



### Weather Forecast

#### HYDERABAD

H 33° C

L 25° C

#### VIJAYAWADA

H 35° C

L 26° C

#### TIRUPATHI

H 36° C

L 26° C

# RSS chief's 75+ Remark Aimed at PM Modi: CM Revanth

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, claiming that both former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Bhagwat once attempted to remove Modi from his position. Speaking at the Congress Annual Law Conference held in Delhi, Revanth Reddy alleged that similar attempts were made to oust Modi from the Prime Minister's chair as well.

Referring to Mohan Bhagwat's recent statement that those over 75 years of age should step down from positions of power, Revanth questioned why Modi is unwilling to do so. He stated, "Modi was targeted earlier too—first by Vajpayee when Modi was CM of Gujrat and now by the Sangh—but he didn't step aside. Now, Rahul Gandhi will take him out in the next elections." Predicting the BJP's downfall in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, Revanth confidently said that the BJP would not win more than 150 seats. He emphasized that the Congress party had a historic legacy of serving the country, especially the welfare of Dalits and Adivasis, and credited the party for India's freedom struggle.

"Congress will always be with the people, win or lose. But other parties are only visible when in power. When they lose, they go home," Revanth remarked. He expressed concern over the state of the Constitution under Modi's leadership, stating that its very foundation is at risk. He also took the opportunity to highlight the sacrifices of former Congress leaders.



mer Congress leaders. "Indira Gandhi drove out terrorists and gave her life for the nation. Rajiv Gandhi too laid down his life. Sonia Gandhi refused the Prime Minister's post in 2004 despite the UPA victory," he said.

Revanth further claimed that if Rahul Gandhi had wished, he could have become Prime Minister in 2009, but chose not to. Concluding his address, he reiterated that despite internal opposition, Modi clung to power, and it is now up to the people to bring about a change.



## PM Releases 20th Tranche of PM-Kisan Funds

**₹20,500 crore credited to 9.7 crore farmers across India**

**TPN Correspondent | Varanasi**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi 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.



## ED Cracks Open ₹1,000 Crore Sheep Scam

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The infamous Telangana Sheep Breeding Development Scheme scam has taken a new turn as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) revealed that over ₹1,000 crore was embezzled — a significant leap from the initial ₹700 crore estimate by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). The ED made this startling revelation on Friday following recent raids, notably at the residence of Kalyan Kumar, former OSD to ex-minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, and eight other key locations.

**Dummy accounts and betting apps uncovered**  
During the raid at Kalyan Kumar's residence, ED officials seized cheque books, passbooks,

and debit cards linked to over 200 bank accounts. Shockingly, these were either dummy or mule accounts — opened and operated purely on commission. What raised even more eyebrows was the detection of massive online betting app transactions tied to these accounts. In addition, 31 mobile phones and 20 SIM cards, allegedly used to facilitate illegal transactions, were seized by ED.

**Scam spans across seven districts**  
The sheep scam came to light when a victim filed a complaint with Gachibowli police for non-payment of ₹2.1 crore, which was allegedly due for sheep supply under the

## Nampally Court Orders Criminal Case on Konda Surekha



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
In a significant legal development, the Nampally court has ordered the registration of a criminal case against Telangana Minister Konda Surekha. This order comes in connection with a defamation case filed by Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president and former minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR). KTR approached the court after Minister Surekha made controversial remarks linking him to the phone tapping case and also dragged his name into the high-profile divorce of actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. The court has instructed that the criminal case be formally registered by August 21 and that notices be issued to the concerned parties in the meantime.

Actor Akkineni Nagarju-

na has also reportedly filed a separate legal complaint against Konda Surekha for allegedly making unsubstantiated comments about his involvement in the same divorce issue. Sources indicate that Nagarjuna took strong objection to her public statements and approached the court seeking legal recourse for defamation.

Minister Surekha's comments have stirred considerable controversy in political and celebrity circles alike. The phone tapping case has already become a politically sensitive issue in Telangana, and her attempts to link opposition leaders and celebrities to it have led to growing legal pressure on her. The upcoming weeks are expected to see further



## BJP will ensure OBC CM if voted to power: Eatala

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BJP leader and Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy during a protest held at Indira Park, accusing the Congress government of betraying Backward Classes (BCs) with false promises and delay tactics.

Eatala reminded that before the 2023 elections, the Congress announced a BC Declaration in Kamareddy, promising 42% reservations in local bodies, education, and employment. "After coming to power, Revanth Reddy is shedding crocodile tears and trying to pass time with lies. He has already accepted defeat," Eatala said.

He alleged that during the BRS rule, BC reservations

had dropped to 23%, and Congress has done nothing different. "The BC community was promised elections within six months with 42% representation. But there has been no progress," he stated.

He also slammed the Congress for not fulfilling promises related to BC youth and students. "Full fee reimbursement for students from families earning below ₹3 lakh annually has not been implemented. The pending arrears from the BRS era are also unpaid. Parents are forced to take loans," Eatala said.

The MP also pointed out failures in delivering on pension hikes, interest-free loans, and financial





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## BJP will ensure OBC CM if voted to power: Eatala

support for marginalized groups like Kallu Geetha and Rajaka federations. “Even the ₹2,500 deposit for women every month hasn’t started,” he said. Eatala highlighted that states like Tamil Nadu used Article 340 and the Commission of Inquiry Act to legally ensure BC welfare. He demanded a similar legal commission in Telangana for accurate BC data and reservations beyond 50%, stating that BJP will support it if done properly. Eatala challenged the Congress to

answer why a BC person has never been made CM in the party’s long rule. “Neither Congress nor BRS ever prioritized BC leadership. They are family-run parties. BJP is the only party committed to BC empowerment,” he said. He concluded by stating that PM Narendra Modi promised that an OBC would be made CM if BJP wins in Telangana. “Revanth Reddy should stop his drama in Delhi. If he tries to label BJP as anti-BC, people will laugh at him,” he warned.

