trade policies are sovereign. No country can dictate who we can or cannot do business with.”

## Electoral College Finalised for VP Polls

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Election Commission of India has finalised the Electoral College for the upcoming Vice Presidential election following the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, who stepped down citing health concerns. The Commission is expected to announce the election schedule next week. As per Article 66(1) of the Constitution, the Electoral College for the Vice President’s election comprises elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha as well as the elected members of the Lok Sabha. With the list now frozen, no new additions to the Electoral College will be permitted. Earlier this week, the Commission released a public booklet detailing the entire process and legal provisions of the Vice Presidential election. This includes the eligibility criteria, filing of nominations, schedule formulation, appointment of election officials, voting system, counting process, and dispute resolution mechanisms. The EC is constitutionally bound to fill the vacancy “as soon as possible”, generally within six months. However, the new Vice President, once elected, will serve a full five-year term and not just the remaining period of Dhankhar’s tenure. In the interim, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha will assume the Vice President’s parliamentary responsibilities, including presiding over Rajya Sabha sessions.

## Will Act in National Interest: Piyush Goyal on US Tariffs

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A day after US President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff and an additional unspecified penalty on Indian exports due to India’s continued oil and defence purchases from Russia, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal assured Parliament that the Centre will take all necessary steps to safeguard the country’s national interest. Speaking in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Goyal said, “The implications of these recent developments are being carefully studied. We are in constant touch with stakeholders, including exporters and industry representatives. The government is fully committed to protecting the interests of our farmers, MSMEs, workers, exporters and industrial sector. We will act decisively in India’s national interest.” Goyal confirmed that the US had issued a reciprocal tariff order on April 2, with a baseline duty of 10%, which rose to 26% including the country-specific penalty for India. Though initially suspended, the additional duties came into effect from August 1. He also responded to Trump’s description of India as a “dead econ-



omy”, saying, “India has moved from being one of the ‘fragile five’ to the fastest growing major economy. We are among the world’s top five economies now, and are on track to becoming the third-largest in a few years.” Highlighting India’s progress, Goyal said the country had contributed 16% of global growth and had become a manufacturing and export hub. He also noted that India had successfully signed free trade agreements with the UAE, UK, and Australia, and would pursue more such partnerships.

“The government remains confident in its vision for Viksit Bharat 2047. In a protectionist world, we will continue to move forward with inclusive growth and sustainable development,” Goyal added. Meanwhile, trade negotiations between India and the US, which began in March, are ongoing, with five meetings already held in Delhi and Washington, and several more virtually. The government hopes to conclude the first phase of a comprehensive, balanced trade deal by October–November 2025.



## US Tariff Move 'Unreasonable' Says Shashi Tharoor

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has slammed US President Donald Trump’s decision to impose a 25% tariff and additional penalties on Indian imports, calling it “completely unreasonable” and warning that India must not give in to American pressure. Speaking to reporters outside Parliament on Thursday, Tharoor said, “This move comes even as trade negotiations between the two nations are still ongoing. It may just be a bargaining tactic, but if implemented, it will seriously hurt India’s trade and economy.” The tariff and penalty are reportedly in response to India’s ongoing defence and energy deals with Russia, including crude oil and military hardware purchases. The penalty, Tharoor said, could be “35% or 45%, even 100%” depending on how far the US administration pushes. “America is a very big market for us, with our exports worth nearly 90 billion dollars. If there’s a sharp drop in trade, we could lose up to half a percent of our GDP,” Tharoor warned. The Lok Sabha MP, known for his critical yet nuanced stance on foreign policy, said India could show “limited flexibility” during trade talks but should not compromise its core interests. “We have 700 million Indians dependent on agriculture. We cannot risk their livelihood to please America. Their demands are unreasonable, and our negotiators must resist,” he added. Tharoor has been broadly supportive of the Modi government’s handling of foreign affairs in recent months, but said this situation calls for “firm resistance” from all sides. His remarks come as the Indian rupee dipped and markets reeled ahead of the tariff’s effective date.

## Pragya Thakur, Col Purohit Acquitted in Malegaon Blast Case

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a landmark judgment after 17 years, a Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Mumbai on Wednesday acquitted all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, including former BJP MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur and former Army officer Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit. The verdict was pronounced by Special Judge A K Lahoti, who observed that the prosecution failed to establish the charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Arms Act and other sections. “The accused deserve the benefit of doubt,” the judge stated in the courtroom. The Malegaon blast took place on September 29, 2008, in the communally sensitive town of Malegaon in Maharashtra, killing six people and injuring over 100. The explosion occurred during



Ramzan and just ahead of the Navratri festival. The seven accused in the case were Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, Lt Col Prasad Purohit, Major (Retd) Ramesh Upadhyay, Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, Sudhakar Chaturvedi, and Sameer Kulkarni. Sadhvi Pragya was arrested in October 2008 af-

ter investigators found that the motorcycle used in the explosion was registered in her name. The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) alleged that she was part of a conspiracy targeting Muslim-majority areas in retaliation for previous attacks. Reacting to the verdict, Col Purohit said, “I am extremely grateful to the country and those who stood by us. The judiciary has delivered justice. During this fight, the armed forces stood with me. I have no words to express my gratitude.” Sadhvi Pragya, who was present in court during the verdict, told the judge, “I said from the beginning that there has to be a basis to call someone for investigation. I was arrested and tortured. My life was ruined. I lived like a sage, yet I was accused. No one stood with us. Today, the truth has prevailed. Bhagwa has won. Hindutva has won. God will punish the guilty.”

# India Begins Work on Chenab Hydro Project

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

In a strategic shift following the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, India has initiated work on its largest hydroelectric project in Jammu and Kashmir — the 1856-megawatt Sawalkote project on the Chenab River. Notably, this massive project will be constructed without obtaining a no-objection certificate from Pakistan, a requirement earlier mandated under the treaty. The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) on Wednesday floated international bids for the project under the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) process. The deadline for submission of bids has been set

for September 10. This project, once deemed a ‘dead economy’ due to prolonged delays and objections from Pakistan, is now being fast-tracked as a joint venture between NHPC and the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC). Originally proposed in the 1980s, the project faced hurdles for nearly four decades. These included procedural red tape and Islamabad’s objections over potential disruptions to the Chenab’s water flow. However, after India declared the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty in April — following the Pahalgam terror attack — the government has moved swiftly to push ahead with the strategically vital project.

