



Narayana Studies Waste Management in Singapore

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

As part of his official visit to Singapore, Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana is focusing on understanding the country's advanced solid

waste management practices. On Wednesday, the minister, along with CRDA Commissioner Kan-nababu, inspected various garbage collection vehicles and modern street sweeping machines used in the island nation. Singapore officials explained in detail the entire process of solid

waste management, starting from door-to-door garbage collection to advanced disposal mechanisms. Minister Narayana also reviewed greenery management equipment, including specially designed tankers used for maintaining urban landscapes. In the afternoon, the minister is

scheduled to inspect Singapore's waste-to-energy plants. With similar initiatives underway in Andhra Pradesh, the government is keen to replicate aspects of Singapore's efficient waste management system, particularly its streamlined household collection and energy conversion methods.

Singapore Visit a Grand Success: Minister Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh on Thursday addressed the media at the State Secretariat, declaring his recent visit to Singapore a "grand success." Lokesh stated that agreements worth ₹45,000 crore were finalized, marking a significant leap in industrial investments for Andhra Pradesh.

Rs. 45,000 Crore Investments Secured

Lokesh emphasized that the focus of the visit was not on signing preliminary MoUs but on finalizing actionable investment deals. "We are skipping MoUs. We're going straight to implementation," he said. Highlighting key developments, he revealed that global steel giant ArcelorMittal has agreed to set up the country's largest steel plant and data center in Andhra Pradesh. He attributed this turnaround to CM Chandrababu Naidu's proactive vision, contrasting it with what he termed as the "policy paralysis" under the previous YSRCP government. "The AP brand was damaged during Jagan's rule. Firms like Lulu and Amarraja were driven out. Amaravati's progress was halted by baseless corruption claims against Singapore," he said.

Visakhapatnam as AP's IT Hub

Lokesh reiterated the government's plan to develop Visakhapatnam into the IT capital of Andhra Pradesh, similar to how Bengaluru and Chennai anchor Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. He also



defended the decision to allot land to TCS at ₹99 per acre, saying it was aimed purely at job creation, and hit back at YCP for legally challenging the move.

YCP Leaders Blocking Investments

In a sharp attack, Lokesh alleged that YCP leaders were trying to sabotage investments. He claimed a person named Muralikrishna, allegedly connected to

YCP, sent emails to Singapore officials warning that governments change quickly in AP. "While Tamil Nadu parties work together to attract industries, here YCP leaders are writing letters to block them," he said.

We never opposed Kaleshwaram

Lokesh also addressed the Telangana-AP water disputes, especially over

the Banakacherla project. Responding to Telangana leaders' objections, Lokesh questioned the legality of Kaleshwaram, which he said was built without clear permissions. "We never opposed Kaleshwaram. Is it wrong to use surplus water that flows into the sea?" he asked. He warned against stirring regional hatred for political gain.

Jagan knows the number of those boxes very well

On the liquor scam, Lokesh alleged a deep nexus between the liquor mafia and the former CM. "Jagan knows which box carried how much money," he said, referring to the recent ₹400 crore gold seizure. Lokesh named PLR Company as a conduit and dared Minister Peddi Reddy to deny the charges. "They made liquor with gold. This is criminal politics at its peak," he remarked.

"If There's Emergency, Why Is Jagan Flying Around?"

Dismissing Jagan's claim that Andhra Pradesh is under emergency conditions, Lokesh retorted, "If it's an emergency, why is Jagan flying around in a helicopter?" He clarified that construction-related soil movement in Nellore was being misrepresented and reminded that 3,000 police personnel were deployed to protect the former CM. Referring to past events, Lokesh recalled that helicopter damage during a YCP rally cost ₹16 lakh in repairs



Will Act in National Interest: Piyush Goyal on US Tariffs

7 PAGE

Unrest Follows Jagan's Tours, Says Anitha



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Van-galapudi Anitha has strongly criticized YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Nellore, calling it a "show of strength" disguised as a consultation tour. Speaking to the media, Anitha accused the YSRCP of not informing authorities properly ahead of the visit, saying, "We won't object if Jagan wants to tour, but the police must be given accurate information to make arrangements."

She condemned Jagan's visit to the residence of a person who allegedly made derogatory remarks against women, indirectly referring to Nallapureddy Prasannakumar Reddy. His recent comments about TDP MLA Vemiredy Prashanti Reddy created a storm, drawing widespread outrage. Anitha expressed outrage that a constable was injured during the visit, revealing that her arm was broken in the commotion. "Everywhere Jagan goes, some unfortunate incident takes place. If law and order are disturbed, strict action will be taken," she warned. She also targeted Sakshi TV, alleging that the channel aired manipulated visuals of Jagan's tour. "Old videos from Bangarupalyam were shown as if they were from Nellore. False narratives are being created deliberately," she said. On a personal note,

2 PAGE

Red Book governance is killing people's hopes: Jagan

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP chief Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy toured Nellore district on Wednesday, amid heavy police restrictions that drew sharp criticism from the leader. Jagan met with incarcerated former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy at Nellore Central Jail and later visited former MLA Prasanna Kumar Reddy. Despite the visit being a private and political event, police imposed severe restrictions across Nellore city and its outskirts. Roads leading to the jail and Prasanna Kumar Reddy's residence were closed, and checkpoints were set up at multiple locations to regulate vehicle movement. Many YCP supporters and leaders who came to see Jagan were either turned away or forced to find alternate routes. Notably, Prasanna Kumar Reddy staged a sit-in protest after police blocked access to his house for Jagan's supporters. Jagan alleged that the atmosphere resembled an undeclared emergency



in the state. "Police restrictions were imposed without even consulting our party. Is this democracy or dictatorship?" he questioned. He further accused the government of filing false cases against YCP leaders for raising public issues, citing the example of Kakani Govardhan Reddy, who he said was wrongfully arrested under a fabricated mining case. He claimed that 14 cases have been slapped against Kakani Govardhan Reddy, and questioned whether the homes of opposition leaders would now be raided arbitrarily.

2 PAGE

SIT Chief Meets DGP

Will Jagan Face Summons in Liquor Scam?