## ED Cracks Open ₹1,000 Crore Sheep Scam

state-run Sheep Breeding Development Scheme (SRDS). Initially handed over to the ACB, the case intensified after the Congress government assumed office and a fresh case was registered against Kalyan Kumar for attempting to destroy scheme records. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in a March 2021 report, had already flagged several irregularities in the scheme. These included ghost beneficiaries, tampered transport records, usage of fake vehicles for delivery, and even the assignment of fictitious tags to sheep units. Inspections across just seven districts revealed a misappropriation of ₹253.93 crore.

### Funds diverted to bogus vendors

ED’s probe revealed a systematic modus operandi — government funds were shown as disbursed

to sheep vendors who had no prior business history in sheep distribution or sales. These bogus vendors were merely used as fronts to route government money, without any actual distribution of livestock taking place. The funds were then redistributed among the culprits as kickbacks.

### Ex-minister under scanner

During the tenure of the BRS government, around ₹4,000 crore was sanctioned for the procurement of 4.25 lakh sheep units. Out of this, nearly ₹1,000 crore was found to be siphoned off under the guise of indiscriminate distribution. With 17 officials and brokers already identified by the ACB, the ED is now focusing on uncovering the exact role and connections of former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav in the scam.

## Nampally Court Orders Criminal Case on Konda Surekha

legal proceedings as both the cases filed by KTR and Nagarjuna proceed. The court’s order to register a criminal case underscores the seriousness with which these accusations are being viewed.

Reacting to the court verdict Minister Konda Surekha asserting that such legal battles are not new to her life. Addressing the media, she said her journey has always been filled with struggle and resilience.

“These kinds of cases and fights have been part of my life for a long time. I’m not someone to be shaken easily,” she said, brushing aside the controversy with a composed tone. Taking a veiled dig at her critics, she questioned, “Why do some people get so excited and agitated just when the name ‘Konda Surekha’ is mentioned? I have immense respect for the judiciary of this country. The law will do its job, and I have full faith in it,” she stated.

## Telangana Sports Policy Unveiled to Match Global Standards

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy unveiled the much-awaited ‘Telangana Sports Policy’ at the Telangana Sports Conclave held at HICC in Hyderabad, with the vision to make the state a global competitor in sports. He said the newly introduced policy is not just a state initiative but a step toward reshaping India’s sports culture.

“The youth in urban areas are going astray due to the lack of a sports policy. Drug abuse is increasing because we are not promoting sports the way we should,” CM Revanth observed. Stressing the importance of a balanced lifestyle, he added, “It is im-



portant that our youth excel not only in academics but also in sports.” The Chief Minister pointed out that Telangana, and India at large, cannot afford to lag behind in the global

sports arena. “We are competing with the world in every field. Why not sports? India needs a strong sports platform, and Telangana should be at the forefront of that transformation,” he declared.

The new policy is expected to provide structured support, infrastructure, and opportunities for aspiring athletes across the state, with a particular focus on addressing the urban-rural divide in sports participation.

The CM also emphasized the urgent need for similar reforms across the country, indicating that Telangana’s policy could serve as a model for others.

## Two more arrested in Srishti Fertility Case

More Accused Taken into Custody

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.

## Power Substation Inaugurated in Veltur

TPN Correspondent | Vanaparthi

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao inaugurated a new 33/11KV power substation at Veltur in Chinnambavi mandal, Kollapur constituency. Built at a cost of ₹2.2 crore, the substation is expected to ease power shortages and improve supply reliability for both domestic consumers and farmers in the region.

Accompanied by MP Mallu Ravi, MLAs Megha Reddy, Dr. Rajesh Reddy, and TG-SPDCL CMD Musharraf Ali Farooqui, the ministers received a rousing welcome from locals. Speaking at the event, Bhatti emphasized that improving rural infrastructure—especially in backward regions—is a top priority for the Congress government. He said the new substation would help reduce voltage issues and support irrigation and small-scale industries.

Later, addressing a public meeting held to mark the occasion, the Deputy CM



came down heavily on the opposition parties. He accused the BRS, BJP, and TDP of conspiring against Telangana’s interests through the Polavaram and Banakacherla projects, especially in regard to the controversial transfer of seven mandals from Khammam to Andhra Pradesh. Bhatti alleged that the BRS government remained silent on these issues for ten years, enabling damage to Telangana’s irrigation potential. He praised CM Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister Utam Kumar Reddy for halting the Banakacherla project proposal through prompt intervention.

Highlighting Congress-era achievements, he said it was Congress that built key irrigation projects like Jurala, Kalwakurthy, and Nettempadu, while the BRS only re-designed schemes like Kaleshwaram “to loot public money,” calling it a ₹1.2 lakh crore failure.

Bhatti also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to public welfare, citing the distribution of 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses, the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme, and the enhanced Aarogyasri limit of ₹10 lakh. He declared that Telangana is witnessing a new era of governance, where voices are heard and development is people-centric.

Reflecting emotionally on his roots in Kollapur, Bhatti recalled how he began his political journey here in the 1980s, establishing deep bonds with the people. He concluded by stating that it is a proud moment for Palamuru region, with Revanth Reddy as CM and himself as Deputy CM—both sons of the soil now leading Telangana’s resurgence.