To be built in two phases, the project is estimated to cost ₹22,704 crore. It will be developed under a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model, where NHPC will own and operate it for 40 years before transferring it back to Jammu and Kashmir. The revival of Sawalkote also signals India’s intent to maximize its water rights under the treaty. As per the 1960 World Bank-brokered agreement, India has full rights over Beas, Satluj, and Ravi rivers while Pakistan has rights over Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab — with India allowed limited use including run-of-the-river projects on the western rivers, subject to design clearance. That clause is now being overridden.







## Medvedev Hits Back at Trump’s ‘Dead Economies’ Remark

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

A fresh wave of diplomatic tension has erupted after US President Donald Trump described India and Russia as “dead economies” and criticised their continued defence cooperation, prompting a sharp and ominous response from top Russian official Dmitry Medvedev. Posting on Truth Social, Trump lashed out at both countries saying, “India and Russia can take their dead economies down together.” He also announced 25% tariffs on Indian imports and criticised New Delhi’s military and energy ties with Moscow. “They have always bought the vast majority of their military equipment from Russia... and are Russia’s largest buyer of energy, along with China,” Trump said, adding that the world is seeking to isolate Russia over its actions in Ukraine. This marks the second online clash between Trump and Medvedev this summer. In his latest post, Trump ridiculed the former Russian president, saying, “Tell Medvedev, the failed former President of Russia, who thinks he’s still President, to watch his words. He’s entering very dangerous territory.” In response, Medvedev, currently Deputy Chairman of Russia’s Security Council, issued a blistering reply on Telegram. “As for the talk about the ‘dead economies’ of India and Russia, and ‘entering dangerous territory’ — maybe he should recall his favorite movies about ‘the walking dead,’ and also remember how dangerous the so-called ‘Dead Hand,’ which doesn’t even exist, could be,” he warned. The “Dead Hand”, or Perimeter, is a Cold War-era nuclear retaliation system designed to automatically launch a counterstrike even if Russia’s leadership is incapacitated. Taking a final dig, Medvedev added, “If a few words from the former president of Russia can provoke such a jittery reaction from the mighty president of the United States, then Russia must be completely in the right. We’ll keep moving forward on our own path.” Medvedev served as Russia’s president from 2008 to 2012, and has grown increasingly hawkish in recent years amid rising tensions with the West.

## Myanmar Junta Lifts Emergency Rule

Myanmar’s ruling military junta on Thursday officially ended the state of emergency imposed after its 2021 coup, signaling plans to hold national elections in December — a move widely condemned as a strategy to legitimize its hold on power. The state of emergency, declared in February 2021 when the military ousted the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, granted junta chief Min Aung Hlaing sweeping control over the legislature, judiciary, and executive. The military claimed, without evidence, that Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD) had rigged the 2020 elections, which it had won in a landslide. Three years later, Suu Kyi remains in detention, and opposition groups — including lawmakers deposed in the coup — have vowed to boycott the upcoming poll. A UN expert has already branded the planned election a “fraud” aimed at cementing military dominance. Min Aung Hlaing, who also serves as acting president, signed an order revoking the emergency rule. In a speech in Naypyidaw reported by state media, he framed the decision as a transition: “We have already passed the first chapter. Now, we are starting the second chapter.” While an exact date is yet to be announced, he confirmed the elections will be held in December, stating that poll-



ing would occur in phases depending on security conditions. Many regions of Myanmar remain unstable amid ongoing clashes between the junta and various ethnic armed groups. In preparation, the junta announced the formation of a new “Union Government” and a “National Security and Peace Commission,” both filled with members handpicked by Min Aung Hlaing to oversee national defence and the electoral process. Critics argue these measures are part of a broader effort to consolidate military power rather than restore democracy. International observers and rights groups have repeatedly called for the release of political prisoners and genuine democratic reforms before any credible election can take place.

# India, Russia are ‘Dead Economies’ says Trump

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a sharp escalation of rhetoric, US President Donald Trump has stirred fresh controversy with a scathing attack on India and Russia, just a day after announcing a 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports. In a provocative post on Truth Social, Trump said, “I don’t care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care.” He justified the tariffs by calling India’s duties “among the highest in the world” and blamed non-monetary trade barriers for the historically limited trade between the two nations. “We have done very little business with India. Their tariffs are too high... obnoxious trade barriers,” he said, further alleging a “massive” trade deficit with India. The US President also disapproved of India’s long-standing defence ties with Moscow. “India has always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from



Russia. They are Russia’s largest buyer of energy, along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine,” Trump remarked. Taking aim at former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev,

who had recently warned the US against “ultimatums” to Russia, Trump added, “Tell Medvedev, the failed former President of Russia, who thinks he’s still President, to watch his words. He’s entering very dangerous territory.”

## Canada Joins UK, France in Recognising Palestine

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Canada has announced its decision to recognise the State of Palestine at the upcoming 80th United Nations General Assembly session in September 2025, joining the United Kingdom and France in a growing Western push to support Palestinian statehood. Prime Minister Mark Carney declared the decision on Wednesday, emphasising the urgency of preserving a two-state solution amid the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. “The suffering of civilians has left no room for delay in coordinated international action to support peace,” he said. Carney added that the recognition is conditional upon the Palestinian Authority’s implementation of key reforms. The Authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, has



pledged to conduct general elections in 2026—excluding Hamas—and to ensure the demilitarisation of a future Palestinian state. “Canada intends to recognise the State of Palestine at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,” Carney stated, calling it a long-standing Canadian foreign policy goal that is “being eroded before our eyes.” This move follows recent declarations by France and the United Kingdom in support of recognising Palestine, marking a significant

shift in Western diplomatic engagement on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

### Israel Condemns Move

Israel reacted sharply, condemning Canada’s announcement as dangerous and misplaced. The Israeli Embassy in Ottawa issued a statement saying, “Recognising a Palestinian state in the absence of accountable government, functioning institutions, or benevolent leadership, rewards and legitimises the monstrous barbarity of Hamas on October 7, 2023.” Currently, 147 of the 193 United Nations member states, primarily from Africa, Asia, and South America, recognise Palestine as a sovereign state. Canada’s move, alongside France and the UK, could give new momentum to broader international recognition efforts.