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Is the Andhra Pradesh government preparing to deliver a major shock to YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy? With recent developments surrounding the Rs 3,500 crore liquor scam, the possibility of Jagan being summoned by the SIT is gaining ground. The name that was missing in the first chargesheet might now surface in the second one. The direction of the investigation and behind-the-scenes activities suggest that Jagan could soon be issued a notice and called in for questioning. In a significant development today, SIT Chief Rajasekhara Babu held a closed-door meeting with DGP Harish Kumar Gupta at the DGP office in Mangalagiri. Sources say the focus of their discussion was the recent findings in the liquor scam and the legal and administrative implications of summoning Jagan. The SIT, which has been vigorously pursuing the case, reportedly believes that Jagan



was the ultimate beneficiary of the scam that unfolded during the previous YSRCP government. This meeting comes on the heels of a key arrest in the case. Varun Purushottam, another prime accused, was nabbed in Hyderabad while allegedly trying to flee abroad. He has since been brought to Vijayawada and is being interrogated. Following his arrest, SIT teams conducted raids and seized ₹11 crore in cash from a farmhouse on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Preliminary leaks from the SIT suggest the money belongs to Raj KC Reddy,

2 PAGE



Singapore Visit a Grand Success...

Continued from page 1

and said that YCP cadres even assaulted police in Nellore. He ended with a sharp jibe: “Jagan is the only son who celebrated after winning a case against his own mother. If he can’t stand by his own family, how will he protect the women of this state?” Wrapping up his address, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh is entering a new phase of rapid development under the leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu. “We’re not here to complain, we’re here to deliver,” he asserted, promising that real reforms, clean governance, and global partnerships will define the future of the state. “The world is ready to invest in AP again — this is just the beginning.”

Trouble Follows...

Continued from page 1

Anitha lashed out at Jagan for staying silent when vulgar comments were made about her mother and sister by his supporters. She questioned why Jagan had not responded to such abusive content in the past but was now openly meeting those who demeaned women in public life. In her closing remarks, the Home Minister warned that the government would not tolerate disruptions or fake propaganda and emphasized that public safety would be ensured at all costs.

Red Book governance...

Continued from page 1

“Chandrababu Naidu is scared to even see an opposition leader,” Jagan stated, asserting that fear and suppression have become the hallmark of the current administration. He also attacked Chandrababu Naidu’s governance, alleging that welfare schemes introduced during his (Jagan’s) tenure have been stalled. “Schemes meant for the poor are not reaching them. This Red Book governance is killing people’s hopes,” he remarked. Leaders including former MP Adala Prabhakar Reddy, former minister Anil Kumar Yadav, MLC Parvatareddy Chandra Shekhar Reddy, and Kakani’s daughter Pujita accompanied Jagan during the tour.

SIT Chief Meets DGP

Continued from page 1

the main accused in the case. However, Raj KC Reddy has strongly denied any connection with the seized cash. He submitted an affidavit in the ACB court stating that the SIT is trying to implicate him falsely in order to block his bail. The court is yet to respond to his plea. Given these developments, speculation is mounting that the SIT is actively considering naming Jagan in the second chargesheet. The ₹11 crore cash haul and Varun’s revelations seem to have added weight to this consideration. Today’s high-level meeting between the SIT chief and the DGP is being seen as part of the groundwork for the possible issuance of notices. If a notice is indeed served, it would mark a dramatic escalation in the liquor scam probe, dragging the former Chief Minister directly into the legal quagmire. The discussions also reportedly involved the risks, legal preparedness, and steps to ensure that such a move does not backfire or lead to political controversy. All eyes are now on the SIT’s next move and whether this case will lead to formal charges or summons against one of the most prominent political figures in Andhra Pradesh.

Revenue Deception in East Godavari

TPN | Ch Raju

East Godavari: The pictures above is not just a random patch of land. It’s the scene of a major revenue deception. What the irrigation department confirms as a crop canal, the revenue officials conveniently dismiss as non-existent. Welcome to Komatigunta village, Gopalapuram mandal — where water rights are buried under bureaucracy and backdoor deals. Local farmers are crying foul after an influential farmer allegedly encroached upon and covered a certified irrigation canal connected to the Avududa pond. The canal, crucial for irrigating downstream fields, has now vanished under a blanket of soil — and officials seem to be playing dumb. The Irrigation Department carried out a field inspection and clearly issued a certificate stating that it is, in fact, a crop canal. But shockingly, the Deputy Tahsildar of the Revenue Department is backing the encroacher, stating there is no canal at all. Farmers say this is a clear case of collusion and a betrayal of public trust. Frustrated farmers have made multiple complaints through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) at the Collectorate, only to be met with silence. Despite repeated pleas, officials continue to side with the encroacher, leaving the rightful owners high and dry — literally.



Irrigation dept confirms crop canal, but revenue officials deny its existence



There’s more. The surveyor initially acknowledged the existence of the canal during the preliminary inspection. But after completing the official survey, he changed his tune, now claiming there is no record of such a canal in government books. His justification? “It’s a mutual arrangement among farmers, not a government-sanctioned canal.” The Deputy Tahsildar, when questioned, simply dodged responsibility, saying, “Ask the surveyor.” This is not just about a patch of land or a trickle of water. This is about farmers being denied their right to irrigation, livelihoods being choked, and authorities refusing to act. Local farmers are demanding immediate restoration of the crop canal (bodhi) that was illegally

encroached and buried. They are also insisting on stringent action against the influential farmer who carried out the encroachment. In addition, they want a thorough probe into the role of the Deputy Tahsildar and the surveyor, who allegedly supported the encroachment, and are calling for their suspension. Farmers say the injustice has gone on too long and want the District Collector to intervene directly, investigate the matter impartially, and ensure accountability from the revenue officials involved. In a time of rising temperatures and water scarcity, ignoring such encroachments isn’t just negligent — it’s dangerous. The question remains: who will take responsibility when this negligence turns into disaster?

ED Joins AP Liquor Scam Probe



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The sensational liquor scam case in Andhra Pradesh is seeing new twists with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) stepping into the investigation. With several leaders from the previous YSRCP regime already arrested, the ED has now sought details related to the recent seizure of ₹11 crore by SIT officials at Kacharam near Shamshabad. According to sources, the ED has already recorded the statement of Raj Kasireddy and questioned Chandra Reddy in connection with the case. Following this, the ED is likely to issue notices to other key individuals, intensifying the probe further. The seizure of ₹11 crore, suspected to be linked to the liquor scam, has triggered parallel investigations by both the SIT and ED. There is widespread speculation that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy could come under scrutiny if his name is mentioned in any of the accused’s statements. Alliance party leaders are actively campaigning that an arrest could follow if any such direct links are established. Adding to the heat, a Vijayawada court has reportedly issued a non-bailable warrant against an accused named Varun, who was deported soon after his name surfaced in the scam. So far, 12 individuals have been arrested by the SIT, including Rajya Sabha MP Mithun Reddy. More searches are expected to be conducted by SIT officers today and tomorrow, as the investigation gains further momentum.