## Sub-Registrar Offices to Get Modern Makeover

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced that sub-registrar offices across the state will undergo a major transformation, with the government planning to construct modern, corporate-level buildings to replace the existing rented facilities. He revealed that nine integrated sub-registrar office buildings will be constructed in four districts in the first phase.

Speaking at a review meeting with officials of the Stamps and Registration Department at the Secretariat, the Minister said that the new initiative is in line with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s vision to improve public services. Ponguleti instructed officials to make arrangements to lay the foundation stone soon for the first building in Gachibowli.

Currently, only 37 out of the 144 sub-registrar offices in Telangana operate from government-owned buildings, while the rest function from rented premises. “This situation is unacceptable. We are planning to



develop all sub-registrar offices with modern facilities in a phased manner,” the Minister stated. He said integrated facilities will allow for better coordination and monitoring of services, making the entire system more transparent and efficient. “By bringing 4–5 sub-registrar offices under one roof near the Outer Ring Road, we aim to meet future administrative needs and enhance convenience for the public,” he added. Ponguleti emphasized that reducing corruption is one of the goals of this reorganization.

“Integrated offices not only improve administrative efficiency but also enable tighter control and accountability,” he said. Officials have been instructed to identify suitable land in coordination with district collectors to initiate construction at the earliest. He also noted the success of the existing slot booking system, which has brought more transparency and convenience to the department. The new infrastructure, he said, will complement these reforms and elevate the services further.

## New Ration Cards Distributed

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

New ration cards were distributed to beneficiaries at a special program held at Maha Rana Pratap Function Hall in the Amberpet constituency. The

event was organized as part of the government’s ongoing efforts to strengthen welfare delivery and ensure food security for economically weaker sections. Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnampallabharathi attended the event as the chief guest and addressed the gathering, emphasizing the government’s commitment to supporting low-income families through essential schemes like the public distribution system.

Amberpet MLA Kaleru Venkatesh, who played a key role in facilitating the program, highlighted the importance of timely identification and inclusion of genuine beneficiaries. He noted that such initiatives reflect the government’s pri-



ority towards people-centric governance. MLC Balamuri Venkat, Hyderabad District Collector Dasari Harichandana, and corporators V. Hanumantha Rao and Rohin Reddy were also present at the event and participated in the distribution process. The new ration cards will enable eligible families to access subsidized food grains and other essential commodities, offering crucial support amid rising living costs. Residents welcomed the move and expressed gratitude for the timely assistance. Officials urged beneficiaries to approach local offices for any clarifications and assured that the administration is working to ensure smooth delivery of welfare benefits.



## KCR’s 10-year sin still haunts Telangana: TPCC Chief

TPN Correspondent | Nizamabad

TPCC Chief and MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud strongly criticized BRS and BJP leadership during his visit to Nizamabad district, asserting that the Congress government is committed to fulfilling every promise made during the elections. Addressing public meetings, he said the yatra was aimed at understanding the hardships faced by the people directly and resolving them. “Former CM KCR made Tel-

angana a debt-ridden state during his 10-year rule. He didn’t even provide proper rice distribution to the poor. What kind of governance is that?” Mahesh questioned. He said the Congress party is determined to set things right and bring transparency and justice to every section. He alleged that BRS leaders, especially KCR and his son KTR, have not been able to sleep peacefully since losing power. “KCR’s biggest sin was blocking Telangana’s rightful de-

velopment. Their MLAs looted people and misled them for a decade,” he said. Mahesh also announced that an agricultural college would soon be established at Telangana University to support local students and farming communities. He promised that the Lakkampalli SEZ would be revived to boost employment and investment in the region. Hitting out at BJP leaders, he said, “They are seeking votes in the name of God. When did

BJP leaders ever perform pujas? We start our day with puja and step out with the people’s blessings, not slogans.” He appealed to the public to vote only for leaders with political commitment and credibility. “Rahul Gandhi dreams of a fair nation where development is based on population and needs, not divisive politics,” he said. Taking a dig at BRS MLC Kavitha, he remarked, “Kavitha must first clarify which party she belongs to. When we dis-



cussed BC issues, she was in jail. Now if Congress brings an ordinance for BCs, she’ll start giving it different colors.” He also hinted at a plan to

develop the Jagityala–Vemulawada–Nizamabad Temples Corridor to promote religious tourism and preserve Telangana’s cultural heritage.

## Ramchandra Rao Accuses Congress of Betraying BCs

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana BJP President N. Ramchandra Rao came down heavily on the Congress government at the BJP Mahadharna held at Indira Park, accusing it of betraying the Backward Classes (BCs) by failing to implement the promises made under the Kamareddy Declaration ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. Rao said the Congress had promised 42% reservations for BCs in local bodies and ₹1 lakh crore over five years for their welfare. However, even after more than six months in power, none of these commitments have been fulfilled. He added that although a bill on the reservation was passed in the Assembly, no steps were taken for its implementation until the High Court intervened. He accused the Congress government of playing political games by blaming the Centre for its failures. Citing Clause 243D(6) of the Constitution, Rao said the state has full powers to implement local body reservations and should not shift the blame. The BJP leader also claimed that the actual reservation being offered to BCs is only 32%, while 10% is being covertly allotted to Muslims under AIMIM pressure. He strongly opposed religious reservations being intro-