## Philippines President to Visit India from Aug 4 to 8

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr is set to embark on his first state visit to India from August 4 to 8, accompanied by First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos and a high-level delegation that includes several cabinet ministers, senior officials, and business representatives. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that the visit aims to further deepen diplomatic, strategic, and economic relations between the two countries. India and the Philippines have maintained diplomatic relations since November 1949, and currently cooperate at both bilateral and regional levels, especially through India’s Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN. During the visit, President Marcos is scheduled to meet with President Droupadi Murmu and hold bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will also call on President Marcos during his stay. As part of the visit, President Marcos will also travel to Bengaluru before concluding his trip and returning to the Philippines on August 8. The visit is expected to result in strengthened cooperation across sectors including trade, defense, and regional security.

## F-35 Fighter Jet Crashes in California



TPN Correspondent | California

An F-35 fighter jet crashed near Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore in California on Tuesday evening, but the pilot ejected safely, according to a statement issued by the base. The crash occurred around 6:30 pm local time, and no injuries apart from the pilot were reported. “The pilot successfully ejected and is safe. There are no additional affected personnel,” NAS Lemoore said in a brief statement. The identity of the pilot has not been released. Videos from the scene showed thick black smoke rising from the crash site, where emergency crews, in-

cluding Cal Fire and local EMS teams, responded quickly. The Fresno County Sheriff’s Office confirmed that medical personnel assisted the pilot at the location. CNN reported that the downed aircraft belonged to Strike Fighter Squadron VF-125, also known as the “Rough Raiders.” The squadron operates as a Fleet Replacement Squadron tasked with training Navy pilots and aircrew on the F-35 platform. The cause of the crash remains unknown, and a formal investigation is underway. Defense contractor Lockheed Martin, the manufacturer of the F-35, has not issued a public statement regarding the incident.



# Trump's Tariff Move Impacts Markets



## Sensex Drops 296 pts, Nifty Slips 86 pts

indices rose marginally today. Telecom, oil, pharma, metal, healthcare, PSU bank, consumer durables, realty, IT, auto, finance indices rose.

Market breadth favored sellers on NSE today. Out of a total of 3044 stocks traded, 1047 gained and 1907 lost. 72 shares touched their 52-week high and 50 touched their 52-week low. The upper circuit was 82 and the lower circuit was 60.

Food aggregator and quick commerce company Swiggy has released its first quarter results for this financial year. Net loss increased from Rs. 611 crore to Rs. 1197 crore. The quick commerce division's revenue rose from Rs. 374 crore to Rs. 806 crore. The company's total revenue expanded from Rs 3222 crore to Rs 4961 crore. The rupee weakened by 18 paise to settle at 87.60 against the dollar. Morgan Stanley has given PNB an underweight rating with a target price of Rs 100. Jefferies, however, maintained its buy rating. The NSDL IPO received a response of 4.39 times by the afternoon of the second day. Dabur's net profit was Rs 508 crore and revenue was Rs 3404

crore. Jefferies maintained its buy rating, revising the Naveen Fluorine target price to Rs 6025. Maruti Suzuki's net profit was Rs 3712 crore. The Shree Lotus Developers IPO received a response of 7.96 times by the afternoon of the second day.

### Stock Recommendations



**Jio Finance:** These shares have been in an uptrend for the past three months. They are showing strength even in a bearish market. Momentum and relative strength are increasing. In this counter, which closed at Rs. 329 on Thursday, investors should take a position in the Rs. 300/310 range and hold.

**JSW Steel:** These shares have been moving sideways for the past few months. Relative strength is good. Medium



and short term momentum is better. In this counter, which closed at Rs. 1048 on Thursday, investors should take a position in the Rs. 1040 range.

**Hyundai:** These shares have pulled back after the latest high. The 20-day moving averages have taken support. Investors are showing interest with the latest results and dividend announcement. This counter, which closed at Rs. 2151 on Thursday, should be bought in the Rs. 2100 range using buy-on-dips method.



**Dabur:** These shares are currently at a crucial stage. Short, medium and long-term momentum is very good. Relative strength is improving. The trend is bullish. Investors should take a position above Rs. 520 in this counter, which closed at Rs. 529 on Thursday.



**Jindal Stainless Steel:** These shares, which have been in a downtrend for a few months, have given good returns in the last two months. They have been consolidating well for a few days. Momentum is currently picking up. In this counter, which closed at Rs. 694 on Thursday, a position should be taken in the Rs. 680/650 range



Domestic stock markets suffered a moderate loss. Sectoral indices, including the benchmark, fell slightly. The initial sell-off continued after US President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs on Indian exports. Gradually, the indices rebounded as buying of shares in the respective sectors, including heavyweights, increased. They went from a gap down to profits in the afternoon. However, they declined slightly in the end as investors started taking profits. It is noteworthy that the Sensex rallied by 900 points at one stage. In total, the Nifty lost 86 points and the Sensex lost 296 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed

at 81,486 in the previous session, opened at 80,695 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low at 81,695. It reached an intraday high at 81,803. It ended at 81,185, down 296 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,642, touched a low of 24,635 and a high of 24,956. It closed down 86 points at 24,768. The Nifty Bank fell 188 points to 55,961.

In the Nifty50, 13 companies gained and 37 lost. Hindustan Unilever, Jio Finance, Eternal, ITC, JSW Steel were the top gainers. Adani Enterprises, Tata Steel, Dr. Reddy's, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, and Reliance Industries were the biggest losers. FMCG and media



## 6 Indian Firms Sanctioned by US Over Iran Oil Trade



The United States has imposed sanctions on 20 entities, including six Indian companies, for alleged involvement in trading petroleum and petrochemical products with

Iran, violating Executive Order 13846. The announcement was made by the US Department of State on Wednesday as part of its ongoing effort to limit revenue flows to the Iranian

regime, which Washington accuses of funding terrorism and suppressing internal dissent.

A spokesperson for the US Department of State stated, "The Iranian regime continues to fuel conflict in the Middle East to fund its destabilising activities. Today, the United States is taking action to stem the flow of revenue that the regime uses to support terrorism abroad, as well as to oppress its own people."

**The Indian companies named:**  
Alchemical Solutions Pvt Ltd: Accused of purchasing over \$84 million worth of Iranian-origin petrochemicals between Jan-Dec 2024.

Global Industrial Chemicals Ltd: Imported Iranian methanol worth \$51 million between July 2024 and Jan 2025.

**Jupiter Dye Chem Pvt Ltd:** Bought over \$49 million in

Iranian-origin products, including toluene.

**Ramnikkal S Gosalia & Co:** Imported methanol and toluene worth \$22 million during the same period.

**Persistent Petrochem Pvt Ltd:** Accused of importing \$14 million worth of Iranian-origin petrochemicals via UAE-based firms.