SC Cancels Ex-CID Chief Sanjay’s Anticipatory Bail



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a key development in the fire department corruption case, the Supreme Court has cancelled the anticipatory bail granted to former Andhra Pradesh CID Chief, Sanjay. The verdict was delivered on Thursday by a bench comprising Justice N.V.N. Bhatti and Justice Amanutullah Dharmasan. The Andhra Pradesh government had earlier filed an FIR against Sanjay in connection with alleged irregularities in the fire services department. The AP High Court had granted him anticipatory bail in the case. However, the state government challenged that decision in the Supreme Court. After detailed hearings, the Supreme Court bench quashed the High Court’s order. The judges expressed serious displeasure over how the High Court had handled the matter, noting that it seemed as though the trial had been concluded at the anticipatory bail stage itself. Justice Dharmasan observed that the High Court had overreached its jurisdiction, and the merits of the case were discussed prematurely. The cancellation of anticipatory bail now paves the way for the investigation to proceed unhindered. The state government’s legal team argued that the relief given to Sanjay was obstructing the probe into serious charges of corruption involving public funds and misuse of office. With this judgment, the spotlight now turns back to the ongoing investigation, and Sanjay may now have to face arrest unless fresh legal relief is secured.



CM Naidu to Launch ₹165 Cr Tourism Projects

TPN Correspondent | YSR Kadapa

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will lay the foundation stone for the much-anticipated ₹77.91 crore Gandikota tourism project on Friday, announced State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh. The CM will also virtually inaugurate five tourism projects worth ₹165 crore across the state, in a significant push to revive heritage and boost tourism. Speaking at Gandikota after inspecting the site, Minister Durgesh said the project aims to bring international recognition to the “Grand Canyon of India” and eventually secure UNESCO heritage status. He criticized the previous YSRCP government, alleging it failed to preserve the state’s cultural and historical legacy. Among the five major tourism projects to be virtually launched by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu are the ₹77.91 crore Gandikota tourism development initiative and the ₹29.87 crore beautification project for Borra Caves. Additionally, a ₹25 crore Water Sports and Buddhist Experience Centre is planned at Nagarjuna Sagar, while the modernisation of the Ahobilam Temple in Nandyal will be undertaken at a cost of ₹25 crore. The fifth project is a high-end hotel venture in Tirupati — the Lemon Tree Premier — with an estimated investment of ₹80 crore. Durgesh highlighted that the Gandikota development includes pathways connecting historic sites like Jumma Masjid and Ranganatha Swamy Temple, boating facilities, viewpoints, a mini theatre, and a tent city with 30 luxury tents. ₹28 crore will be spent on restoring heritage buildings, while ₹15 crore is allocated for tourist amenities. He also announced plans for a 5-star Oberoi hotel near Gandikota, with CM Naidu scheduled to lay the foundation stone during his visit. In total, 15–20 hotels are planned across Andhra Pradesh under the PPP model. Durgesh emphasized the new tourism policy (2024–29) that gives the tourism sector industrial status. “Investor confidence is high under the coalition government. Gandikota will become a global destination,” he said. The Minister also recalled the Centre’s support, including ₹97.53 crore for Suryalanka Beach and ₹94.44 crore for the Akhanda Godavari Project. He claimed that under the previous regime, investors were wary of entering AP, but now, the state is witnessing strong investment inflow, backed by transparency and bold policy decisions. With UNESCO recognition in sight and a slew of infrastructure upgrades planned, Gandikota is poised for a historic transformation.

Dr. E.S. Padmakumar appointed as SHAR Director

TPN Correspondent | Sriharikota

Eminent scientist Dr. E.S. Padmakumar has been appointed as the new Director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) at Sriharikota. He will formally assume charge on August 1. Dr. Padmakumar succeeds Shri Arumugam Rajarajanna, who has been transferred to head the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram. A veteran of ISRO, Dr. Padmakumar has previously held several significant roles at the ISRO Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, contributing extensively to satellite development and space research. ISRO officials expressed confidence that his vast experience will help elevate SHAR’s performance and further streamline rocket launch operations. His appointment is seen as a move to reinforce ISRO’s future missions with strengthened leadership at one of its key launch centres.



Minister Satya Kumar felicitates BJP State President

TPN Correspondent | Sri Sathya Sai

BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav was warmly welcomed by Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav during his visit to the Puttaparthi BJP district office on Thursday. As part of the felicitation, Minister Satyakumar presented Madhav with traditional Dharma-varam silk garments and renowned leather puppets crafted in Nimmalakunta village. The ceremony was attended by a large number of party leaders, karyakartas, and local public representatives. The silk and leather art items, which are significant to the Dharmavaram region, were presented as a mark of regional pride and cultural identity. Minister Satyakumar stated that Nimmalakunta's leather puppetry reflects the rich heritage of Indian handicrafts, and reiterated the BJP's commitment to promoting local art forms. In his response, P.V.N. Madhav said the affection shown by Dharmavaram BJP leaders and people had deeply inspired him. He vowed to strengthen the party further across all levels in the state.

Sudheer Reddy Urges Firms to Adopt Families Under P-4



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Sri Kalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy has called upon private companies to actively participate in the P-4 model aimed at eradicating poverty in Andhra Pradesh. At a meeting held at the TRS Guest House in Sri Kalahasti town under the chairmanship of the RDO and APIIC Zonal Manager, the MLA discussed the implementation of the P-4 scheme with local private industry leaders. Sudheer Reddy appealed to the company heads to allocate a portion of their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds toward the development of the constituency by adopting underprivileged families. He said such support would directly contribute to the P-4 initiative, which is being implemented with great ambition by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to uplift the poor and weaker sections. He urged industries to go beyond symbolic gestures and focus on meaningful interventions like healthcare, education, skilling and livelihood enhancement for the adopted families. "The aim is not just financial help, but long-term, comprehensive development," the MLA emphasized. He also said the government is keen to partner with the private sector to ensure targeted and effective poverty eradication, and P-4 is a community-driven, development-centric model that companies should wholeheartedly support. Town Presidents Vijay Kumar Chenchayya Naidu, Muni Raja Naidu, Durga Prasad Khadaravalli, Vinay Balaji and other local leaders were present during the meeting.

