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Water Isn't Scarce, Poor Management Is the Problem: Gadkari

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has asserted that there is no water scarcity in India, but poor water management is the real issue. Speaking at a program in Mangalagiri after laying foundation stones and inaugurating national highway projects worth ₹5,233 crore in Andhra Pradesh, he highlighted the role of infrastructure in national progress. “Water, electricity, transport, and communication are the four key pillars of development. If we focus on roads, ports, and shipping, the country will grow faster. Our aim should be to transform India into a pollution-free, energy-efficient economy,” Gadkari stated. Gadkari emphasized the potential of alternative fuels and green energy. “Farmers are now producing electricity and ethanol. In the near future, even aircraft will be powered by fuel made by farmers. The widespread use of ethanol, methanol, CNG, and biodiesel is underway. Electric vehicle production is

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PM Releases 20<sup>th</sup> Tranche of PM-Kisan Funds  
₹20,500 cr credited to 9.7 cr farmers across India

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday released the 20th installment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, providing a major boost to farmers across the country. During a program held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister transferred ₹20,500 crore directly into the bank accounts of around 9.7 crore eligible farmers by pressing a button.

The PM-Kisan scheme is aimed at easing the financial burden of crop investment for farmers by offering annual income support of ₹6,000. This amount is distributed in three equal installments of ₹2,000 every four months, deposited directly into farmers' bank accounts. This latest tranche offers crucial support ahead of the upcoming agricultural season, helping farmers meet input costs such as seeds, fertilizers, and equipment.

The 19th installment of the scheme was released in February this year from Bhagalpur, Bihar, where ₹22,000 crore was disbursed to approximately 9.8 crore farmers. According to official data, over 11 crore farmers across the country have received more than ₹3.46 lakh crore through the scheme since its inception, making it one of the largest direct benefit transfer (DBT) programs for the agricultural sector in India.



Liquor Scam: Secret Cash Den Video Surfaces

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A major twist has emerged in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) uncovering crucial video evidence that could significantly impact the investigation. The SIT, which recently seized ₹11 crore in cash from Hyderabad, has now obtained a video that allegedly shows cash being secretly stored for pre-election distribution. The video, retrieved from the WhatsApp account of Venkatesh Naidu—a known associate of Chevireddy—reportedly shows him handling bundles of currency notes and preparing to stack them inside cardboard boxes in a hidden location. This visual evidence has become central to the probe, as it directly links key individuals to the illicit cash flow involved in the liquor scam. SIT officials believe that this hidden stash was being readied for political distribution ahead of the elections. The emergence of the video could be a significant breakthrough in exposing the network behind the liquor scam, which has already led to large cash recoveries and political ripples. So far, Chevireddy has publicly denied any involvement in the liquor trade or associated illegal activities. However, the SIT suspects that the latest evidence may point to deeper ties. Sources indicate that Venkatesh Naidu's digital trail and the seized video clip clearly show preparations for large-scale monetary transactions, undermining the claims of innocence. The investigation is expected to intensify further, with more digital evidence being analyzed. Officials are also focusing on whether this was an isolated incident or part of a wider political funding mechanism tied to the liquor network.



AP Is the Platform for India's Growth: Dy CM

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan stated that Andhra Pradesh has become the foundation for India's development, thanks to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, CM Chandrababu Naidu, and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Participating in a major infrastructure event where national highways worth ₹5,000 crore were launched and inaugurated, Pawan emphasized that roads and transport infrastructure are essential indicators of a country's growth. “Former PM Vajpayee launched the Golden Quadrilateral with foresight, and the roads built under his vision have powered India's growth. Today, under the NDA regime, highway construction speed has tripled. In Andhra Pradesh alone, we have laid foundation stones for 29 projects worth ₹5,000 crore,” Pawan said. He credited both the Centre and the state for ensuring that roads are now reaching long-neglected tribal regions. “Under the initiative ‘Adivasi Thalli Bata,’ we are building roads in areas untouched for 78 years. The government has stepped in to eliminate tribal hardships in hill and forest regions,” he said, underlining the social equity component of the infrastructure push. Pawan contrasted the current government with the previous YSRCP regime. “If they started with demolitions, we began

struction speed has tripled. In Andhra Pradesh alone, we have laid foundation stones for 29 projects worth ₹5,000 crore,” Pawan said. He credited both the Centre and the state for ensuring that roads are now reaching long-neglected tribal regions. “Under the initiative ‘Adivasi Thalli Bata,’ we are building roads in areas untouched for 78 years. The government has stepped in to eliminate tribal hardships in hill and forest regions,” he said, underlining the social equity component of the infrastructure push. Pawan contrasted the current government with the previous YSRCP regime. “If they started with demolitions, we began

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CM Launches Annadatta Sukhibhava Scheme



TPN Correspondent | Prakasam

In a major step toward fulfilling a key election promise, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu formally launched the ‘Annadatta Sukhibhava - PM Kisan’ scheme. The launch event was held in Veeraiyapalem village of Darsi mandal, Prakasam district, marking a significant moment in the coalition government's efforts to support the farming community. As part of the launch, the first installment of ₹7,000 was deposited directly into the bank accounts of 46.85 lakh farmers across the state. The Chief Minister explained that ₹5,000 came from the state government and ₹2,000 from the central government under the PM Kisan scheme. This initial installment amounts to a total benefit of ₹3,175 crore for farmers, with the state contributing ₹2,343 crore.

Speaking at the event, Naidu expressed deep satisfaction at launching the scheme in the midst of the farming community. “I see joy in the eyes of our farmers. Despite challenges, it gives me immense satisfaction that our Super Six promises are being implemented. Farmers are the backbone of this country, and their well-being is our top priority,” he said. Highlighting the government's commitment to transforming agriculture, Naidu said that modern technology would be integrated into the sector to ensure higher profits for farmers. He also announced that a special study will be conducted to identify profitable crops for different regions. Apart from direct financial aid, Naidu outlined additional support initiatives. These include enhanced

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AP Making Rapid Progress: Rammohan Naidu

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## Water Isn't Scarce, Poor...

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rising fast, and lithium battery costs are dropping. Vehicles running on 100% ethanol should become a reality soon,” he said.

He announced that infrastructure projects worth ₹1 lakh crore would be launched in the current financial year. “We’ve already laid roads using paddy straw in places like Nagpur and Jabalpur,” he added. On Andhra Pradesh’s development, Gadkari praised CM Chandrababu Naidu’s leadership. “We have always heard about Chandrababu’s vision. He is a rare leader who constantly plans for the future. The state is progressing well under his leadership,” he said.

Addressing the issue of inter-state water disputes, Gadkari said, “Thousands of TMCs of water flow into the sea from the Godavari. The problem isn’t the lack of water; it’s the poor management. That’s what leads to disputes among states. Water management reform is essential if agriculture is to thrive.”

He stressed the importance of enhancing the agricultural sector’s contribution to GDP. “Currently, agriculture contributes 12% to India’s GDP. Our target is to raise that to 22%,” Gadkari concluded.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, along with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, inaugurated two new national highways — Madanapalle–Pileru and Kurnool–Mandlem — worth ₹5,233 crore in Mangalagiri. These roads are expected to improve transport, benefit farmers, and boost trade and industry by ensuring faster goods movement. After the inauguration, officials reviewed ongoing and upcoming national highway projects, discussing challenges and solutions. The improved connectivity will enhance economic activity and support the state’s progress. The meeting underscored the government’s commitment to strengthening infrastructure and placing Andhra Pradesh on a path of sustainable development.

Two New National Highways in AP

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, along with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, inaugurated two new national highways — Madanapalle–Pileru and Kurnool–Mandlem — worth ₹5,233 crore in Mangalagiri. These roads are expected to improve transport, benefit farmers, and boost trade and industry by ensuring faster goods movement. After the inauguration, officials reviewed ongoing and upcoming national highway projects, discussing challenges and solutions. The improved connectivity will enhance economic activity and support the state’s progress. The meeting underscored the government’s commitment to strengthening infrastructure and placing Andhra Pradesh on a path of sustainable development.

## CM Launches Annadatta...

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subsidies for drip irrigation, a subsidized electricity rate of ₹1.50 per unit for aqua farmers, and infrastructure support. He also reiterated the upcoming launch of free bus travel for women from August 15 and free distribution of three gas cylinders annually under the revamped Deepam scheme. To ensure transparency and assist farmers, the government has set up a dedicated portal and a toll-free number (155251) for any queries related to the scheme. This launch marks a crucial milestone in the coalition government’s agricultural roadmap, reinforcing its pledge to empower farmers and make agriculture a sustainable and profitable livelihood.

## AP Making Rapid Progress: Rammohan Naidu

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Union Minister of State Rammohan Naidu stated that Andhra Pradesh is making steady progress in development with the support of both the state and central governments. Speaking at a major event in Mangalagiri where Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation and inaugurated national highway projects worth nearly ₹5,000 crore, Rammohan described the day as auspicious for the state. The event was also attended by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and other dignitaries.

He praised the coalition government for keeping its promise to farmers by launching key initiatives and simultaneously beginning infrastructure works. He said, “We are fulfilling what couldn’t be done in the past, thanks to the leadership of



Prime Minister Modi, CM Chandrababu Naidu, and Pawan Kalyan. The state is witnessing development across all sectors.” Rammohan highlighted the contribution of Nitin Gadkari, saying, “He took the road budget to ₹3 lakh crore and is responsible for constructing 30 km of highways every day across the country.” He also pointed out the Centre’s continued support for major projects like Polavaram and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. “The Visakhapat-

nam Railway Zone is progressing rapidly,” he added.

He cautioned the public to be aware of leaders who risk the future of the state and urged people to appreciate the value of sustained development. “If you hand over a healthy tree to a butcher, he will cut it down. Leaders who care about the future will nurture it,” he said metaphorically.

Rammohan also introduced the concept of “P-4,” referring to Gadkari and CM Chandrababu as positive, proactive, practical, and peaceful leaders. “Those who go to Gadkari leave with a smile,” he said. Reflecting on Gadkari’s achievements, he noted, “In 2014, India had only 74 airports. Today, we have 162.”

He concluded that infrastructure, especially roads, is the backbone of development and said that 28 major road projects have been launched across the state, all of which will be completed on schedule.

### CM to Launch Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Amaravati



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will lay the foundation stone for the Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Amaravati on August 13. Actor and MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna, who is also the Chairman of the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, visited the proposed site on Saturday to oversee the arrangements for the groundbreaking ceremony. He was accompanied by close associates Gandhi and Sidhanti Nagamalleswara Rao. During the visit, the hospital’s architectural and development plans were explained to CRDA Additional Commissioner Praveen Balakrishna. Balakrishna informed that the state-of-the-art cancer hospital will be developed over 21 acres and constructed in three phases. The project aims to bring advanced cancer treatment and care closer to people in the capital region of Andhra Pradesh. Balakrishna also expressed happiness over his film Bhagavanth Kesari, which focuses on women empowerment, receiving a National Award. He stated that all his future films will carry meaningful social messages.

Speaking about his political commitment, Balakrishna said that significant development activities have been initiated in the Hindupur constituency. He highlighted the launch of various industrial projects and the construction of inter-state highways to improve connectivity and boost economic growth in the region. The upcoming Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Amaravati is expected to serve as a major health infrastructure landmark and provide much-needed specialized treatment for cancer patients across the state.

### Centre Ready to Support State Progress: Srinivasa Varma



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, emphasized that government officials should work efficiently and with dedication toward the development of the state. He made these remarks on Saturday at the Zilla Parishad General Body meeting of the undivided West Godavari district, held under the chairmanship of ZP Chairperson Ganta Padmashri at the local ZP conference hall. Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister said the Central Government has been allocating thousands of crores for the state’s development and added that local body representatives should be accorded due respect. He assured that the Centre is ready to extend any necessary support and encouraged district-level officials to proactively contribute to local progress. He further stated that just as Parliament sessions are crucial, ZP meetings are equally vital for resolving people’s issues. He committed to regularly attending such meetings in the future.

The Minister also expressed satisfaction that the first installment of the “Annadatta Sukhibhava” scheme—₹7,000 from both state and central contributions—was successfully credited to farmers’ accounts. Speaking at the meeting, Rajya Sabha MP Paka Satyanarayana highlighted the significance of completing the Polavaram project and addressing issues surrounding the Kolleru region. He stated that the Central and State governments are working sincerely on both issues.