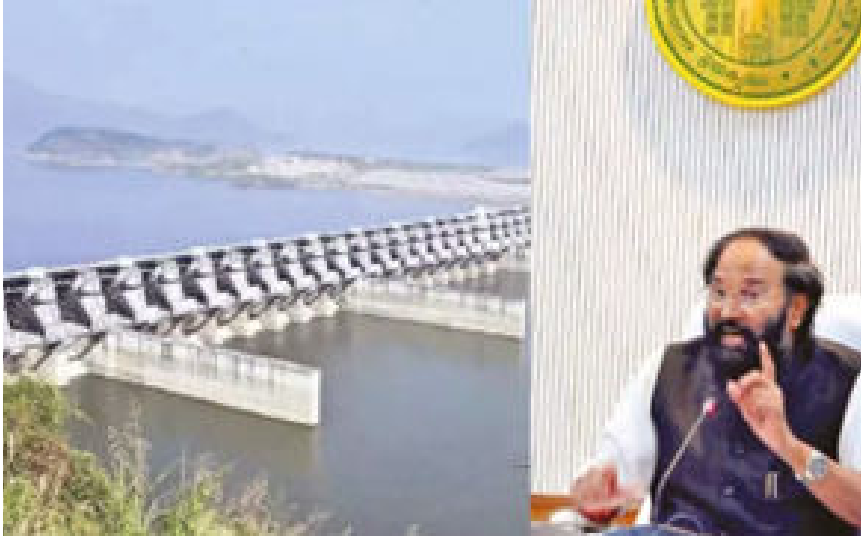


duced under the BC quota and demanded that the Congress come clean on the issue. Rao highlighted the BJP’s track record in empowering BCs, pointing out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself hails from a BC community. He also noted the presence of 27 BC ministers in the Union Cabinet and five BC Chief Ministers in BJP-ruled states. He criticized the Congress for offering minimal representation to BCs in the state government and for not releasing the 2011 caste census. Rao concluded by urging the BC community to support the BJP, which he said was genuinely committed to their upliftment.

## Uttam Vows to Block Banakacharla Link

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly condemned the recent remarks made by Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh regarding the controversial Polavaram–Banakacharla link project. Addressing the media, Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted that Telangana is firmly opposing the project on legal and environmental grounds. He said that both the Environment Ministry and the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) had raised objections to the proposed link. “Our government has taken every necessary step to halt the Banakacharla project. I have personally written letters to the Centre opposing it,” Uttam said. He called Lokesh’s comments “incorrect” and “misleading,” and stated that the Telangana government’s stance remains clear and unwavering. “We are ready to fight this project at every level,” he added.



Criticizing the BRS party, the minister said their recent statements on the issue were baseless and aimed only at gaining publicity. “Had BRS taken preventive measures while in power, the situation wouldn’t have come to this,” he remarked. Calling the Polavaram–Banakacharla project illegal, Uttam Kumar Reddy noted that the Telan-

gana government is prepared to counter it legally and politically. He also mentioned the Judicial Commission’s 650-page report on the Kaleshwaram project and said that he would meet the review committee on Saturday evening to discuss the findings. The cabinet is also expected to deliberate on this issue during its scheduled meeting on August 4.

## Revanth Spreading False Propaganda: Kishan Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Union Minister and BJP state president Kishan Reddy launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress party, accusing them of spreading false propaganda and deceiving the Backward Classes (BCs). Speaking at the BJP OBC Morcha Mahadharna held at Indira Park in Hyderabad, Kishan Reddy questioned the Congress party’s historical neglect of the BC community. “Why didn’t Congress conduct the BC population census when it was in power?” he asked, pointing out that the party failed to give adequate representation to BCs in key positions. “Did they ever make a BC Prime Minister or Chief Minister?” he challenged. Kishan Reddy alleged that the Congress is once again resorting to deceit in the name of social justice. He criticized CM Revanth Reddy’s statements made in Delhi, calling them misleading and baseless. “Revanth Reddy is spreading false propaganda in many ways. The people of Telangana are watching him closely,” he remarked. Highlighting the BJP’s commitment to BC welfare, Kishan Reddy asserted that true social justice can be achieved only after conducting a scientific population-based census for BCs. He demanded that the Telangana government implement the promised 42 percent reservation for BCs without delay. The Mahadharna witnessed significant participation from OBC leaders and activists, who echoed Kishan Reddy’s sentiments and criticized the Congress government’s failure to fulfill its promises.



## What Has State Gained from Revanth’s 50 Delhi Trips?

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BRS Executive President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, questioning the outcome of his repeated visits to the national capital. KTR mocked the CM’s travel frequency by posting numbers 1 to 50 on social media platform ‘X’, claiming they represent each of Revanth Reddy’s visits to Delhi. “Revanth Reddy has completed a half-century in his Hastina



Yatra. But what has Telangana gained from these 50 trips?” KTR asked. He alleged that while the Chief Minister has made 50 trips

to Delhi in his 20-month tenure, there has been no tangible benefit to the state. “People of Telangana expected governance, not tourism. Instead of focusing on local issues, Revanth seems more interested in national-level politics and photo ops. Telangana needs a Chief Minister who can deliver on the ground, not one who keeps running to Delhi,” he said. KTR accused the Congress government of indulging in “lofty words” with little to show in

terms of results. “The public is watching. We’ve heard enough grand speeches and promises. Now it’s time for action. Unfortunately, the current leadership seems to be more about optics than outcomes,” he added. This criticism comes amidst ongoing political tussles between the BRS and the ruling Congress party in Telangana, with both sides intensifying their rhetoric ahead of key political milestones in the state.