We Will Speak to Every Activist Personally: Naga Babu

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Jana Sena Party State General Secretary and Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Member Sri K. Naga Babu has assured that the party leadership will hold direct discussions with each worker across the state. He emphasized that all workers, from village-level activists to constituency leaders, will be given the opportunity to share their issues and feedback as part of regular internal reviews. As part of his Uttarandhra tour, Sri Naga Babu addressed party leaders from the joint Srikakulam district on Wednesday in Srikakulam town. In his speech, he stated that monthly review meetings would soon become a regular practice, held district-wise, constituency-wise, mandal-wise, and village-wise. "Speaking with workers from remote areas is key to understanding the real issues. We will engage with everyone based on their availability and



involvement. Only through these conversations can we fully understand local problems and key party matters," said Naga Babu. He expressed happiness over the enthusiastic participation of local leaders and activists. "It is a matter of great joy that we are creating a platform for every worker to express their problems and suggestions. This connection with the grassroots will strengthen the party," he said. The meeting saw participation from Palakonda MLA Sri Nimmaka Jayakrishna, Joint Srikakulam District President Sri Picini Chandramohan, Jana Sena PAC member and former

Minister Smt. Padala Aruna, Assembly constituency coordinators Dr. Vishwakshan, Sri Pedada Rammohan, Sri Gedela Chaitanya, Sri Dasari Raju, Sri Tiumur Kiran Kumar, Sri Balaga Praveen, and Sri Pogiri Suresh Babu. Also present were Bhimili in-charge Dr. Panchakarla Sandeep, State Joint Secretaries Sri Eeshwar Rao and Sri Duryodhana Reddy, various corporation directors including Sri Garbana Sattibabu, Sri Lolla Rajesh, Sri Nimmala Nibram, and Dr. Vegulada Durga Rao. Presidents of all mandals in the district, along with local leaders, women leaders, and Jana Sainiks, also attended the meeting.

All set for CM's visit to Jammalamadugu



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

All arrangements are in place for Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Jammalamadugu on Friday, according to District In-charge Minister and State BC, EWS Welfare, Handloom and Textiles Minister S. Savita. The CM is scheduled to participate in several welfare and development programs, including the distribution of social pensions, interaction with beneficiaries of the P-4 poverty eradication model, and a review meeting with TDP leaders and activists. Minister Savita, speaking at a

press conference along with State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, MLAs Adinarayana Reddy and Putta Krishnachaitanya Reddy, emphasized that the visit will mark the beginning of impactful initiatives in Kadapa district. As a part of the development drive, CM Chandrababu will lay the foundation stone for tourism projects worth ₹165 crore, with ₹80 crore earmarked for the development of Gandikota, a key tourism destination. "The P-4 model being implemented under CM Chandrababu's leadership aims to eradicate poverty and uplift the

economically weaker sections," said Minister Savita. As part of the program, the CM will interact with golden families, mentors, and the public at a forum arranged at Gudenchervu. She also highlighted the state's ongoing efforts to attract both domestic and international investments. Minister Savita noted that Andhra Pradesh is setting a benchmark in welfare, stating, "The social pensions being disbursed here are unmatched in the country." She announced that the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme will be launched on August 2, while the much-awaited free RTC bus travel for women will begin from August 15. The Minister, along with officials, inspected the helipad near the Government Polytechnic College and the public forum arrangements. Police and other department teams are working round-the-clock to ensure a smooth visit. She directed that all arrangements be completed with top priority to security and public convenience. Also present during the review were CM's Visits Advisor Pendurthi Venkatesh, MLA Putta Krishnachaitanya Reddy, leaders Reddappa Gari Srinivasula Reddy, Bhupesh Reddy, and senior officials including RDOs John Erwin and Chandra Mohan.

Constable Injured During Jagan's Visit: Kotamreddy

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

TDP MLA from Nellore Rural, Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, came down heavily on YSRCP chief YS Jagan over the disturbances during his recent visit to Nellore. Addressing the media on Thursday, Kotamreddy alleged that Jagan's followers broke the arm of a constable, damaged the compound wall of a government hospital, and staged a protest on the main road, causing public inconvenience. He demanded that the government take strict action against those responsible. "Only then will such incidents not be repeated," he warned. Kotamreddy questioned the silence of authorities and criticized YSRCP leaders for blaming police arrangements when advance security measures are taken during such VIP visits. Kotamreddy further accused Jagan of hypocrisy, stating that while the YSRCP chief now attacks TDP MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy over mining, he forgets that his own grandfather YS Raja Reddy was also involved in the same business. He also pointed out that Jagan once had close ties with the Vemireddy couple and is now ignoring their contributions to YSRCP. He slammed Jagan for siding with party leader Prasanna Kumar Reddy despite his objectionable remarks and urged him to apologize to the people of Nellore. He condemned the "arrogant" behavior of YSRCP cadres and warned that TDP would give a strong reply.

Good Governance Drive in Katarupalli

TPN Correspondent | Sri Satya Sai

To mark one year of the coalition government's rule, Kadiri MLA Kandikunta Venkataprasad organized a "First Step in Good Governance" program in Katarupalli village under Gandlapenta mandal of Kadiri constituency. As part of the initiative, the MLA went door to door, interacting with locals and explaining the development and welfare schemes implemented during the past year by the coalition government. Addressing the villagers, MLA Kandikunta strongly criticized the previous YSRCP government. He alleged that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy and his associates are deeply involved in a massive liquor scam. "In this situation, where will Jaganmohan Reddy go?" he questioned, asserting that the people have already rejected him. MLA Kandikunta also took a dig at former Tourism Minister Roja, stating, "The people of Andhra Pradesh threw you out once and gave you only 11 seats. This time, you'll see where you'll land after your theatrics." His remarks appeared to be a direct counter to recent statements by YSRCP leaders in opposition. As part of the program, the MLA also distributed newly sanctioned widow pension documents to eligible beneficiaries, emphasizing that the coalition government is committed to delivering welfare directly to the people's doorstep.