### Tirumala Hundi Hits ₹130 Cr in July



TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

In a significant show of devotion, the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Tirumala recorded hundi offerings worth ₹129.48 crore in July 2025. This marks one of the highest monthly revenues in recent times, with only July 2023 surpassing it at ₹139.45 crore. Compared to last year’s ₹125 crore in July, the growth underscores continued faith and generous offerings by devotees.

The month saw an average daily hundi income of ₹3.5 to ₹4 crore, with several days crossing ₹4 crore. Notably, July’s collection surpassed even the summer peak months of April and May, indicating strong year-round devotee footfall. Over 23.63 lakh devotees visited the temple during July, contributing cash, gold, and other offerings as part of their vows and religious commitments. Pilgrims from across India and abroad flocked to Tirumala to seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara, reaffirming its status as one of the most visited and revered pilgrimage sites in the world.

TTD officials attribute this surge to increased post-pandemic pilgrim movement, improved amenities, and the spiritual significance of darshan during the auspicious month. With the temple attracting lakhs of pilgrims each month, officials expect similar or higher contributions during upcoming festival months like September and October. The sustained high revenue not only reflects spiritual fervor but also aids in the maintenance and development of temple infrastructure, free meal schemes, and various devotional and welfare services provided by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

## AP Is the...

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by filling potholes in every village and constructing new roads. A strong coalition government is needed for at least the next 15 years to ensure uninterrupted progress,” he said. Calling for internal unity within the NDA alliance, Pawan urged leaders to overcome minor differences for the greater good. “Let us crush every conspiracy aimed at dividing us. Everyone must become a stakeholder in development,” he stated. Pawan also stressed that infrastructure is the core instrument for achieving the goals of Vikas Bharat-2047. “Gadkari is the Highway Man of India. With the combined vision of Modi, Chandrababu, and Gadkari, India and Andhra Pradesh are advancing in every sector,” he concluded.

## Two more arrested in Srishti Fertility Case

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant development in the ongoing investigation into the Srishti Fertility Center surrogacy scam, Hyderabad police have taken two more accused into custody. The arrested individuals include A3 Kalyani, the manager of the Srishti Center in Visakhapatnam, and A6 Dhanasri Santoshi from Assam. Both were taken into custody following a 5-day custody order granted by the Secunderabad Civil Court. The police have shifted the accused to the Uttara Mandal DCP office for interrogation. Prior to this, both were subjected to medical examinations at Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad.



The case has exposed shocking illegalities under the guise of surrogacy. Investigations revealed that the Srishti Fertility Center had been defrauding numerous couples by falsely promising them surrogate children.

With the help of agents, the accused reportedly bought infants from women in Assam and handed them over to unsuspecting couples, claiming them to be surrogate-born. Further, in blatant violation of laws, the center was found to be collecting sperm and egg cells and selling them in other states without proper medical or legal clearance. The case has sparked widespread concern over illegal surrogacy practices and human trafficking under the cover of fertility treatments. Police are expected to interrogate the newly arrested individuals in depth to unravel the full extent of the network. More arrests are likely as the investigation progresses.

## Jagan Doesn't Know Difference Between Kg and Ton

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha came down heavily on former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he spoke to tobacco farmers without understanding the difference between a kilogram and a ton. She sarcastically remarked that he should instead speak to mango farmers and take credit for crushing mangoes.

Speaking at the launch of the first installment of funds under the ‘Annadatta Sukhibhava-PM Kisan’ scheme at the Gajapatinagaram Agricultural Market Yard on Saturday, Minister Anitha warned against politicizing farmers’ issues. She accused YSRCP leaders of deliberately obstructing agricultural development for political

mileage. She expressed concern that programs initiated by the coalition government to support farmer families were being hindered by YSRCP members. Highlighting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s commitment to agriculture, she stated that the government is actively addressing issues related to land re-surveys and streamlining farmer support.

Minister Anitha also encouraged farmers to adopt modern technologies and participate in natural farming practices. Prior to the program, she visited the paddy fields in Puritipenta village near Gajapatinagaram railway station and joined local farmers in sowing seeds, showcasing the government’s direct involvement with farming communities.



## Central Schemes Reach Grassroots: NDA



TPN Correspondent | Dharmavaram

The PM Kisan first installment fund disbursement event was conducted on a grand scale at the Dharmavaram Market Yard under the banner “Annadata Sukhibhava”. The program was organized locally on the directives of Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav. As part of the nationwide implementation of the PM Kisan scheme under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, lakhs of farmers are receiving direct financial assistance from the Central Government. In this context, the local disbursement program witnessed participation from Janasena State General Secretary Chila-ka Madhusudhana Reddy, Market Yard Chairperson Arunakumari, Vice Chairman Ayyappa, and Dharmavaram constituency in-charge Harish Babu. Coalition leaders from BJP, TDP, and Janasena attended the event and watched the live telecast of the Prime Minister’s address. They explained to the attendees how the Central Government is supporting farmers through various welfare schemes. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders emphasized that farmers are the backbone of the nation, and every decision taken by the Modi Government is aimed at securing their future. They said the coalition is committed to ensuring effective implementation of PM Kisan and other central schemes in Andhra Pradesh. Officials present at the event included Tahsildar Suresh, Agriculture Officer Mustafa, EORD Venkatesh, and Market Yard Directors Sake Obulesu, Raghavareddy, and Azad. BJP Town President Jinka Chandrasekhar, Rural President Gotluru Chandra, Janasena Town President Shyam Addagiri Shyam, Nabeerasaul, and Pothukunta Raju were among the many participants.

# Farmer Welfare Is Our Primary Agenda: Minister

TPN Correspondent | East Godavari

In a move aimed at supporting the farming community, the Andhra Pradesh government distributed ₹7,000 cheques to beneficiaries under the first phase of the PM-Kisan and Annadata Sukhibhava schemes. The event was held at Kovvur Literacy Club and was attended by Water Resources Minister and district in-charge Nimmla Ramanaidu, who served as the chief guest. Speaking at the event, NDA leaders emphasized their commitment to farmer welfare, contrasting it with the previous administration. Senior leader Muppidi Venkateswara Rao stated that, as promised by the NDA, farmers will receive ₹20,000 per acre in three installments, with the first phase of ₹7,000 being disbursed now. He criticized the previous YSRCP-led government, claiming



it failed to support farmers adequately. “The NDA government is functioning as a true farmer’s government,” Rao said. “We have cleared all the arrears left behind by the previous regime.” He also added that in the past, only ₹6,000 was provided by the Central Government, but now, an additional ₹14,000 is being added by the State, ensuring that farmers receive better assistance. In the Kovvur constituency alone,

₹10.29 crore is being distributed to farmers under the current scheme. Since coming to power, the NDA government has cleared ₹16,000 crore in pending dues across the state and is prioritizing farmer welfare as part of its core governance agenda. The administration affirmed its ongoing commitment to transparency and timely delivery of benefits to the agricultural sector.

## Minister Orders Stern Action in Ragging Case

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In response to a recent ragging incident at Kurnool Government Medical College, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has taken serious note and ordered strict measures to prevent such occurrences in the future. The Minister held a phone conversation with college principal Dr. Chitti Narsamma to gather detailed information about the incident. He emphasized that ragging should be completely eradicated from educational institutions and directed officials to implement strong deterrent measures that instill fear among potential of-

fenders. According to reports, the incident involved senior students allegedly demanding monetary contributions from juniors for upcoming Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations. Concerned over this coercion, parents of some junior students filed complaints with the college administration. Minister Yadav instructed Principal Dr. Narsamma to immediately submit a detailed report from the college’s Anti-Ragging Committee. He also ordered the formation of a high-level internal inquiry and warned that those found guilty of ragging would face severe disciplinary and legal action.

Dr. Narsamma, who had already summoned the hostel warden and other faculty members, reiterated that any act of ragging would be dealt with harshly and that such behaviour would not be tolerated under any circumstances. The Anti-Ragging Committee has swung into action and is currently investigating the allegations. Minister Yadav’s firm stance has brought relief to concerned students and parents alike. Officials stated that the government is committed to providing a safe and respectful academic environment for all students, and any form of harassment or intimidation will be strictly dealt with.

## ₹108 Cr Aid Released to Bapatla Farmers



TPN Correspondent | Bapatla

The Andhra Pradesh government officially launched the Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kisan 2025-26 investment assistance scheme in Repalle on Saturday. The inaugural event, held at the Repalle Market Yard, was attended by Housing and I&PR Minister and Bapatla district in-charge Kolusu Parthasarathy, Revenue and Stamps Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, Bapatla MP T.G. Krishna Prasad, and District Collector J. Venkata Murali. Minister Parthasarathy said that agriculture is the backbone of the state and emphasized the government’s commitment to improving farmer livelihoods. Under this scheme, farmers will receive ₹20,000 annually in three phases. The first installment of ₹7,000 — combining ₹2,000 from PM Kisan and ₹5,000 from the state — has already been deposited in the accounts of over 1.6 lakh farmers in Bapatla district, totaling ₹108.47 crore. Statewide, 46.85 lakh farmers will benefit from a total disbursement of ₹2,342 crore. Parthasarathy noted that the government has spent ₹70,000 crore on irrigation and drainage repairs to ensure water availability and has introduced 90% subsidies on agricultural drones in every mandal. Minister Anagani Satya Prasad assured new land title passbooks would be issued soon and encouraged all farmers to avail themselves of the scheme. MP Krishna Prasad highlighted that tenant farmers and ROFR beneficiaries are also eligible. Collector Murali called it a true festival for farmers, confirming that the funds have been credited and that no urea shortages were reported. He said the government is fully supporting farmers from seed to sale and has arranged timely procurement and storage facilities, including support for tobacco and black barley purchases.

## TG Bharat Calls for Urban Development



TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

In a strong call for non-political collaboration, Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Food Processing TG Bharat urged all stakeholders to work together for the holistic development of Kurnool city. Addressing a municipal general body meeting on Saturday at the SBI Employees Colony, chaired by Mayor B.Y. Ramayya, the minister stressed that urban development should transcend political boundaries. Panyam MLA Gouri Charitha Reddy and Municipal Commissioner P. Vishwanath were also present at the meeting. The body discussed 31 agenda items and gave the green signal for development works amounting to ₹29.58 crore. Among the issues discussed was the disruption in water supply caused by pipeline leakages in Santosh Nagar. Minister Bharat assured that the government is committed to resolving such long-pending civic concerns at the earliest. He appealed to all elected representatives, regardless of party affiliations, to cooperate and speed up developmental activities. “We must act beyond politics to bring comprehensive development to Kurnool,” he asserted. Despite the important deliberations, the meeting had to be adjourned due to unavoidable circumstances. The remaining discussions are expected to continue at a later date.

## Government Focus on Village Infrastructure: Chadalavada



TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

In a significant move aimed at rural infrastructure development, MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravinda Babu laid the foundation stone for a new cement concrete (CC) road at Peddha Turakapalem village in Narasaraopet mandal on Saturday. The road construction is being funded under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), a key government initiative to promote rural employment and development. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Aravinda Babu emphasized that the government is making optimal use of NREGS funds to enhance living standards in rural areas. He said the newly sanctioned CC road would ensure improved transportation facilities for the residents of Peddha Turakapalem and help them in day-to-day commuting, especially during the monsoon season. He further stated that developing basic

infrastructure like roads is essential for improving overall connectivity and socio-economic progress in villages. “Better roads not only help in transportation but also boost local businesses and access to education and healthcare,” the MLA noted. Aravinda Babu reiterated the commitment of the coalition government to rural welfare, adding that such development works would be continued in a phased manner across the constituency. The program was attended by local Panchayat representatives, NREGS officials, alliance leaders, and villagers. Residents expressed happiness over the launch of the road project and thanked the government for addressing long-pending infrastructural needs. This initiative is seen as a step toward bridging the urban-rural development gap and bringing tangible improvements to remote habitations through decentralized planning and execution.