## BRS Leader Calls Congress Yatra a 'Public Killing'

TPN Correspondent | Vikarabad

BRS district president and former MLA Methuku Anand lashed out at the Congress leadership, terming the ongoing padayatra a “public killing yatra” rather than a public interest initiative. He accused the Congress of causing chaos on highways under the guise of public outreach. Speaking to the media, Anand criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, alleging that the padayatra was only a political drama. He claimed Meenakshi’s Delhi tour and sudden change in the padayatra schedule hinted at internal Congress differences and efforts to control credit-taking. Anand questioned the Congress government’s performance, stating that it has failed to deliver on promises like 2 lakh jobs per year. “They are giving appointment letters only for jobs recruited by the previous BRS government. Not a single new job has been generated under their rule,” he said. He also alleged that CM Revanth Reddy is planning to sell HCU lands and that Meenakshi Natarajan’s visit was linked to it. Anand further accused the Congress of misleading BC communities with false reservation promises and claimed the current padayatra was being used as a cover for shifting political positions. He warned that the people of Telangana, particularly youth and farmers, would hold Congress accountable in the upcoming local body elections.

## AAP Slams Revanth Govt Over Govt Schools



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national spokesperson and Telangana in-charge Priyanka Kakkar launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, accusing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of turning a blind eye to the condition of government schools in the state. Speaking at a meeting in Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad, Kakkar expressed deep concern over the deteriorating state of public education. “Government schools are the only hope for the common man in this country, but their condition remains miserable. The Congress government in Telangana is continuing the same exploitative policies as the BJP at the Centre,” she alleged.

AAP Telangana Convener Dr. Diddi Sudhakar Tokalasi also addressed the gathering, accusing both Congress and BJP of looting the nation for the past 75 years while ensuring their own children receive education abroad. He said that the poor and middle-class families, unable to afford expensive private institutions, are suffering under increasing financial pressure due to rising fees. Highlighting recent incidents in Telangana’s residential institutions, Dr. Sudhakar added, “Students in government schools, social welfare hostels, and Gurukuls are falling seriously ill after consuming contaminated food. One student even died recently due to food poisoning. What kind of governance is this?” Priyanka Kakkar reiterated that the AAP, which has revolutionized the public education system in Delhi, will continue to raise its voice against the Congress government’s failures in Telangana. She demanded immediate reforms in government schools, provision of nutritious food, and stringent regulation of private school fees.



# Hydra CP Orders School Relocation

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Hyderabad Commissioner AV Ranganath inspected the historic Kingsway Government School on Rashtrapati Road, Secunderabad, following reports that the century-old structure has fallen into serious disrepair. The Commissioner visited the school premises and interacted with teachers and students. After the inspection, he concluded that the building was unsafe for occupation. GHMC Deputy Commissioner DD Nayak and Assistant Town Planning Officer Pavani informed him that notices had been issued seven years ago

declaring the structure dangerous. School HM and MEO Prasanna requested the Commissioner to arrange alternative classrooms to avoid disruption of the academic year. Responding swiftly, Commissioner Ranganath reached out to nearby Mahbub School Trust, requesting temporary accommodation for students. The trust representatives assured him that they would consider the request positively. The Commissioner added that the matter would be brought to the attention of the District Collector and Education Officer



to expedite the construction of a new school building. He also instructed officials to plan demolition work during the upcoming holiday week to avoid academic disruption.

# 1,374 Minors Rescued Under Operation Muskaan

**TPN Correspondent | Cyberabad**  
A total of 1,374 children were rescued during the month-long Operation Muskaan-XI, conducted from July 1 to July 31, 2025, across the Cyberabad Commissionerate limits. The rescue drive targeted children involved in begging, child labour, rag-picking, and other forms of exploitation. The operation was coordinated by 11 dedicated teams across various divisions, each consisting of one Sub-Inspector, three Police Constables, one Woman Police Constable, and the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU). These teams conducted surprise inspections at industries, shops, companies, and public spaces where children



were suspected to be employed illegally or found begging. All rescued children were documented using the Darpan App. Out of the 1,374 rescued, 1,328 were boys and 46 were girls. Of these, 914 children (888 boys and 26 girls) were from within the state, while 460 children (440

boys and 20 girls) were found to be from other states. A total of 53 children were sent to shelter homes, while 1,321 were handed over to their families after proper verification. The rescued children included 1,367 child labourers, 1 child found begging, 1 runaway child,

and 5 from orphan homes. A total of 316 FIRs were registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Juvenile Justice Act, Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, and Bonded Labour Act. Additionally, photos of 264 missing children were uploaded to the Darpan App for tracking and reunification. The review meeting on Operation Muskaan-XI was held at the Cyberabad CP Office Auditorium and was chaired by DCP (Women & Child Safety Wing) K. Srujana Karnam. Attendees included W&CSW ACP K. Satyanarayana, CWC members from Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts, officials from child protection bodies, and AHTU Inspector B. James Babu.

# 1.5 Kg Ganja Seized, Five Held by Task Force



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Acting on credible intelligence, the Commissioner's Task Force, North Zone Team, along with Karkhana Police, apprehended two ganja peddlers and three consumers at Dhobi Ghat, Karkhana, Secunderabad. The

accused were caught attempting to sell ganja from a car bearing registration number TS 08HT 5887. During the search operation, officials recovered 1 kg of loose ganja from accused Mohammad Sharik and another 500 grams (packed into 150 small

packets) concealed inside the spare wheel compartment of the car. A total of 1.5 kg of ganja was seized, along with five mobile phones and the red Suzuki S-Presso vehicle, all worth an estimated ₹3 lakh. The arrested accused have been identified as Mohammad Sharik Jalil Kureshi (35), a rowdy-sheeter from Chandrapur, Maharashtra, and Love Preet Singh (28), a fruit vendor from Bowenpally. Both were involved in peddling ganja. Three others — Chandana Jaswanth (24), Yelasani Harish (27), and Sangi Sharath (35), all from the Bowenpally area — were nabbed as consumers. Sharik, a repeat offender and known criminal in Chandrapur, was previously booked under multiple criminal and narcotic cases. He was banned from entering the Chandrapur city limits by the local magistrate.

