



Trump Adds 25%, India Faces 50% Tariff

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major escalation of trade tensions between the United States and India, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order imposing an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports. This brings the total tariff on Indian goods to a steep 50 per cent. The move, justified on grounds of national security and foreign policy concerns, is being widely seen as a reaction to India's continued oil trade with Russia. The executive order, released by the White House, stated that India's direct or indirect import of Russian oil constitutes an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to the United States. As per the directive, the new tariffs will take effect 21 days from the date of signing, except for goods already in transit and cleared before September 17. Trump, in a televised interview, launched a strong attack on India's trade policies, calling them "strenuous and obnoxious" and accused India of being an unfair trading partner. "India is our friend, but we have done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are among the highest in the world," Trump said. "I think I'm going to raise that substantially over the next 24 hours because they're buying Russian oil." The move follows a growing pattern of Trump's aggressive trade posture towards nations engaging with Russia amid the ongoing Ukraine war. India has consistently maintained its neutral stance and continued economic ties with Moscow, citing its energy se-

curity needs.
NSA Ajit Doval in Moscow

Even as Washington turned up the pressure, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval landed in Moscow on Wednesday for a scheduled visit aimed at further strengthening Indo-Russian strategic ties. The timing of the visit, though previously planned, is now being viewed with renewed significance given the rapidly intensifying rift with the United States. Sources say Doval's discussions in Moscow will touch upon defense cooperation, intelligence sharing, and energy security, including long-term plans for oil and gas imports from Russia. Diplomatic observers believe the visit signals India's intent to maintain its independent foreign policy stance despite American disapproval.

PM Modi to Visit China for SCO Summit
Adding to the geopolitical developments, fresh reports confirm that



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to travel to China on August 31 for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. This will mark his first visit to China in seven years. The SCO summit is expected to focus on regional security, economic integration, and anti-terrorism cooperation. However, Modi's presence alongside leaders of Russia and China, especially in the backdrop of Trump's aggressive comments, underscores India's balancing act in global diplomacy. While the US has stepped up pressure on India to reduce ties with Russia, India's engagements with Moscow and Beijing in the coming weeks will test New Delhi's diplomatic tightrope walk between strategic autonomy and global expectations.

What Will Be the Impact on India?

At first glance, the tariff hike may seem like a setback for India, particularly as pharmaceuticals, gems, steel, and aluminium form a major part of its exports to the US, with pharma leading the pack. However, the real cost could fall on American consumers. During the COVID-19 crisis, the US had to rely on Indian pharma supplies due to its own production limits, a dependency that still exists. While Indian exporters may face short-term disruptions, many of these products are in global demand, making it easier to find alternative buyers. Additionally, India's strong domestic market, driven by 60% internal consumption, offers a buffer against external shocks. Though initial hiccups are likely, the longer-term impact may hurt the US more — through higher prices and strained supply chains.

Naipunyam Portal to Empower Youth: Lokesh



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh government is preparing to launch a new skill development portal, Naipunyam, on September 1, with the aim of equipping youth with job-ready skills in key growth sectors, particularly in green and renewable energy. Announcing the initiative at the Green Energy Conference in Vijayawada on Wednesday, Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said the portal would serve as a vital link between skilled youth and employment opportunities both within India and globally. "We are aligning skill development with global market needs. The Naipunyam portal

will connect our talent pool with the private sector, enabling direct access to training and employment," he said. The portal will be operated in collaboration with the AP Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). Training will focus on emerging fields such as solar energy, wind energy, electronics manufacturing, and compressed bio-gas (CBG). Minister Lokesh reaffirmed the coalition government's goal of creating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years, calling it a key electoral commitment. "This is an ambitious target, but we're putting in place the infrastructure, policy, and partnerships required to achieve it," he said. He also detailed plans to establish sector-specific industrial clusters across the state, aimed at decentralizing economic growth and attracting private investment. Each cluster will be aligned with specific industries: Anantapur will focus on automobile manufacturing, Kurnool on renewable energy, Kadapa and Chittoor on electronics manufacturing, and Prakasam on CBG. Nellore will house specialized manufacturing like air conditioning units, while Guntur and Krishna districts are planned as "Quantum Valley" hubs. North Andhra will focus on pharmaceuticals, IT, data centers, and medical devices. These clusters are expected to generate high-quality employment, with integrated training through the Naipunyam platform.