TDP Leaders Unveil NTR Statue Highlight Welfare Initiatives in Amadaguru

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

A large turnout of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supporters marked the unveiling of an NTR statue in Amadaguru mandal on Thursday as part of the party's 'Suparopalana lo Toli Adugu' initiative. The event witnessed active participation from local residents and party cadres.

MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy, and district TDP president Anjanappa led the program, which also featured the oath-taking of Mandal Single Window President Gopal Reddy. A rally from Amadaguru Sub Station to the statue site preceded the ceremony, drawing



significant public participation.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sindhura Reddy reiterated that jus-

tice and equal opportunities for all communities can be ensured only under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. She

outlined the state government's welfare plans, including enhanced pensions, free gas cylinders, farm support, and free RTC bus travel for women from August 15.

Dr. Raghunath Reddy recalled NTR's role as a champion for weaker sections and commended ongoing developmental efforts in the Puttaparthi constituency. He cautioned booth conveners against neglecting responsibilities and assured that dedicated party workers would be given priority in future appointments. The program concluded with a pledge from leaders and workers to strengthen TDP's grassroots presence and unite communities under its vision for inclusive development.

Operation TRACE Launched to Find Missing Girls

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a major initiative aimed at tracing and rescuing missing girls across Andhra Pradesh, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta on Thursday launched a special program named Operation TRACE. The campaign, to be implemented throughout August, will be carried out under the supervision of the Women and Child Safety Wing in coordination with all district police units. Speaking at the launch, the DGP said, “This special drive from August 1 to 31 aims to prevent abductions and reunite missing girls with their families. The state police will work with full coordination under Operation TRACE.”

TRACE stands for:

- T – Trace:** Use of CCTNS, Mission Vatsalya Portal, facial recog-

- niton, and checks at transport hubs, shelters, and borders to track missing girls.
- R – Reconnect:** Reuniting girls with families and coordinating with Child Welfare Committees (CWCs).
- A – Assist:** Providing medical care, shelter, food, legal aid, and identity verification.
- C – Counsel:** Psychological counselling through NGOs.
- E – Empower:** Access to education, skill training, and welfare schemes.

The action plan includes data collection on August 1–2, inspection of shelters from August 3–10, and identity verification using tech tools. From August 11–30, special checks will be conducted at public hotspots under the FIND HER program involving community participation. The public can report missing chil-



dren via the Shakti App, emergency number 112, Child Helpline 1098, Women Helpline 181, or WhatsApp at

7993485111. Senior officials including ADGP N. Madhusudhana Reddy, IGP B. Raja-

kumari, and SP N. Sridevi Rao participated in the launch event held at the DGP's office in Mangalagiri.

Lulu Land Deal Sparks Outrage in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Protests are mounting in Vijayawada over the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to lease out 4.17 acres of the old RTC bus stand land to Lulu Mall International for 99 years. At a round table meeting organized by the Vijayawada Civic Forum at Balotsava Bhavan, prominent citizens, social activists, legal experts, RTC workers' union leaders, and trade association representatives came together to condemn the move as detrimental to local businesses and city planning. The meeting witnessed strong criticism of the coalition government's alleged servility to corporate interests. Speakers accused the government of damaging the urban fabric and economy of Vijayawada to favor Lulu company, while local traders and the public bear the brunt of such policies. The forum warned that any move to privatize RTC lands would be strongly opposed. Former minister and farmer leader Vadde Shobhanadriswara Rao lambasted the government's decision, stating, “Chandrababu has no right to lease or sell RTC lands like he once sold Heritage shares. Vijayawada citizens rejected such attempts before and will do it again.” He also alleged a long-standing pattern of handing over public assets to private firms at the expense of the people. Former Mayor Jandhyala Shankar criticized



the short-sightedness of successive governments, arguing that the RTC land deal will worsen traffic congestion and environmental degradation in the heart of the city. Senior advocate Sunkara Rajendra Prasad, who was appointed as convener of the newly formed “RTC Lands Conservation Committee,” said the government is bypassing legal procedures and ignoring public interest in the name of development. Resolutions passed at the meeting included a demand to cancel G.O. No. 137, which approves the lease to Lulu Mall, and to stop the handover of 13.5 acres of land in Visakhapatnam under

the same deal. The forum stressed that allocating prime land to big corporates at nominal rates harms small traders, destroys planned development, and poses an environmental threat to urban life. Speakers including P. Damodar Rao, Sundarayya, and Jana Chaitanya Vedika leader V. Lakshmana Reddy accused the government of weakening RTC through land sales and downsizing staff under the guise of electric bus expansion. They argued that a strong RTC is essential for implementing the free bus travel scheme and ensuring public transport remains in the people's hands. Konakalla Vidyadhara Rao, former president of the Chamber of Commerce, said that the entry of mega malls like Lulu has already hurt small businesses, warning that this latest deal would further decimate local trade. Civic leaders like CH Baburao and D. Kashinath pointed out that the people of Vijayawada rely on government lands for public infrastructure and employment, and such lands should not be sacrificed to corporate interests. The round table concluded with a call for joint public mobilization. A Maha Dharna has been scheduled for August 6 at the old bus stand. Leaders declared that if the government and Lulu company proceed with the land deal, they will confront them head-on and protect the interests of the city, RTC, and its people.

Major Reforms in AP Secondary Education Board

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

A Pre-Board Meeting on the reconstitution of the Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh, was held on July 31 at Vidya Bhavan, Mangalagiri, chaired by Sri Vijay Rama Raju V, I.A.S., Director of School Education and Chairman of the Board. The meeting focused on twelve crucial agenda items in line with the National Education Policy 2020 and national-level education reforms. Key decisions included the reconstitution of the Board with a strengthened structure, formation of District Examination Boards, and designation of DGE officials as the executive wing of the Board. The Board also endorsed the recognition of BSE, A.P. as a State School Standards Authority and proposed its accreditation under NCVET as an assessment and awarding body. Important reforms such as a new punishment scale for evaluation negligence, the creation of an Assessment Cell, and implementation of a dual-authentication digital evaluation system were also approved. Officials including Sri B. Srinivasa Rao, I.A.S., Dr. K.V. Srinivasulu Reddy, Sri M.V. Krishna Reddy, and Sri R. Narasimha Rao attended the session. These steps mark a transformative phase toward making the Board a modern, autonomous institution committed to quality and accountability in school education.