## ₹40K Promised, Only ₹5K Given: YSRCP

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

YSR Congress Party leaders launched a scathing attack on the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, accusing it of fostering a corrupt and anti-farmer regime. At a core committee meeting held at the party’s district office in Kadapa on Saturday, YSRCP district president P. Ravindranath Reddy and other senior leaders criticized the ruling alliance for failing to fulfill pre-election promises and systematically dismantling welfare schemes initiated by the previous government. Ravindranath Reddy alleged that the government is suppressing the opposition and intimidating its leaders with fabricated cases whenever they raise concerns. He stated that many essential schemes, especially for farmers, were either halted or only partially implemented. “The coalition regime has done nothing for the public in the last 15 months. Farmers are not receiving fertilizers on time. Only TDP-recommended dealers are being supplied, and the rest are resorting to black marketing,” he said. He further slammed the restrictions placed on Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s public events and accused the state of threatening citizens who voluntarily wish to participate. “Is this democracy or dictatorship?” he questioned. Adding to the criticism, former MLA Rachamalla Siva Prasad Reddy accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of betraying farmers with the newly rebranded Annadata Sukhibhava scheme. “Naidu promised ₹40,000 in support over two years. But only ₹5,000 has been disbursed so far. What happened to the ₹20,000 per year he promised?” he asked. He noted that the previous YSRCP government supported 53 lakh farmers annually under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, while the present government has slashed the number to 46 lakh. He also criticized the discontinuation of free crop insurance and timely disaster compensation, pointing out that under YSRCP, relief was given within 30 days. Calling the situation a betrayal of the farming community, Siva Prasad Reddy demanded clarity on support for excluded farmers and restoration of essential benefits. “If this is the promised welfare, it’s leading farmers back to the streets—and, tragically, to suicide,” he warned.



# Amaravati Emerging as Tech and Knowledge Capital: Governor

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer said Amaravati is evolving as a technology-driven, knowledge-based city that embodies innovation, digital governance, and smart infrastructure. He made these remarks while addressing the 13th Convocation of Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology & Research, a deemed-to-be university located at Vadlamudi in Guntur district, on Saturday.



Highlighting the government's

vision, the Governor stated that Amaravati is being reimagined not just as an administrative capital but also as a symbol of progress, aiming to become a 'People's Capital' and a 'Tech & Knowledge City'. He emphasized its focus on sustainability, citizen-centric digital services, and smart living standards. Governor Nazeer also spoke about the state's ambitious "Quantum Valley" project,

which is expected to turn Andhra Pradesh into a global hub for quantum technology. With a defined roadmap and strategic collaborations, the initiative aims to elevate the state's economic stature and position India prominently in the quantum tech landscape. As part of the convocation ceremony, the Governor distributed degrees, gold medals, and merit certificates to graduating students. He congratulated

ed them and encouraged their contribution to national development. The event saw participation from dignitaries including Chancellor Dr. Lavu Rathaiah, Vice Chancellor Col. Prof. P. Nagabhushan, MP Lavu Sri Krishnadevarayulu, and industry leaders like Chintalapati Srinivasa Raju, Ashok Atluri, and Dr. Komanduri Ramachary. Guests were later felicitated with shawls and mementos.

## Journalists Should Work With Responsibility: Alapati



TPN Correspondent | Tenali

Emphasizing the vital role journalists play in society, MLC Alapati Rajendra Prasad stated that both journalists and politicians must undergo regular orientation programs to stay grounded in democratic values and social responsibility. He was speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day orientation workshop for rural journalists held at Tenali Ramakrishna Kavi Kalakshetram in Tenali on Saturday. The event was organized by the Andhra Pradesh C.R. Media Academy in collaboration with the Andhra

Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ), Tenali Constituency branch. Speaking as the chief guest, Alapati said that the four pillars of democracy—legislature, executive, judiciary, and journalism—must function collectively like organs of the human body for a healthy society. He urged journalists to treat safeguarding society as their prime responsibility and work with dedication. He also acknowledged legendary journalists like Narla, Suravaram, and Krishna Rao whose service to the field remains memorable.

He criticized the perception that certain media houses function in alignment with ruling powers and praised those still committed to objective journalism. He stressed that journalists hold the power to influence societal direction and should work with skill and discipline. Chairman of the CR Media Academy, Alapati Suresh Kumar, who presided over the session, expressed concern over the declining respect for journalists. He attributed this to reduced ethical standards and quality in journalism. "Journalists must remain lifelong learners and stay updated with evolving technologies," he advised. "News should be rooted in public interest," he said, adding that rural journalists require specific training and hence orientation classes are being conducted across all districts. The event featured addresses by APUWJ President I.V. Subba Rao, District President S.N. Meera, Dr. Babu R. Vadlamudi (VGK and VVL Foundation), Double Horse CMD Munagala Mohana Shyam Prasad, and others.

## Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme Achieves 99.98% Success

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Annadata Sukhibhava-PM-Kisan scheme, launched on Saturday by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Veerayapalem village, Prakasam District, has achieved a remarkable 99.98% success rate in disbursing funds to 44.75 lakh farmers' accounts, as announced by Director of Agriculture, Sri Dilli Rao. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) initiative, supported by high-quality farmer data, was lauded by the Chief Minister's Office for its efficiency. Approximately 1 lakh farmers' transfers were withheld due to the Model Code of Conduct in certain regions, as mandated by the State Election Commission, and another 1 lakh accounts were inactive or unmapped in the NPCI system. Only 1,067 accounts failed to receive funds. Rao clarified that inactive or unmapped accounts are not rejected, and funds will be credited once issues are resolved. A Grievance Module will be activated from August 3 to address rejected beneficiaries' concerns. Rejections stemmed from reasons like deceased applicants, incorrect Aadhaar mapping, disputed land

ownership, non-agricultural land use, and ineligibility (e.g., government employees earning above ₹20,000/month, income tax payers, or duplicate beneficiaries). eKYC-pending cases will be processed post-verification. Initial data verification used WEBLAND data up to May 2, with grievance redressal extended for cases mapped until July 15. Farmers actively participated, watching the launch via Village Rythu Seva Kendras and district-level venues. Field officers were directed to provide clear, compassionate responses to farmers' queries at Rythu Seva Kendras, ensuring awareness and support for the scheme's beneficiaries.



## VIT-AP Celebrates 8<sup>th</sup> University Day

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

VIT-AP University marked its 8th University Day with great enthusiasm, celebrating its academic progress and commitment to innovation. The event, held at the Amaravati campus, was graced by Chief Guest Kona Sasidhar, Secretary, Higher Education Department, Andhra Pradesh, and Guest of Honour Mr. Thirunavukkarasu Palaniappan, Group Head - Nextgen Talent, Wipro Limited, Chennai.

The ceremony began with the unveiling of the University's Annual Report by Kona Sasidhar, Mr. Thirunavukkarasu, Dr. G. Viswanathan (Founder and Chancellor of VIT), and Sankar Viswanathan (Vice President, VIT). The report highlighted milestones in academics, research, and institutional growth.

In his address, Kona Sasidhar urged students to embrace self-discipline, ethics, and adaptability. Mr. Thirunavukkarasu praised the university's rapid growth to a 19,000-strong student community and emphasized bridging academia with industry.

Dr. G. Viswanathan reaffirmed VIT-AP's vision to host 50,000 students and contribute to the national goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' through quality higher education. He stressed the need for increased educational investment in India.

Vice Chancellor Dr. S.V. Kota Reddy detailed achievements and upcoming initiatives. Over 790 awards were presented to students, faculty, and researchers for academic and extracurricular excellence.

The presence of top university officials, including Registrar Dr. Jagdish Chandra Mudiganti and Deputy Director Dr. Khadeer Pasha, along with the enthusiastic participation of faculty and students, made the event a grand success.



## Mahesh Babu, Andhra Hospitals Organise Health Camp



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Superstar G. Mahesh Babu, in collaboration with Andhra Hospitals, organized a school health clinic at Burrupalem, his adopted village, on July 20, 2025, marking his daughter Sitara's birthday.

The initiative, part of an ongoing effort to improve rural healthcare, focused on promoting health awareness among school children. The camp was held for students of Gattamaneni Nagaratnamma Primary and Secondary School.

A dedicated team from Andhra Hospitals including Dr. Syed Mudassir, Dr. Bhuganesh, Dr. Pavani, and supporting nurses participated in the clinic. They examined a total of 148 students, addressed medical concerns, assessed nutritional needs, and provided necessary medications. Alongside health checkups, the team conducted awareness sessions on seasonal diseases such as viral fevers, dengue, gastroenteritis, malaria, and typhoid. Children, parents, and teachers were guided on preventive healthcare, hygiene practices, signs of serious illness, and the significance of a balanced diet. Dr. P. V. Rama Rao from Andhra Hospitals stated that this was the 44th health camp held in Burrupalem, with the larger goal

of transforming it into a "Model Health Village" in Andhra Pradesh. He lauded Mahesh Babu's consistent support and commitment to community development. An important aspect of the event was the administration of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine to 60 children aged between 9 and 14 years. This second dose aims to prevent cervical cancer in the future. The health camp not only provided much-needed medical attention but also reinforced the importance of sustained healthcare efforts in rural areas. Burrupalem continues to benefit from Mahesh Babu's philanthropic engagement and the dedicated service of Andhra Hospitals.

## Kalyan Krishna Honoured with Talent Icon Award 2025

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Subhasree Creations, in association with the Film and Television Promotion Council of India, presented the prestigious Talent Icon Award - 2025 to Karam Kalyan Krishna Kumar, Principal Correspondent of The New Indian Express, Vijayawada. The award ceremony took place on Saturday at Trendset Mall, Vijayawada, in recognition of his excellence and contribution to journalism.

Renowned film actress Madhumita Gupta graced the occasion as the special guest, adding glamour and inspiration to the event. The organizers congratulated Kalyan Krishna Kumar for his dedication and achievements in the media field. The event marked a celebration of journalistic talent and the vital role of the press in today's society.



## Gadkari Offers Prayers at Kanaka Durga Temple

PIN POINT

Gadkari Offers Prayers at Kanaka Durga Temple Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, accompanied by Health Minister Satya Kumar, Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, and MP Ramesh Naidu, visited Sri Kanaka Durga Amma-vari temple in Vijayawada. They offered prayers for the health, peace, and prosperity

of the people of India and Andhra Pradesh. Emphasizing the cultural significance of seeking divine blessings, the leaders marked the visit as a symbolic start for positive governance. "May Kanaka Durgamma bless our people with strength and peace," said Gadkari.

## ABV: Were Projects for People or Contractors?

Former IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao raised concern over delayed water projects in Andhra Pradesh, especially Rayalaseema. He criticized the political misuse of AP-Telangana water disputes and questioned the intent behind decades-old incomplete projects. Rao announced field visits and a roundtable with experts and farmers' leaders to assess progress. Rythu Seva Samiti's Bhavaniprasad and expert Lakshminarayana stressed the need for an action plan, with joint inspections set from August 4 to 6.



# Dharmavaram Gears Up for National Handloom Day

TPN Correspondent | Dharmavaram

Preparations are in full swing in Dharmavaram for the grand celebration of National Handloom Day on August 7. The main event is scheduled to take place at Kadiri Gate, where Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav will attend as the chief guest. Ahead of the minister's visit, constituency in-charge Harish Babu, along with Handloom Assistant Director Ramakrishna, inspected the event venue and reviewed arrangements. Harish Babu conducted a detailed meeting with officials regarding security measures, stage setup, guest reception, and overall management of the program. Local BJP leaders and officials from the Handlooms Department are working actively to ensure the event's success. Harish Babu said the Handloom Day celebration will serve as a platform to express solidarity with the weaver community and raise aware-

ness about the various welfare schemes being implemented by the government for their benefit. He emphasized that in today's economic scenario, the handloom profession remains a crucial source of livelihood for many families, especially in Dharmavaram, which is renowned for its weaving tradition. Several prominent figures participated in the preparatory meeting, including A.D. Ramakrishna, handloom development leaders Sheena Nayak, Subba Naidu, CDE Shiva Govardhan, BJP district general secretary Obulesh, town president Chandra, Akuletti Veerananarappa, Pothukunta Raju, Juturu Venkatesh, Somla Nayak, Narappa, Ravi, and Kondamida Rayudu. The event is expected to highlight the cultural and economic importance of the handloom sector, showcasing the region's rich weaving heritage and the government's commitment to uplift the weaver community.