**Kanchan Polymers:** Purchased over \$1.3 million in Iranian polyethylene from Tanais Trading. All six firms have been designated under Section 3(a)(iii) of EO 13846 for "knowingly engaging in significant transactions" related to the Iranian petrochemical sector. The action is part of broader US efforts to isolate Iran economically amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East and international concerns over Tehran's nuclear program and support for proxy groups.

## Adani Enterprises' Infra Units Drive 74% of Q1 EBITDA

Adani Enterprises has emerged as one of the world's most successful infrastructure incubators, with its incubating businesses contributing a remarkable 74% to the company's consolidated EBITDA in the first quarter of FY 2025-26, the company announced on Thursday. Chairman Gautam Adani highlighted that the infrastructure incubation model is proving robust and scalable, with EBITDA from these units rising 5% year-on-year to Rs 2,800 crore. The standout performer was the Airports business, which delivered a 61% surge in EBITDA to Rs 1,094 crore.

"Our mission to build next-generation infrastructure platforms is accelerating, backed by landmark projects such as Navi Mumbai Inter-

national Airport, Copper Plant, and Ganga Expressway, all set to become operational this fiscal year," Gautam Adani said. These operationalizations are expected to unlock further EBITDA and long-term value.

For the quarter ended June 2025, Adani Enterprises reported a total income of Rs 22,437 crore, an EBITDA of Rs 3,786 crore, and a Profit After Tax of Rs 734 crore. The group's focus on nation-building infrastructure extends beyond airports. Adani New Industries commissioned India's first off-grid 5 MW Green Hydrogen pilot plant, marking a major clean energy milestone. Its Wind Turbine business secured its first external order of 300 MW and is on schedule to expand its module capacity by 6 GW.



AdaniConnex is advancing data center projects with Noida's MEP works underway, Hyderabad's phase II 72% complete, and Pune's phase I exceeding 85% completion. Adani Airport Holdings secured \$1.75 billion via external commercial borrowings and project financing to support growth across six airports, adding 7 new routes and 2 new airlines during the quarter. Addition-

ally, Adani Commodities LLP sold a 10.42% stake in AWL for Rs 3,700 crore before tax and signed an agreement with Wilmar Group to transfer up to 20% more. Having successfully spun off businesses like Adani Ports & SEZ, Adani Power, and Adani Wilmar, Adani Enterprises continues to play a pivotal role in India's infrastructure and self-reliance goals.



## AI to Disrupt 1.8 Crore Jobs in India by 2030

Artificial intelligence is set to cause a massive transformation in India's workforce, with over 1.8 crore jobs expected to be impacted across manufacturing, retail, and education sectors by 2030, according to a new report by digital workflow firm ServiceNow.

The report describes the change as "seismic," driven by the rise of agentic AI — a new generation of intelligent systems capable of performing tasks independently. Among the sectors, manufacturing will bear the biggest brunt, with 80 lakh jobs affected, followed by retail at 76 lakh and education at 25 lakh.

Jobs at the highest risk are those involving high levels of automation, such as payroll clerks, change managers, and data entry operators. These roles are being redefined or phased out as AI agents increasingly take over repetitive coordination tasks. On the other hand, positions requiring human-AI collaboration — such as implementation consultants and system administrators — will see job scopes evolve but not disappear.

Despite the disruption, the report also points to opportunities. Agentic AI is projected to create over 30 lakh new jobs in emerg-

ing tech roles by 2030. "India has a generational opportunity to lead globally by developing AI-ready talent and redesigning workflows," said Sumeet Mathur, Managing Director, ServiceNow India Technology and Business Centre.

The findings come amid rising concerns about AI's impact on employment. Earlier this month, India's largest IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), announced the layoff of 12,000 employees, attributing part of the reduction to automation and AI advancements.

Industry experts say the shift signals a broader need for upskilling and reimagining workforce models. While some roles are becoming obsolete, others are being transformed to work alongside AI systems rather than compete with them.

The report emphasizes that for India to stay competitive in the global digital economy, it must urgently invest in workforce reskilling and align education systems with future job needs.

With both risk and opportunity on the horizon, India's response to AI-driven disruption will shape the future of its labor market for years to come.



# Amazon Launches Echo Show 5 (3<sup>rd</sup> Gen) in India



Amazon has introduced the third-generation Echo Show 5 smart display in India, featuring improved sound, a sleeker design, and enhanced smart home capabilities. Priced at ₹10,999, the device is now available on Amazon.in, Flipkart, and retail stores like Reliance Digital and Croma, in Charcoal and Cloud Blue colours. The Echo Show 5 (3rd Gen) features a 5.5-inch display with an infinity cover glass and an upgraded user interface for better visibility in low-light conditions. It supports a wide range of functions, including weather updates, calendar reminders, and control of smart home devices.