Teaming up with an absconding accused, Mubeen of Chandrapur (main ganja supplier), Sharik planned to distribute ganja to local sellers in Hyderabad. Love Preet Singh, addicted to ganja and lacking a stable income, devised a plan to sell the drug for profit. He rented a red Suzuki S-Presso and travelled to Chandrapur to procure 500 grams of ganja for ₹15,000 from Sharik. On his return, he picked up Sharik, who brought 1 kg of ganja for sale in Hyderabad. The arrests were made by Inspector P. Raghavender (North Zone Task Force), Inspector V. Ramakrishna (Karkhana PS), SI Sainath Reddy (Task Force), SI N. Lakhan Raj (Karkhana PS), SI M. Ramu, and their teams. Y.V.S. SudheendraDeputy Commissioner of Police Task Force, Hyderabad City

# New Allowances for TSGENCO, TRANSCO Staff

**TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad**  
Employees across Telangana's power sector are set to benefit from a revised allowance structure, following fresh orders issued by S. Harish, Chairman and Managing Director of Telangana State Power Generation Corporation (TSGENCO), on August 1. The new measures aim to enhance compensation for workers in both generation and transmission roles.

TSGENCO employees working at thermal and hydropower stations will now receive a 5% Generation Allowance. This move particularly benefits those stationed at the Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (KTPS) – 7th Phase and the Bhadradi Thermal Power Station (BTPS). The allowance will also apply to employees at all hydroelectric power stations across the state. The revised Generation Allowance is effective retroactively from April 1, 2025.

In a parallel development, the Telangana State Transmission Corporation (TSTRANSCO) has introduced a special Compensatory Basic Duty (CBD) allowance for artisans working in its Central Breakdown (CBD), Sub-Major Grid (SMG), and Maintenance and Repairs Team (MRT) divisions. This lump-sum monthly allowance will vary based on employee grade: Grade-2 artisans will receive ₹6,000, Grade-3 artisans ₹8,000, and Grade-4 artisans ₹10,000. The decision has been welcomed by employees and unions, who had long been pressing for better financial recognition of their efforts, especially in challenging operational zones. The revised allowance structures are seen as a step forward in improving worker morale and ensuring retention of skilled manpower in the state's critical energy infrastructure sector.



# Paradise to Dairy Farm Flyover in Progress

**TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad**  
The state government's ambitious elevated corridor projects in Hyderabad are progressing gradually. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has begun initial works on the 5.4-km elevated corridor from Secunderabad Paradise Junction to Dairy Farm. For the past week, soil testing has been actively conducted to prepare for pillar construction. Soil samples are being collected every 40-50 meters to assess ground conditions. Alongside this, a boundary wall is being constructed adjacent to defense properties in the cantonment area. Officials confirmed that foundation work for the pillars will begin shortly. However, the second major project — the 18.10-km corridor from Paradise Junction to Shamirpet, connecting to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) — has seen delays. The tender process for this corridor is yet to commence due to pending land transfer formalities with the Ministry of Defence. To facilitate this transfer, HMDA has offered 320 acres of land in Jawahar Nagar in exchange for defense land required along the two elevated corridors. The government aims to ease city traffic and improve connectivity through these long-awaited infrastructure developments.



# Pushpak Cuts Night Bus Fares

**TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad**  
In a major relief for late-night air travelers, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has announced a significant reduction in Pushpak airport bus fares on key routes from Hyderabad airport. The fare revision aims to make travel more economical for passengers arriving on late flights, who often have limited transport options. Under the new fare structure, ticket prices have been cut by ₹50 to ₹100 depending on the distance. For instance, fares from the airport to Jubilee Bus Station, JNTU-Miyapur, and Lingampally have been reduced from ₹450 to ₹400. Similarly, fares to Mehdiapatnam and LB Nagar have been brought down from ₹350 to ₹300. The biggest drop is on shorter routes such as Shamshabad and Pahadishareef, where the fare has been halved from ₹200 to ₹100. Pushpak buses are semi-luxury, air-conditioned vehicles run by TSRTC, providing comfortable and safe connectivity between the airport and major city points. This fare cut is expected to benefit budget-conscious passengers and encourage more people to opt for public

transport over expensive cabs during nighttime. TSRTC officials said the revised fares are effective immediately and apply to all late-night services from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. The decision has been widely welcomed by passengers who often struggle with high transport costs during late hours. The move is part of TSRTC's broader strategy to boost public transport usage and improve accessibility to Hyderabad airport, especially for middle and lower-income travelers.



# Sex Racket Busted in Balapur

**TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad**  
A prostitution racket being operated from a rented residential house in Shaheennagar's Wadi-e-Salaheen area under the Balapur police limits was busted. Five women were rescued during the operation, and three individuals were taken into custody, including the main organizer of the racket. Based on credible information received by the police, a team from Balapur police station conducted a swift raid on the house. The accused, Mohd Abdul Wahed (51), a resident of Hafiz Babanagar, was found to be running the illicit activity by bringing in women and arranging customers at the premises. He had reportedly taken the house on rent just ten days ago. Preliminary investigation revealed that Wahed was charging Rs 2,000 from each customer. Two customers were also found on the premises at the time of the

raid and were detained for questioning. Police officials said that Wahed was managing the operations from the rented property discreetly, trying to avoid public attention in a residential neighbourhood. He would reportedly contact customers through phone calls and social media platforms and bring them to the location. The rescued women were immediately shifted to a government-run shelter home, where they will be provided counselling and rehabilitation support. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the law, and further investigation is underway to identify any other individuals involved in the network. Balapur police said strict action will be taken against those running or supporting such illegal activities, and appealed to the public to report suspicious activities in their localities.