2 PAGE



Jagan Condemns Attack on YSRCP Leaders

2 PAGE

Violence Erupts Ahead of ZPTC Polls in Pulivendula

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Tension flared in Pulivendula constituency just days before the ZPTC by-elections, as violent clashes broke out between YSRCP and TDP cadres. On Tuesday night, YSRCP MLC Ramesh Yadav and local leader Ramalingeswara Reddy were seriously injured after an alleged attack by TDP activists in Nallagondavaripalli. The assailants also destroyed four vehicles belonging to YSRCP activists. The violence escalated on Wednesday when another incident occurred at a wedding function near the TDP office in Pulivendula. Over 30 TDP activists reportedly attacked YSRCP supporters with sticks and stones, injuring several including independent candidate Suresh Reddy and YSRCP leader Amareshwara Reddy. Victims were rushed to nearby hospitals for



treatment. YSRCP MP YS Avinash Reddy visited the injured leaders and later led a protest rally from the party office to the DSP's office, demanding strict action. Party state general secretary Satish Kumar Reddy and other dis-



trict leaders joined the rally. Satish Reddy lashed out at Pulivendula DSP for making controversial statements and warned him to maintain neutrality in law enforcement.

2 PAGE



Cabinet Approves Major Welfare and Development Measures

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, approved a series of transformative proposals during its meeting on Wednesday. Aimed at fulfilling poll promises and revitalizing key sectors, the Cabinet gave the green light to major welfare schemes, IT policy reforms, and initiatives for weaker sections.

Free Bus Travel for Women Under 'Sthree Shakti'

In a significant step towards women's empowerment, the Cabinet approved the 'Sthree Shakti' scheme, which allows free travel for women across various APSRTC bus services including Pallevelugu, Ultra Pallevelugu, City Ordinary, Metro Express, and Express services. The scheme will cover 8,456 of the 11,449 buses in the fleet, benefiting around 1.42 crore women annually. The government estimates an annual financial burden of ₹1,942 crore and expects each family to save ₹800 to ₹1,000 per month.

'LIFT' Policy to Boost IT

To compensate for the post-bifurcation IT gap, the Cabinet approved the 'Land Incentive for Technical Tech Hubs' (LIFT) policy. It offers affordable land to Fortune 500 and Forbes Global 2000 companies planning to establish IT, ITES, or GCC units in cities like Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, and Tirupati. Companies must meet employment criteria—3,000 jobs for IT firms and 2,000 for GCCs, with a minimum of 500 jobs per acre.

New Bar Policy

A new bar policy for 2025-28 was approved, replacing the current one expiring on August 31. To curb cartelization and enhance transparency, bar licenses will be allotted through a lottery system. Of the total 840 licenses, 10% will be reserved for toddy tappers with a 50% fee concession. License fees will vary by population size, and operating hours will extend from 10 AM to 11 PM.

Permit Rooms Near Liquor Shops

To control public drinking and maintain law and order, the Cabinet approved the establishment of permit rooms near liquor shops. These rooms can be set up within 1,000 sq. ft. with a ₹5 lakh license fee but are restricted from including kitchens.