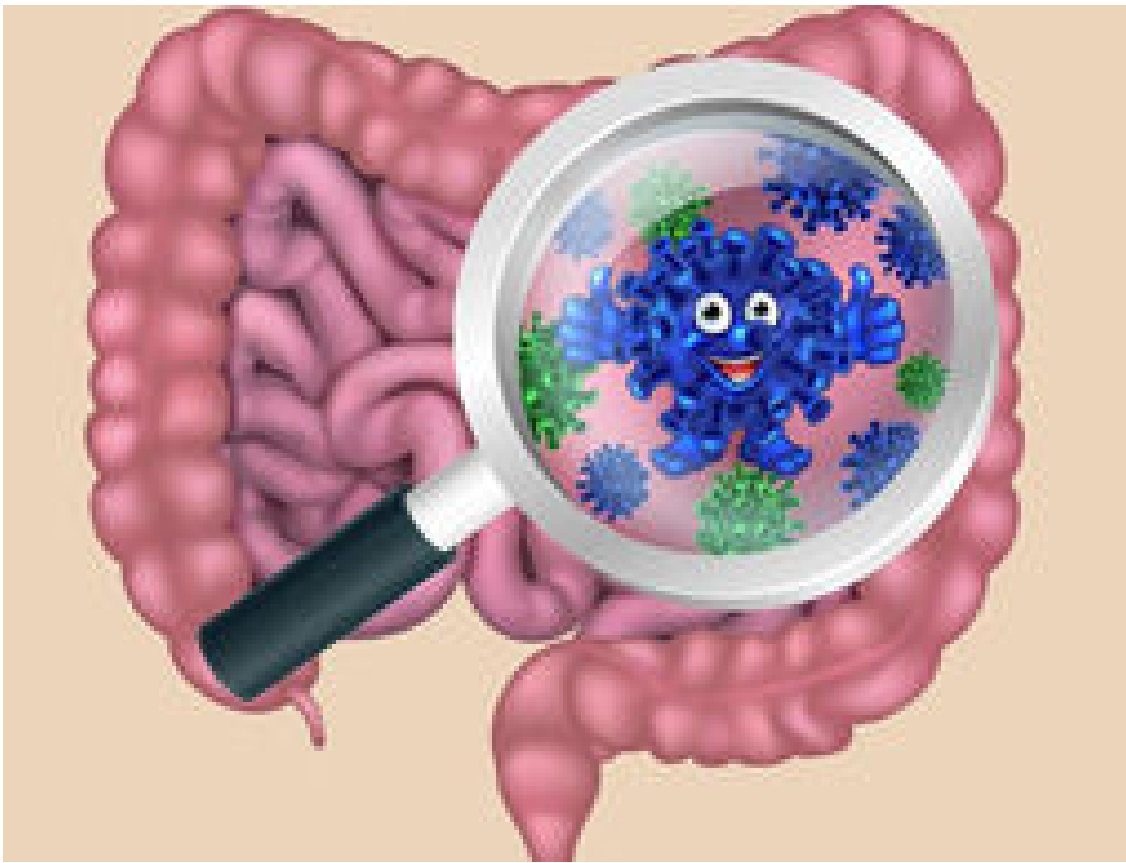
Audio quality sees a significant boost with a 1.7-inch rear-facing speaker that delivers 2X more bass and clearer vocals. Users can stream music from platforms like Amazon Music, Apple Music, Spotify, and JioSaavn, and even use multi-room audio by grouping multiple Echo devices. For home monitoring, the built-in camera supports Amazon's 'Drop In' feature, enabling users to check on their homes remotely or pair with video doorbells and security cameras. It also allows for video calling through Alexa-enabled devices or the Alexa app. Voice assistant Alexa can assist

with daily tasks like setting reminders, managing to-do lists, or creating shopping lists. It also supports voice control of compatible devices such as lights, ACs, or geysers. Amazon has included several privacy features, including a camera shutter, microphone on/off button, and the ability to manage voice recordings through the Alexa app. The device runs on Amazon's AZ2 Neural Edge processor for faster performance and improved voice recognition via an upgraded microphone array. With this launch, Amazon aims to make smart home technology more accessible and intuitive for Indian households.

# Can Gut Microbes Help Eliminate Forever Chemicals?

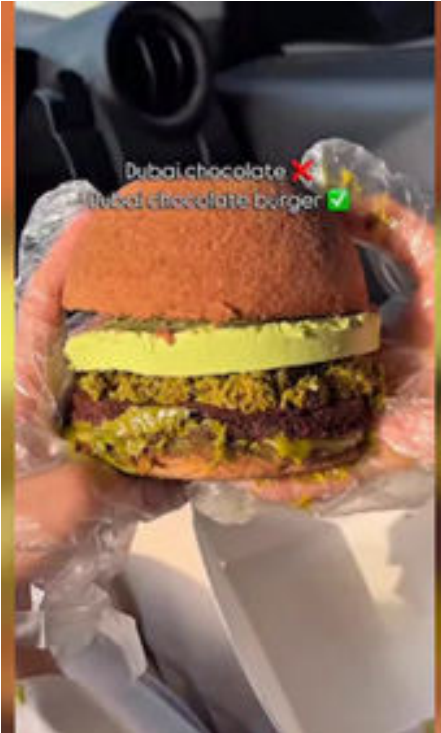
Scientists are investigating whether gut microbes could help flush out per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — often called forever chemicals — from the human body. PFAS are synthetic chemicals found in many everyday items, including non-stick cookware, food packaging, and water-repellent fabrics. They are known to persist in the environment and the human body for years, and have been linked to cancer, liver damage, and hormone disruption. Recent animal and laboratory studies have suggested that certain gut bacteria may bind to or break down PFAS, potentially helping reduce their accumulation in the body. However, experts caution that while these early findings are promising, there is not enough evidence yet to apply them as medical treatments. "There's intriguing research on how the gut microbiome might interact with PFAS, but we're far from proven therapies," said Dr. Aarti Shah, an environmental toxicologist.

She added that controlled human studies are essential to fully understand the role gut microbes may play in metabolising or expelling these chemicals. Clinicians recommend focusing on a fibre-rich, diverse diet to support a healthy microbiome, which may indirectly assist in detoxification. Foods high in soluble fibre, prebiotics, and polyphenols — such as oats, legumes, fruits, and fermented foods — are known to promote microbial diversity and gut health. Meanwhile, experts stress the importance of limiting PFAS exposure by using filtration systems for drinking water, avoiding non-stick pans, and checking product labels for PFAS-related ingredients. Though gut microbes may offer a potential solution in the future, scientists agree that more research is needed to confirm how they can help the human body manage PFAS. Until then, prevention and healthy lifestyle choices remain key.



# Viral 'Dubai Chocolate Burger' Leaves Internet Divided

A dessert creation dubbed the "Dubai Chocolate Burger" has gone viral on social media, sparking both delight and debate among food lovers across the internet. Shared by a food vlogger on Instagram, the trending dessert from popular UAE-based dessert spot B Laban is the latest twist in the region's growing "chocolate everything" trend. The reel has garnered thousands of views, showcasing a burger-like dessert stacked with layers of pistachio mousse, crunchy pistachio kunafa, and a Belgian brownie, all sandwiched between soft English cake buns. Adding to the indulgence is a side of warm Belgian chocolate, which can be poured over the entire dessert or used as a dip. The creation is priced at 30 AED and is currently available at B Laban branches across the UAE. Reactions to the Dubai Chocolate



Burger have been mixed. While many praised its creativity and

rich flavors, others expressed skepticism about combining so many textures and ingredients. Some users called it a "decadent dream," while others described it as "over-the-top" and "too sweet to handle." "This is either genius or madness," one user commented. Another wrote, "Kunafa, pistachio, brownie AND cake? It's like five desserts in one!" Despite the divided opinions, the buzz around the dessert has drawn large crowds to the outlet, with many eager to try the viral creation for themselves. This isn't the first time Dubai's dessert scene has stirred online debate — but with its bold presentation and luxurious ingredients, the Dubai Chocolate Burger continues to dominate foodie discussions and reels, proving that in the UAE, culinary creativity knows no bounds.