Ashtabandhana Mahasamprokshan Ends on a Grand Note

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Ashtabandhana Mahasamprokshan programs at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Punnammathota, Vijayawada, concluded in a grand and spiritual atmosphere on Thursday. Temple Superintendent M. Mallikarjuna said the rituals, conducted under the auspices of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), drew thousands of devotees and concluded as per Agama Shastra traditions. The celebrations, which began on July 26, culminated with Maha Poornahuti, Temple Entry, Maha Samprokshan, and Akshata Rohana on the final day. Mallikarjuna stated that over 5,000 devotees were served Anna Prasadam on Thursday alone. He emphasized that the final day's events ended with the resonance of Brahma Ghosha, elevating the sanctity of the atmosphere. Large crowds of devotees participated in the special Homa programs, had darshan of the deity, and received blessings. The entire event was marked by deep devotion and adherence to traditional rituals, adding to the spiritual fervor of the temple town.

YSRC Urges SEC to Ensure Fair Local Body By-Polls

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has appealed to the State Election Commission (SEC) to uphold democratic values and ensure that the upcoming local body by-elections are conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner. A delegation of senior leaders submitted a memorandum to SEC Neelam Sawhney on Thursday, highlighting their grave concerns over growing intimidation and law-and-order breakdown under the ruling coalition. The delegation included former Chief Whip Gadikota Srikanth Reddy, former MLA Malladi Vishnu, MLC Mondithoka Arun Kumar, and NTR District YSRCP President Devineni Avinash. They warned that the prevailing climate of fear was eroding voter confidence and undermining the sanctity of the democratic process. “The ruling coalition is using threats and coercion to suppress opposition voices,” said Srikanth Reddy, citing specific instances of intimidation, including threats by a leader named B.Tech Ravi in Pulivendula discouraging candidates from filing nominations. Former MLA Malladi Vishnu accused the government of “rewriting democracy through a Red Book Constitution,” enabling blatant misuse of the police force to influence election outcomes. “In recent elections, we've seen kidnappings, inducements, and threats. The Election Commission must act to prevent a repeat of such unconstitutional behavior,” he stated. MLC Mondithoka Arun Kumar warned that the coalition government was trying to si-



lence the opposition through orchestrated violence and fear tactics. “This is not democracy. We want elections monitored and protected to restore people's faith,” he said. Devineni Avinash highlighted the recent Tiruvuru municipal chairman election, alleging that the ruling party hijacked YSRCP's majority by abducting and bribing councillors. “The people are watching. The Election Commission must act decisively to preserve democratic integrity,” he said. The YSRCP leaders reiterated that without prompt intervention, the by-elections scheduled for August 10 risk being marred by manipulation, endangering public trust in the electoral process.



Smart Meters Will End Free Power: CITU

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

CITU Capital Division President M. Ravi strongly opposed the state government's power reforms, stating that smart meters would lead to the cancellation of free electricity to farmers and SC/ST households. Speaking during a review of additional power bills in Navuluru on Wednesday, Ravi demanded the immediate withdrawal of increased electricity charges and cancellation of true-up and fuel adjustment charges. He warned that smart meters would eventually eliminate the free electricity scheme promised to marginalized communities. “The tightening of smart meters must stop immediately. If these meters are installed, the government will slowly remove free power to farmers and SC/ST families,” Ravi said. He demanded 200 units of free electricity to SC and ST households, continuation of existing benefits, and condemned the decision to exempt SC/ST municipal workers from billing under the employee category while denying others the same. Highlighting public distress, Ravi accused the coalition government of betraying its promise not to hike electricity charges. “The government is burdening people with rising power costs and breaking their trust,” he said. He alleged that the entire power sector is being handed over to private entities, especially Gautam Adani's companies, in the name of reforms. “Adani is replacing regular meters with smart meters and shifting the ₹18,000 cost onto consumers. These meters will be turned into prepaid meters, charging by the hour.

Minister’s Brother Slaps Constable on Duty

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool
Tensions flared in Andhra Pradesh’s Nandyal district on Wednesday when B.C. Madana Bhupal Reddy, brother of TDP Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy, allegedly slapped an on-duty police constable during a temple

inauguration event. The incident took place at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Kolimigundla mandal center during its inauguration ceremony. According to eyewitnesses and video footage now circulating widely on social media,

Madana Bhupal Reddy demanded entry through a restricted area and assaulted AR constable Jaswanth when he was denied access. The video shows Reddy shouting at the constable before physically assaulting him in front of

devotees, leaving many shocked. The constable was reportedly performing his assigned duties and attempting to control access for security reasons during the high-profile event. The incident has sparked sharp criticism from opposition leaders and civil

society, who allege that the ruling coalition is ignoring the rule of law and undermining police authority. As outrage grows online, police officials have not yet issued a formal statement on whether action will be taken against the minister’s brother.



School Correspondent Arrested in POCSO Case

TPN Correspondent | West Godavari
Akumarthi Jayaraju, the correspondent of Margadarshi Foundation School in Machavaram, Rayavaram mandal, West Godavari district, has been arrested for raping a student, leading to her pregnancy. The incident occurred on March 26, 2025, when Jayaraju lured the girl into the office room under the pretext of retrieving files and sexually assaulted her. The victim, fearing for her life, initially remained silent. The crime came to light when the girl’s parents noticed changes in her health and discovered she was five months pregnant after a hospital visit. Following their complaint on July 28, a POCSO case was registered against Jayaraju. The police apprehended him on July 30 at Kothuru Suburban Crossroads in Ramachandrapuram Mandal. He was produced in court and remanded to jail. Trainee DSP P. Pradeepthi disclosed the details to the media, while SP B. Krishna Rao, Additional SP Prasad, and DSP Raghuvver commended the police team for their swift action.