Other Key Welfare Decisions

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has taken several other key welfare decisions to benefit various sections of society. Handloom weavers will now receive 200 units of free electricity for their looms and 500 units for household power looms, easing their monthly expenses. For barbers, the free electricity limit provided to salons has been increased from 150 to 200 units. In the tourism sector, 22 APTDC hotels and resorts across the state will be leased out for a period of 33 years, divided into six clusters, to private firms for development and maintenance. In the education sector, the Cabinet has approved the restoration of 4,731 schools that were previously merged under the past government's policies, and also gave a green signal for the rationalization of teaching staff. To boost industrial growth, the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) has been authorized to raise ₹7,500 crore in loans for developing industrial infrastructure. In support of the press, the Cabinet approved the Andhra Pradesh State Media Accreditation Rules 2025, which include simplified norms for granting accreditations to journalists. In terms of internal security, the government has decided to extend the ban on the CPI (Maoist) party and its affiliated organizations for another year, continuing its tough stance against extremism.



Violence Erupts Ahead of ZPTC...

Continued from page 1

YSRCP leaders alleged that TDP, frustrated by the prospect of defeat, was resorting to violent tactics to intimidate voters. MP Avinash Reddy accused TDP of attempting to hijack the election through fear and violence. He condemned the attacks and called them a calculated strategy to derail peaceful polling. Kurnool Range DIG Koya Praveen visited the violence-hit areas and appealed to both parties to act responsibly. He assured a detailed investigation into the incidents and stressed the importance of maintaining law and order. YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed anger over the developments and inquired about the victims over the phone. He criticized the TDP for misusing power and urged party members to stay united and fearless in the face of provocation.

Naipunyam Portal to Empower...

Continued from page 1

Citing a real-life impact story from his Yuva-galam padayatra, Lokesh spoke of a woman who transitioned from being a homemaker to earning ₹40,000 a month at a Kia Motors ancillary unit. “We want to replicate this transformation across the state, particularly for rural youth and women,” he said. He also noted Suzlon has already set up two skill centers in the state. The Green Energy Conference was jointly organized by the APSSDC and Swaniti Initiative. Other dignitaries present included Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, APSSDC Chairman Burugupalli Sesharao, NREDCAP Vice Chairman Kamalakara Babu, and Swaniti Initiative CEO Ritwika Bhattacharya.

Centre Acts on Urea Misuse, Orders Strict Monitoring

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Central Government has directed states to take immediate steps to stop the misuse of agriculture-grade urea for industrial purposes, warning of stringent action against violators. Dilli Rao, Director of Agriculture, revealed details of a high-level virtual meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and Union Agriculture Secretary, which included top officials from all states. The Centre raised concerns over a sharp increase in urea consumption. In Andhra Pradesh, usage during this year's Kharif season jumped to 3.88 lakh metric tonnes from 3 lakh metric tonnes last year—an excess of 88,000 metric tonnes. Officials suspect the diversion of urea to industries like plywood, varnish, paint, AdBlue solution, beer, liquor, dairy, poultry, and aquaculture. States have been asked to strengthen surveillance, especially in border districts like NTR, Eluru, Palnadu, and Kurnool, which share boundaries with Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. Andhra Pradesh will soon conduct a high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary involving officials from Agriculture, Industries, Excise, Transport, and the Pollution Control Board. Strict district-level monitoring will also be implemented.

Chandrababu Launches Welfare Schemes for Handloom Weavers

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Marking National Handloom Day, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has launched three major schemes to uplift handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh. The initiatives include free electricity for looms, 5% GST exemption on handloom products, and a ₹5 crore thrift fund allocation. The government has committed ₹189.62 crore for the free power scheme, which provides up to 200 units for regular looms and 500 units for automatic looms, benefiting thousands of weavers. Weavers using handlooms will save ₹14,956 per year, while those relying on powerlooms will gain ₹32,604 annually. The CM emphasized that the government is focused not only on welfare but also on the economic development of the handloom sector. The state plans to generate year-round employment for weavers and train them as entrepreneurs under its “One Family – One Entrepreneur” vision. The government also increased the pension for weavers aged 50 and above to ₹4,000 under the NTR Bharosa scheme, ben-



efiting over 92,000 weavers. An estimated ₹545.5 crore has been spent on pensions up to June this year. Additionally, Mudra loans and 15% yarn subsidies have been provided, with ₹164.24 crore worth of yarn distributed. The government is investing in new textile clusters and parks across the state, including a ₹172 crore Unity Mall in Visakhapatnam and a mega textile park in Mangalagiri. Ten new clusters are being developed with a budget of ₹10.44 crore, benefitting over 2,000 weavers. The Dharmavaram mega cluster is also under development at a cost of