# Google Unveils AI Tool to Detect Minors Using Adult Accounts

Google has announced the upcoming launch of an Age Assurance tool designed to detect minors using adult Google accounts by analyzing user behavior rather than relying solely on self-declared birthdates. The new AI-driven system will initially roll out in the United States over the next few weeks to a limited group of users. It aims to combat the growing number of minors who enter false birthdates to bypass existing child protection measures on Google platforms like YouTube, Search, and Play Store. Unlike traditional age checks that rely on the account creation date, the machine learning model behind Age Assurance uses behavioral signals — such as types of searches, video content watched, and app usage patterns — to infer if a user may actually be under 18. If the system suspects the user is a minor, it will automatically apply child safety settings and notify the account holder.

These child-focused safeguards include:

- Disabling personalized ads
- Restricting age-sensitive ad categories
  - Blocking access to adult-specific apps on Play Store
  - Activating YouTube's Digital Wellbeing tools, like reminders to take breaks and go to bed
  - Limiting repetitive content recommendations
  - Disabling the Timeline feature in Google Maps

If users are wrongly flagged as minors, they will have the option to verify their age through official ID uploads or a selfie-based verification process. Google stated this move is part of its broader efforts to create safer digital environments for children and teens. While the Age Assurance system is still in its early phase, the company expects to refine and expand the tool globally based on user feedback and regulatory guidance.



# Android Phones Deliver Early Earthquake Alerts in 98 Countries

Android smartphones are proving to be life-saving tools by helping deliver early earthquake warnings to users in 98 countries, thanks to their built-in sensors and Google's Earthquake Alert system. The Android Earthquake Alert (AEA) system, launched in 2020, uses the accelerometers already present in smartphones to detect the subtle seismic vibrations — known as P-waves and S-waves — that signal the onset of an earthquake. These signals are then analyzed in real time by Google's servers to estimate the epicentre and intensity of the quake. If confirmed, the system pushes alerts to nearby users seconds before strong shaking begins.

In a new study published in Science, Google and the University of California Berkeley's Seismology Laboratory shared data from 2021 to 2024, showing that thousands of alerts have been successfully issued in countries including Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, and the Philippines — regions often impacted by earthquakes. This crowdsourced seismic network does not rely on traditional seismometers but instead harnesses the power of millions of Android phones to act as mini seismometers. "It's the world's largest earthquake detection network," said Dr. Richard Allen, Director of the Berkeley Seismology Lab. The alerts, delivered via Android no-

tifications or through Google Search, give users critical seconds to drop, cover, and hold on — or evacuate if possible — before major shaking begins. While not a replacement for government-operated warning systems, the AEA system is especially valuable in regions that lack advanced seismic infrastructure. Google is also working to integrate the system into local emergency protocols to further improve response times. The initiative represents a major step forward in low-cost, scalable disaster response using consumer technology, giving millions a chance to act before disaster strikes.





# Manipur Clinch B.C. Roy Trophy



Manipur lifted the Dr. B.C. Roy Trophy for the third time after a commanding 3-0 win over defending champions West Bengal in the final of the Junior Boys' National Football Championship (Tier 1). The match, held at the Guru Nanak Dev University Sports Complex in Amritsar, marked Manipur's first title in 25 years.

Manipur stamped their authority early and never looked back. Lourembam Naocha Singh opened the scoring in the 17th minute, finishing off a low cross from Khutleibam Sultan with a powerful left-footed strike. The team doubled their lead in the 37th minute when Ngayungmi

Kashung capitalised on a rebound after a header from Yumnam Sonamani was parried by Bengal goalkeeper Suva Barai.

Despite entering the match as equals — both teams unbeaten and having scored 13 goals each in the tournament — West Bengal struggled to match Manipur's intensity and tactical discipline. Even top-scorer Rajdeep Paul, who had netted seven goals before the final, was kept quiet by Manipur's organised defence.

West Bengal's best chance came in the 80th minute when Rintu Malik found Paul with a precise pass, but Alex Oinam's cru-

cial block denied the opportunity. Manipur capped off the win with a third goal in stoppage time. Sonamani once again played the creator, providing a clever assist for Amom Krish Singh, who calmly slotted in his sixth goal of the tournament.

With this comprehensive victory, Manipur not only ended a long title drought but also reaffirmed their strength in youth football. The win was a result of disciplined defending, sharp attacking play, and standout individual performances — particularly from Sultan, who was involved in the build-up to both the opening goals.



## Gambhir Under Fire as India Fight for Series Win

India head coach Gautam Gambhir is facing growing pressure as the team enters the deciding Test against England at The Oval. India trail 1-2 in the five-match series, and former England captain Michael Atherton warned that fans' patience may wear thin if India lose another Test series under Gambhir's leadership.

Atherton pointed to India's recent poor form, having lost back-to-back Test series at home against New Zealand (3-0) and away to Australia (3-1). "If they lose this series, then yeah, he's under pressure as a coach," Atherton said on Sky Sports. "India, with all their resources and population strength, are not a team that people are patient with. They're expected to win every time they walk onto the park. So three Test series defeats in a row would be a problem for him."

Ahead of the series-decider, Gambhir gave an inspiring team talk, which was shared by the BCCI. "There are two ways of looking at this tour," he said. "One is that we are without our three most experienced players, or we've got this phenomenal opportunity to do something special for the country, because there is no bigger honour."

India made four changes to their playing XI after being put into bat by England. Dhruv Jurel, Karun Nair, Akash Deep, and Prasidh Krishna came in, replacing Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur, and Anshul Kamboj.

Indian captain Shubman Gill emphasized the team's focus on winning. "Don't mind losing the toss as long as we win the game," he said. "The wicket looks good and should be a good pitch for bowlers. We look to win every game. We have come close in every game, and it is about the extra five or 10 per cent, so boys will be giving it their all."

As the series-decider unfolds, all eyes will be on Gambhir and the Indian squad to deliver a crucial victory.



## Messi's Last-Second Assist Seals Inter Miami Win Over Atlas

Lionel Messi once again proved his magic, assisting both goals as Inter Miami edged past Mexican side Atlas 2-1 in their Leagues Cup group-stage opener on Wednesday in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

With the match seemingly heading for a draw, Messi delivered a clutch assist deep into stoppage time. In the sixth minute of added time, the Argentine maestro played a low, precise ball across the goalmouth for Marcelo Weigandt, who scored from close range. Initially ruled offside, the goal was confirmed after a VAR review, securing a dramatic late victory for Miami.