# Depot Relocation Triggers Protest

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Demanding the protection of their livelihoods, workers from the Etcherla IMFL depot staged a unique protest by wearing garlands made of empty alcohol sachets. The demonstration, led by CITU district president C.H. Ammannayudu, urged the Andhra Pradesh government to revoke its recent order to shift the depot operations to Tekkali mandal. Ammannayudu said the state government had acquired four acres of land from Dalit families in Etcherla village near the national highway, promising employment in



return. Since then, around 80 workers, mostly from Dalit and poor backgrounds, have been dependent on daily wages through loading and unloading duties at the existing depot. He criticized the July 8 order for establishing a new IMFL depot in Tekkali's Thirlangi village using a rented private

godown, which would impose unnecessary financial burdens on the state through rent and additional staffing. He stressed that splitting the existing depot was unnecessary, especially when the government already owns a functioning facility in Etcherla. The protestors demanded the

government cancel the transfer orders, retain the Etcherla depot in its current form, and ensure the protection of workers' incomes. Ammannayudu appealed to Agriculture Minister K. Achchennaaidu to prioritize completing pending irrigation projects and supporting farmers instead of actions that threaten the livelihoods of the land-giving Dalit workers. Leaders including T. Rama Rao, M. Suresh, Bonela Ramu, Lingala Ramu, G. Gurumurthy, P. Rama Rao, L. Seetharam, Muddada Raju, and K.V. Ramana participated in the protest.

# DYFI Leads Anti-Drug Rally



TPN Correspondent | Nellore Under the slogan "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Health", the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) organized a massive rally in Nellore on Saturday, emphasizing the

urgent need to fight drug abuse and raise youth awareness. The rally, organized by the DYFI Nellore Rural Committee, began at Ayyappa Temple Center and proceeded to Vedayapalem, drawing sig-

nificant public attention.

The rally was inaugurated by Vedayapalem CI Srinivasa Rao, while the opening meeting was chaired by former DYFI leader Katta Satish. DYFI All India President and Member of Parliament A.A. Rahim, along with DYFI State Secretary G. Ramanna, led the rally and addressed the gathering. Rahim expressed deep concern over rising unemployment and the increasing use of drugs and ganja in Andhra Pradesh. He emphasized that these two issues are interconnected and called on the youth to actively resist the growing drug menace. He accused successive governments of treating the drug issue superficially, focusing more on publicity than gen-

uine action. He pointed out that even a peaceful city like Nellore has been affected by gang culture and drug-related violence. Remembering past DYFI leaders like Mansoor, Chalapathi, and Chenchayya, Rahim urged the youth to follow their sacrifice and legacy. He also alleged that some selfish political leaders are pushing youth into addiction for personal gain. DYFI, he said, is already conducting awareness campaigns, group meetings, and counseling sessions across the state to combat the crisis. At the end of the rally, participants pledged to build a drug-free society. DYFI leaders reaffirmed their commitment to shaping patriotic and responsible youth for a better future.

# Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Visits Tirumala

TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari visited the sacred hill shrine of Tirumala on Saturday. He arrived at Tirumala on Friday night and stayed at Gayatri Nilayam. Early Saturday morning, the minister, accompanied by his family, participated in the VIP opening and closing darshan of Lord Venkateswara. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Additional Executive Officer Venkaiah Chowdhury welcomed the Union Minister and ensured all necessary arrangements for a smooth and respectful darshan. Gadkari entered the sanctum and offered his prayers to the Lord. After completing the darshan, he proceeded to the Ranganayakula Mandapam, where temple scholars offered him blessings and presented the sacred Tirtha



Prasad. The visit was part of Gadkari's spiritual itinerary, and he expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to seek divine blessings at one of the most revered temples in the country.

# 35 Drones Sanctioned to Farmers: Collector

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

The Andhra Pradesh government has extended strong support to farmers under the Annadata Sukhibhava - PM Kisan scheme, benefiting 2,73,452 eligible farmers across Kurnool district with a total assistance of ₹183 crore. District Collector P. Ranjit Basha shared these details while participating in the release of the first installment of 2025-26 funds at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Banavasi, Emmiganur mandal, on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said each farmer family will receive ₹20,000 in three phases under the scheme. In the first phase, ₹7,000 has already been credited to farmers' bank accounts. He noted that crops are being cultivated across 2.7 lakh acres in the district, and over 9,264 quintals of seeds



and fertilizers have been distributed so far. The Collector emphasized the continued demand for urea and assured that it is being made available at all Rythu Seva Kendras and PACS. He urged farmers to adopt new technologies and follow the guidance of agri-

culture department officers. He stressed a return to organic fertilizers for better health and sustainability, suggesting reduced use of chemical inputs like urea and a shift toward nano fertilizers. He stated that 1.32 lakh acres have been targeted for nat-

ural farming this year, and currently 52,000 acres are under such cultivation. All benefits like input subsidies and crop insurance are linked to e-KYC through the e-Crop system, which farmers must complete without fail. Highlighting the benefits of drone technology in agriculture, the Collector said 35 drones have been sanctioned to local beneficiaries. These will help reduce investment and generate employment. He also encouraged farmers to focus more on horticulture crops based on market demand. The Collector added that irrigation infrastructure is improving, with the widening of HNSS canal to 3,500 cusecs and the filling of 68 tanks. Water release to Gajuladinne project will also continue this year.

# 145 kg Ganja Seized

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

In a major drug bust, L. Kota police seized 145 kilograms of ganja and arrested two individuals who were smuggling the contraband from Odisha to Kerala. Acting on a tip-off, police conducted vehicle checks at Goljam Junction on Saturday and intercepted a Bolero vehicle (registration number KL 10P 9473) carrying 71 packets of ganja. District SP Vakul Jindal revealed that the accused include Dambu Shiragam alias Krishna (21), a resident of Kudub village in Paduwa mandal, Koraput district of Odisha, and Mohammed Shafiq (36),



from Hossangadi village in Manjevaram mandal, Kasaragod district of Kerala. During the investigation, it was found that the smuggling was orches-

trated by a third accused, Abubakar Siddique, also from Hossangadi village, who had instructed Shafiq to purchase ganja from Krishna in Odisha and transport it to Kerala via

the seized vehicle.

SP Jindal stated that efforts are ongoing to apprehend Abubakar Siddique. The arrested accused were remanded, and police have initiated a financial investigation under the NDPS Act. The possibility of invoking the Preventive Detention (PD) Act is also being considered. The SP commended the efforts of S. Kota Rural CI L. Appala Naidu, L. Kota SI Naveen Padal, and their team for their swift action in seizing the contraband and arresting the culprits. Appreciation certificates were awarded to the team for their exemplary performance.

# State-Level Floorball Tournament Begins

TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

The Andhra Pradesh State-Level Under-14 and Under-19 Floorball Tournament for boys and girls kicked off on Saturday at K-Ridge International School in Narasaraopet. The school's principal, G. Barnabas, announced on Saturday that all necessary arrangements had been made to host the event smoothly. The tournament is seeing participation from approximately 250 athletes representing 16 districts across the state. The opening ceremony will be graced by Rural Circle Inspector Pasupuleti Ramakrishna, who is expected to attend as the chief guest. The principal stated that the event is not only a platform for showcasing talent but also a selection ground for the Andhra

Pradesh state floorball team. Players who perform exceptionally well will be chosen to represent the state in the upcoming National Floorball Championship to be held in Bihar from September 4 to 7. The organizers emphasized that the school has ensured proper accommodation, food, and facilities for all participating players and officials. The tournament aims to encourage young sporting talent and promote floorball as a competitive sport in the region. The program also saw the participation of School Chairman Nathani Venkateswarlu, Director Komatineni Nasarayya, Campus In-Charge Kota Bapuji, and Physical Director M. Kishore Babu, who all expressed their support for promoting sportsmanship and physical education among school children.





# BREAKING SILENCE

## Stigma and Violence Haunt Survivors

In the bustling lanes of Krishna, Guntur, and Prakasam districts, life appears ordinary. Yet, beneath this façade lies a silent crisis endured by thousands of women who have survived human trafficking or remain trapped in commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Their stories rarely make headlines, but they reveal a grim reality of relentless gender-based violence (GBV), deep-rooted stigma, and systemic neglect that continues even after rescue. According to the 2024 NACO PMPSE report, Andhra Pradesh is home to an estimated 1.33 lakh female sex workers, making up 12% of India's total. These women live on the margins of society, navigating a daily battle against abuse, social exclusion, and injustice.

### A Life Marked by Violence

HELP NGO's 2023 study highlights that 65% of women in sex work faced verbal abuse, 12% physical assault, and 9% sexual violence, often at the hands of clients, partners, pimps, and, shockingly, law enforcement officers. Lakshmi (name changed), a traffick-

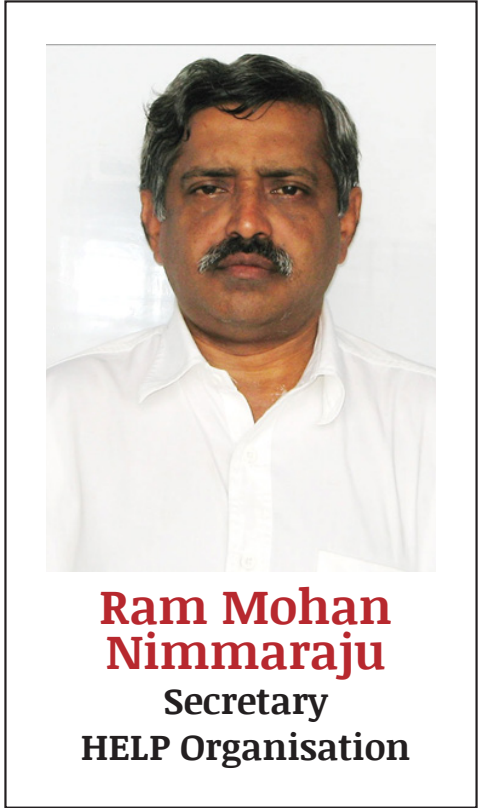
ing survivor from Guntur, recalls the trauma of seeking help: "We are treated as criminals for trying to survive. When we go to the police, instead of protection, we face blame and humiliation."

This fear of authorities pushes the trade further underground. Over 55% of sex work hotspots are now home-based, increasing invisibility and vulnerability to violence.

### The Weight of Stigma

Survivors do not just suffer violence; they endure lifelong stigma. Nearly 88% of women interviewed by HELP faced rejection from their families and communities. Their children are bullied, denied school admissions, and forced into the same cycle of exploitation.

Kavitha (name changed), trafficked at 17, recounts returning home years later: "My parents refused to let me enter the house. They said I brought shame. I had nowhere to go." Such rejection pushes many women into isolation,



with little access to mental health support. Studies reveal that 33% report severe stress, 25% depression, and 26%

mood disorders, yet almost none receive counseling or treatment.

### Justice Denied, Rights Ignored

India's laws, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) and the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA), promise safety and dignity. In reality, less than 1% of rescued survivors in Andhra Pradesh (2019–2023) received victim compensation. Custodial harassment, arbitrary arrests, and bureaucratic hurdles leave women feeling more criminalized than protected. "The system treats us as problems, not people," says Shanti from Prakasam district.

### The Cycle of Exploitation

Economic distress drives most women into sex work. Over 91% enter due to poverty, while 41% have been abandoned by their husbands, leaving them sole providers for their families. More than 64,000 children depend on these women, many facing heightened risks of trafficking themselves. Violence at home, in the community, and from the state forms a triple lay-

er of exploitation, leaving survivors trapped in a cycle that spans generations.

### The Call for Change

Amidst this bleak scenario, a movement for dignity and rights is growing. Survivors and sex worker collectives are demanding decriminalization, rehabilitation, mental health support, fair compensation, and a seat at the policymaking table. Their message is clear: stop treating them as criminals and start recognizing them as rights holders.

Lakshmi sums up their struggle in a single line: "The stigma is worse than the violence. If society sees us as human beings, half our battle will be won."

Breaking this silence is no longer optional, it is essential for gender justice. Unless Andhra Pradesh confronts stigma and systemic neglect head-on, its promise of safety, equality, and dignity for all women will remain painfully out of reach.