222 tribal families receive rugs from Deputy CM

TPN Correspondent | Alluri District
Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan has once again extended his support to the tribal communities of Andhra Pradesh. Demonstrating his continued commitment to public service, he recently sent rugs to 222 tribal families across various agency villages in the Saluru constituency of Alluri district. The rugs were distributed to families in the remote villages of Chilaka Mendangi, Tadipyutti, Benda Mondingi, Doyuvara Bagujola, and Sirivara. The initiative was a follow-up to his visit to the tribal hamlets of Pedapadu, Kuridi, and Dumbriguda as part of the Adivasi Thali Bata program. During that visit, Pawan Kalyan personally observed the hardships faced by tribal communities. In response, he had already sent footwear and distributed organic fruits grown in his own garden to the villagers—a gesture that was widely appreciated. With this recent distribution of rugs, tribal residents once again witnessed the compassionate side of the actor-turned-politician. The recipients, particularly tribal women, expressed happiness and gratitude for the timely help. Photos of the distribution quickly gained attention on social media, with many lauding Pawan Kalyan’s heartfelt outreach. Pawan Kalyan’s dual role as a film star and Deputy Chief Minister has not deterred his grassroots engagement, especially with marginalized communities. His consistent efforts to respond to their needs have resonated deeply with local populations.



Pulivendula ZPTC By-Election

YCP fields late member’s son, TDP awaits high command decision



TPN | Nagaraju
Kadapa: The Pulivendula ZPTC by-election in Kadapa district has sparked political activity, with both YSRCP and TDP in a strategic race. The election, necessitated by the sudden demise of sitting ZPTC member Maheshwar Reddy during a chariot procession, has seen

emotional appeals from the ruling party and cautious planning from the opposition. Maheshwar Reddy’s son, Hemanth Reddy, and his mother Uma Devi filed nominations on Thursday as YSRCP candidates. They were accompanied by MP YS Avinash Reddy, who led the submission of nomina-

tions to ZP CEO Obulammas. Avinash urged all parties to support Hemanth’s candidature as a humanitarian gesture. “He is being fielded with the consensus of local leaders and party activists. Everyone, regardless of party, should help ensure a peaceful election,” he said. Avinash Reddy emphasized that the move was not just political but aimed at supporting the bereaved family. “Winning with a huge majority is the only true tribute we can offer,” he added. Meanwhile, TDP leaders are deliberating on contesting the by-election. BC Welfare Minister and Kadapa District In-charge S Savita held a review meeting with constituency leaders at the Pulivendula TDP office. The discussion included senior leaders like Polit Bureau Member R. Srinivasulu Red-

dy and constituency in-charge B.Tech Ravi. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Minister Savita stated, “This by-election was forced by unfortunate circumstances. However, our party’s decision on whether to contest will depend entirely on the high command.” She confirmed that local party workers have proposed either the wife or the younger brother of B.Tech Ravi as possible candidates. “This suggestion will be conveyed to the high command. A decision is expected by this evening,” she said. She also noted that TDP is fully prepared organizationally and awaiting the final word from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The last date for filing nominations is Friday, making the next few hours crucial in determining the final political face-off.

Protest Erupts Over IML Depot Shift in Etcherla

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam
Tension flared in Etcherla as porters supported by the CITU staged a half-naked protest on Thursday, demanding the state government revoke its decision to relocate the long-standing IML depot from Etcherla to a private facility in Tirilangi village of Tekkali mandal. The move, protesters argue, threatens the livelihoods of nearly 80 porters and 350 Dalit families dependent on the depot. CITU District General Secretary P. Tejeswara Rao condemned the state government’s order dated 08.07.2025 (APSBCL/1/MM/2025-26/369), which sanctioned the shifting of the depot to a privately owned godown. He alleged that this decision disregards decades of employ-

ment history, rooted in a 1986 agreement where Dalit families gave up four acres of land in return for job assurance as porters at the government-run facility. Currently operating from a government-owned building, the Etcherla depot supplies liquor across the state efficiently and at minimal operational cost. Rao warned that relocating the depot to Tekkali will not only displace workers but also burden the public exchequer with lakhs of rupees in monthly rent and maintenance costs, possibly for the benefit of private parties. “Why close an efficient, low-cost government depot to rent a private godown? Who owns that godown, and who gains from this move?” Rao questioned, raising suspicions of vested in-



terests behind the decision. He also accused the government of consistently grabbing Dalit lands under the pretext of development and later failing to ensure justice to the affected families. Union leaders have already met State Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu, who had earlier assured them that the relo-

cation plan would be halted. However, the porters claim the government’s actions now contradict that promise. Leaders from the APBCL Porters Union, including D. Bangaraju, T. Rama Rao, Nidigantla Ramana, Ghajini Srinivasa Rao, and others participated in the protest, vowing to continue their agitation until justice is served.

Cordon and Search in Tribal Villages

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram
A large-scale ‘Cordon and Search’ operation was conducted in the tribal villages under Daraparthi and Boddavara panchayats in Vizianagaram district under the supervision of District Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal, IPS. The operation, aimed at controlling crime and ensuring public safety, was carried out by specially formed police teams under the leadership of Vizianagaram DSP M. Srinivasa Rao. SP Vakul Jindal clarified that no marijuana or ganja was found during the checks. However, intensive house-to-house and area-wise inspections were conducted in Munupurai, Rayapalem, Chappanigedda, Pallapu Dunga-da, Rangavalasa, Patashenagapadu, Kotha Senagapadu, and Dabbagunta under S. Kota PS limits and Lakshmipuram, Boddapadu, Chilakapadu, Chittempadu, and Gunapadu in Moola Boddavara Panchayat. Police also monitored the movements of suspected individuals living in the area and interacted with locals, urging them not to engage in anti-social or illegal activities. Villagers were specifically warned against the movement, sale, and use of ganja and were informed that possession of unlicensed weapons would be dealt with strictly under the law. District SP Vakul Jindal emphasized that such operations are part of the police department’s proactive strategy to ensure peace and safety in rural and tribal regions. Vizianagaram DSP Srinivasa Rao, S. Kota CI V. Narayana Murthy, Vizianagaram Rural CI B. Lakshmana Rao, and Kothavalasa CI Shanmukharao were among the officials who actively participated in the operation along with the rest of the police force.