Messi had set the tone earlier in the 57th minute with a clever assist to Venezuelan midfielder Telasco Segovia. Receiving a pass from Sergio Busquets, Messi calmly laid the ball off, allowing Segovia to score despite a brief slip.

Atlas equalized in the 80th minute through Jose Lozano, who found the net with a quick left-footed strike amid heavy pressure in the Miami box.

Speaking post-match, Messi acknowledged the physical challenge of returning after missing the previous game due to MLS All-Star Game rules, which sidelined him for Miami's prior match against FC Cincinnati. "I feel physically better the more matches I play," he said. "It was tough with the heat and not playing the other day, but the important thing is we won."

The win marks a strong start for Miami's Leagues Cup campaign and highlights Messi's huge impact, having been involved in 21 of the club's last 27 goals since late May.

The match also featured the debut of Rodrigo De Paul, Messi's Argentina teammate, who impressed in midfield. Coach Javier Mascherano praised the new signing's influence, saying De Paul brings "hierarchy" and a special connection with Messi.

Inter Miami next hosts Necaxa at Chase Stadium on Saturday, aiming to maintain momentum in the competition.



# Indian Shuttlers Shine at Macau Open

Indian badminton stars Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty, Tharun Mannepal-li, and Rakshitha Ramraj made strong starts at the Macau Open Super 300 tournament, progressing to the second round with confident victories.

Lakshya Sen, the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medallist, showed dominant form as he defeated Korea's Jeon Hyeok Jin 21-8, 21-14. Up next, he will face Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo. Ayush Shetty, ranked World No. 31, cruised past Huang Yu Kai of Chinese Taipei 21-10, 21-11 to set up a second-round match against Malaysia's Justin Hoh. Tharun Mannepal-li overcame fellow Indian Manraj Singh 21-19, 21-13 and will next face top seed Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong.

In the women's singles, Rakshitha Ramraj stood out as the only Indian to advance. She defeated Thailand's Pornpicha Choeikeewong 18-21, 21-17, 22-20 in a hard-fought 63-minute match.

India also performed well in doubles. Mixed doubles fifth seeds Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto beat Thailand's Ratchapol Makkasasithorn and Nattamon Laisuan 21-10, 21-15. In men's doubles, P. Krishnamurthy Roy and S. Pratheek K won their all-Indian battle against D. Konthou-jam and Amaan Mohammad 21-18, 21-19.

However, there were several early exits. HS Prannoy lost a tough three-game battle to Indonesia's Yohanes Saut Marcellyno. Young stars Unnati Hooda, Anupama Upadhyaya, and Sankar Subramanian also exited in the first round. In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor-Ruthvika Shivani and other Indian pairs bowed out.

Despite these setbacks, the tournament started positively for India's top performers, especially in men's singles, keeping fans hopeful for deeper runs in the upcoming rounds.



## Schalke vs Hertha to Open Bundesliga 2 Season

The 2025-26 Bundesliga 2 season is set to begin with a heavy-weight clash on August 1, as FC Schalke 04 host Hertha BSC at the VELTINS-Arena. Both clubs, former Bundesliga mainstays, were relegated in the 2022-23 season and have since struggled to mount a return to Germany's top flight.

This season opener is seen as a crucial tone-setter for two sides desperate to rediscover their form and prestige. Schalke and Hertha, once European regulars, finished in the bottom half of the table last season, failing to deliver on promotion hopes. Now, as the new campaign kicks off, fans are eager to see if either team can finally find consistency and momentum. Saturday's fixtures will see newly promoted DSC Arminia Bielefeld take on Fortuna Dusseldorf in a highly anticipated matchup. Bielefeld, who stunned four Bundesliga clubs including Bayer Leverkusen to reach the DFB-Pokal final last season, are aiming to carry that form into league play.

Elsewhere, VfL Bochum 1848 — known for quick turnarounds after relegation — visit SV Darmstadt 98 in a clash of two recent Bundesliga dropouts. SC Paderborn 07, who narrowly missed out on promotion last year, face Holstein Kiel.

SV Elversberg, last season's third-place finishers and play-off losers, begin life under new coach Vincent Wagner with a home game against Miroslav Klose's 1. FC Nürnberg. Wagner replaces long-serving boss Horst Steffen. Nürnberg, aiming to improve on last year's 10th-place finish, are seen as potential dark horses. Sunday's action sees promotion contenders Hannover 96 square off with 1. FC Kaiserslautern. 1. FC Magdeburg, who finished fifth last season despite a poor home record, host Eintracht Braunschweig, while SpVgg Greuther Fürth take on newly promoted SG Dynamo Dresden.





## Vijay Deverakonda’s Kingdom Watchable action drama

Telugu star Vijay Deverakonda returns to the big screen with Kingdom, an action drama set in the early 1990s, directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri. Released amid moderate buzz, the film delivers a mixed experience—visually rich and performance-driven, but emotionally underwhelming. The plot revolves around Soori (Vijay Deverakonda), a constable on a mission to locate his missing brother, Shiva (Satya Dev), who is now part of a smuggling cartel in Sri Lanka. Appointed as an undercover agent, Soori must infiltrate the gang, reach his brother, and navigate the emotional and moral dilemma that follows. Vijay Deverakonda gives a grounded performance, maintaining tonal consistency without overplaying emotions. Satya Dev, though impactful in parts, is underutilised by a script that doesn’t allow his character’s emotional journey to flourish. Venkitesh as Murugan shows promise but suffers from limited screen time, while Bhagyashri Borse’s role remains marginal. Kingdom struggles with a predictable narrative and lacks the emotional highs expected from a story centered on brotherhood and conflict. While the bridge fight and climax provide sparks of intensity, they aren’t enough to carry the film through its slower second half. Technically, the film is well-crafted. Cinematographers Girish Gangadharan and Jomon T. John capture striking visuals, especially during action sequences. Anirudh Ravichander’s score is competent but not standout, and Naveen Nooli’s editing could have benefited from more polish to improve pacing. Despite its flaws, Kingdom is a visually pleasing, mildly engaging film that works if you go in with limited expectations. It sets the stage for a possible sequel but falls short of delivering a powerful standalone narrative.

**Verdict:** A watchable, stylised action drama anchored by Deverakonda’s steady performance, but lacking emotional depth.

