

# CM Bats for Continued Congress-Communist Unity

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the Congress and Communist parties, stating that such unity has always benefited the people. He made these remarks while speaking at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Nava Telangana daily newspaper, which he lauded for consistently standing by the public regardless of who is in power.

“There are only a few media organizations today that consistently stand on the side of the people, and Nava Telangana is one of them,” the Chief Minister said, reflecting on the newspaper’s legacy and role in upholding democratic values.

Revanth Reddy recalled how press organizations played a vital role during India’s freedom struggle and also during the armed peasant movements led by Communist forces. He said the Communist-run newspapers of the past were instrumental in raising awareness against social evils and injustice, and Nava Telangana continues that tradition.

Taking a critical view of the current state of journalism, he expressed concern over the growing crisis of credibility among press organizations. “Today, some political party newspapers are more concerned with protecting their incomes and hiding their mistakes than informing the public,” he remarked. “This is eroding the meaning of the word ‘journalist’.”

The Chief Minister warned that social



media has further blurred the lines, with people who have no knowledge of journalism parading as journalists. He urged genuine journalists to take responsibility and protect the profession’s integrity by drawing a clear line between real and fake journalism.

“In the past, journalists who attended press meets would come prepared with facts. Today, strange trends have emerged, and unfortunately, some political parties are encouraging these trends to weaken the system,” he said, calling the situation a threat to national security if not corrected.

Revanth Reddy also used a powerful analogy, saying, “Communists are like salt—without salt, food has no taste. Likewise, without the red flag in public

struggles, many issues remain unresolved.” He reiterated that the Congress party has always received significant support from Communist allies in both past and present political victories. “We will give equal priority to Nava Telangana in government announcements. The cooperation between Congress and Communists should continue like this in the future. If both work together, the people will benefit more.”

His remarks come at a time when ideological media and partisan journalism are under increasing scrutiny. The CM’s speech struck a balance between celebrating the progressive legacy of Communist media and warning against the dangers of partisan reporting.



# We Will Not Spare You: Rahul Gandhi to ECI

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday, accusing it of being directly involved in vote theft in Bihar to help the BJP. Speaking to reporters during the party’s review of the Bihar Special Intensive Revision, Gandhi said the Congress had collected undeniable evidence of large-scale voter fraud.

“Votes are being stolen. We have open-and-shut proof that the Election Commission is involved in this vote theft. And I’m not saying this lightly, I’m speaking with 100% proof,” he claimed, adding that the entire country would soon learn the truth once the evidence was released.

According to Gandhi, the Congress had independently investigated suspicions of electoral manipulation over six months due to what he described as the Election Commission’s unwillingness to cooperate. He likened the findings to an “atom bomb” and warned of consequences for those involved.

“Most importantly, whoever in the Election Commission is involved in this exercise, right from top to bot-

tom, we will not spare you. You are working against India, and this is no less than treason. Wherever you are, even if you are retired, we will find you,” the Congress MP said.

EC Rejects Allegations as Baseless  
In response, the Election Commission dismissed Rahul Gandhi’s accusations as “baseless” and “deplorable.” In a sharply worded statement, the poll panel urged its officials to ignore such threats and continue working impartially.

“Despite the daily threats being given, we ask all election officials to ignore such irresponsible statements and work in a fair and transparent manner,” the statement read.

The Commission also pointed out that Gandhi had been invited to discuss the voter rolls issue but failed to respond.

“EC sends a mail to him on 12 June 2025. He does not come. EC sends him a letter on the same day, he does not respond. He has never sent any letter to the EC on any issue whatsoever. It is very strange that he is making wild allegations and has now even started threatening EC and its staff. Deplorable!” the statement added.

# Congress fulfilling promises despite challenges: TPCC Chief



**TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy**  
As part of the ongoing Janahita Padayatra, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud addressed the joint Ranga Reddy district Congress leaders’ meeting. He lauded the tireless efforts of party workers over the past decade, stating that their commitment brought the Congress party to power in Telangana.

Mahesh Kumar Goud said people placed their trust in the Congress party to end the autocratic rule and restore democratic governance. He asserted, “We are fulfilling the promises made by AICC leaders at the Tukku Guda assembly meeting. Despite financial hurdles left behind by the previous BRS government, we are determined to deliver on our commitments.”

He criticised former CM KCR

for plunging the state into a debt trap over the past ten years. “In such a scenario, we are implementing welfare schemes in a way that will surprise the rest of the country,” he claimed.

Highlighting the purpose of the TPCC Janahita Padayatra, Mahesh Kumar Goud said it aims to identify and rectify gaps in the implementation of welfare schemes and address local grievances promptly. “This Padayatra is a step towards getting closer to the people and understanding their needs directly and in the upcoming elections, tickets will only be given to leaders who enjoy strong public support. We are confident of winning with such candidates,” he concluded.

BJP stands for selfishness, Says Meenakshi Natarajan  
AICC



**TPN | Srikanth Gurram**  
**Telangana:** A key verdict by the Supreme Court has sent tremors through the political corridors of Telangana, putting the Congress government in an uncomfortable position. In a decisive move, the apex court questioned the inaction over the merger of ten BRS MLAs into the Congress party without the Speaker’s formal approval and called it a threat to democratic values. The court’s strong observation has brought both constitutional

and political implications into sharp focus. The Supreme Court warned that attempts by the defected MLAs to delay proceedings could invite automatic disqualification. It directed the Telangana Assembly Speaker to deliver a decision on the disqualification petitions within three months — free from any political pressure. With this directive, the spotlight has firmly shifted to the Speaker, who is now compelled to act swiftly and judi-

# Speaker Under Watch: Disqualify or Delay?

ciously. This judicial intervention has come as a political blow to the Congress. The ruling has not only questioned the ethical foundation of the Congress party’s handling of the issue but also created political uncertainty. The very identity of the MLAs — whether they still belong to BRS or have lawfully shifted allegiance to Congress — is now under legal and political scrutiny. If disqualification proceeds, it could impact the numbers in the Legislative Assembly and potentially trigger by-elections in the concerned constituencies.

The Congress leadership, particularly Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has so far remained silent on the matter. While the party has claimed to uphold democratic values, doubts are emerging over whether it will

allow the Speaker to act independently or intervene to protect the defected MLAs. With legal clarity favoring disqualification, Congress may soon be faced with the question — will it give these MLAs a hand by supporting their re-election or sideline them and field fresh candidates?

BRS, on the other hand, has welcomed the court’s order as a legal and moral victory. Leaders see it as vindication of their consistent struggle over the past 18 months. Now, with the momentum swinging back in its favor, BRS is preparing to reorganize its cadre. The party is likely to expose the defectors and convert public anger into electoral strength if by-elections are held.

# Kaleshwaram Report Reaches CM Revanth Reddy

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
The much-anticipated report by the Justice PC Ghosh Commission on the Kaleshwaram project has officially reached Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy handed over the report to the Chief Minister

on Friday, following its initial submission to Principal Secretary of the Irrigation Department, Rahul Bojja, a day earlier. The report was submitted in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy







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## Speaker Under Watch: Disqualify or Delay?



The political drama has its roots in the defection of ten BRS MLAs — Danam Nagender, Tellam Venkat Rao, Kadiyam Srihari, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy, Kale Yadayya, Prakash Goud, Arikepudi Gandhi, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, and Sanjay Kumar — all of whom joined the Congress after winning on the BRS symbol in the 2023 elections. In response, BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao, Padi Kaushik Reddy, Jeevan Reddy, and Vivekananda filed disqualification petitions with the Speaker.

## Kaleshwaram Report Reaches CM Revanth Reddy

and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. It marks a crucial milestone in the state government's probe into the controversial irrigation project that has come under scrutiny for cost overruns, technical flaws, and alleged corruption. According to sources, the Justice PC Ghosh Commission has highlighted several serious issues in its findings. The report notes that the construction of the Kaleshwaram barrages was marred by multiple failures and irregularities, with responsibility ranging from the lower levels of execution to top decision-makers. The commission is said to have observed that many works were undertaken in violation of institutional norms and without adherence to established protocols. It also pointed out that crucial decisions were influenced by undue high-level pressure, bypassing regulations and compromising the project's structural integrity. Moreover, the report indicates

er. With no action forthcoming, they took the battle to the High Court, and ultimately, the Supreme Court. Now, all eyes are on the Speaker's next move and the Congress government's response. If the court's timeline is missed, it could escalate into a constitutional crisis. Will the Speaker rise above political pressure? Or will the ruling party try to shield its new MLAs? As the clock ticks, Telangana politics finds itself at a volatile crossroads — and the next move will be decisive.

## Congress fulfilling promises despite challenges: TPCC Chief

Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan launched a scathing attack on the BJP and RSS, contrasting their ideology with the Congress party's values. Speaking during a party meeting, she said, "We have a fundamental difference with the RSS. They are selfish, we are selfless. Our politics is based on love, not hate." She alleged that the BJP operates on a "corrupt constitution" and slammed its ideological approach. "The person who works with selfish motives cannot be called a Congress worker. Only those who serve people selflessly are our true cadre," she added. Praising Rahul Gandhi's efforts, she said, "Rahul Gandhi has taken up tasks that help identify societal diseases—only when we

know the disease can we find a cure. That is what Rahul Gandhi has done with his initiatives." She highlighted that Rahul often refers to Telangana as a model in various aspects. She also pointed out two major contributions from the state under Congress rule: conducting a caste census and demanding its inclusion in the national population census. "We are setting examples for the rest of India," she said. Natarajan lauded Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership and said, "A new Telangana model is emerging under his leadership. We, the Congress party, are the party that spreads love and equality."



TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy received a major relief as the Court for People's Representatives in Nampally dismissed two cases filed against him, one from 2018 and another from 2023. The court, after examining the evidence and hearing both sides, found no grounds to proceed with the charges. The first case, filed in 2018 at the Kowdipalle Police Station in Medak district, pertained to a pro-

## Centre selected Medak under ADEETIE scheme for Pharma

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Union Ministry of Power has called upon all state governments to proactively implement the ₹1,000-crore ADEETIE scheme aimed at promoting global energy efficiency technologies in the MSME sector. The scheme, formally known as Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries and Establishments (ADEETIE), is being executed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and was nationally launched from Panipat. As part of its first-phase rollout, Telangana's Medak district has been selected under the scheme to promote global energy-efficient technologies in the pharmaceutical industry. The state's selection, alongside Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), Madgaon (Goa), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), and Bidar (Karnataka), has attracted national attention for its early leadership in the scheme's implementation.



Manohar Lal Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban development along with Shri. Pankaj Agarwal Secretary and Akash Tripathi Additional Secretary and Director General BEE, MOP, GOI are releasing a special Booklet on ADEETIE Scheme in Panipat

"ADEETIE is a big boon to the MSME sector," said Akash Tripathi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power and Director General of BEE. He urged all states to fully utilize the opportunity, noting that ₹875 crore of the ₹1,000-crore budget is earmarked for interest subvention to help

MSMEs access concessional finance, while ₹50 crore is allocated for implementation and capacity-building efforts. The ADEETIE scheme provides end-to-end assistance to MSMEs—from conducting Investment Grade Energy Audits (IGEA) and prepar-

ing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to enabling finance and monitoring outcomes. The scheme is expected to drive total investments of over ₹9,000 crore through both government and MSME contributions. BEE Secretary Milind Deore highlighted the vital role of State Designated Agencies (SDAs) in coordinating outreach and ensuring on-ground support to eligible industries. The scheme currently covers 60 industrial clusters and 14 energy-intensive sectors including textiles, food processing, and foundries. The Ministry also commended the active involvement of states like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu in advancing the goals of ADEETIE. It urged remaining states to accelerate their engagement to make the scheme a key pillar in India's clean industrial growth, climate targets, and economic recovery.

## Bhatti Powers Up Yadadri, Targets 4,000 MW by Jan

TPN Correspondent |Yadadri

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has announced that the entire 4,000 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Plant will be completed and dedicated to the nation by January next year, he inaugurated the first 800 MW unit and laid the foundation for the employees' township, calling the milestone a major step towards addressing Telangana's power needs.

Speaking at the event, Bhatti stated that the construction of the plant had suffered a delay of nearly two years due to the negligence of the previous government, particularly in securing environmental clearances. He said that under the present Congress government, all clearances were obtained within just two months, allowing the project to resume at full pace. So far, two units producing 1,600 MW have been commissioned, with more to follow in the coming months.



He thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and local public representatives for their active support. Bhatti credited the timely progress to the dedication of workers and engineers involved in the project.