## Shramadanam Uplifts Jogipet Campus Spirit

TPN Correspondent | Jogipet

In a show of community spirit and environmental commitment, State Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha participated in a Shramadanam program at Nehru Memorial Degree College in Jogipet. He was joined by AICC Telangana Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, college staff, NSUI, Youth Congress members, and local leaders.

As part of the program, Minister Rajanarsimha, along with the other dignitaries and participants, planted saplings in and around the college premises. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about environmental sustainability while encouraging student involvement in social and civic activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Rajanarsimha assured students that the government is committed to improving infrastructure in the college. He highlighted the importance of student engagement in building a greener and more responsible society. Meenakshi Natarajan and Mahesh Kumar Goud also appreciated the active involvement of students and urged them to continue contributing to such community development efforts.

The Shramadanam program reflected a strong sense of collaboration between leadership and youth, with the college campus echoing the message of unity, cleanliness, and environmental consciousness.



## Water Projects Must Be Completed Quickly: ABV

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Former IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao expressed serious concern over the prolonged delay in completing water projects across Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Rayalaseema. Speaking to reporters in Vijayawada on Saturday, he said it is unfortunate that the water sharing issue between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is being misused for political gain instead of addressing people's real needs.

He questioned the progress of irrigation projects that were initiated over 30 years ago, asking, "For whose benefit were these projects really built—people or contractors?" Rao announced his decision to personally visit the halted and incomplete projects to provide clarity to the public on the real status of these works. He called upon irrigation experts to raise awareness about the damages caused due to stalled projects and urged them to differentiate what is practically possible, what has necessary permissions, and what doesn't. Rao said he is initiating a discussion by inviting farmers' association leaders, irrigation sector experts, retired engineers, and political representatives to provide a collective understanding of the challenges in the Rayalaseema region.

"If friends from Telangana are willing to come, they are also welcome," Rao added, stressing the need for cooperative dialogue. Rythu Seva Samiti President Akkineni Bhavaniprasad reiterated that every stakeholder agrees on one common point—that Rayalaseema should receive its rightful share of water. He emphasized that the state government must announce a specific action plan to complete projects that have seen little progress over the past six months.

Water sector expert Lakshminarayana announced that a field visit is scheduled from August 4 to 6 to inspect various stalled irrigation projects. He confirmed that invitations have been extended to ruling and opposition party members, as well as retired engineers from Telangana, to join the assessment.

## Farmers to Shut Doors on Ministers



TPN Correspondent| Karimnagar

Former Choppadandi MLA Sunke Ravishankar warned that farmers and BRS leaders will block the visit of state ministers to Karimnagar if the government fails to release irrigation water. He made the remarks while addressing a

press conference at a private hotel in the town.

Ravishankar lashed out at the Congress government, accusing it of turning North Telangana into a drought-hit region. "With what face are the ministers coming to Karimnagar when farmers are struggling for water?" he questioned.

He said farmers in Choppadandi constituency are desperate, as crop fields are drying up due to lack of irrigation. "Lakhs of cusecs of Godavari floodwater are flowing into the sea, but the government isn't lifting even a drop for the farmers," he said.

Alleging negligence, he said that farmers are being forced to rely on water tankers and even the traditional Bindela method to irrigate their fields. "If ministers come without resolving this, we will stop their visit along with the farmers," he warned.

Ravishankar added that water levels in Mid Manair Dam (MMD) and Lower Manair Dam (LMD) reservoirs are depleting

and called on the government to immediately fill the reservoirs and ensure irrigation supply to farmers. "We are begging the government with sticks in our hands," he said.

The former MLA also alleged large-scale corruption in the allotment of Indiramma houses in Choppadandi constituency.

Several local BRS leaders including former District Library Association Chairman Ponnam Anil Kumar Goud, Narayana Rao, Jitender Reddy, Gangadhar, Vijayender Reddy, Surender, Nazir, Akhil, Chukka Srinivas, Ramesh, Mallesh, Mallaiah, and Shankar were present at the press meet.

## NDRF Trains Bhadrachalam for Flood Safety

TPN Correspondent | Bhadrachalam

In a proactive move to safeguard lives during the Godavari flood season, the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) conducted a flood awareness seminar and review meeting under the supervision of the Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector's Office. The session aimed at educating locals on safety measures and first-response techniques during natural disasters, particularly floods.

The event was inaugurated by the NTR team and attended by Bhadrachalam MLA Tella Venkata Rao and RDO Damodar as chief guests. Officials from the Bhadrachalam division and local residents also

participated actively in the program.

During the seminar, the NDRF team demonstrated essential lifesaving techniques, including how to rescue a drowning person and how to respond to cardiac arrest situations during floods. The team also addressed common emergency scenarios such as snake bites and domestic gas leaks, advising participants on timely and effective responses.

A notable highlight was the practical demonstration of how household items like water bottles, women's sarees, and men's T-shirts can be creatively repurposed as life-saving aids during flood emergencies. The trainers explained how

these readily available items could be used to stay afloat or assist others in danger.

Speaking at the event, MLA Tella Venkata Rao appreciated the initiative, emphasizing that Bhadrachalam is a flood-prone region and such preparedness is vital. He urged citizens to remember and implement the lessons taught by the NDRF team during any future emergencies.