## India's digital diplomacy in action



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Trinidad and Tobago has marked a historic leap in digital diplomacy, with Tobago adopting India's flagship digital platforms — Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker. This development positions Tobago as the first Caribbean region to embrace India Stack technologies, reflecting India's growing global influence in digital governance.

During high-level discussions, six MoUs were signed between the two nations covering areas like education, infrastructure, sports, and diplomacy. But the digital partnership stood out. Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar praised the collaboration, calling it a step toward modernising public service delivery.

India Stack tools like Aadhaar will provide a secure digital identity system, while UPI enables real-time payments and DigiLocker allows cloud-based document storage. These platforms aim to boost financial inclusion, improve governance, and reduce administrative red tape in Tobago, mirroring their transformative role in India.

The visit also included a gift from India — a solar rooftop system installed at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs — promoting clean energy use. Additionally, India donated 2,000 laptops to support digital education in secondary schools.

India's move signals the broader internationalisation of its digital ecosystem, opening doors for Indian IT firms and fostering stronger bilateral ties. Modi also extended OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) eligibility to sixth-generation Indian-origin citizens in the Caribbean, reinforcing deep cultural links.

However, challenges such as digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and public readiness remain. With Indian support and local adaptation, Tobago's digital transformation could serve as a model for other small island nations.

This strategic partnership blends technology, diplomacy, and sustainability — setting a precedent for how digital tools can drive inclusive, global development.

## Thackeray Cousins Eye Reunion Amid Shiv Sena Crisis



The political landscape in Maharashtra is witnessing an unexpected twist as estranged cousins Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray hint at a possible reunion. Both leaders, representing rival factions stemming from the iconic Balasaheb Thackeray's legacy, face an existential crisis after the rise of Eknath Shinde's faction as the recognized Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerging as the dominant force in the state.

Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) suffered a major blow in the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections, where it was significantly weakened, while Shinde's faction secured official recognition. Meanwhile, the BJP consolidated power, sidelining traditional regional players. This political setback has pushed the Thackeray cousins to reconsider their differences.

Both Uddhav and Raj have recently issued calls to unite under the banner of resisting Hindi imposition and protecting Marathi culture, language,

and identity. They emphasize the importance of preserving Balasaheb Thackeray's legacy, which has long symbolized Maharashtra's pride and regional assertion.

The potential alliance, if it materializes, would mark a dramatic end to years of rivalry that have fragmented Shiv Sena's voter base. Political analysts view this as a strategic move aimed at reclaiming lost ground and challenging the BJP's growing influence.

Sources close to the family suggest that the cousins are engaged in behind-the-scenes talks, driven by a shared urgency to revitalize Marathi politics and stem the erosion of their traditional support base.

As Maharashtra braces for future elections, the political world watches keenly to see if the Thackeray cousins can set aside personal differences and unite in a do-or-die battle to restore their family's political dominance.

## India vs Boeing: AI Crash Probe Sparks Tensions

Tensions have escalated between India and the United States over the investigation into the June 12 crash of an Air India Boeing 787 in Ahmedabad. The controversy intensified after comments made on July 9 by Bryan Bedford, the newly appointed Administrator of the US Civil Aviation Administration, who questioned the credibility of India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

Observers and aviation analysts in India have called Bedford's remarks baseless and biased, alleging that the US appears to be shielding Boeing from scrutiny. Critics point to a history of corporate collusion and say Boeing is deeply embedded in the US system — spanning federal depart-



ments, intelligence agencies, Wall Street, and global markets — making independent oversight difficult.

The AAIB, operating under India's Ministry of Civil Aviation, is current-

ly leading the probe into the fatal crash that claimed 178 lives. Preliminary findings have reportedly raised questions about Boeing's Dreamliner software and maintenance protocols.

Meanwhile, US officials and media narratives have largely shifted the focus to pilot error and airport infrastructure, drawing sharp reactions from Indian investigators who argue this reflects a strategic deflection from potential manufacturing faults.

Aviation analyst Abhijit Bhattacharyya wrote that this is not the first time Boeing has received protection from systemic failures. He noted previous global controversies, including the 737 MAX crashes, as examples

of how critical questions were sidestepped due to Boeing's political and financial influence.

Indian officials insist the AAIB's investigation will remain independent and evidence-based. "The truth must emerge, no matter where it leads," said a senior aviation ministry official.

As India continues its inquiry, global aviation safety experts and watchdogs are closely watching the proceedings. The case could become a litmus test for international aviation accountability — and whether commercial interests outweigh public safety





## 2 Terrorists Killed In J&K Encounter, Army Says "Op Akhal" Underway

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Two terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, the Army confirmed on Saturday. The operation, named "Operation Akhal," is currently underway in the forested area of Akhal in south Kashmir. The security forces launched a cordon and search operation on Friday following specific intelligence inputs about terrorist presence in the region. The operation escalated into an encounter when the terrorists opened fire on the forces.

The Army's Chinar Corps shared on social media that an intense and intermittent firefight lasted through the night. Troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the cordon, neutralizing one terrorist initially. Later, it was confirmed that a second terrorist was killed and another injured. Senior police official VK Birdi told NDTV that one or two terrorists might still be hiding in the area as the operation continues.

This encounter follows a series of recent counter-terrorism actions in Jammu and Kashmir. Just days ago, security forces killed three terrorists responsible for the deadly April 22 Pahalgam attack during 'Operation Mahadev.' The slain included Sulieman alias Asif, the alleged mastermind of the attack, along with his associates Jibran and Hamza Afghani. The Pahalgam attack claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 targeting terror infrastructure linked to Pakistan following the attack. Additionally, on Thursday, two terrorists who had infiltrated from Pakistan were killed near the Line of Control in Poonch district. Security agencies remain vigilant as they continue to dismantle terror networks operating in the region amid heightened tensions and ongoing counter-insurgency operations.

## EC Releases Draft Voter List For Bihar

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday released the draft voter list for Bihar following a month-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. The Commission has allowed a one-month window, from August 1 to September 1, for citizens to submit claims and objections regarding their inclusion or exclusion in the list. In a statement, the ECI assured that "no name will be removed from the draft voter list without a stated reason." The draft list has been shared with all recognized political parties across Bihar's 38 districts to ensure transparency and thorough review.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasized the importance of this process and informed that physical and digital copies of the draft electoral rolls have been provided to district election officers and political parties. The SIR process saw an impressive participation rate of over 91%, with more than 7.24 crore voters submitting enumeration forms out of 7.89 crore registered voters. The revision exercise aimed to update and verify electoral data, focusing especially on urban voters, first-time young voters, and temporary migrants. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) played a crucial role by visiting residences multiple times to distribute and collect forms.

However, the SIR exercise has revealed about 35 lakh electors who are untraced or have permanently migrated from their registered addresses. The Supreme Court has scheduled hearings in mid-August on pleas challenging the SIR process, with concerns raised about potential mass exclusion of voters.

# Arun Jaitley Threatened me Over Farm Laws: Rahul Gandhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent comments have sparked controversy after he claimed that former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley threatened him during the farm law protests. Gandhi made the statement while addressing the Annual Legal Conclave 2025, alleging that Jaitley warned him of consequences if he continued opposing the now-repealed farm laws.

"I remember when I was fighting the farm laws, Arun Jaitley was sent to threaten me," Gandhi said, recalling the alleged incident. "He told me there would be consequences if I kept protesting. I told him he didn't know who he was talking to."

The remark drew immediate backlash, particularly from Rohan Jaitley, son of the late BJP leader. Rohan, in a detailed social media response, pointed out that his father passed away in August 2019, while the farm laws were introduced in 2020 and enacted in September that year. He strongly rejected the claim and defended his father's legacy, calling him a democrat who encouraged open dialogue, not threats.



"It's not in his nature to threaten anyone. My father died in 2019 — a full year before the farm laws were even drafted," Rohan Jaitley wrote. He also accused Gandhi of repeatedly politicizing the memories of deceased leaders, referring to a past controversy involving Manohar Parrikar. The BJP echoed the rebuttal. Party IT Cell



chief Amit Malviya called Gandhi's comments "fake news," citing the official timeline of the farm laws' introduction. He urged the Congress leader to "stick to facts" and not distort history. The three contentious farm laws, passed in 2020, were withdrawn in late 2021 following year-long farmer protests.



## Kerala Nuns Get Bail In Human Trafficking Case

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A special NIA court in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, on Friday granted conditional bail to two Kerala nuns, Sisters Preethi Merry and Vandana Francis of the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate (ASMI), along with their companion Sukaman Mandavi, a tribal youth. The trio was arrested on July 25 over allegations of human trafficking and forced religious conversion involving three tribal girls.

The nuns and Sukaman were detained at Durg railway station following a complaint by a Bajrang Dal member accusing them of trafficking and attempting to convert the girls. However, their defense lawyer Amrito Das contested the FIR, calling it "absolutely baseless." He highlighted statements from the girls' parents confirming that their daughters had practiced Christianity for years, negating claims of forced conversion. The defense also emphasized that the girls were adults traveling voluntarily for work in Agra, ruling out any trafficking allegations.

Bail was granted under strict conditions including surrendering of passports and furnishing a Rs 50,000 bond each, with two sureties per accused. Earlier, a sessions court in Durg had refused bail citing jurisdiction issues and advised the accused to approach the NIA court in Bilaspur.



## Court Issues Notice To Robert Vadra

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi has issued a notice to businessman Robert Vadra and other accused in a money laundering case linked to a land deal in Shikohpur village, Gurugram, Haryana. The hearing is scheduled for August 28, 2025.

The case arises from an FIR filed by Gurugram Police, alleging that Vadra, through his company Sky Light Hospitality, fraudulently purchased 3.53 acres of land from Onkareshwar Properties Pvt. Ltd. in 2008. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which filed the money laundering charge sheet, alleges that false declarations were made during the transaction and that a commercial license for the land was obtained using Vadra's personal influence.

Special Judge Sushant Changotra issued the notice after hearing submissions from the ED, directing the agency to supply the charge sheet copies to all accused. The ED described the case as a "clear and classic" example of money laundering, involving generation, layering, and enjoyment of proceeds of crime (PoC). According to the ED, the land was purchased for ₹7.5 crore through a cheque that was never encashed, with payments made later to avoid stamp duty. The land was subsequently sold to DLF for a higher price, which is still under investigation.

## Detonate your 'Vote Theft Atom Bomb': Rajnath to Rahul



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to substantiate his claim of having an "atom bomb" of evidence proving vote theft by the Election Commission in favour of the BJP. Speaking at a media house event in Patna, Singh took a dig at Rahul, urging him to "detonate the bomb" if such proof exists, but to ensure he remains out of harm's way.

"Rahul Gandhi says he has an atom bomb. If so, he should explode it. But make sure he's not in the blast radius," said Singh sarcastically, recalling how Rahul once threatened an "earthquake in Parliament" that turned out to be a "damp squib."

Singh defended the integrity of the Election Commission, calling it an institution with an "unquestionable reputation" and said it is fully committed to conducting free and fair elections in Bihar.

"It does not behove the Leader of the Opposition to malign a constitutional body with such frivolous and damaging remarks," he said. Singh also accused the Congress of having "blood on its hands" by imposing the Emergency in 1975 and attempting to "murder democracy."

Praising NDA ally Nitish Kumar, Singh said Bihar's transformation over the past two decades has been remarkable. He noted how "The Economist," which once ridiculed Bihar, now recognises its progress. "The per capita income of the state had fallen to less than 30% of the national average before NDA came to power. Now, with Modi at the Centre and Nitish in Bihar, things have turned around," Singh said.

# Pak Doesn't Sleep When It Hears Brahmos Missile: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded India's indigenous defense capabilities during a public rally in Varanasi, highlighting the success of Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7 to target terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) after the Pahalgam terror attack. Modi praised India's air defense systems, missiles, and drones as proof of a strong and self-reliant "Atmanirbhar Bharat." Speaking about the BrahMos missile, he said in Hindi, "Pakistan does not sleep

when it hears the sound of a BrahMos missile," emphasizing the missile's role in instilling fear among India's adversaries.