To address concerns about the remote location of the plant, the Deputy CM assured that a modern township with world-class education and healthcare facilities would be developed for employees. He further announced that the

same level of services—free education and medical care—would be extended to the surrounding local communities. Ambulances will be provided to nearby constituencies, and damaged roads caused by construction-related heavy vehicles are being repaired, with many CC roads already sanctioned.

The Deputy CM also said that by August 15, all families displaced due to the Yadadri and Pulichintala projects would receive jobs and the promised Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) packages. He criticised the former administration for failing to keep its promises regarding local employment and compensation. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, present at the event, praised Bhatti Vikramarka's dynamic leadership, stating that the Deputy CM's weekly review system and swift clearances were key to pushing the long-stalled project towards completion. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the people and representatives of the Nalgonda district.

## We'll Stop Banakacharla to Protect Telangana: Harish

TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

BRS senior leader and former minister T. Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government and the Centre over their inaction on the Banakacharla project, accusing them of compromising Telangana's water rights. Speaking at a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao questioned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's silence on the issue, claiming it has encouraged Andhra Pradesh leaders like Nara Lokesh to speak boldly about completing the project. "Revanth's silence is seen as support. He is more interested in gaining praise from Chandrababu and Delhi than protecting Telangana," Rao alleged. He called the Banakacharla project illegal and pointed out that several central agencies, including the CWC and environmental boards, have already rejected its DPR. "If surplus water truly exists,



why did four central agencies return the DPR? What is the state government doing about it?" he questioned. Rao accused the Congress and BJP of enabling Andhra Pradesh's "bulldozing politics" by remaining mute spectators. He said Revanth Reddy's government made a "lacuna agreement" and is now refusing to raise its voice. "Lokesh is emboldened because Telangana is silent," he said. Referring to Telangana's rightful allocation of 968 TMC under the AP Reorganisation Act and the Sri Krishna Commit-

tee recommendations, Rao demanded AP withdraw its objections to Telangana's Godavari projects. "If they divert Godavari to Krishna, we must be compensated. Our share must be honored," he asserted. Harish Rao warned that the BRS would go to the Supreme Court if necessary. "If they know how to get clearances, we know how to block them," he said, adding that the party would not tolerate any move that hurts Telangana's interests. He also demanded answers from Telangana MPs of both Congress and BJP, asking why none of them have raised the issue in Parliament. "Are they here to protect Telangana or to destroy it?" he questioned. Rao concluded by reaffirming that BRS will fight legally and politically to protect Telangana's water rights and block any unilateral move on the Banakacharla project.

## Big relief for CM Revanth

TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy received a major relief as the Court for People's Representatives in Nampally dismissed two cases filed against him, one from 2018 and another from 2023. The court, after examining the evidence and hearing both sides, found no grounds to proceed with the charges. The first case, filed in 2018 at the Kowdipalle Police Station in Medak district, pertained to a pro-

test organized by Revanth Reddy when he was the President of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC). The protest reportedly led to traffic disruption, prompting the police to register a case for public obstruction. The second case was filed in 2023 by Nalgonda Two Town Police. It stemmed from comments made by Revanth Reddy during a political event, where he alleged that the then BRS government was misusing the police force for political gain.

The statements were viewed as derogatory and led to legal proceedings. Following investigations, charge sheets were filed in both cases, and the court had sought the Chief Minister's appearance. Revanth Reddy appeared in court and submitted that the cases were politically motivated, aimed at silencing opposition voices. The court dismissed both cases, citing lack of substantial evidence and highlighting the political nature of the complaints. The judgment has come as a significant legal and political boost for the Chief Minister.



# Kadiyam Srihari Reacts to SC Verdict on Defections



**TPN Correspondent | Jangaon**  
Congress MLA from Station Ghanpur, Kadiyam Srihari, has responded to the Supreme Court's verdict in the party defection case with a firm stand, stating that he will respect and abide by the decision taken by the Assembly Speaker. Speaking to the media, Srihari launched a scathing attack on BRS Working President K.T.

Rama Rao (KTR), criticizing his recent statements about by-elections. Reacting to KTR's call asking BRS workers to prepare for by-elections in the next three months, Srihari reminded that it is the Election Commission, not KTR, who decides when elections are held. He questioned the moral ground of both KTR and former CM KCR on the issue of defections, stating that they have no right to speak on the matter. Srihari accused the BRS of consistently violating the anti-defection law during its decade in power. He alleged that BRS indulged in large-scale mergers of opposition parties and poaching of MLAs throughout their rule. "The BRS government built its strength by encouraging defections. Now, they want to preach about democracy and fairness," he said. Expressing full faith in his popularity and public support, Srihari stated that even if by-elections are held, he is confident of winning again. He reiterated that he and other affected MLAs are waiting for the Speaker's decision and will act accordingly once it is announced.

# Dasoju Shravan clashes with Ponnam Prabhakar

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Tensions flared at a ration card distribution program in Hyderabad's Banjara Hills on Friday when BRS MLC Dasoju Shravan interrupted Minister Ponnam Prabhakar's speech, leading to a chaotic scene at Banjara Bhavan under the Khairatabad constituency. The incident occurred while Minister Ponnam Prabhakar was addressing the gathering and criticizing the previous KCR-led government. "Not a single ration card was issued during the nine-and-a-half-year rule of KCR," he alleged. The remark triggered an immediate reaction from BRS leaders present at the event. MLC Dasoju Shravan strongly objected, countering the min-



ister's claim by stating that "6 lakh ration cards were issued during the BRS government's tenure." Several BRS corporators backed Shravan and tried to explain their position. However, they were interrupted by Minister Ponnam and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender. As tensions escalated, MLA Danam Nagender grew visibly upset with the BRS corporators. "Are you joking?" he lashed out, sparking further chaos at the venue. The heated exchange briefly disrupted the program as security personnel and officials attempted to restore order. The incident reflects the growing political friction between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS, especially over welfare schemes and past governance claims.

# Govt committed to welfare despite financial crisis, says Sridhar Babu

**TPN Correspondent | Ranga Reddy**  
Telangana IT Industries Minister and Ranga Reddy district in-charge Duddilla Sridhar Babu has said that a ration card is not just a document but a symbol of self-respect for citizens. Participating in a mass ration card distribution program at Kotha Kapu Yadava Reddy Gardens, Karmanghat, LB Nagar constituency on Friday, he reaffirmed the Congress government's commitment to fulfilling its welfare promises despite the financial burden left by the previous government. Speaking at the event, the minister criticized the former BRS government for not issuing ration cards to needy people and neglecting basic welfare. He stated that Telangana is now providing 6 kg of rice per person under the public distribution system, even amidst an inherited debt of ₹8 lakh crore. "We are issuing new ration cards and ensuring free rice reaches every household



without burdening the people," he said. Sridhar Babu pointed out that people whose names were previously removed from ration cards due to address changes are now happy to be included again, with even their sons and grandsons being registered. He highlighted that 200 units of free electricity and free bus travel are already being implemented under the Congress government's six-guar-

anteed scheme, and assured that remaining promises will also be fulfilled. The minister revealed that the Congress government has allocated ₹10,000 crore in the budget for development and welfare programs in Greater Hyderabad, with ₹200 crore specifically earmarked for sewage, drainage, and road works in LB Nagar constituency. Referring to past Congress initiatives, Sridhar Babu said the Congress government had brought Krishna and Manjira river waters to Hyderabad, while the BRS government failed to supply even a drop. He announced a new project to bring Godavari waters to Hyderabad and asserted that the current government has created 65,000 jobs within a year and is actively attracting investments and industries to provide further employment opportunities. "Development and welfare are progressing together while we restore economic balance," he concluded. He also handed over personal protective equipment kits to GHMC sanitation workers at the event. The program was attended by MLCs Patnam Mahender Reddy and Dayanand Gupta, TUFADC Chairman Challa Narasimha Reddy, Road Development Corporation Chairman Malreddy Ramreddy, RDO Rajeshwar Reddy, Civil Supplies Officer Parijatha, and other local leaders.

# Ponnam Hands Out Ration Cards



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
State Minister and Hyderabad in-charge Ponnam Prabhakar distributed 1,150 new ration cards to beneficiaries of the Cantonment constituency at a program held at Lee Palace. Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh, Corporator Kontham Deepika, Collector Dasari Harichandana, Nominated Member Narmada, and other local leaders were present. Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam said the Congress-led government is committed to ensuring ration cards reach all eligible families. He reminded that in the previous government's tenure, even newly married couples and newborns struggled to get included. He assured that ration card distribution is a continuous process and urged eligible citizens to apply. "We are correcting the past injustice. Our goal is to ensure food security for every deserving family," he said. The minister revealed that Hyderabad city has received 55,378 new ration cards, increasing the total from 6.39 lakh to 6.94 lakh. In Cantonment, cards have gone up from 33,971 to 35,121, covering 1,19,080 beneficiaries. An additional 4,664 applications are under verification. Highlighting the distribution of 6 kg of fine rice per person, he said quality rice is now being supplied to the poor, not just to select groups. "Earlier, people couldn't eat the rice given to them. Now we're ensuring dignity and nutrition," he added. He also announced the allocation of 3,500 Indiramma houses to the constituency and stressed that housing will be planned near employment areas. "If jobs are here, homes should be too," he noted. Ponnam highlighted key welfare measures, including 200 crore free RTC bus rides for women worth ₹6,800 crore and 200 units of free electricity per household. He stated that the government, formed with public support, is actively delivering on its promises. "Those who are still waiting can apply. We are committed to issuing ration cards to every eligible individual," he said.

# R. Krishnaiah Slams Congress Over BC Reservation Promises

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BC Welfare Association national president and BJP MP R. Krishnaiah came down heavily on the Congress government for allegedly deceiving Backward Classes (BCs) by not fulfilling promises made in the Kamareddy BC Declaration. Speaking at the BJP state office in Hyderabad, Krishnaiah accused the Congress of not implementing even one of its promises to BCs and shifting the blame to the Centre. "The Congress has full powers to implement 42% BC reservation in local body elections under Article 243D(6), but they are misleading people saying courts or BJP will block it," he said. He asserted that the BJP supports the 42% BC reservation bill and accused the Congress of spreading falsehoods. "Reservations should be for genuine BC communities like artisans, shepherds, and laborers, not based on religion," he said, referring to previous Congress attempts to include Muslim groups under BC quotas. Krishnaiah reminded that the Modi government gave constitutional status to the National BC Commission, launched the PM Vishwakarma Yojana to support caste-based professions, and initiated a national caste census for the first time since 1931. He questioned the sincerity of Congress, asking why no BC was made Chief Minister or included in key cabinet positions. "If Congress truly cares, let them replace CM Revanth Reddy with a BC leader," he demanded. Krishnaiah announced a massive Mahadharna at Indira Park on August 2, calling on BC communities to protest Congress's failure to honor its promises.



# BC Students Scholarships to Be Released: MLC Sravan



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Thousands of BC students are reeling under financial stress due to long-pending scholarships and fee reimbursement arrears. Demanding urgent action from the state government, the BC Students' Union, led by its State President Vemula Ramakrishna, staged a large protest at Indira Park's Dharna Chowk on Thursday. Extending support to the students' cause, BRS MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan, former BC Commission Chairman Vakalabaranam Krishnamohan, and other prominent figures participated in the protest and condemned the government's inaction. Addressing the gathering, MLC Sravan said, "The government's negligence toward the education of BC students is unacceptable. Delaying scholarships and

fee reimbursements for months not only causes distress but also deepens social inequality. Education is a right, not a privilege." The students presented a list of demands, including immediate release of pending fee reimbursements, full coverage of college fees by the government, proper enforcement of the Fee Control Act, and urgent appointment of an Education Minister. They also demanded own buildings with better facilities for BC hostels, seats for all eligible students in Gurukuls, and the sanction of 119 new BC Gurukul schools. BC leaders warned that if their demands were not met, the student movement would grow into a state-wide agitation. "Education cannot be postponed. We will not tolerate any delay in delivering what is rightfully ours," they declared.

# Kavitha's 72-Hour Fast for BC Rights

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
MLC and Telangana Jagruti president K. Kavitha has announced her decision to undertake a 72-hour hunger strike demanding 42 percent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs). Despite being denied permission by the police to hold the protest, Kavitha stated that she remains determined and will go ahead with the fast. She criticised the government for creating obstacles to her peaceful protest and said she will approach the High Court to challenge the denial of permission. "No matter how many hurdles they create, I will not stop. I will go ahead with my hunger strike for BC rights," Kavitha said. She reiterated her demand for 42 percent political reservation for BCs in line with their population share, stating that she will not rest until this is achieved. Kavitha's protest has gained attention across the state, with support pouring in from various community leaders and organisations.