RDO Damodar echoed the sentiment, stating that awareness and readiness are the first steps toward saving lives. The session concluded with thanks extended to the NDRF team for their timely and valuable service to the people of Bhadrachalam.

## Tension in Medak Over Temple Takeover



TPN Correspondent| Medak

Tension prevailed in Medak town as leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged protests against the Endowments Department's takeover of the historic Kodanda

Ramalayam temple.

Officials from the Endowments Department arrived at the temple to implement a recent government order to assume administrative control. Former MLA and senior BRS leader Padma Devender Reddy, along with her supporters, strongly opposed the move and staged a protest by squatting on the road in front of the temple.

Police intervened and briefly detained Padma Devender Reddy to disperse the protestors and allow officials to proceed. She was released shortly after. Despite the opposition, the department seized the temple

hundi and formally took over the temple's administration.

Leaders of the BJP also joined the protest, accusing the Congress government of interfering in religious matters and disregarding local traditions. Both parties alleged that the temple has been well managed by local communities for years and warned against political overreach into religious institutions.

The incident has sparked political reactions, with opposition parties calling the move an attack on faith and demanding that the government reverse the decision.

## Ration Card Racket in Maheshwaram

TPN Correspondent| Rangareddy

Allegations of a large-scale bribery racket have surfaced at the Maheshwaram Tahsildar's office in Rangareddy district, where lower-level staff, contract employees, and ration dealers are reportedly extorting money from citizens applying for new ration cards.

According to sources, applicants are being asked to pay anywhere between ₹3,000 and ₹5,000 to get a new ration card or to add names to exist-

ing ones. In many cases, those who paid the bribes allegedly received their ration cards within a week, while others who followed the official process have been waiting for months without any progress. Insiders claim that a few middlemen with strong links to officials in the District Supplies Office (DSO) are at the center of the illegal activity. These agents are allegedly collecting money from desperate applicants, promising fast approvals, and reportedly sharing the

proceeds with staff in key positions.

"The moment you apply through Meeseva, your details go to the MRO for verification. But unless you pay a bribe, your application remains untouched," alleged one local resident whose card has been pending for over three months. The rising demand for ration cards — driven by government schemes like free fine rice distribution — has turned this process into a lucrative opportunity for exploitation. With

minimal awareness among the general public about the proper procedures and timelines, middlemen are taking advantage of vulnerable citizens. Two individuals are said to be consistently involved in collecting bribes at the Maheshwaram Tahsildar's office, operating under the guise of "helping" applicants complete their paperwork. Locals are now demanding an official inquiry into the racket and strict action against those exploiting the system for personal gain.

# No Urea Shortage in Kothagudem

TPN Correspondent | Kothagudem

District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has assured farmers that there is no shortage of urea in Bhadradri Kothagudem district and advised them not to panic. He held a review meeting with officials from the agriculture, cooperation and related departments at the IDOC conference hall. The meeting focused on the current status of urea stocks, distribution, and consumption in the district.

The Collector said that sufficient urea is available and ready to be supplied as per the actual requirement for crop cultivation. He noted that some farmers are purchasing more than necessary, which is creating an artificial

demand and causing confusion. He strictly warned against the diversion of urea for non-agricultural purposes and instructed officials to take legal action against anyone found violating the rules.

To maintain transparency in distribution, the Collector directed that urea should be given only through Aadhaar-linked records and that all supplies must be properly documented. He added that action would be taken against officials who supply urea without valid proof.

The Collector also promoted the use of nano urea, highlighting its cost-effectiveness, environmental benefits, and its ability to improve soil fertility. He



called for field-level awareness campaigns and demonstrations in villages to encourage farmers to shift toward nano urea. A target of 1,000 acres has been set for groundnut cultivation in the district this season, considering its profitability and low input cost. He also encouraged the promotion of Azolla cultivation and biochar production, explaining their role in improving crop yield, maintaining soil moisture, and providing sustainable animal fodder.

The meeting was attended by Agriculture Officer Baburao, DSO Srinivasa Rao, DPD ATMA Saritha, Markfed DM Sunitha, Society CEOs, ADAs, AVOs, and other officials.



# 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-

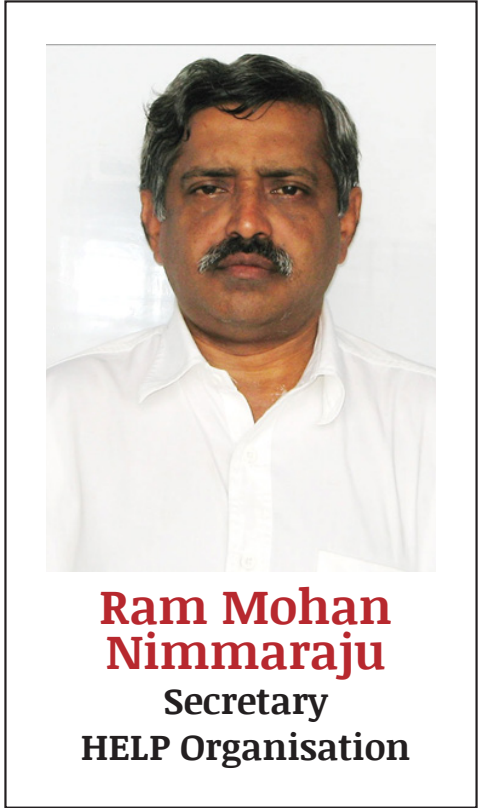
ing survivor from Guntur, recalls the trauma of seeking help: "We are treated as criminals for trying to survive. When we go to the police, instead of protection, we face blame and humiliation."

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.