He also referred to the newly inaugurated BrahMos Aerospace integration and testing facility in Lucknow, expressing satisfaction that missiles would now be manufactured in Uttar Pradesh. Modi added that these missiles would destroy terrorists if Pakistan attempts any future aggression. The Prime Minister criticized opposition parties Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) for calling Op-



eration Sindoor a "tamasha" (drama). He accused them of sympathizing with terrorists while the nation mourns victims of terror attacks. Modi stated that Congress constantly insults the valor of Indian forces, and mocked SP leaders questioning the timing of counter-terror operations. Modi recalled the Pahalgam attack on April 22, in which 26 civilians lost their lives, expressing sorrow and affirming that his promise to avenge the attack was fulfilled with blessings of Lord Shiva. He highlighted the unity of 140 crore Indians as the true strength behind Operation Sindoor.



# Trump Fires Official Overseeing Jobs Data

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 sur-



plus 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.

## Bangladeshi Model Arrested In Kolkata

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

A Bangladeshi model and airline crew member, Shanta Paul, has been arrested in Kolkata for allegedly residing in India using forged identity documents. She was taken into custody on Tuesday after police recovered fake Aadhaar, PAN, ration, and voter ID cards from her possession.



According to police sources, Shanta entered India legally in 2023 through Barisal using a valid Bangladeshi passport. She later rented a flat in Kolkata using fake Indian documents, allegedly acquired with the help of a local agent. The model claimed she wanted to live independently as her family had disapproved of her marriage to a Muslim man.

Shanta married Shaik Mohammad

Ashraf, a resident of Andhra Pradesh working in the merchant navy, on June 5. Their marriage was registered in the Nadia district near the India-Bangladesh border. Police say she held on to Ashraf's passport and used forged documents to jointly rent multiple properties with him—first in Park Street, and later in Golf Green.

"She forged a range of identity documents including Aadhaar, voter ID, PAN, and a ration card," a police officer told

PTI. These documents showed her year of birth as 1998.

Shanta has had a prominent presence in regional entertainment. She represented Bangladesh in the Indo-Bangla Beauty Pageant in 2016 and won the Miss Asia Global title in 2019. In the past two years, she acted in Tamil and Bengali films, and had recently signed an Odia film.

Following a brief acting stint, she joined a Bangladeshi airline as cabin crew. Investigators are now examining her connections and how she managed to bypass security systems to acquire Indian documents.

Shanta Paul is currently in police custody until August 8 as investigations continue into possible immigration and document forgery offenses.

## Man Slapped By Co-Passenger On IndiGo Flight Goes Missing

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

A disturbing incident aboard IndiGo flight 6E138 from Mumbai to Kolkata has gone viral on social media after a passenger was seen slapping a fellow traveller during the journey. The victim, identified as Hossain Ahmed Mazumdar, reportedly suffered a panic attack shortly before the assault.

According to eyewitnesses and a now-viral video clip, Mazumdar appeared visibly distressed when he was suddenly slapped by another passenger, sparking widespread outrage online. Fellow passengers and crew members immediately intervened, and Mazumdar was provided medical assistance upon landing. However, there are now conflicting reports that he went "missing" after the incident, with family members and authorities reportedly unable to reach him.

The airline issued a formal response on August 1, stating: "We are aware of an incident involving a physical altercation on board one of our flights. Such unruly behaviour is completely unacceptable and we strongly condemn any actions that compromise the safety and dignity of our passengers and crew."

IndiGo further stated that the assailant was handed over to airport security upon arrival in Kolkata and that appropriate action was taken as per airline



protocol. "The safety of our passengers is our highest priority, and we are cooperating fully with the relevant authorities," the statement added.

While the airline has taken swift measures, social media users have continued to express concern over the safety of vulnerable passengers in distress. The incident has reignited debates around the handling of onboard emergencies

and the need for stronger enforcement of passenger conduct rules. Authorities are currently trying to locate Mazumdar to ensure his wellbeing, as the case continues to unfold.

Keywords: IndiGo flight 6E138, passenger slapped, Hossain Ahmed Mazumdar, Mumbai to Kolkata, mid-air assault, viral video, airline response, missing passenger.



## India Refutes Trump on Russian Oil Imports

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Indian oil refiners continue to source crude oil from Russia, contrary to recent claims by U.S. President Donald Trump, according to a report by ANI. Trump had suggested that India was planning to stop buying Russian oil, but sources within the Indian energy sector have firmly refuted the claim.

"India's oil sourcing decisions are driven by economic factors such as price, crude grade, logistics, and inventory levels," a source said. They emphasized that national interest remains the guiding principle behind India's energy strategy.

The report highlighted that Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer, continues to export around 4.5 million barrels per day (mb/d) of crude oil and 2.3 mb/d of refined products. The continued availability of discounted Russian crude has been critical in maintaining market stability.

"Had India not absorbed these discounted barrels, combined with OPEC production cuts of 5.86 mb/d, global oil prices could have surged beyond the March 2022 peak of \$137 per barrel," sources noted. As the world's third-largest energy consumer, with an 85% dependence on crude imports, India's decisions have helped prevent further global inflationary pressure.

While Russian oil has not been sanctioned by the U.S. or EU, it is subject to a G7/EU price cap. Indian oil companies have reportedly adhered to this cap, with recent adjustments setting it at \$47.6 per barrel from September.

Sources stressed that Indian refiners have avoided crude from sanctioned countries like Iran and Venezuela and that all Russian imports have remained within international legal frameworks.

"India has acted as a responsible global energy player, keeping markets liquid and prices stable, while fully complying with international norms," the source concluded.



## Trump Moves Two Nuclear Submarines Near Russia

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a sharp escalation of tensions with Russia, U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Friday that he has ordered two nuclear submarines to be positioned in "appropriate regions" in response to recent remarks by former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

The move comes after Medvedev, now deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, referenced the Cold War-era "Dead Hand" nuclear system in a Telegram post. The "Dead Hand," or Perimeter system, is designed to launch a retaliatory nuclear strike even if Russian leadership is incapacitated. Medvedev's post appeared to mock Trump's earlier criticism of India and Russia's economies, and warned of the system's potential.

Reacting on his social media platform, Trump said, "Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences. I hope this will not be one of those instances." He called Medvedev's statements "foolish and inflammatory," adding, "I have ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case."

Trump also took aim at Medvedev personally, calling him a "failed former President of Russia" and accusing him of behaving as though he were still in power. He reiterated his stance that the U.S. and Russia should maintain minimal economic ties.

Earlier this week, Trump issued a dramatic ultimatum, warning Russia it has "10 days" to agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine or face severe tariffs, particularly on oil exports—a reduction from his previous 50-day deadline. Moscow has shown no intention of complying. Medvedev, a longtime Kremlin insider, has become increasingly vocal with anti-Western rhetoric since the Ukraine invasion in 2022. While often dismissed by critics as erratic, some Western diplomats say his statements reflect deeper Kremlin thinking.



# Gold Prices Dip Slightly This Week



Gold prices witnessed a slight drop this week, influenced by global economic signals, particularly the US Federal Reserve's firm stance on maintaining high interest rates. This has put pressure on gold, traditionally seen as a safe haven during uncertain times, leading to a temporary dip in demand. As per the India Bullion and Jewelers Association, the price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold opened at ₹98,446 on Monday, climbed to ₹99,017 by Wednesday, but fell back to ₹98,534 by the weekend. The fluctuation is attributed to both global cues and domestic currency movements, with the Indian rupee weakening slightly against the US dollar. "Gold prices in the international COMEX market have dropped due to the US Fed's position, and this has led to a ₹350 fall in our MCX market, where gold is now trading around ₹97,700," said Jatin Trivedi, a senior analyst at LKP Securities. He added that investors are also awaiting key

economic data from the US, adding to the cautious sentiment. Meanwhile, a report by DSP Mutual Funds highlighted that gold has reached a new inflation-adjusted peak in 2024, surpassing its 1980 record. However, silver still lags behind its 2011 highs, suggesting a potential opportunity for diversification. The report also noted that the weakening global confidence in the US dollar as a reserve currency, due to increasing trade and fiscal deficits, may drive more central banks to hold gold. If just 5% of the world's estimated \$12.5 trillion in foreign exchange reserves are moved into gold, analysts believe it could trigger a strong and sustained rally in prices. Despite short-term fluctuations, experts remain optimistic about the long-term outlook for gold, advising investors to stay informed and cautious amid global uncertainties.

# RBI Likely to Cut Repo Rate by 25 bps in August

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points in its upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in August, according to a report by SBI Research. The move is seen as an effort to support economic growth amid softening inflation and ongoing global uncertainties.



SBI Research emphasized that the RBI should act promptly to capitalize on the current policy window rather than delay, warning against a "Type II error" where the central bank might mistakenly assume low inflation is temporary and miss the opportunity to stimulate the economy. The report highlighted that inflation is likely to remain subdued, with the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series—weighted more towards e-commerce and less towards food—projected to stay below 4% in FY27.

The research also pointed out the importance of frontloading the rate cut to boost credit growth ahead of the early festive season, which traditionally drives consumer spending. Empirical data suggests that credit demand surges when the festival season arrives early, especially if accompanied by a rate cut. This timing could

potentially create an "early Diwali" effect, benefiting economic momentum in FY26.

In addition to inflation, SBI Research took into account tariff uncertainties and better-than-expected GDP growth forecasts for FY27, all favoring an early easing of monetary policy.

The report reiterated that central banks must balance two core objectives: maintaining price stability and supporting growth. Delaying policy action amid persistent low inflation could deepen the economic slowdown.

With the August MPC meeting approaching, all eyes are on the RBI's decision, which could mark a significant step in reinforcing India's economic recovery.

# Tesla Shares Dip After \$243M Verdict in Autopilot Crash Lawsuit

A Florida jury has ordered Tesla to pay \$243 million in damages related to a fatal 2019 crash involving its Autopilot system, marking a significant legal setback for the electric vehicle giant. The verdict, delivered on August 1, 2025, could lead to more lawsuits against Tesla over its driver-assistance technology.

The case stems from a crash in Miami where George McGee, driving a 2019 Tesla Model S equipped with Autopilot, collided with a parked Chevrolet Tahoe. The victims, Naibel Benavides Leon and her boyfriend Dillon Angulo, were standing beside the vehicle. Benavides Leon was trag-

ically killed, and Angulo sustained serious injuries. Jurors assigned 33% liability to Tesla, amounting to \$42.6 million of the compensatory damages. The driver, McGee, was found 67% responsible but is not liable to pay damages since he was not a defendant. The jury awarded \$129 million in compensatory damages plus \$200 million in punitive damages to the victims' estate and Angulo.

Plaintiffs' lawyer Brett Schreiber criticized Tesla for designing Autopilot for controlled highways but allowing its use elsewhere, alongside CEO Elon Musk's claims that Autopilot

outperforms human drivers. Tesla said it will appeal, calling the verdict "wrong" and warning it could hinder automotive safety innovation. Tesla shares dropped 1.8% following the announcement and are down 25% this year. Experts say this is the first trial verdict holding Tesla accountable in a fatal Autopilot-related crash, potentially encouraging further legal challenges and costly settlements.

The verdict also threatens Tesla's ambitions in autonomous driving and robotaxi services, which are key to the company's future growth as vehicle sales slow. Tesla main-



tains the driver's sole responsibility and says no vehicle at the time—or now—could have prevented the accident.

This ruling highlights ongoing concerns about the safety and regulation of semi-autonomous vehicle technology.

# Indian Fuel Exports Exempt from US Tariffs, No Russian Penalty Yet

India's exports of petroleum products like diesel and jet fuel to the United States remain exempt from the 25% tariff announced by former US President Donald Trump. Despite earlier threats to impose tariffs and penalties over India's energy and defense ties with Russia, the current executive order excludes fuel exports from the levy, allowing business to continue as usual.



Trump had announced plans to impose a 25% tariff on Indian goods citing concerns over India's energy imports from Russia and its defense relationship with Moscow. However, the order signed excludes key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, and petroleum products—including crude oil, LNG, and refined fuels. Moreover, no penalties related to India's trade with Russia have yet been specified.

Official data shows India exported 4.86 million tonnes of petroleum products worth over \$4 billion to the US in fiscal year 2024-25, with Reliance Industries Ltd being the largest exporter.