# Hydra Commissioner Inspects flood-prone areas

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Hyderabad Municipal Commissioner AV Ranganath conducted a comprehensive inspection across various flood-prone and developing areas of the city on Friday. He began by visiting Borabanda and Sunnam Cheruvu, where he reviewed sewage canal diversion and nala construction works. The Commissioner emphasized that floodwater should enter Sunnam Cheruvu, while sewage must be properly channeled elsewhere. He also directed the widening of drains connecting Allapur and Borabanda and took note of encroachments at Padmavati Nagar. Residents showed the Commissioner sheds and structures encroaching on storm drains and high-tension lines. He assured that steps would be taken to remove such encroachments and widen the Borabanda high-tension road accordingly. Both local Corporators, Baba Fasiuddin and Sabiha Begum, requested quick completion of drain expansion. They also proposed developing road access from the 100-foot road near Ayyappa Society to Sunnam Cheruvu, which the Commissioner said would be considered. In Gachibowli's NGO Colony, the Commissioner inspected Musaikunta and Gosaikunta ponds, suggesting their full development. At Chintalakunta in Vanasthalipuram, he checked the ongoing underground drainage works under the National Highway to prevent flood stagnation. GHMC officials informed him that 70% of the work was complete. He later inspected road encroachments in Vivekananda Nagar and Mansurabad, where constructions were reportedly violating Gram Panchayat layouts. A full inquiry has been ordered. In Mirpet, the Commissioner visited the Nala passing through Badangipet main road and ordered that the expansion be done properly with a 4-meter-wide canal and 2-meter buffer on each side. The administrators of the previously encroached Mallareddy Function Hall have now been tasked with completing the expansion. Finally, he inspected Peddacheruvu and Hunda Sagar tanks near Bandlaguda and Jalapalli, directing officials to ensure no further encroachments occur. He ordered drone surveys and emphasized determining Full Tank Level (FTL) using village records, NRSC, and Survey of India maps.



# US Consulate Adds Comfort for Applicants

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The US Consulate in Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Telangana government, has inaugurated a new consular waiting area aimed at providing comfort and convenience for visa applicants and their families. The facility, constructed by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TIIC), is located within the consulate premises. It features a covered seating area, restrooms, and refreshment stalls to serve the large number of daily visitors. Telangana Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu and US Consul General Jennifer Larson formally launched the facility. Speaking at the event, Larson thanked the state government for its support and emphasized the importance of offering a comfortable and organized experience for visa applicants. The upgrade is expected to significantly improve the visa application process, offering applicants a more pleasant and streamlined environment.



# Now Cheers Every 5 km Telangana Opens Taps for Micro Breweries



**TPN | V. Krishna Kumar**  
**Hyderabad:** In a move sure to bring cheer to beer lovers, the Telangana government has decided to pour new life into its excise policy by allowing the establishment of micro breweries across cities and towns. No longer confined to Hyderabad, these craft beer cafés will soon pop up every 5 kilometers in cities and every 30 kilometers in towns, according to the latest cabinet deci-

sion. The state cabinet, headed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, approved the amendment of the Telangana Micro Brewery Rules, 2015, effectively lifting the restriction that limited breweries to the GHMC area. Currently, 18 licensed micro-breweries operate in Hyderabad. But now, the frothy expansion is going statewide. This strategic buzz is more than just about brewing culture—it's about brewing revenue. The move is seen as a measure to increase state earnings by tapping into the fast-growing demand for freshly brewed craft beer, especially during summer when thirst is at its peak. Back in 2015, it was the previous BRS government that brewed the original micro-brewery policy, aiming to place Hyderabad on par with metro hubs like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, and Gurugram. The excise department received about 60 applications in the first year, but steep investments—nearly ₹2 crore per unit—meant only 18 licenses were issued. Now, the government has sweetened the pitch: a fixed license fee of ₹3 lakh and a security deposit of ₹1 lakh. Each unit can produce up to 1,000 liters of beer per day. The catch? No take-aways—beer must be consumed on-site, keeping the café vibe alive. With this reform, Telangana is not just chasing spirits—it's chasing a spirited economy. Expect to see your next beer brewed just around the corner. Cheers to that.

# ED Files Case in Rs. 7.5 Cr Loan Scam

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a prosecution complaint against Hyderabad-based Saisree Engineers Private Limited (SEPL) and others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), in connection with a ₹7.5 crore bank fraud case. The complaint was filed before the Special Court for CBI Cases in Hyderabad and was taken cognisance of on July 28. The ED launched its probe based on an FIR registered by the CBI's Economic Offences Wing (EOV) in Chennai. The FIR named SEPL, its Managing Director Sagiraju Suryanarayana Raju, unknown bank officials, and others. A chargesheet was later filed by the CBI in the Nampally court. Investigations revealed that SEPL defrauded the State Bank of India (SBI) by using forged documents and fictitious properties as collateral to secure credit facilities. The loan funds were then siphoned off through the company's accounts and withdrawn in cash for Raju's personal use. The ED also found that SEPL received ₹13.53 crore from Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., which it deposited in a current account with Andhra Bank instead of repaying the outstanding SBI loans. The amount was further diverted through various channels including cash withdrawals, transfers to Raju's personal and employee accounts, and repayment of unrelated loans. So far, the ED has attached three immovable properties worth ₹3.11 crore belonging to Raju. Further investigation is ongoing.



# GHMC Starts WhatsApp Helpline

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
In a move to improve public sanitation and make grievance redressal more accessible, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has introduced a dedicated WhatsApp number for citizens to report issues related to garbage accumulation and construction waste dumping. GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan stated that while complaints could earlier be lodged only through the My GHMC mobile application, the newly launched WhatsApp number 81259 66586 will now offer a faster and more convenient platform. Citizens can now send photographs, location details, and descriptions of problems such as construction debris on roads, garbage bin overflow, and waste accumulation at garbage vulnerable points. The Commissioner said that the WhatsApp complaints would be monitored closely and field teams would respond immediately to resolve the issues. This new facility, he said, is aimed at ensuring quicker action and more citizen engagement. He added that maintaining a clean and livable Hyderabad requires active public cooperation along with the efforts



of civic bodies. By using this WhatsApp service, residents can contribute to building a cleaner city. The GHMC Commissioner urged all citizens to take full advantage of this initiative and become partners in achieving the goal of a Swachh Hyderabad—CPRO, GHMC

# GHMC Hits 7,258 in Pothole Repair Drive

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is actively continuing its road safety initiative to improve driving conditions on major city roads. As part of the ongoing drive, 462 potholes were filled and several catch pits were repaired across six city zones. According to GHMC officials, the drive aims to enhance road mobility and safety for residents. In addition to filling potholes, the civic



body repaired 23 catch pits and replaced 8 damaged catch pit covers during Friday's operations. Breakdown by zone reveals that

the LB Nagar zone recorded the most work with 133 potholes filled, 10 catch pits repaired, and 7 covers replaced. The Charminar zone followed with 52 potholes and 9 catch pits addressed. Khairatabad saw 63 potholes repaired, Serilingampalli 55, Kukatpally 85, and Secunderabad zone 74 potholes and 4 catch pits fixed. Since the beginning of the campaign, GHMC has repaired 7,258 potholes, 333 catch pits, and re-

placed 114 catch pit covers across the city. Minor repairs of central medians were also undertaken in three locations. GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan stated that engineering teams and field staff from all zones are working in coordination to resolve complaints swiftly. He emphasized that priority is being given to grievances received from the public and assured that all measures are being taken to improve road safety.

# 4.25 Kg Ganja Seized in City Drug Bust

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Saroornagar Excise Enforcement team seized 4.250 kilograms of marijuana (ganja) and arrested a 22-year-old youth in Green Heels Colony, Kothapeta, following a tip-off. The accused, Rajadityan, a resident of the area, is known locally for his talent in writing stories and songs and had even earned some recognition as a singer. However, due to his addiction to marijuana and lack of financial resources, he reportedly turned to selling the substance to sustain his habit and earn quick money. Acting on reliable information, DTF SI Shankar and his team conducted a surprise raid on the apartment where Rajadityan was residing. During the search, offi-

cials discovered 4.250 kg of ganja hidden inside the premises. Saroornagar Excise Superintendent Ujjwala Reddy revealed that the contraband was sourced from the Sileru region in Andhra Pradesh, where it is available at lower prices. The accused was allegedly purchasing the marijuana there and selling it at a higher price in Hyderabad for profit. The seized marijuana and the accused have been handed over at the Saroornagar Excise Station. Authorities have initiated further investigation to trace the supply network and other possible links. The Excise Department has reiterated its commitment to curbing the illegal drug trade and urged the public to report any suspicious activity.

# Students Protest for Palestine in Mehdiapatnam

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Dozens of students gathered at Masjid-e-Azizia in Mehdiapatnam on Friday to protest against Israel's ongoing actions in Palestine, particularly the alleged deliberate starvation of civilians, including children and infants. Organised by the Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO), the protestors raised slogans condemning what they described as a grave humanitarian injustice and called for immediate international intervention. The protest is part of a growing wave of pro-Palestine demonstrations in Hyderabad, with activists targeting commercial establishments accused of supporting or having ties with Israel. Last week, members of the Indian People in Solidarity with Palestine (IPSP) staged a protest outside a Ma-



hindra Automotive showroom in Nacharam, accusing the company of links to the Israeli economy and complicity in the alleged genocide of Palestinians. The IPSP has been actively organizing similar protests across India, including in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Rohtak, Chandigarh, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Patna. Global and domestic brands such as McDonald's, Starbucks, Domino's, Reliance Retail, and Tata's Zudio have also come under fire during these demonstrations.



## Congress Leaders Join Shramadanam

**TPN Correspondent |Parigi**  
TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki, and local MLA Rammohan Reddy participated in a Shramadanam program held at the Government Girls Residential School in Parigi. Arya Vaishya Corporation Chairman Kalva Sujatha and several local leaders and volunteers also took part in the cleanliness drive. The leaders lauded the initiative, stating that community participation in such programs strengthens public institutions and sets an example for social responsibility. They interacted with students and staff, encouraging them to take pride in maintaining a clean and healthy environment. The event was organized as part of a broader effort to improve civic engagement and promote cleanliness in educational institutions.



## Bandi Sanjay to Gift Bicycles to Class 10 Students

**TPN Correspondent|Karimnagar**  
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, will distribute bicycles to Class 10 students of government and Shishu Mandir schools in Choppadandi constituency on Saturday. The program, titled “Narendra Modi Kanuka,” is being personally undertaken by the Minister using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds sourced from various organizations, and not through government sponsorship. As part of this large-scale initiative, over 20,000 bicycles are being distributed across the Karimnagar Parliament segment. The distribution has already begun in Karimnagar, Sircilla, and Huzurabad constituencies, and will now begin in Choppadandi. The event will take place at the Government Boys High School, with the Minister handing over the bicycles at 11 a.m. To ensure transparency, the bicycles are being handed over to district collectors, who will distribute them directly to Class 10 students. BJP Karimnagar Parliament convener Boinipalli Praveen Rao and local leaders have inspected the arrangements at the Choppadandi school, ensuring smooth conduct of the program. Earlier in the day, Bandi Sanjay will also take part in the ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Utsav Diwas’ celebrations in Choppadandi, where he will facilitate the deposit of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi funds into farmers’ bank accounts. This initiative is targeted at “tent” (Class 10) students from economically weaker sections who often struggle with transport to and from school, especially for attending extra classes held in the evenings. Acknowledging this need, the Minister has conceptualized this program to ensure that no student is held back due to lack of mobility.



## Operation Muskan Frees 54 Kids

**TPN Correspondent |Bhadradi Kothagudem**

A total of 54 children were rescued from child labour in Bhadradi Kothagudem district as part of the month-long Operation Muskan-XI initiative, District Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju, announced on Friday. Operation Muskan-XI, launched under the joint initiative of the central and state governments, aims to eliminate child labour and trace missing chil-



dren. The operation in the district was conducted from July 1 to 31 in close coordination with various departments. The SP said that five special teams were formed across the district to implement the

operation effectively. These teams conducted extensive field inspections to identify children engaged in labour and facilitate their rescue. Of the 54 child labourers rescued, 44 are boys and 10 are girls. Among them, 53 children were reunited with their families, while one was placed in a child care home for further support. The police have registered cases against 39 individuals who were found employing chil-

dren and issued notices to 13 others for further action. SP Rohit Raju emphasized that protecting children’s rights is a collective responsibility. He urged citizens to be vigilant and report any instances of child labour by dialling 100 or 112. He also appreciated the efforts of the special police teams for their dedication and swift action in reuniting the rescued children with their families.