19 Irrigation Works Proposed in Vizianagaram for Rs. 246 Crore

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram
District Collector Dr. B. R. Ambedkar has announced that 19 irrigation-related works have been identified in Vizianagaram district under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana – Repair, Renovation and Restoration (PMKSY-RRR) scheme. These works are aimed at improving and modernizing the district’s water infrastructure to support agricultural needs. In a review meeting held with Water Resources Department officials at the Collector’s Chamber on Thursday, the Collector said that proposals worth ₹246 crore have been prepared under the scheme. The projects are expected to benefit around 6,873 acres of farmland by enhancing irrigation facilities. He informed that the proposals will be placed before the District Irrigation Direction Committee—chaired by the local MP—for approval before being submitted to the state government. Dr. Ambedkar also directed



officials to complete re-verification of project feasibility and submit a report within a week to avoid delays in execution. Officials present at the meeting included Water Resources Department SE Swarna Kumar, Thotapalli EEP P. Appala Naidu, Regular EEP M. V. Ramana, TTPR DE Hari, DE Govind, Raminayudu, and others. The Collector emphasized the importance of timely action to ensure water resources are strengthened and farmers in the district are supported effectively.

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
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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.

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."

India's government has responded cautiously to the escalating statements, saying it has "taken note" of the tariff decision and is "studying its implications." Adding fuel to the geopolitical fire, Trump also announced a new US partnership with Pakistan. "We have just concluded a deal with the country of Pakistan, whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive oil reserves," he wrote. The announcement has raised eyebrows in New Delhi, especially in the wake of the recent Pahalgam terror attack and severely strained India-Pakistan relations. Trump's remarks and decisions are likely to spark diplomatic pushback, especially with India being a long-time strategic partner of the US. The timing and tone of his message signal a potential shift in priorities and relationships as the American President gears up for a more aggressive foreign policy stance.

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.

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.

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

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

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



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.



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 re-skilling 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.

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.

Amazon Launches Echo Show 5 (3rd 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.

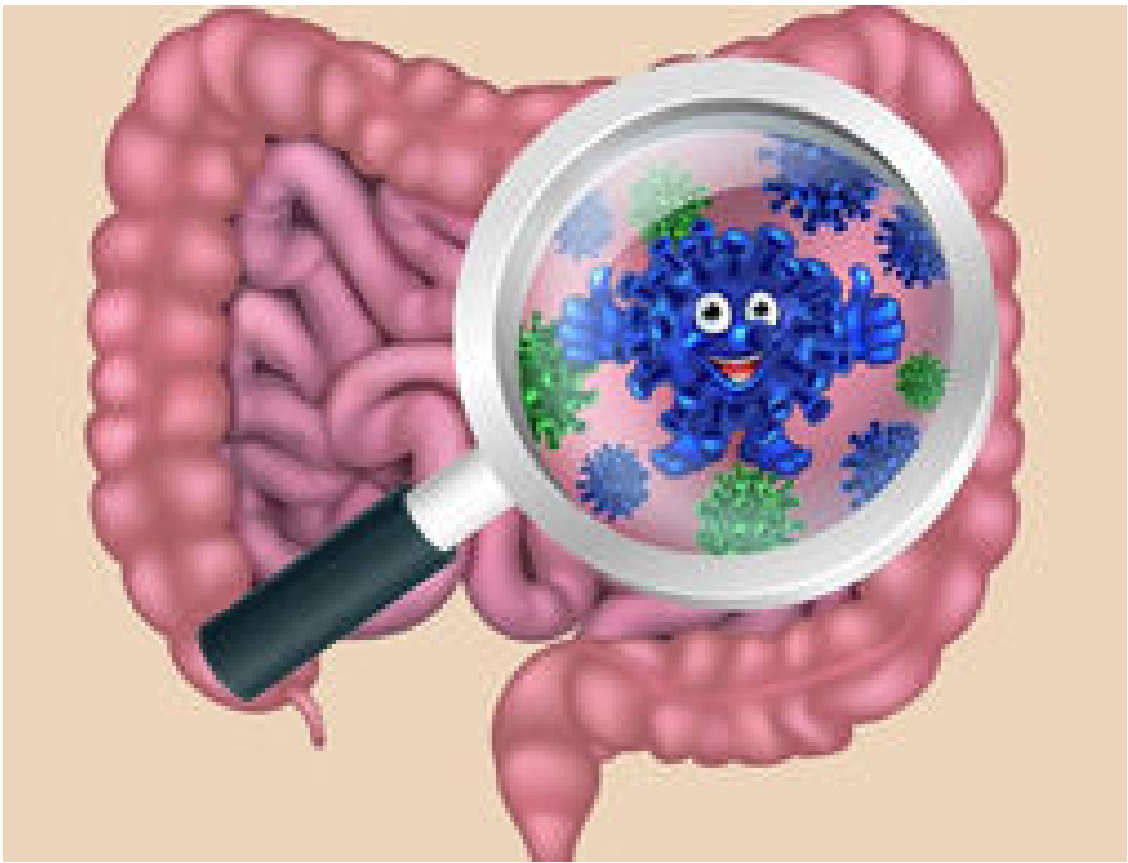
Audio quality sees a significant boost with a 1.7-inch rear-facing speaker that delivers 2X more bass and clearer vocals. Users can stream music from platforms like Amazon Music, Apple Music, Spotify, and JioSaavn, and even use multi-room audio by grouping multiple Echo devices. For home monitoring, 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?

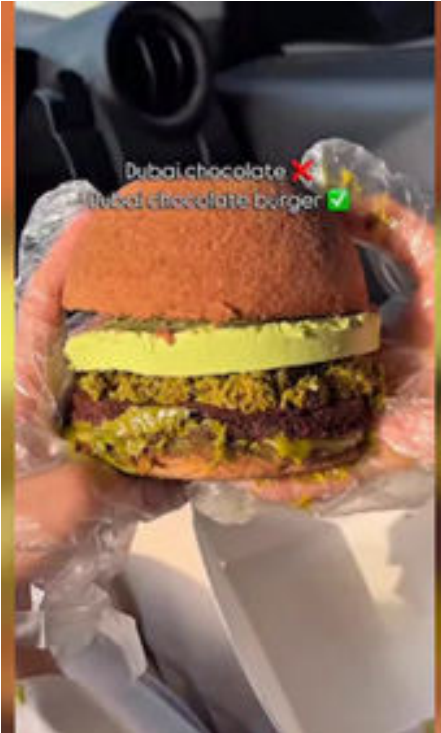
Scientists are investigating whether gut microbes could help flush out per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — often called forever chemicals — from the human body. PFAS are synthetic chemicals found in many everyday items, including non-stick cookware, food packaging, and water-repellent fabrics. 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.