India's reliance on Russian crude surged after the Russia-Ukraine war began in February 2022. Russian oil, discounted due to Western sanctions, became India's top crude supplier,

reaching up to 40% of India's imports at its peak. This shift has drawn US scrutiny, with Trump's administration threatening tariffs and penalties.

Despite concerns, analysts see the tariff exemption on fuel as a relief for Indian exporters and refiners. The absence of an explicit penalty on Russian trade also offers some breathing room for India's energy sector, though the situation remains uncertain.

India continues to balance its growing energy needs with complex geopolitical pressures as global sanctions and price caps on Russian oil evolve, while maintaining strong export ties with the US.

# India's Sugar Output to Jump 18% to 34.9 Million Tonnes in 2025-26

India's sugar production is projected to increase by 18% to 34.9 million tonnes in the 2025-26 season, up from 26.1 million tonnes in the current year, according to the Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA). The increase is attributed to better yields and expanded cane acreage, particularly in key sugar-producing states.

Releasing the first preliminary estimate, ISMA President Gautam Goel said the upcoming season, which begins in October, may also allow for exports of up to 2 million tonnes. This comes after only 1 million tonnes were approved for export in the 2024-25 season.

"Production is expected to be higher with an upward bias, and there is scope for exports," Goel told reporters, noting the improved outlook thanks to a good monsoon and expanded cultivation.

A significant 5 million tonnes of sugar are expected to be diverted toward ethanol production, up from 3.5 million tonnes in the current season. The diversion is part of India's broader biofuel policy and energy diversification strategy.

The ISMA chief added that the industry would soon seek timely approvals from the government for the proposed 2 million tonne sugar export quota, along with an increase in the mini-



mum selling price of sugar and ethanol pricing from B molasses and cane juice.

State-wise, sugar output in 2025-26 is estimated at 13.26 million tonnes in Maharashtra, 10.25 million tonnes in Uttar Pradesh, and 6.61 million tonnes in Karnataka — the top three producing states.

Sugarcane availability is also expected to rise significantly to 13.26 million tonnes due to favorable monsoon conditions and increased sowing.

The positive forecast, if realised, could stabilise domestic supply, support ethanol blending goals, and open up new export opportunities.



# Peru Sandstorm Halts Travel, Stuns Tourists

A rare and powerful sandstorm swept through southern Peru on Thursday, turning the skies a dramatic orange and bringing major disruptions to transportation and tourism. The phenomenon, driven by intensified winds from a South Pacific anticyclone, primarily impacted the Ica region, around 400 km south of Lima.

According to Peru’s national weather service, wind gusts in Ica reached up to 50 km/h, forcing traffic to halt on key highways and stopping tourism activities for nearly three hours. Viral videos shared on social media showed thick clouds of sand engulfing cities and blanketing roads, leaving locals and tourists stunned by the sudden and unusual event.

The storm’s impact extended beyond Ica, affecting the regions of Arequipa, Moquegua, and Tacna, with wind speeds up to 32 km/h. Even in Lima, the capital, falling trees were reported due to similar weather conditions.

“This event was caused by the South Pacific anticyclone, which has intensified and moved closer to the continent,” explained Rosario Julca, a meteorologist with the



national weather service. “This brought strong surface downdrafts, and when combined with desert terrain, it led to a massive dust uprising.”

An anticyclone, Julca noted, is a clockwise circulation in the Pacific that, when near the South American coast, increases wind speeds drastically.

The weather agency has warned that high wind speeds—ranging from moderate to

strong intensity—will likely persist along the Peruvian coast through Sunday. Local authorities, under the National Emergency Operations Center, are currently assessing the full extent of the damage caused by the sandstorm.

This rare meteorological event has not only stunned residents and visitors but also raised concerns about the increasing unpredictability of weather patterns in the region.

# Live Again? Freeze for ₹2 Cr, Live Later?

A German startup, Tomorrow Bio, is offering an ambitious and futuristic service—cryopreservation of human bodies—for ₹1.74 crore (\$200,000), with the hope that science may one day make it possible to revive the dead.

The company specializes in full-body cryopreservation, where the body is cooled to extremely low temperatures immediately after legal death to prevent cellular damage and decay. With a 24/7 emergency standby team, they ensure the process begins within minutes of death, which is crucial for preserving neural structures.

Founded by former cancer researcher Emil Kendziorra, Tomorrow Bio claims to have already cryopreserved three to



four individuals and five pets. Nearly 700 people have registered for the service, motivated by the possibility of extending life if future medicine makes revival feasible.

Europe’s first cryonics facility, the company is also planning

to expand to the US by the end of 2025. However, experts remain skeptical. As of now, no human or animal has ever been revived after cryopreservation.

Clive Coen, professor of neuroscience at King’s College

London, dismisses the idea as “preposterous,” citing the lack of evidence that complex brain structures can be restored. He warns that revival, even if possible, could result in severe brain damage.

The process requires extreme precision. “Once you go below zero degrees, you don’t want to freeze the body; you want to cryopreserve it,” Kendziorra explains. Improper freezing could cause ice crystals to form, destroying tissues.

Despite scientific criticism and unproven outcomes, Tomorrow Bio continues to draw interest from those seeking a second chance at life—banking on the belief that the future of medicine could one day undo death itself.

# ‘Duckies’ Help Ducks Cross Road in UK Town



In the quaint town of Thirsk, North Yorkshire, a group of volunteers known as the “Duckies” has taken on a charming and vital role—helping ducks cross the road safely every evening.

The initiative began after four ducks were tragically killed during their daily migration from a nearby river to their nighttime resting spot. Moved by the loss, local resident Jodie Wood, 41, started a Facebook page to organize volunteers. Today, the effort has blossomed into a beloved community routine, with residents donning high-visibility jackets and placing cones to guide around 20 ducks across the road each night.

“No one really knows why the ducks make this journey,” said one volunteer, though it’s speculated they’re avoiding river predators. Still, the mystery has only added to the local fascination and enthusiasm.

Emma-Jayne Hutchings, 48, one of the volunteers, described the experience as heartwarming: “You know when they’re leaving—the quacking begins like a call to arms, and then they march in two battalions.”

The “Duckies” have been embraced by the community, with local businesses pitching in. The Mowbray Arms pub offers tea and coffee to volunteers, while others donate duck food and safety gear. The initiative has also become a global sensation, with support and admiration pouring in from countries including Canada, Australia, France, and Italy.

Despite occasional challenges—such as late-night revellers interfering—the volunteers remain committed. “It’s been a wonderful way to build community and protect the ducks,” said Hutchings.

With their simple yet meaningful act of kindness, Thirsk’s “Duckies” have not only saved duck lives but also strengthened community bonds and inspired people around the world.

# 515-Mile Megaflash Sets Lightning World Record

A massive lightning bolt that struck in 2017 has officially set a world record for the longest lightning flash ever recorded, stretching an astonishing 515 miles (829 kilometers) across the skies from Texas to Missouri. This rare “megaflash” has now dethroned the previous record of a 477-mile bolt documented in 2020.



Scientists confirmed the new record using archived satellite data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s GOES-16 satellite. This satellite is equipped with advanced lightning mappers that track over a million lightning events daily. The data analysis revealed that this megaflash traveled continuously across several states, far exceeding the average lightning bolt’s length of just 10 miles.

“We call it megaflash lightning and we’re just figuring out the mechanics of how and why it occurs,” said Professor Randy Cerveny of Arizona State University, who contributed to the research. Megaflash lightning typically spans over 62 miles and is generated from less than one percent of thunderstorms—usually those that churn for 14 hours or more.

Until recently, lightning measurements relied on ground-based radio networks. The introduction of geostationary satellites has revolutionized the way lightning is tracked. Michael Peterson of the Georgia Tech Research Institute emphasized that “adding continuous measurements from geostationary orbit was a major advance.”

These megaflashes remain extremely rare, but scientists believe that even longer lightning bolts may exist. With improved satellite monitoring and data processing, more record-breaking lightning events could be identified in the future.

As Cerveny noted, “Those conditions aren’t very rare, and as our lightning mapping satellites continue collecting data, we may find megaflashes even larger in the years to come.”

# World’s Longest Bridge-Tunnel

Traveling is more than just reaching a destination—sometimes, the journey itself is the most unforgettable part. Among the world’s most breathtaking highways, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel in Virginia, USA, stands out as a true engineering marvel and scenic wonder.

Stretching 28 kilometers (17.6 miles) from shore to shore, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel connects Virginia Beach on the mainland to the Eastern Shore. What makes this route unique is its combination of low trestle bridges and underwater tunnels, offering drivers a surreal experience of cruising both above and below open waters.

Opened in 1964, the bridge-tunnel system was declared one of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World. With a direct crossing time of around 25 minutes, this two-lane highway is not just a transportation route but a destination in itself. The structure includes long stretches of bridges interrupted by two undersea tunnels, which were designed to allow large ships to pass over the highway safely.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel provides panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and



is a favorite among road trip enthusiasts. It’s also a popular choice for photographers and travelers seeking that perfect mix of adventure and serenity.

As part of a larger list of the world’s most beautiful highways, this iconic American roadway reminds travelers that joy can be found not only in arriving somewhere new, but in the journey that takes you there. From cutting through mountains to stretching over vast oceans, these highways inspire wanderlust, encourage exploration, and offer stunning perspectives on the world’s natural beauty.

Whether you’re a road trip veteran or a curious traveler planning your next adventure, highways like the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel prove that sometimes, the road itself is the highlight.



## Jasprit Bumrah To Miss Asia Cup?

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah may skip the upcoming Asia Cup 2025 to focus on the longer format, particularly the upcoming Test series against the West Indies, according to sources close to the BCCI.

Bumrah was officially released from the Indian squad ahead of the fifth and final Test against England after completing his quota of three matches. The 31-year-old pacer impressed with two five-wicket hauls—at Headingley and Lord's—finishing with 14 wickets in the series. However, he endured a tough outing in Manchester, conceding over 100 runs in a single innings for the first time in his Test career.

Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar had earlier confirmed that Bumrah would not play more than three Tests against England to manage his workload. With the Asia Cup T20 tournament set to end on September 29 and the West Indies Test series beginning just three days later in Ahmedabad, Bumrah's participation in the Asia Cup now appears unlikely.

A BCCI source told PTI, "If Bumrah plays the Asia Cup and India reaches the final, he won't be able to feature in the West Indies Test opener. It's a tough call, but he loves Test cricket and there are World Test Championship points at stake."

The source added that selectors Ajit Agarkar and



new head coach Gautam Gambhir will have to decide whether Bumrah should rest through the Asia Cup and focus on red-ball cricket, or return for the shorter format later in the year—possibly during the T20I series against New Zealand in January, which will serve as preparation for the T20 World Cup.

India's packed calendar also includes two Test matches against South Africa in November, further highlighting the need for careful workload management.

## Newcastle Reject Liverpool Bid For Alexander Isak

Newcastle United have reportedly turned down a massive £110 million bid from Liverpool for Swedish striker Alexander Isak, as the Reds push to bolster their attack ahead of the new Premier League season.

Isak, 25, has been unsettled in recent weeks and is said to have expressed his desire to leave St James' Park. The forward is currently training at his former club, Real Sociedad, rather than joining Newcastle's pre-season tour of Asia—officially due to a minor thigh injury. Real Sociedad confirmed Isak's presence at their Zubietta facility on Thursday.

According to multiple reports, Liverpool's opening offer included £110 million plus performance-based add-ons. However, Newcastle are holding firm on their £150 million valuation of their star striker, who scored 23 goals in the Premier League last season, helping the Magpies secure Champions League qualification.

Signed for £60 million from Real Sociedad in 2022, Isak has three years remaining on his current contract. Newcastle reportedly proposed a new deal with a release clause for next summer, but the player is understood to prefer an immediate move.

Liverpool, under new manager Arne Slot, have already strengthened significantly this transfer window. Recent signings include Eintracht Frankfurt striker Hugo Ekitike, Bayer Leverkusen playmaker Florian Wirtz, as well as Milos Kerkez, Jeremie Frimpong, and goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili. The club's



summer spending now exceeds £250 million.

Despite Isak's apparent willingness to leave, Newcastle boss Eddie Howe remains hopeful. "He is still our player. He's contracted to us. My wish is that he stays, but that's not in my full control," Howe said earlier this week.