## Leaders Unite Behind Kavitha’s BC Demand

**TPN Correspondent |Kothagudem**

Telangana Jagruti Bhadradi Kothagudem district in-charge D. Veeranna and United Platform Front (UPF) leader Manjula have extended full support to the hunger strike planned by Telangana Jagruti State President Kalvakuntla Kavitha, demanding justice for Backward Classes (BCs). Speaking at a press conference held at Hariitha Hotel, Veeranna emphasized that the fight for BC rights in education and employment will continue until the BC bill is passed. He appealed to people from all sections of society to support Kavitha’s hunger strike, scheduled for August

4, 5, and 6 at Indira Park, Hyderabad. Veeranna noted that Kavitha has been consistently fighting for BC welfare for the past 18 months. “It was only after observing her relentless struggle that the Congress government hurriedly brought an ordinance,” he said. He accused the Congress of showing insincere and partial concern for BCs and attempting to divert attention from Kavitha’s efforts. He demanded 42% reservation for BCs and called on the state government to prove its sincerity by pressing the Centre through its ministers, MPs, and MLAs. “We will not stop until justice is done,” he declared.



Raising another issue, he said the fight to re-merge five villages that were shifted from Bhadrachalam to Andhra Pradesh will also continue. He urged the government to act swiftly to correct what he termed an “unjust merger.” The press meet was attended by district student wing con-

vener Lakavat Suresh, town convener Bandari Prithvi Raj, Pravalika, BC leaders Mahankali Rama Rao, Mande Chandrasekhar, Nagendra, Satyanarayana, and BC United Platform leaders Bolisetty Ranga Rao, Mekala Malli Babu, Bandari Nageswara Rao, among others.



## Jurala Project Sees 2 Lakh Cusecs Inflow

**TPN Correspondent |Atmakur**

Heavy inflows were recorded at the Jurala reservoir on Friday as floodwaters surged into the project due to upstream rainfall. By evening, the reservoir had received an inflow of 2.01 lakh cusecs. Officials from the Irrigation Department immediately swung into action to regulate water levels and avoid overflow risks. To manage the situation, authorities lifted 18 crest gates of the reservoir. A discharge of 1,79,316 cusecs of water was released downstream to the Krishna River, while 25,205 cusecs were diverted to hydropower generation units. In addition to flood management, the department ensured supply to various irrigation schemes critical to the region’s agriculture.

Water was released to the following: 650 cusecs to the Main Right Canal, 1,250 cusecs to the Left Canal, 750 cusecs to the Nettekoppu Lift Irrigation Scheme, 315 cusecs to the Kailsagar project, 800 cusecs to the Parallel Canal, and 750 cusecs to the Bhima Phase-I Lift Irrigation Scheme. Officials stated that while the maximum water storage level of the Jurala reservoir is 318.516 meters, the water level stood at 317.640 meters at the time of reporting. They added that all safety measures are in place and inflows are being closely monitored. Authorities have advised people in downstream areas to stay alert and cooperate with officials if precautionary measures become necessary.

## Wangara Health Centre in Ruins, Locals Demand Action

**TPN Correspondent |Hanumakonda**

The Primary Health Center (PHC) in Wangara village, Bhimadevarapalli mandal, is teetering on the edge of collapse, endangering both staff and patients. The dilapidated building has developed wide cracks in the walls and slabs, while rainwater regularly floods the wards, making medical operations nearly impossible. The staff, forced to work amid fear and uncertainty, report that vital medicines are getting damaged due to constant leaks, and thorny overgrowth around the premises has turned it into a jungle. The presence of snakes has made even stepping into the PHC grounds risky. Despite the presence of two government-appointed doctors, the facility lacks basic infrastructure like clean water, proper storage, and sanitation. Locals say the building is so dangerous that most villagers avoid seeking treatment there. They have made repeated appeals to authorities to intervene, but no action has been taken so far. With the structure worsening during the monsoon, residents warn that a tragedy is imminent if urgent repairs are not carried out.



## Collector Calls for Trust in Govt Hospitals

**TPN Correspondent |Regalla**

District Collector Jitesh V. Patil emphasized the need to boost public trust in government healthcare services during a surprise inspection of the Primary Health Center in Regalla village. The Collector thoroughly reviewed various aspects of the hospital including patient services, staff attendance, availability of medicines, cleanliness, and infrastructure. He examined the operation theater and labor room, where he observed med-

icines stored in the operation room. Questioning the rationale behind the storage, he was informed by doctors that the stock was for three months and kept in a suitable place due to space constraints. Appreciating the cleanliness maintained in and around the premises, the Collector congratulated the hospital staff. Speaking to the media later, Collector Patil said, “It is our responsibility to ensure quality healthcare for every patient visiting government

hospitals. People’s confidence in government medical services must increase.” He stressed that rural health centers should operate efficiently and punctually, with doctors and staff fully dedicated to their duties. He also directed the hospital to conduct necessary blood tests, distribute preventive medicines for seasonal diseases, and hold awareness programs for the local population. With the onset of the rainy season, the Collector cautioned against the

rise of mosquito-borne diseases and urged health staff to implement adequate preventive measures. He also instructed that hospital records be properly maintained and that service quality be consistently monitored. During the visit, the Collector also reviewed the plantation of tunaga, curry leaves, and amla trees on the premises, suggesting similar plantations in unused spaces. The inspection was attended by hospital doctors, medical staff, and concerned officials.





# Neglect of Individual Care Plans Harm Children in Child Care Institutions

Any person below the age of 18 is considered a child under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC, a global framework to safeguard children's rights, came into force on 2nd September 1990. India ratified this convention on 11th December 1992 and has since implemented its provisions. Today, 196 countries across the world follow the principles laid out in the UNCRC.

**The fundamental rights guaranteed to every child under the UNCRC include:**

- **Right to Survival**
- **Right to Development**
- **Right to Protection**
- **Right to Participation**

**These rights are to be ensured without any discrimination.**

To uphold these principles, the Government of India enacted the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, which has been amended over time. The latest version, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment

Act, 2021, came into effect from 1st September 2022. Under Section 27 of this Act, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) have been constituted in every district. These Committees function as a bench of Judicial Magistrate of First Class, empowered by the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. CWCs are responsible for interacting with and assessing children brought before them, often from highly vulnerable backgrounds, including:

- **Orphans and semi-orphans**
- **Children from broken or abusive families**
- **Street children and child laborers**
- **Victims of trafficking, child marriage, or abuse**
- **Drug-addicted or mentally/physically challenged children**
- **Children affected by HIV/AIDS**
- **Abandoned or surrendered children**
- **Missing and begging children**

These children are temporarily placed in licensed Child Care Institutions (CCIs) for care, counseling, and rehabilitation. The goal is to reunite them with their families where possible, or otherwise, prepare them for an independent and dignified life.



**B.V.S. Kumar**  
Former Chairman  
Child Welfare Committee  
Krishna District

However, a major gap exists in the implementation of Individual Care Plans (ICPs) — a crucial component mandated by the law.

**What is an Individual Care Plan?**

An Individual Care Plan is a personalized and dynamic roadmap

designed for each child, tailored to address their unique needs, challenges, and aspirations. It is developed in collaboration with caregivers, counselors, and wherever possible, the child and their family.

**A well-prepared ICP should include:**

- **Personal Medical History**
- **Family and Social Background**
- **Developmental Milestones**
- **Emotional and Behavioral Needs**
- **Interests, Preferences, and Talents**
- **Educational and Vocational Goals**
- **Specific timelines, strategies, and interventions**

Regular reviews and updates must be conducted to adjust the plan as the child grows and their circumstances evolve.

**The Consequences of Neglecting ICPs :**

Many CCIs, due to lack of awareness, resources, or oversight, fail to prepare or implement ICPs for the children under their care. This shortfall severely affects the child's ability to

reintegrate into society once they turn 18 — the legal age at which they must exit the institution.

Although some support may be extended through After-Care Programs, these are limited and require that the child is adequately prepared for independent living. Without proper education, skill development, or emotional support, many of these young adults are left directionless and vulnerable, often slipping back into cycles of poverty, exploitation, or crime.

**The Way Forward :**

The Women and Child Welfare Department, along with the District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), must ensure that each and every child in a CCI is cared for according to an Individual Care Plan. Strict monitoring, regular audits, and capacity-building of CCI staff are essential to achieving this.

Every child deserves the chance to live a safe, fulfilling, and independent life. A well-designed and implemented Individual Care Plan is not a formality — it is a fundamental right and a lifeline for the vulnerable children of our society.

# China Grows Wary as Pakistan Becomes Security Liability Amid CPEC Threats

China's strategic patience with Pakistan is wearing thin as persistent security threats endanger its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project — the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During a recent meeting with Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir, China's Central Military Commission Vice-Chairman Zhang Youxia explicitly urged stronger security for Chinese nationals and investments in Pakistan.

The appeal is not new — but it is increasingly urgent. A 2024 report by Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) revealed that 20 Chinese citizens have been killed and 34 injured in attacks since 2021. The threat is twofold, stemming from both Baloch insurgents and Islamist militants like the Tehreek-e-Taliban



Pakistan (TTP).

While the TTP targets Chinese personnel as a symbolic attack against Islamabad's foreign alliances, Baloch insurgents see Beijing's presence as exploitation of their resource-rich region. Their tactics — hijackings, suicide bombings (including by women), and road blockades — aim to cripple CPEC-linked logistics and damage Pakistan's trade routes.

Despite deploying Special Security Divisions and surveillance systems, Pakistan's response has been largely reactive. Strategic vulnerabilities persist, and Beijing's dissatisfaction is now surfacing publicly. The upcoming B2B-focused second phase of CPEC requires a secure environment — something Pakistan is struggling to

guarantee.

Internally, Pakistan's fragile security apparatus, ethnic grievances, and economic constraints further complicate the situation. Delays, insurance hikes, and operational risks are eroding China's investment appetite, pushing it to reassess engagement terms.

The CPEC's viability, deeply tied to western China's stability and Xinjiang's economic agenda, now hangs in the balance. A continued failure to secure Chinese interests could convert Pakistan from a "strategic ally" into a costly liability — forcing China to reconsider the depth of its relationship.

The road ahead may be defined less by partnership and more by growing frustration in Beijing.

## ‘Make in India’ Falls Short as Manufacturing Shrinks, Not Surges



A decade after its grand launch, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship Make in India campaign is faltering. Promised as a revival of India's manufacturing might, the initiative now stands as a cautionary tale of optics overshadowing execution.

Launched in 2014, Make in India aimed to increase the manufacturing sector's GDP share from 16% to 25% by 2022. Instead, it dipped below 13% by 2024. Jobs in the sector fell drastically from 5.1 crore in 2016-17 to 2.7 crore in 2020-21,

raising deep concerns.

At its core, critics say, Make in India was more about branding than building. Flashy summits and a logo designed by a U.S. firm masked the absence of a coherent policy roadmap. Key components — infrastructure, skilling, and sectoral focus — were either underfunded or ignored.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation, a key indicator of infrastructure investment, declined from 36% of GDP in 2007 to 30% by 2024. Foreign Direct Invest-

ment also plummeted, falling from 8.8% of total capital formation in 2020 to 2.3% in 2024.

While Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes provided a minor boost in areas like smartphone manufacturing, they couldn't offset structural gaps. Meanwhile, policy shocks like demonetisation and a flawed GST rollout devastated small and medium enterprises — the backbone of India's manufacturing sector.

With over 1,400 regulatory requirements draining resources and credit access limited to just 20% of MSMEs, growth remains elusive. Reports on job losses and unemployment were buried, and key economic data was withheld, raising accountability concerns.