Rating: 3/5



## War 2’s ‘Aavan Jaavan’ Charms with Hrithik-Kiara Chemistry

The excitement around War 2, starring Hrithik Roshan and NTR, continues to build following the release of its theatrical trailer, which impressed audiences with its blend of high-octane action and emotional drama. Now, the film’s musical promotions have begun with the launch of its first single, Aavan Jaavan.

Unlike typical adrenaline-pumping Bollywood tracks, Aavan Jaavan is a soothing melody that highlights the sparkling chemistry between Hrithik Roshan and Kiara Advani. The song’s full video showcases the lead pair in romantic moments, with Kiara turning heads in a bikini look and Hrithik’s charismatic presence shining through.

Composed by Pritam, the track carries a refreshing vibe and is beautifully rendered by singers Arijit Singh and Nikhita Gandhi. Bollywood’s recent trend of reviving melodious chartbusters finds a worthy addition in Aavan Jaavan, blending contemporary music with a nostalgic feel.

Yash Raj Films has also given special attention to the Telugu version titled Oopiri Ooyalaga, with lyrics penned by Chandrabose and vocals by Shashwat Singh and Nikhita Gandhi. The Telugu rendition matches the original’s appeal, broadening the song’s reach to a wider audience.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, War 2 is highly anticipated and slated for release on August 14, 2025. With its combination of gripping storyline, action-packed sequences, and melodious tracks like Aavan Jaavan, the film promises to be a complete entertainer.

Fans are eagerly awaiting more songs and updates as the film inches closer to its theatrical debut, ready to witness the on-screen magic of Hrithik Roshan and Kiara Advani once again.



## Pawan Kalyan’s OG Musical fest begins

Despite the underwhelming response to Hari Hara Veera Mallu, fans of Pawan Kalyan have pinned their hopes on his upcoming gangster action drama OG, which has already generated immense buzz with its powerful first glimpse. Now, adding to the excitement, the makers have announced that the first single from OG, titled ‘Fire Storm’, will be released this Saturday, August 2, 2025.

To mark the announcement, the team unveiled a striking new poster featuring a fierce silhouette of Pawan Kalyan, adding fuel to fan theories and speculation. The poster, now trending on social media, is being closely examined by fans eager to decode visual hints about the film’s storyline and characters. The music for OG is composed by Thaman S, who has a proven track record of delivering chart-topping tracks for Pawan Kalyan’s films. In an exciting addition, Tamil star and self-confessed Powerstar fan Simbu (Silambarasan) has reportedly lent his voice for ‘Fire Storm’, raising anticipation for a high-energy and emotionally charged number.

Produced by DVV Danayya under DVV Entertainment, the film boasts a strong ensemble cast. Priyanka Mohan plays the female lead, while Emraan Hashmi, known for his intense performances, portrays the antagonist. With its stylish visuals, gritty theme, and powerful music, OG is shaping up to be a significant entry in Pawan Kalyan’s filmography.

Set against a gangster backdrop with themes of revenge and redemption, OG has all the ingredients of a mass entertainer. The release of ‘Fire Storm’ will kick off the musical campaign, expected to play a pivotal role in building hype in the lead-up to the film’s release. With expectations sky-high, fans and industry insiders alike are keen to see if OG will deliver the box office success Pawan Kalyan is aiming for.

## Vijay Sethupathi Responds to Casting Couch Allegations

Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi has firmly denied recent casting couch allegations made against him on social media. The accusations, which surfaced on X (formerly Twitter), claimed that Sethupathi exploited a young woman for “caravan favours.” The posts were quickly deleted, but the controversy attracted significant attention.

In an exclusive interview with Deccan Chronicle, Vijay Sethupathi called the claims “baseless” and dismissed them as an attempt to damage his reputation. “Anyone who knows me even remotely will laugh at this. I know myself too. This kind of filthy accusation can’t upset me,” he said. Addressing his family and friends’ concerns, he added, “Let it slide. This woman is obviously doing it to be noticed. She has her few minutes of fame, let her enjoy it.”



The National Award-winning actor also revealed that he has filed a cyber-crime complaint against the accuser and expressed confidence that such smear campaigns would not affect him. “I’ve faced all kinds of whispering campaigns for seven years. Such targeting has not affected me so far. It never will,” he said.

## SCREEN



## Mrunal Thakur Wiolds Gun in Fierce ‘Dacoit’ Poster

As Mrunal Thakur prepares to celebrate her birthday on August 1, the makers of her upcoming Pan-India film Dacoit have unveiled a powerful new poster as an early surprise for her fans. The poster showcases Mrunal in a gritty and intense avatar, holding a gun with unwavering focus, marking a stark departure from her previous roles.

Titled Dacoit, the film is a love-action revenge drama that promises high emotional stakes and gripping storytelling. In the poster, Mrunal’s expression is a mix of steely determination and fierce resolve. Visible bruises on her forehead and face suggest her character, Juliet, has endured both physical and emotional hardship. The poster strongly hints at a character-driven performance that places Mrunal at the heart of the film’s narrative.

This powerful depiction is in line with lead actor Adivi Sesh’s cinematic style, known for giving substantial roles to female characters. Mrunal’s presence as Juliet appears to be integral to the film’s central conflict, and her commanding look with the firearm sets the tone for what could be a thrilling transformation. Directed by debutant Shaniel Deo, Dacoit is currently being shot in Hyderabad. The film is backed by Supriya Yarlagadda and Suniel Narang and is being presented by Annapurna Studios—adding strong industry credibility to the project.

Dacoit is slated for a theatrical release on December 25, 2025, setting it up as a major Christmas attraction for audiences across languages. With its mix of action, romance, and revenge, the film is poised to make an impact, and Mrunal Thakur’s striking look in the new poster has certainly amplified the buzz. Fans can expect more updates in the run-up to the release as the film shapes up to be one of the season’s most awaited titles.

Sethupathi suggested the timing of the allegations could be linked to the success of his recent film Thalaivan Thalaivii. “My new film is doing well. Probably, some jealous elements think that by tarnishing me, they can damage my film. It doesn’t work that way,” he stated.

The allegations were made by a user named Ramya Mohan, who claimed that Vijay Sethupathi had offered money in exchange for favours. The user’s account has since been deactivated.

Vijay Sethupathi is widely acclaimed for his work in Tamil cinema and has also appeared in Bollywood films like Jawan and Merry Christmas. His latest release, Thalaivan Thalaivii, features him alongside Nithya Menen and is performing well at the box office.