Liverpool are aiming to defend their Premier League crown and hope Isak will be the final piece in their attack. Whether Newcastle will reconsider their stance remains to be seen.

## Osaka Ousts Jelena Ostapenko To Reach WTA 4th Round

Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka advanced to the fourth round of the WTA Canadian Open on Friday, defeating Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko 6-2, 6-4 in a commanding performance. The Japanese star is now one win away from her first quarter-final appearance at a WTA 1000 event or Grand Slam since returning from maternity leave in early 2024.

Osaka, currently ranked world number 49, broke Ostapenko on a double fault to clinch the first set in just 30 minutes. She looked in total control, using her trademark power and precision to keep the 22nd seed under constant pressure.

In the second set, Osaka gained an early break after Ostapenko netted a forehand, taking a 3-1 lead. However, Ostapenko showed resilience, breaking back immediately with a forehand crosscourt winner. The match tightened briefly, but Osaka regained her advantage by breaking for 4-2 when her opponent once again netted a forehand.



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Serving for the match at 5-3, Osaka had

a match point saved as Ostapenko fired another crosscourt winner. But the Japanese player stayed composed and broke at love in the final game, closing the contest in 72 minutes as Ostapenko hit a backhand into the net.

With this win, Osaka improved to 3-0 in her career head-to-head against Ostapenko, having previously beaten her at the 2016 French Open and the 2024 US Open—both in straight sets.

Osaka will face either third seed Jessica Pegula, the two-time defending Canadian Open champion, or Latvian Anastasija Sevastova in the round of 16.

Elsewhere, Danish 16th seed Clara Tauson advanced comfortably, defeating Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva 6-3, 6-0. Second seed Iga Swiatek and Britain's Emma Raducanu are also in action later in the day in Montreal.

## Chahal Breaks Silence on Dating Rumors with RJ Mahvash

Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal has finally addressed the ongoing dating rumors linking him with popular radio jockey RJ Mahvash. In a candid response, Chahal clarified that there is no romantic relationship between the two and expressed disappointment over the false publicity and trolling the issue has attracted. Following his divorce from dancer Dhanashree Verma, speculations began circulating online suggesting that Chahal was now dating RJ Mahvash. These intensified after the duo was spotted together during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final in Dubai. Speaking recently on the Raj Shyamani podcast, Chahal firmly denied all such rumors. "There is nothing like that between Mahvash and me. People can think whatever they want. Right now, my focus is on getting my personal life in order. I am not dating anyone," Chahal clarified.



He went on to reveal that a group dinner photo with friends was cropped and misrepresented on social media to make it look like he and Mahvash were alone. He also expressed regret over a harmless video—where Mahvash mentioned giving him a lift to the airport—being misinterpreted. Chahal admitted the trolling that followed was deeply hurtful. He said, "It was very cruel that Mahvash had to face harsh insults, especially being called a 'home-wrecker'. She was blamed unnecessarily for no reason."

RJ Mahvash, too, has denied the rumors several times on her social media, reiterating that she is single and that the speculation is baseless. With Chahal's statement now out in the open, many believe this clarification will finally put an end to the social media buzz and criticism surrounding the two.

## Divya Deshmukh felicitated for FIDE World Cup triumph



Indian chess prodigy Divya Deshmukh was honoured by Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday for her groundbreaking victory at the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025 in Batumi, Georgia. She became the first Indian woman and the youngest ever to win the prestigious title, marking a historic moment in Indian sports.

The felicitation ceremony held in New Delhi also celebrated veteran Grandmaster Koneru Humpy, who was the runner-up in an all-Indian final. Humpy joined the ceremony virtually.

Dr. Mandaviya lauded both champions, calling them inspirations for India's youth, especially young girls aspiring to excel in chess. "Grandmasters like you will inspire future generations. Chess is a gift from India to the world, and your achievements will further elevate the sport in our country," he said.

Divya, who also became the 88th Grandmaster of India and only the fourth Indian woman

to earn the GM title, expressed gratitude to the Sports Authority of India and the Ministry for their support. "It's a proud moment. Whether Humpy won or I did, the title was coming home. That gave me the biggest joy," she said.

Humpy, a stalwart in Indian chess, praised the intense competition. "It was a long and exhausting tournament, but the all-Indian final was a proud moment for our nation," she remarked.

The Minister highlighted the government's active role in promoting sports, mentioning new initiatives like Khelo Bharat Niti and an upcoming National Sports Governance Bill. He affirmed that structured support would continue to strengthen the sports ecosystem in India.

The all-Indian final and Divya's triumph signal a new era for Indian chess, reflecting both the country's rich legacy and a promising future in the global arena.





## Nagarjuna Shines in New ‘Coolie’ Poster

The buzz around Coolie, the upcoming pan-India gangster drama headlined by Rajinikanth and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, has reached new heights as the film’s theatrical trailer is set to drop this evening at 7 PM. To build anticipation, the makers unveiled a striking new poster that unexpectedly shifts the spotlight to Tollywood superstar Nagarjuna.

The poster has left fans talking, thanks to Nagarjuna’s intense and stylish avatar. Dressed in a blood-soaked white outfit and gripping a hammer dripping with blood, the actor looks menacing and full of swagger. His look has ignited speculation about a pivotal, high-octane role in the action-packed narrative.

While Rajinikanth still looms large in the background of the poster, it’s clear that Nagarjuna’s role will be anything but secondary. The new visual tease has only heightened expectations for the trailer, with fans eager to see how Lokesh Kanagaraj has woven together a star-studded ensemble in his signature gritty style.

Coolie boasts a massive cast that spans industries, including Bollywood icon Aamir Khan, Kannada powerhouse Upendra, Malayalam talent Shoubin Shahir, and star heroine Shruti Haasan in key roles. Additionally, Pooja Hegde will be seen in a high-energy special number that’s expected to be a major highlight.

With music composed by Anirudh Ravichander and produced by Sun Pictures, Coolie promises to be a major cinematic event. The film is scheduled to release in cinemas worldwide on August 14,

just in time for the Independence Day weekend.

Stay tuned as the trailer drops tonight — and expect fireworks.

Keywords: Coolie trailer, Nagarjuna, Rajinikanth, Lokesh Kanagaraj, Aamir Khan, Anirudh, Sun Pictures, August 14 release.



## OG first single ‘Firestorm’ out now



Tollywood superstar Pawan Kalyan has unveiled a powerful new song from his much-anticipated film OG, creating a buzz among fans ahead of the movie’s release. Directed by Sujeeth, known for the blockbuster Saaho, OG is slated to hit theaters on September 25, 2025.

Set against the intriguing backdrop of Japan, OG promises an intense gangster storyline that has already captured audience interest through its first look and teaser glimpses. The recently released song, titled “Firestorm,” adds to the excitement surrounding the film.

The Firestorm track is a dynamic collaboration featuring voices of prominent singers including Thaman S, Naziruddin & Bharataraj, Silambarasan TR (popularly known as Simbu), Deepak Blue, and Raja Kumari. Their energetic performance and powerful lyrics have been praised for perfectly matching the gritty, high-octane vibe of the film.

Fans of Pawan Kalyan have eagerly received the song release on various social media platforms, praising its intense beats and impactful vocals. The track’s blend of traditional and modern sounds aligns well with the film’s unique setting and narrative style.

OG marks another ambitious project for Pawan Kalyan, who continues to push boundaries in Tollywood with diverse roles and high-profile collaborations. Directed by Sujeeth, the film’s production quality and storyline have raised expectations, with many anticipating a strong box office performance.

As the release date approaches, the makers are steadily unveiling more promotional material, keeping the audience engaged. With the Firestorm song already setting a high benchmark, OG is shaping up to be one of the major Tollywood releases this year.

## Vijay Deverakonda Reveals ‘Kingdom 3’ Details Confirms Trilogy



Vijay Deverakonda has shed new light on the future of the hit film Kingdom, confirming that the franchise will extend beyond the recently released movie, with Kingdom 2 and Kingdom 3 both in the pipeline.

The first Kingdom film, starring Vijay Deverakonda, was a massive success, grossing ₹53 crores within two days of release. Producer Naga Vamsi has expressed satisfaction with the film’s performance, fueling excitement about the upcoming sequels. Kingdom 2 was already announced prior to the first film’s release, and the current movie included key hints and story leads for its continuation.

During a recent media interaction, Vijay Deverakonda revealed that Kingdom 3 is not just another sequel but a prequel that explores the origins of the tribe and the king introduced briefly in the first film, set in the 1920s. Initially titled Devara Nayaka, the film’s title was reconsidered after NTR’s brother Devara came onboard. This prequel aims to delve deeper into the backstory of the tribe and the king’s rise.

Details about Kingdom 2 suggest a thrilling conflict involving a new villain named Sethu, played by a major star, and a possible war between the hero and heroine, who will have a more significant role. Fans are curious if the sequel will explore the hero’s potential double identity as a spy from India and unresolved tensions with the heroine.

With these revelations, it is clear that the Kingdom series will be a trilogy, weaving an expansive narrative across three parts. While fans eagerly await the release dates for the next installments, Vijay Deverakonda’s comments have already stirred anticipation for the upcoming chapters of this gripping saga.

## ‘Manam’ to Light Up Japanese Theatres

More than a decade after its original release, the beloved Telugu film Manam is set to premiere in Japanese theatres on August 8, 2025. The heartwarming family drama starring the legendary Akkineni family will bring its timeless magic to a new audience across the globe.

Manam is celebrated for uniting three generations of the Akkineni dynasty—Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Nagarjuna, Naga Chaitanya, and Akhil Akkineni (in a cameo)—in a touching narrative centered around family bonds and fantasy elements. Since its debut in 2014, the film has remained a classic, cherished by Telugu cinema fans for its emotional depth and memorable performances.

This special Japanese release marks a rare



opportunity for fans abroad to experience the film on the big screen, rekindling the nostalgia and love that Manam continues to inspire.

Adding to the excitement, Akkineni Nagarjuna will join one of the screenings virtually, greeting and interacting with his

Japanese fans who affectionately call him “Nag Sama.” This online meet-and-greet will be a unique moment for the audience, allowing them to connect with the star despite the geographical distance.

The film’s release in Japan highlights the growing global reach of Telugu cinema and its ability to resonate with diverse audiences worldwide. For many Japanese fans, the screening of Manam is more than just a film event—it’s a celebration of the enduring legacy of the Akkineni family and their contribution to Indian cinema.

As Manam prepares to light up theatres in Japan, fans everywhere are reminded of why this film continues to hold a special place in the hearts of millions, transcending time and borders.

## ‘Swecha Standuu’ Boosts Buzz Around ‘Mithra Mandali’

Hyderabad: Following the massive success of its teaser and first single, the team behind the upcoming Telugu film Mithra Mandali has now released its second song, “Swecha Standuu”, further fuelling anticipation around the project.

The new single, composed by RR Dhruvan and penned by Dhruvan along with director Vijayendar S, is a quirky, new-age proposal number. Infused with broken-English lyrics and a humorous tone, the song channels a vibe similar to cult hits like Kolaveri Di and Bujji Pilla. Sung by Dhanunjay Seepana and Dhruvan himself, “Swecha Standuu” is catchy, youth-oriented, and designed to go viral.

Presented by Bunny Vas under the BV Works banner, Mithra Mandali is pro-



duced by Sapta Aswa Media Works and Vyra Entertainments. The film is helmed by Vijayendar S and boasts a promising ensemble cast including Priyadarshi, Niharika NM, Vishnu Oi, Rag Mayur, Prasad Behara, Vennela Kishore, Satya, and VTV Ganesh.

The technical crew features Siddharth

SJ as the cinematographer, Peekay handling editing, Gandhi Nadikudikar as the production designer, and Shilpa Tanguturu on costumes. The film is produced by Kalyan Manthina, Bhanu Pratapa, and Dr. Vijender Reddy Teegala, with Somaraju Penmetsa as co-producer and Rajeev Kumar Rama as executive producer.

The film’s first single, “Kattanduko Janaki”, quickly became a fan-favorite for its quirky tone and catchy tune. With “Swecha Standuu” now making waves, Mithra Mandali continues to build strong momentum ahead of its release.

With back-to-back viral hits and a vibrant young cast, Mithra Mandali is fast emerging as one of the most talked-about films in the Telugu cinema circuit.