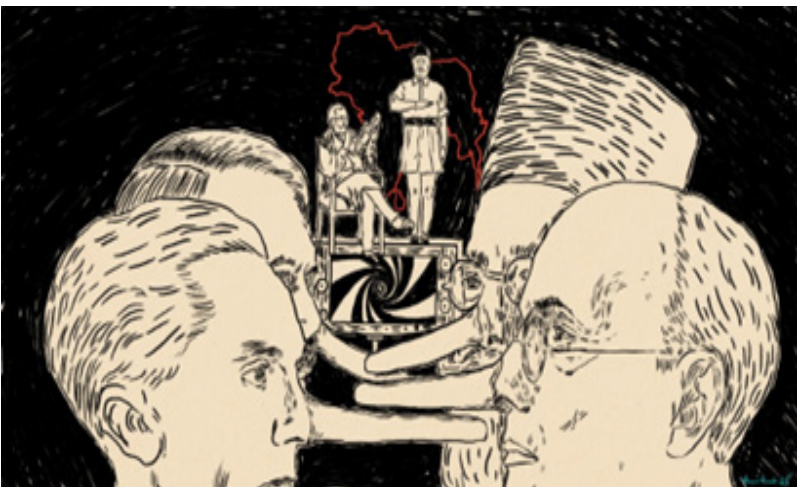
The decade-long effort, instead of revitalising industry, has left it adrift. As global peers advance domestic manufacturing, Make in India has become a case study in missed opportunity — proving that strategy, not slogans, drives real economic transformation.

## BJP's Changing Stance on Divorce, Inheritance, and Social Policies

The BJP's shifting positions on key social issues such as divorce, inheritance laws, and caste policies reflect a broader pattern of ideological evolution—or retreat—since its origins as the Jan Sangh in the 1950s.

Originally, the Jan Sangh opposed divorce and supported the joint family system as central to Hindu society. Its 1957 manifesto promised to repeal laws like the Hindu Marriage and Hindu Succession Acts, which challenged these traditional structures. Women's rights, particularly around inheritance, were not championed but opposed, reflecting conservative social values. Yet, as Indian society urbanized and nuclear families became more common—especially among the BJP's core urban, upper-caste supporters—these stances softened or were abandoned altogether without clear explanation.

Similarly, the party's earlier hardline approach on caste sought to eliminate untouchability but dismissed affirma-



tive action policies like reservations for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. This has now evolved into a more complex, sometimes contradictory approach that struggles to address ongoing social inequalities.

On language, the Jan Sangh had pushed for Hindi to dominate all regional languages, a stance that has been toned down amid backlash and political pragmatism.

The BJP's journey from an ideologically rigid party to a pragmatic electoral machine

shows in its recent social policy focus, which still undergoes shifts based on political calculations rather than clear ideological commitments. This mirrors changes in its economic and foreign policies over decades, signaling a party responsive to middle-class voters' priorities such as anti-corruption, rather than strictly adhering to its original manifesto. While adaptability is common in politics, BJP's lack of transparency about these shifts raises questions about the consistency of its vision for India's social fabric.



# Share Ideas For Independence Day Speech: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent |  
New Delhi

With India gearing up to celebrate its 79th Independence Day on August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again invited citizens to contribute ideas and suggestions for his annual address from the Red Fort.

In a message posted on X (formerly Twitter), the Prime Minister urged Indians to share their thoughts on the themes they believe should be highlighted in this year's speech. "As we approach this year's Independence Day, I look forward to hearing from my fellow Indians! What themes or ideas would you like to see reflected in this year's Independence Day speech?" PM Modi wrote, directing people to the Open Fo



rum on MyGov and the NaMo App.

This call for public input has become a signature aspect of the Prime Minister's Independence Day preparations, reflecting his consistent push for participatory democracy and citizen engagement.

Since taking office in 2014, PM Modi has incorporated public suggestions into his major addresses, often spotlighting grassroots innovations, youth achievements, national development milestones, and citizen-driven policy ideas. His Independence Day speeches

are watched closely as they often set the tone for the government's priorities in the months ahead. The MyGov platform and the NaMo App have been crucial digital tools in connecting the public with the government. Citizens from across the country can now submit their ideas through these platforms, with a chance for their suggestions to be included in the Prime Minister's speech.

This year's Independence Day is expected to focus on themes of unity, technological advancement, and India's growing global leadership as the nation approaches its 80th year of independence in 2026. Submissions are now open, and the public is encouraged to contribute their voice to one of India's most symbolic national moments.

## NIA Should Probe Case Linked To Gogoi's Wife: Himanta Sarma



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has defended his move to consider transferring a sensitive investigation involving Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi's wife, Elizabeth Colburn, to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The case concerns alleged links between Colburn and a Pakistan-based NGO, raising national security concerns.

Sarma, addressing the media on Thursday, explained that the Assam Police Special Investigation Team (SIT), currently probing the matter, has limitations in its scope—particularly in accessing communication data beyond two years. "The NIA, on the other hand, can trace telephonic interactions as far back as 2010. The SIT has done commendable work, but this case has broader implications, including issues of citizenship and potential foreign interference," he said.

Earlier this year, Sarma had directed the registration of a case against a Pakistani national believed to have connections with Colburn. He accused the individual of attempting to interfere in Assam's domestic matters and indicated that Colburn may also face scrutiny for alleged links to Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI.

Additionally, Sarma has questioned Colburn's alleged participation in the recent Lok Sabha election campaign despite being a British citizen. "This case ultimately concerns national security, and the Centre is best positioned to investigate it thoroughly," the Chief Minister asserted.

The SIT has been instructed to conclude its investigation by September 10, after which its findings will be presented to the Assam Cabinet. "Only after reviewing the report will the cabinet consider formally recommending that the NIA take over," Sarma added. The case has drawn political attention, with Congress leaders calling the probe a political vendetta, while the BJP argues that national interest and legal integrity must be upheld, regardless of political affiliations.



## Tharoor Differs With Rahul Gandhi Over Trump Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday publicly distanced himself from party colleague Rahul Gandhi's endorsement of US President Donald Trump's controversial remarks calling India a "dead economy". Responding to Trump's statement on social media, Mr Tharoor said, "This is not the case, and we all know it," defending India's economic strength amid recent trade tensions with Washington.

Trump, while justifying a 25% tariff on Indian exports, claimed he was unconcerned about India's ties with Russia and dismissed both nations' economies as "dead." "They can take their dead economies down together," he wrote on Truth Social, also accusing India of maintaining "strenuous and obnoxious" trade barriers. Surprisingly, Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, agreed with Trump's assessment. "He is right. Everybody knows this except the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister," he told reporters in Parliament.

However, other Congress leaders voiced strong disagreement. Karti Chidambaram, Congress MP, called Trump "an unconventional politician" and downplayed the comment. "India and America are large economies that need each other. Flipping comments won't derail this relationship," he said in an interview.

Rajya Sabha MP Rajiv Shukla also rejected Trump's characterization of India's economy. "Our economic condition is not at all weak. Trump is living in a delusion," he told ANI.

## India warns nationals in Ireland to stay vigilant

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid a concerning rise in hate crimes, the Indian Embassy in Dublin has issued an advisory urging Indian nationals residing in Ireland to stay vigilant and prioritize their personal safety. The advisory follows several recent incidents involv-

ing physical assaults on Indian citizens.

"There has been an increase in the instances of physical attacks against Indian citizens in Ireland recently," the embassy stated in an official note shared on Thursday. It called upon all Indian nationals to remain

alert and adopt reasonable precautions.

Officials specifically advised individuals to avoid venturing into deserted areas, especially during late or odd hours. While the advisory did not detail specific cases, the tone reflects growing concern over targeted

hate crimes within the Irish community.

The embassy assured that it is monitoring the situation closely and remains in touch with local authorities. It also encouraged victims of such incidents to report them promptly to the police and the embassy for necessary assistance.

## Poll To Be Held On Sep 9



TPN Correspondent |  
New Delhi

The Election Commission on Friday announced that the Vice Presidential election will be held on September 9, following the unexpected resignation of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar last month.

A formal notification for the election will be issued on August 7, with August 21 as the last date for filing nominations. The results will be declared on the same day as the polling.

Mr Dhankhar resigned on July 21, more than two years before the end of his term, which was scheduled to conclude in August 2027. While he officially cited health reasons, sources indicated growing friction with the central government, particularly after his refusal to support the Centre's position

on the impeachment of Justice Yashwant Varma.

As per Clause 2 of Article 68 of the Constitution, an election to fill a Vice Presidential vacancy must be held as soon as possible. The person elected will serve a full five-year term from the date of assuming office.

The Vice President is elected by an Electoral College comprising elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and elected members of the Lok Sabha.

The ruling NDA alliance is in a strong position to secure the post. In the Lok Sabha, the NDA holds 293 out of 542 filled seats, while in the Rajya Sabha, it enjoys support from 129 members, giving the alliance an effective backing of 422 lawmakers — comfortably above the 391 votes needed for a win.

## We have steady & time tested partnership with Russia: MEA

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India on Friday firmly defended its longstanding relationship with Russia following controversial remarks by former US President Donald Trump. Responding to Trump's comments, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that India's foreign relations are independent and not influenced by third-party views.

"Our ties with any country stand on their merit and should not be seen through the prism of a third country," Jaiswal stated. "As far as India-Russia relations are concerned, we have a steady and time-tested partnership."

Trump had criticized India and Russia in a post on his social platform Truth Social, saying, "They can take their dead economies down together." He also claimed that India's tariffs are among the highest in the world and dismissed bilateral trade



with both nations as minimal.

In response, the MEA reiterated India's strong and evolving partnership with the US. Jaiswal highlighted the "comprehensive global strategic partnership" between India and the US, grounded in democratic values and strong people-to-people ties. He noted that the relationship has endured various challenges and transitions, and India remains committed to advancing its strategic agenda with Washington.

## Ex-MP Prajwal Revanna Convicted of Raping House Help

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna was found guilty by a special court in Bengaluru on Friday for sexually assaulting a woman who worked as domestic help at his family's farmhouse. The court, designated for MPs and MLAs, will announce the quantum of punishment on Saturday.

The survivor accused Revanna of repeatedly raping her since 2021 and threatening to leak explicit videos if she spoke out.



Following a detailed trial that included testimony from 26 witnesses and Revanna himself, the court framed charges under multiple IPC sections, including rape, voyeurism, criminal intimidation, and illegal circulation of intimate images.

Revanna, 34, was arrested on May 31 last year and is currently facing three more

sexual assault cases. These include the rape of a former Zilla Panchayat member and a senior domestic worker from Mysuru. In another case, he is accused of sexually harassing a woman via video call.

The scandal intensified in 2024 when over 2,000 obscene videos allegedly linked to Revanna surfaced online. The JD(S) suspended him, and he later lost his Hassan seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The cases are being investigated by the Karnataka CID.



# Trump releases revised tariffs for 70 countries



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

U.S. President Donald Trump has issued a revised executive order formalizing new reciprocal tariffs for nearly 70 countries, retaining a 25% tariff on Indian exports while slashing Pakistan's rate from 29% to 19%. The revised duties, outlined in an executive order titled "Further Modifying The Reciprocal Tariff Rates," will come into effect from August 7, 2025.

India's tariff rate remains unchanged despite earlier threats of an added penalty over its continued military and energy ties with Russia. However, the finalized order makes no mention of this penalty. Trump had earlier accused India of using high tariffs and non-monetary

trade barriers and being a major buyer of Russian energy and defense equipment—factors he claimed warranted the tariff hike.

Pakistan, in contrast, received a 10% tariff reduction, drawing attention to Washington's evolving trade strategy in South Asia.

The move comes amid tense U.S.-India relations following Trump's criticism of India's BRICS membership and trade surplus with the U.S., which he described as "massive." The White House also questioned India's alignment with American economic and security priorities.

India, while expressing concern, has announced it is reviewing the tariffs and will take

"all necessary steps to safeguard national interests." Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal indicated that exemptions will apply to goods shipped before August 7 and cleared in the U.S. by October 5—offering exporters temporary relief.

Trade analysts warn the tariff policy could complicate bilateral trade talks, with former U.S. official Wendy Cutler noting that India was once considered a promising candidate for a quick agreement. Meanwhile, U.S. businesses and customs officials are bracing for logistical challenges stemming from the uneven global tariff landscape.

Tariff rates across the board now range between 10% and 40%, with Laos and Myanmar facing the highest levies.



## No F-35 Jets From US? India Weighs Options

TPN Correspondent | London

India is exploring ways to ease tensions with the US following President Donald Trump's surprise announcement of a 25% tariff on Indian exports, sources familiar with the matter told Bloomberg. Despite the tariff threat, New Delhi has ruled out immediate retaliation and is considering increasing imports from the US, including natural gas, communication equipment, and gold, to help narrow its trade surplus over the next few years.

Officials expressed disappointment over Trump's move but remain committed to continuing bilateral trade talks. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal confirmed that the government is consulting exporters to assess the tariffs' impact and vowed to protect national interests.

Notably, India has decided against boosting defense purchases from the US, a key demand from Trump. The Modi government is not interested in acquiring the expensive F-35 stealth fighter jets, which Trump had offered during Modi's visit to Washington in February. Instead, India prefers focusing on domestic

defense manufacturing partnerships rather than buying ready-made US equipment.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent criticized India for slowing trade negotiations, citing India's close ties with Russia as a concern. Trump's tariffs also come amid criticism of India's energy purchases from Russia, which the US sees as supporting Moscow's war efforts in Ukraine.

Despite the trade tensions, both countries had previously aimed to finalize a bilateral trade deal by fall 2025. Analysts remain cautious about Trump's tariff threats, viewing them possibly as negotiating tactics, similar to past US-EU trade disputes.

India's markets reacted mildly, with the rupee dipping slightly and stocks edging lower. Experts suggest India may need to be more flexible in ongoing talks but reaffirm the country's priority to protect farmers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.

As the US-India relationship navigates these hurdles, New Delhi balances diplomatic pragmatism with safeguarding its strategic and economic interests.

## Trump Deserves Nobel Peace Prize for Ending India-Pak Conflict: White House



TPN Correspondent | Washington

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt on Thursday asserted that U.S. President Donald Trump should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, citing his role in brokering multiple global ceasefires—including the recent de-escalation between India and Pakistan.

During a press briefing in Washington, Leavitt claimed that President Trump has successfully mediated peace in several conflict zones during his six months in office. "He has now ended conflicts between Thailand and Cambodia, Israel and Iran, Rwanda and the DRC, India and Pakistan, Serbia and Kosovo, and Egypt and Ethiopia," she stated. "It's well past time President Trump was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize."

Trump had earlier taken credit for ending hostilities between India and Pakistan, saying a ceasefire was achieved on May 10 after a "long night" of U.S.-led talks. He has since repeated that claim in public statements, saying he leveraged trade deals to push both nations toward peace, adding that

the U.S. promised increased trade if military action ceased.

However, Indian officials strongly deny any external mediation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Parliament that no foreign leader, including Trump, influenced India's military decisions during Operation Sindoor. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reiterated that there was no third-party role and confirmed that there were no phone calls between Modi and Trump during the time Trump claims he negotiated the ceasefire.

"India acted independently and firmly in its national interest," Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha, directly contradicting Trump's assertions.

The White House push for Trump's Nobel recognition comes amid broader diplomatic tensions, including new U.S. tariffs on Indian exports and growing criticism of India's ties with Russia. While the Nobel Committee remains silent, Trump's self-promotion as a peacemaker continues to draw both support and skepticism at home and abroad.



### "India An Ally, But Can't Align 100% Of Time": US On Trump Tariffs

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged India as a strategic ally but expressed clear frustration over India's continued purchase of Russian oil, calling it "a point of irritation" in bilateral relations. Rubio's remarks came a day after former US President Donald Trump announced a 25 percent tariff on Indian goods starting August 1, alongside unspecified penalties targeting India's procurement of Russian military equipment and energy.

Speaking to Fox Radio, Rubio emphasized that while India is a key partner, alignment on every issue is unrealistic. "India has huge energy needs," he said, explaining that Russia's sanctioned and discounted oil is an economically attractive option for India. However, Rubio warned that these purchases indirectly sustain Russia's war efforts in Ukraine. Trump's tariff announcement criticized India for high tariffs and trade barriers, alongside its close military and energy ties with Russia and China. On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump stated, "India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25%, plus a penalty for the above, starting on August first."

India responded calmly, with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry stating that it is reviewing the US announcement while remaining committed to negotiating a fair and balanced bilateral trade agreement. The government reaffirmed its priority to protect farmers, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs, promising to safeguard national interests as done with other trade deals, such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the UK.

## Zelensky Calls for Regime Change in Russia to Ensure Long-Term Peace

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called on Western nations to pursue regime change in Russia, warning that Moscow will remain a threat even after the current war ends unless its leadership is replaced.

Speaking via video at an international conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Accords, Zelensky stated, "I believe Russia can be pushed to stop this war... But if the world doesn't aim to change the regime in Russia, that means even after the war ends, Moscow will still try to destabilize neighboring countries."

Zelensky also urged the West to go beyond sanctions by confiscating frozen Russian assets and using them to support Ukraine's defense. "It's time to confiscate Russian assets, not just freeze them," he said, emphasizing that the funds should be redirected toward countering Russian aggression.

His comments come amid heightened tensions between Moscow and Western nations, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accusing the West of betraying the Helsinki Accords' principles. In an article released to mark the anniversary, Lavrov claimed the European Union is evolving into a "Fourth Reich," citing rising Russophobia and militarization.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also weighed in, accusing Western governments of misleading



their citizens to justify soaring military expenditures and masking internal economic problems.

Despite these sharp exchanges, Moscow claims it remains open to negotiations with Kyiv. RT reported that several rounds of talks have taken place in recent months but that little progress has been made, with Russia accusing Ukraine and its allies of failing to address "territorial realities."

Russia has also questioned Zelensky's political legitimacy, arguing that his term expired in May 2024 and that martial law does not justify postponing elections indefinitely. Russian officials claim the Ukrainian parliament now holds governing authority.



# Markets Extend Losses

## Global Cues, Trump Tariffs Hit Sentiments

Indian stock markets ended in losses for the fifth consecutive week. Sectoral indices including the benchmarks suffered a huge fall on Friday. Although they appeared to be stable at the beginning, they were in a rout when European markets opened. The reasons for this were Trump tariffs, negative news, and negative signals from Asian and international markets. Investors also cautiously sold. The Nifty's approach to the key 100 moving averages indicates weakness in the medium term. Technically, the indices are also bearish. In total, the Nifty lost 203 points and the Sensex lost 585 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,185 in the previous session, opened at 81,074 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 80,495. It reached an intraday high of 81,317. It ended at 80,599, down 585 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,734, touched a low of 24,535 and a high of



ufacturing, oil, commodities, PSU bank and auto indices fell heavily.

Market breadth in NSE today is in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 3040 stocks traded, 785 gained. 2173 lost. 56 shares touched 52-week highs and 47 touched 52-week lows. Upper circuit was reached at 80 and lower circuit at 57.

Tata Power Q1 net profit increased by 6.2% from Rs. 1188 crore to Rs. 1263 crore. Shares of textile companies including Gokaldas, Pearl Global and KPR Mill fell up to 6 percent in the wake of Trump tariffs. The rupee strengthened by 8 paise against the dollar and settled at 87.52. On the third day in the afternoon, the response to the IPO of Shree Lotus Developers was 56.30 times. The response to the IPO of M&B Engineering was 21.27 times. Hyundai Motors India sold 60,073 units in July. Safari Industries' net profit rose by 15% to Rs. 51 crore from Rs. 44 crore. The response to the NSDL IPO was 18.02 times on the third day in the afternoon. Coal India's production in July fell by 16.6 percent and sales by 11.3 percent.

24,784. It closed down 203 points at 24,565. The Nifty Bank fell 344 points to 55,617.

In the Nifty50, 12 companies gained and 38 lost. Trent, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Nestle, Hero MotoCorp were the top gainers. Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy's Labs, Cipla, Adani Enterprises, and Tata Steel were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices, except FMCG, were mixed today. Pharma, healthcare, telecom, defense, metal, IT, realty, man-

ufacturing, oil, commodities, PSU bank and auto indices fell heavily.

# Starlink Gets Satellite Internet Permit In India

In a major development for India's digital infrastructure, Elon Musk-led Starlink has been granted a Unified License to launch satellite-based internet services in the country, Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced on Thursday.

The announcement coincided with the 30th anniversary of India's first cellular call made in 1995, highlighting the country's rapid telecommunications evolution over the decades.

Scindia said a comprehensive framework for spectrum allocation and gateway setup has already been prepared, ensuring a smooth and speedy rollout of satellite services. Alongside Starlink, Bharti-backed Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio SES are also awaiting spectrum allotment to begin their own satcom operations.

"This is a big step forward in bridging the digital divide. From remote village



The Minister also cited the revival of BSNL, which reported consecutive annual net profits for the first time in 18 years, supported by over 83,000 4G sites built with indigenous technology.

On 5G, India has covered 99.6% of districts with over 4.74 lakh 5G towers and 300 million users, making it the fastest 5G rollout globally. The country also leads in 6G patent filings, placing it among the top six nations worldwide.

es to cities, satellite internet will help bring affordable and reliable internet access to everyone," Scindia noted.

India's digital progress under the Modi government was also highlighted. The country now has 1.2 billion telephone connections, and internet subscriptions have grown by 286%, reaching 970 million. Broadband usage surged by over 1,450% since 2014, and mobile data costs have dropped by 96.6%, now averaging just ₹8.9 per GB—the lowest globally.

Industry leaders hailed the decision. COAI DG S.P. Kochhar called India the world's second-largest telecom market, while HFCL MD Mahendra Nahata and GX Group CEO Paritosh Prajapati emphasized India's growing technological self-reliance and the country's emerging leadership in global telecom innovation.

With Starlink's entry, India is poised to take internet connectivity to even the most underserved regions, reinforcing its digital future.

# Manufacturing Sector Growth Hits 16-Month High in July

India's manufacturing sector activity surged to a 16-month high in July, driven by a sharp rise in new orders and output, according to the latest HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) released on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted PMI stood at 59.1 in July, up from 58.4 in June, marking the strongest performance since March 2024. A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion, while below 50 signals contraction.

"India recorded a 59.1 manufacturing PMI in July, up from 58.4 the prior month. This marked a 16-month high... supported by strong growth in new orders and output," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

The survey, compiled by S&P Global, showed that overall sales rose at the fastest pace in nearly five years, propelling production growth to a 15-month high. However, despite the



strong activity levels, business confidence dipped to its lowest point in three years, with concerns over rising competition and persistent inflation clouding the outlook.

The report noted that while companies continued to expand their workforce, hiring slowed to an eight-month low. 93% of firms surveyed indicated that current employment levels were adequate for meeting existing demand. As a result, outstanding business volumes rose only marginally in July.

"Amid softening business confidence, Indian manufacturers hired extra staff at the slowest rate since November 2024," Bhandari added.

Inflationary pressures remained elevated, with firms reporting higher prices for aluminium, leather, rubber, and steel. Input costs rose at a faster pace than in June, prompting companies to raise output prices amid strong demand.

Despite current challenges, Indian manufacturers maintained a positive outlook for the next 12 months. The government's ongoing push to raise the manufacturing sector's share in GDP to 23%, along with robust demand in sunrise sectors, continues to provide long-term optimism.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is based on responses from a panel of approximately 400 manufacturers across India.

# Commercial LPG Cylinder Price Cut By Rs 33.50



In a move that brings much-needed relief to the hospitality and commercial sectors, oil marketing companies have announced a reduction in the price of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinders by ₹33.50. The new rates came into effect starting Thursday, August 1.

As per the revised prices, the cost of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder in the national capital now stands at ₹1,631.50, down from ₹1,665. This price cut follows the standard monthly revision that oil companies undertake at the beginning of every month.

The reduction in commercial LPG rates is expected to ease the cost burden on hotels, restaurants, catering businesses, and small industries that rely heavily on commercial LPG for daily operations. However, prices of 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders remain unchanged, offering no direct relief to household consumers this month.

## Key Rates (Post Revision):

**Delhi:** ₹1,631.50 (down ₹33.50)  
**Mumbai:** ₹1,585.00 (approximate)  
**Chennai:** ₹1,800.50 (approximate)  
**Kolkata:** ₹1,743.00 (approximate)

(Prices may vary slightly depending on local taxes.)

This is the fourth consecutive price cut on commercial LPG cylinders in the last five months, signaling a relatively stable international market for liquefied petroleum gas and possibly reflecting softening crude prices.

Oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum review LPG rates monthly based on global benchmark prices and the rupee-dollar exchange rate. While commercial LPG rates are deregulated and directly linked to international prices, domestic LPG prices are more tightly controlled by the government and subject to periodic subsidies or policy interventions.

Industry bodies have welcomed the move, with some restaurant associations saying it would provide "short-term breathing room" as input costs remain high across the food and beverage sector.

No announcement has yet been made regarding any revision in domestic LPG subsidies or further reductions.

# July GST Collections Rise by 7.5% to ₹1.96 Lakh Crore



The Centre on Thursday released the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection data for July 2025, reporting a 7.5% year-on-year increase. The total collection stood at ₹1.96 lakh crore, driven by higher income from domestic transactions and imports. However, the growth was slightly lower when compared to recent months. In the first quarter of this year, the average GST collection was ₹2.1 lakh crore—significantly higher than the July figure. April saw a peak of ₹2.37 lakh crore, followed by ₹2.01 lakh crore in May. The GST revenue for the April–July period reached ₹8.18 lakh crore, marking a 10.7% increase over the ₹7.39 lakh crore collected during the same period last year. In July, the total GST collection of ₹1.96 lakh crore comprised ₹35,470 crore from Central GST, ₹44,059 crore from State GST, ₹1,03,536 crore from Integrated GST, and ₹12,670 crore from cess.

After adjusting for refunds, the net GST revenue for July stood at ₹1,68,588 crore, a marginal 1.7% increase over last year. The subdued net growth is attributed to a rise in refunds, which reached ₹27,147 crore. Net GST revenue from April to July recorded an 8.4% growth at ₹7.11 lakh crore. Among the states, Tripura reported the highest growth at 41%, followed by Meghalaya at 26%, Madhya Pradesh at 18%, Bihar at 16%, and Andhra Pradesh at 14%. Maharashtra's GST revenue grew by 6% to ₹30,590 crore. Karnataka saw a 7% increase, Tamil Nadu 8%, and Gujarat a modest 3%. On the other hand, Manipur and Mizoram recorded declines of 36% and 21% respectively. Despite slower GST revenue growth this month, the manufacturing sector posted its strongest performance in 16 months, indicating continued economic momentum.



# Spanish Town Declares Dying Illegal Due to Cemetery Crisis

In the quaint Spanish town of Lanjarón, dying is technically illegal — a peculiar law born out of a serious space shortage in the town’s only cemetery. The bizarre edict was issued in 1999 by then-mayor Jose Rubio, who, faced with no available burial plots, jokingly banned death until a new graveyard could be found.

“It is hereby forbidden to die in Lanjarón,” the decree humorously stated. Mayor Rubio clarified at the time, “I’m just a mayor. Above me is God, who ultimately runs things,” adding that the law was taken in good humor by residents.

Now, 26 years later, the rule still stands, and the cemetery crisis remains unresolved, with Lanjarón still operating only one graveyard. Despite its macabre-sounding legislation, Lanjarón is a peaceful town of 4,000 people, known for its natural beauty and therapeutic mineral springs. Located in the Alpujarra region of Granada at the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains, it attracts wellness seekers and tourists alike.

The town’s 18th-century spa, or balneario, continues to draw visitors looking for relief from ailments through mineral-rich waters. Lanjarón is also famous for its annual Fiesta del Agua y del Jamón — a summer celebration featuring town-wide water fights and traditional foods.

Lanjarón’s quirky law has sparked renewed attention, especially among Gen Z travelers on TikTok, searching for hidden gems beyond Spain’s usual tourist hubs.

Interestingly, Lanjarón isn’t alone in its ban on death. Longyearbyen, Norway, enacted a similar rule in 1950 when scientists found that bodies didn’t decompose in the permafrost, raising public health concerns.

While symbolic, these laws reflect deeper issues — from climate impacts to infrastructure shortfalls — and continue to amuse and intrigue visitors from around the world.



## Swiggy Re-Evaluates Rapido Stake Amid Rising Competition



Swiggy has officially confirmed it is reassessing its stake in bike taxi and logistics startup Rapido, as competition in India’s mobility and quick-commerce sectors heats up. The move comes during a crucial period for the food delivery giant, which is navigating rising marketing costs and a sharpened focus on achieving profitability in its primary business verticals.

Swiggy, which holds a significant minority stake in Rapido, is reportedly evaluating the strategic value of this investment as it reallocates resources toward its core operations—primarily food delivery and Instamart, its quick-commerce platform. According to insiders, the re-evaluation is part of a larger strategic review that may involve either increasing its involvement in Rapido or partially divesting its stake, depending on future market alignment.

The decision reflects broader market dynamics, with competition from rivals like Zomato and Zepto prompting Swiggy to optimize its capital deployment. Swiggy has been increasing marketing spend in high-growth cities and investing in technology to enhance customer experience, while maintaining its push for profitability ahead of a potential IPO.

Rapido, meanwhile, continues to expand its bike taxi and logistics services across major Indian cities. It remains a strong player in last-mile connectivity, but its long-term synergy with Swiggy’s food and grocery delivery ambitions is under review.

Swiggy’s spokesperson stated, “We periodically assess all our investments to ensure they align with our long-term business objectives. Rapido has been a valued partner, and any decisions will be taken with strategic clarity and in mutual interest.”

Analysts see this re-evaluation as a pragmatic step for Swiggy to sharpen its operational focus and maintain a competitive edge in a rapidly evolving market. Further announcements regarding the Rapido stake are expected in the coming months.



## Could Earth Be Ejected From the Solar System?

A recent study published in the journal *Icarus* has raised intriguing and unsettling questions about the long-term stability of Earth’s orbit within the solar system. Astronomers Nathan Kaib and Sean Raymond used thousands of computer simulations to examine how passing stars—known as “field stars”—might disrupt our planetary system over billions of years.

The research reveals that the solar system is less stable than once thought. If a star with a mass similar to the Sun passes within about 10,000 astronomical units (roughly 1.5 trillion kilometers), it could disturb the Oort Cloud, a distant shell of icy bodies surrounding the solar system. This disturbance could trigger a cascade of orbital instabilities affecting the planets.

The study finds that Mercury’s orbit could become unstable with a 50–80% increased risk of chaotic shifts. Such changes could lead to gravitational chain reactions, potentially pushing Venus or Mars into collision courses with Earth. More alarmingly, Earth itself could be thrown toward Jupiter, whose immense gravity might then fling our planet out of the solar system entirely.

While the probability of such an event occurring in the next five billion years remains low—around 0.2%—the findings challenge the long-standing view that planetary orbits are fixed and unchanging. This research offers a sobering reminder that Earth, despite its seeming security, exists within a dynamic and sometimes unpredictable cosmic environment. The possibility that our planet could be displaced or even ejected underscores the need for continued study of celestial mechanics and the influences of passing stars.

Ultimately, the study provides a humbling perspective on humanity’s place in the vast and ever-changing universe.

## World’s Skinniest Car Stuns Internet With Toothpick-Like Design

The internet is buzzing over a bizarre yet fascinating invention that’s turning heads across social media platforms — a shockingly skinny car that looks more like a stretched-out scooter than an actual vehicle. Dubbed by amused users as “a moving toothpick,” this ultra-thin ride is now going viral for its quirky design and surprising functionality.

A video shared on Instagram showcases an Italian inventor driving what appears to be a heavily modified version of the classic Fiat Panda. But this is no ordinary Panda. The car has been transformed into a comically narrow, one-seater vehicle with all four wheels retained — but spaced so tightly together that the entire car body has been stripped down to its slimmest possible form.

Despite its unconventional look, the car is fully operational, and the video shows the inventor confidently navigating it through regular roads, drawing amazed looks from bystanders. Viewers online were left both amused and confused, with one user joking, “If you sneeze, you might tip over!” while another added, “How is this even road-legal?”



The quirky design might not be the most practical for daily commuting, but it has certainly ignited curiosity and laughter across the globe. Many praised the creativity and engineering skills behind the design, even if the car itself might not make it into mainstream production anytime soon.

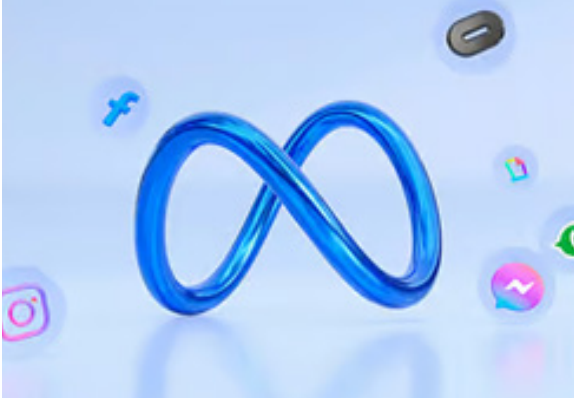
Whether it’s a stunt, an art piece, or just an expression of eccentric automotive passion, the world’s skinniest car proves that there’s no limit to innovation — or imagination — when it comes to going viral.

## Meta Smartwatch With Camera Likely to Launch in September

Meta Platforms is reportedly gearing up to launch a new smartwatch with built-in cameras as early as September 2025, according to sources familiar with the development. The long-rumored wearable is said to include two integrated cameras, making it one of the first smartwatches to feature such a design. Development on the Meta smartwatch reportedly began in 2021, as part of the company’s broader ambition to expand its hardware ecosystem and deepen its footprint in the wearable tech space. Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, has been gradually pushing into augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and now possibly wearable computing, with this smartwatch being seen as a stepping stone to more advanced wearable platforms.

Leaked renders and prototypes suggest that the watch may come with a detachable face and dual-camera system—one front-facing and another on the side—intended to enable photo and video capture from the wrist. These features could also serve Meta’s plans for future integration with its metaverse and AR/VR platforms.

While Meta has not officially confirmed the launch or specifications, reports indicate the watch may include health tracking features



such as heart rate monitoring, activity tracking, and potentially even EMG (electromyography) sensors, which can detect motor nerve signals.

If launched, this smartwatch would put Meta in direct competition with market leaders like Apple and Samsung. However, the inclusion of cameras may raise privacy concerns, especially in public spaces—an issue that previously hampered the adoption of Google Glass. As the wearable tech market continues to grow, Meta’s rumored September unveiling could be a pivotal moment for the company’s hardware ambitions. More details are expected to surface in the coming weeks as Meta prepares for a potential launch event.



# India Bowled Out for 224 in 5th Test Day 2

India was bowled out for 224 in their first innings on day two of the fifth and final Test against England at The Oval, succumbing to a brilliant bowling performance led by England pacer Gus Atkinson. The Indian innings, which resumed at 204 for six after rain delayed day one, suffered an early blow as overnight batters Karun Nair (57) and Washington Sundar (26) were dismissed within the first 20 minutes of play. Their quick wickets exposed a fragile Indian tail, which collapsed without much resistance, adding just 20 more runs. Atkinson was the standout bowler for England, claiming five wickets for 33 runs in 21.4 overs, including key breakthroughs that brought the Indian innings to an end. His partner Josh Tongue also impressed with figures of 3 for 57, the duo sharing the bulk of the bowling workload on a pitch that offered movement and bounce. Earlier in the innings, Sai Sudharsan top-scored for India with 38 runs, but the rest of the batting lineup struggled to withstand the pressure from England's pace attack.



The dismissal of Nair and Sundar marked a crucial turning point, as the lower order failed to build any substantial partnerships. England's bowling attack was further boosted by the injury setback to Indian pacer Chris Woakes, who was ruled out of the remainder of the Test due to a shoulder injury. With India's first innings now complete,

England will look to capitalize on this advantage as the match progresses. The game remains finely poised with several sessions left to play. Brief Scores: India 224 all out (Karun Nair 57, Sai Sudharsan 38; Gus Atkinson 5/33, Josh Tongue 3/57) vs England.

# Tharun Mannepalli Upsets Top Seed at Macau Open

At the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament, Indian shuttler Tharun Mannepalli stunned the top seed Lee Cheuk Yiu in a thrilling one-hour match on Thursday. The 23-year-old, known for his powerful game and newly improved agility, came from behind to win 19-21, 21-14, 22-20, marking the biggest victory of his career so far.



Tharun's journey has been marked by perseverance and steady improvement. Starting badminton at age eight in Khammam, he later moved to Hyderabad to train and study, eventually joining the prestigious Pullula Gopichand Academy four years ago. Tharun credits his recent breakthrough to better coaching, sponsorship from OGQ, and focused training on becoming leaner and faster.

"This is my biggest win," said Tharun. "At 23, it's not too late. I didn't always have sponsors to play internationally, but now things have changed, and I am getting more

chances to compete and improve." His coach Guru Sai Dutt highlighted the

hard work behind this success. "Tharun had to change his body type and improve his agility, which took consistent effort over the last two years. He has also enhanced his shot-making, moving from a power-dependent style to a more tactical game," Guru said.

Against Lee, a top-15 player, Tharun started strong with a 7-1 lead in the first game, showcasing his powerful smashes and solid defense. Although Lee recovered to take the first set, Tharun found his rhythm and adapted his game to win the next two sets. His physical strength combined with improved court coverage proved decisive in the tight final set.

Tharun's win not only secures his place in the Macau Open semifinals but also signals his rising presence on the international badminton circuit. Next, he faces reigning junior World Champion Hu Zhe An from China in a match that promises another exciting challenge.

# Zverev Marks 500th ATP Win with Comeback in Toronto



Top-seeded Alexander Zverev reached a significant milestone on Thursday, clinching his 500th ATP match win at the Toronto Masters. The German star battled back from a first-set loss to defeat Matteo Arnaldi 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-2 and secure a spot in the fourth round of the US Open warm-up tournament.

Zverev, who has won 24 ATP titles so far, broke Arnaldi twice in the deciding set to close out the match in just over two hours. Reflecting on the achievement, Zverev said, "It's a great achievement. Not a lot of players reach this milestone. But I still want 500 more — maybe even more."

The 27-year-old admitted that his game improved as the match progressed. "I started playing better from the baseline and found my rhythm a bit. My backhand felt off but I was comfortable and happy with my level," he added. Zverev will next face Francisco Cerundolo, who defeated Tomas Echeverry 6-3, 6-4.

In other action, American Alex Michelsen upset third seed Lorenzo Musetti 3-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 to reach the Masters 1000 fourth round for the first time. Despite nearly 50 unforced errors and limited break conversions, Michelsen said, "I returned really well today. I played offensive tennis and executed really well." Michelsen will face fellow American Learner Tien, who beat Reilly Opelka 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

Fifth seed Holger Rune advanced with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Alexandre Muller. Meanwhile, eighth seed Casper Ruud overcame a slow start to beat Nuno Borges 7-5, 6-4, earning his 20th win of the season. Ruud will next meet 11th seed Karen Khachanov, who edged past Emilio Nava 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-1.

Ruud and Khachanov last met during the 2022 US Open semifinals, won by Ruud.

The tournament continues to showcase fierce competition as players gear up for the US Open.

# Khalid Jamil Named India Men's Football Head Coach

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Khalid Jamil as the head coach of India's Senior Men's Football Team, following a thorough evaluation of shortlisted candidates. The decision was made during the AIFF Executive Committee's virtual meeting on Friday, with a strong recommendation from the Technical Committee.

The meeting was attended by AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey, Vice President NA Haris, Treasurer Kipa Ajay, along with esteemed former coaches Bimal Ghosh and Armando Colaco, and football veteran Shabbir Ali. AIFF Technical Director Syed Sabir Pasha and National Teams Director Subrata Paul presented a SWOT analysis of the three shortlisted coaches: Khalid Jamil, Stephen Constantine, and Štefan Tarkovič.

Veteran coaches Colaco and Ali emphasized the importance of giving Indian coaches a fair chance to lead the national team, recalling their own early coaching careers without national experience. This sentiment was echoed by Technical Committee Chairperson IM Vijayan, who highlighted India's improved FIFA rankings under Indian coaches like



Sukhwinder Singh and Syed Nayeemuddin. Vijayan strongly endorsed Khalid Jamil, noting Jamil's recent back-to-back AIFF Men's Coach of the Year awards in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Executive Committee largely supported the Technical Committee's recommendation. Vice President Haris, along with members Pinky Bompal Magar, Thongam Tababi Devi, Climax Lawrence, and others, agreed that promoting an Indian coach would benefit Indian football. While some members supported former coach Stephen Constantine, the majority favored Jamil, especially given India's upcoming fixtures.

The AIFF highlighted that India's participation in the CAFA Nations Cup 2025 later this month, followed by crucial AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers against Singapore in October, requires steady leadership. Jamil's familiarity with the team and proven coaching record made him the preferred choice for these important challenges.

Khalid Jamil's appointment marks a significant step towards empowering Indian coaches at the highest level of the national game.

# Messi To Play Cricket in India

Argentine football legend Lionel Messi is all set to visit India for a promotional tour from December 13 to 15. This marks his second visit to the country after his 2011 appearance. During the three-day trip, Messi will engage with fans in Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata. A major highlight of the visit is a proposed cricket match at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on December 14, where Messi is expected to play alongside Indian cricket legends like Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma, and Virat Kohli. Sources from the Mumbai Cricket Association confirmed that an agency has approached them to book the venue. An official announcement is expected once the final schedule is confirmed.



In Kolkata, Messi will conduct a special football workshop for children. Additionally, reports suggest that a 'GOAT Cup' match is being planned in his honour at Eden Gardens. However, the excitement around his December tour has raised doubts about an earlier announced friendly match featuring the Argentina team in Kerala, originally scheduled for October or November.





# ‘Bhagavant Kesari’ wins Best Telugu Film

## 71st National Film Awards Announced

The central government has officially announced the winners of the 71st National Film Awards, celebrating excellence in Indian cinema. The Hindi film ‘12th Fail’ has bagged the prestigious award for Best National Film, while the Best Actor award has been shared by Shah Rukh Khan for ‘Jawan’ and Vikrant Massey for ‘12th Fail’. Rani Mukerji has been honored as Best Actress for her powerful performance in ‘Mrs. Chatterjee vs. Norway’. In the Telugu category, ‘Bhagavant Kesari’, directed by Anil Ravipudi and starring Nandamuri Balakrishna, has been chosen as the Best Telugu Film. The recognition highlights the film’s strong narrative and impactful performances. In other language categories, ‘Kandilu’ has won the Best Kannada Film, ‘Parking’ has been awarded Best Tamil Film, and ‘Kathal’ received the honor of Best Hindi Film. The high-octane

Telugu superhero film ‘Hanuman’ secured the award for Best Action Direction and Visual Effects, showcasing technical excellence. A Telugu song also made a mark at the national level. The emotionally resonant folk track ‘Uru Palleturu’ from the movie ‘Balagam’ was selected as the Best Film Song, with Kasarla Shyam receiving recognition for his heartfelt lyrics. Music director GV Prakash Kumar won the Best Music Direction award for his work in ‘Vaathi’ (Tamil), while Harshavardhan Rameshwar bagged the Best Background Score for ‘Animal’ (Hindi). Telugu film ‘Baby’ received two major accolades. Sai Rajesh was awarded Best Screenplay Writer, and PVNS Rohit received the Best Male Playback Singer award for his soulful rendering in the film.

The awards were announced in both feature and



non-feature categories, with films across Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Assamese, Odia, and English receiving honors. The jury recognized newcomers, child artists, and experimental films along with com-

mercial hits, showcasing the diversity and creative richness of Indian cinema. These honors not only acknowledge individual brilliance but also underline regional cinema’s growing influence on the national stage.

### List of National Awards

#### Feature Film Category

**Best National Film:** 12th Fail (Hindi)

**Best Actor:** Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan, Hindi), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail, Hindi)

**Best Actress:** Rani Mukherjee (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway, Hindi)

**Best Supporting Actor:** Vijay Raghavan (Pookalam, Malayalam), Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar (Parking, Tamil)

**Best Supporting Actress:** Urvashi (Ulluku, Malayalam), Janaki Bodiwala (Vash, Gujarati)

**Best Director:** Sudeepto Sen (The Kerala Story, Hindi)

**Best Telugu Film:** Bhagavanth Kesari

**Best Tamil Film:** Parking

**Best Film Critics Award:** Utpal Dutta (Assamese)

**Best Music Direction:** G.V. Prakash Kumar (Vaathi, Tamil)

**Best Background Music:** Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal, Hindi)

**Best Makeup:** Srikanth Desai (Sam Bahadur, Hindi)

**Best Costume Design:** Sam Bahadur (Hindi)

**Best Production Design:** Mohandas (2018 – Everyone Is a Hero, Malayalam)

**Best Editing:** Midhun Murali (Pookkalam, Malayalam)

**Best Sound Design:** Sachin Sudhakaran, Hari Haran Murali Dharan (Animal, Hindi)

**Best Screenplay (Original):** Sai Rajesh Neelam (Baby, Telugu), Ramkumar Balakrishnan (Parking, Tamil)

**Best Dialogues:** Deepak Kingrani (Sirf Ek Banda Kafi Hai, Hindi)

**Best Cinematography:** Pasantanu Mohapatro (The Kerala Story, Hindi)

**Best Playback Singer (Female):** Shilpa Rao (Jawan – Cheliya, Hindi)

**Best Playback Singer (Male):** P.V. Rohit (Baby, Telugu)

**Best Child Artist:** Sukritiveni (Gandhitata Chettu), Kabir Khandari, Trisha Thosar, Srinivas Pokale, Bhargav Jagdeep (Gypsy, Naal 2, Marathi)

**Best Animation/Visual Effects Film:** Hanuman (Telugu)

**Best Children’s Film:** Naal (Marathi)

**Best National Integration / Social Values Film:** Sam Bahadur (Hindi)

**Best Popular Film:** Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani (Hindi)

**Best Debut Director:** Ashish Bende (Atmapamplet, Marathi)

### Non-Feature Film Category

**Best Non-Feature Film:** Flowering Man (Hindi)

**Best Script:** Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know (Kannada)

**Best Voice Over:** The Sacred Jack – Exploring the Trees of Wishes (English)

**Best Music Direction:** The First Film (Hindi)

**Best Editing:** Moving Focus (English)

**Best Sound Design:** Dundagiri Ke Phool (Hindi)

**Best Cinematography:** Little Wings (Tamil)

**Best Direction:** The First Film (Hindi)

**Best Arts/Culture Film:** Timeless Tamil Nadu (English)

**Best Biographical Film:** Maa Bau, Maa Gaon (Odia), Lentino Ovo: A Light on the Eastern Horizon (English)

**Best Debut Director:** Maw: The Spirit Dreams of Chera (Mizo)

**Special Mention Films:** Nakal: Chronicle of Paddy Man (Malayalam), The Sea and Seven Villages (Odia)

## Mahavatar Narasimha A True Blockbuster

The devotional animation film Mahavatar Narasimha is rewriting box office history as it emerges as a true blockbuster. Jointly produced by Kleem Productions, Homale Films, and Geetha Films, the film has struck a deep chord with audiences across India, grossing an impressive ₹53 crore within a short span of its release.



The film’s strong performance is further underscored by the massive audience turnout, with over 1.5 million tickets sold via BookMyShow alone. This level of engagement highlights the unprecedented popularity of an Indian animated feature and reaffirms the rising potential of animated cinema in the country.

Directed by Ashwin Kumar and produced by Shilpaa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai, Mahavatar Narasimha is the first installment in the ambitious Mahavatar Cinematic Universe (MCU), which draws inspiration from the Dashavatara—ten divine incarnations of Lord Vishnu. The film brings to life the powerful story of Lord Narasimha in a visually captivating manner, blending mythological storytelling with high-quality animation.

What makes the success of Mahavatar Narasimha even more remarkable is that it comes at a time when animated films in India have historically struggled to make a significant mark at the box office. By surpassing expectations and setting new benchmarks for animated devotional cinema, the film paves the way for future projects under the MCU banner.

The film’s combination of spiritual themes, striking visuals, and high production value has created a unique cinematic experience, resonating with both young viewers and family audiences.

With glowing word-of-mouth and sustained momentum at the box office, Mahavatar Narasimha continues to dominate screens and has solidified its place as one of India’s most successful animated ventures to date.

## Raashi Khanna Sets Fire in Gold Glam

Actress Raashi Khanna is setting the internet ablaze with her glamorous behind-the-scenes look from her upcoming romantic drama Telusu Kada, co-starring Siddu Jonnalagadda. With the release of the first single, “Mallika Gandha,” fans have been treated to a sneak peek of the film’s vibrant aesthetics and Raashi’s stunning transformation.

In the BTS photos shared on social media, Raashi stuns in a shimmering golden off-shoulder gown featuring a daring thigh-high slit. Her effortlessly styled loose curls, radiant makeup, and bold red lipstick perfectly complement the dress, creating a visually captivating moment. The visuals are already making waves among fans, building excitement for the film’s theatrical release.

One particular image, showing Raashi posing amidst chandeliers and on-set commotion, came with a poetic caption: “In between chandeliers and chaos, we found the rhythm.” The caption, paired with her striking look, has fueled fan speculation about the film’s tone—expected to be a mix of glamour, emotion, and melody.

Telusu Kada, directed by Neeraja Kona, is scheduled to hit theatres on October 17, 2025, and is already one of the most talked-about upcoming Telugu releases. The music, visuals, and Raashi’s new avatar have generated significant pre-release buzz.

Adding to the anticipation, Raashi Khanna is also starring in Ustaad Bhagat Singh alongside Powerstar Pawan Kalyan. With both films lined up, the actress is clearly on a roll, and fans are eager to witness her diverse performances.

From graceful elegance to powerful screen presence, Raashi Khanna continues to prove her star power. With “Mallika Gandha” making a stylish entry, Telusu Kada looks set to charm audiences this festive season.