₹38.21 crore. Under APCO, sales of handloom products have reached ₹80 crore, with an additional ₹40 lakh via e-commerce. The state is also promoting new designs through training and offering up to ₹5 lakh rewards for innovative weaver designs. Andhra Pradesh won 9 out of 29 national ODOP awards this year, with four awards for handloom products. The CM's commitment to empowering weavers through both welfare and sustainable economic growth reflects the coalition government's promise to revive the handloom sector.

Amit Shah Completes 2,559 Days as Union Home Minister

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has achieved a historic milestone by completing 2,559 days in office, marking one of the longest tenures for a Home Minister in India's history. Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan congratulated Amit Shah on X (formerly Twitter), praising his historic tenure as Union Home Minister. Leaders and citizens across the country are extending heartfelt congratulations for his steadfast service and exemplary leadership. Managing internal security for a vast and diverse nation like Bharat, with a population of over 140 crore, is a formidable



challenge. Yet, Amit Shah's tenure has been characterized by unwavering commitment, firm decision-making, and a proactive approach to national security, all of which have contributed to building a stronger and safer India. His calm and strategic handling

of highly sensitive national issues, particularly the peaceful abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, without significant disruption to law and order, has been hailed as a testament to his leadership and statesmanship. Many leaders also took the opportunity to express gratitude to the BJP national leadership and Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for entrusting the responsibility of India's internal security to such capable hands. The enduring impact of Amit Shah's decisions continues to shape India's internal security landscape, earning him widespread recognition as one of the most influential Home Ministers in independent India.

AP Targets 160 GW Through Green Energy Policy



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a major push towards sustainable development, the Andhra Pradesh government has unveiled an ambitious Green Energy Policy aimed at generating 160 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy by 2029. The announcement was made by Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar at the Green Energy Conference held in Vijayawada, jointly organized by the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and Swaniti Initiative. IT Minister Nara Lokesh also participated in the event. Minister Ravi Kumar stated that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has prioritized clean energy initiatives since taking office in 2024. “Despite the decline in investor confidence during the previous regime, the CM successfully regained their trust through effective presentations,” he said. He emphasized the immense potential of Rayalaseema for renewable energy projects and revealed that several MoUs with private investors have already been signed. These projects are now under implementation and are expected to be fully operational by 2029. Recognizing the need for a skilled workforce to support these projects, the Minister announced that APSSDC will provide targeted skill training to unemployed youth. “Our mission is to create 20 lakh jobs through skill development and green energy expansion,” he said. Ravi Kumar further revealed that Reliance Industries is setting up 500 Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants across the state, with the foundation stone for one major unit already laid in Prakasam district by Minister Lokesh. These CBG plants are expected to generate employment for over 2.5 lakh people, while also offering better lease income to farmers and reducing rural-to-urban migration. He concluded by affirming the government's vision to make Andhra Pradesh a national leader in renewable energy and skill-based employment.

New Bar Policy Announced

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Government has announced a new bar policy that will be effective from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2028. As part of the policy, the government will issue licenses for 840 bars across the state. These licenses will be allotted through a tender process, with final selection carried out via a lottery system to ensure transparency. In a welfare-oriented move, the government has reserved 10% of the total bars for toddy tapper workers, offering them a 50% concession on the license fee. The policy also categorizes license fees based on the population of the

area. For towns with a population below 50,000, the license fee is fixed at ₹30 lakh. In places where the population ranges between 50,000 and 5 lakh, the fee will be ₹55 lakh. For cities with a population above 5 lakh, the fee is set at ₹75 lakh. Bars will be allowed to operate from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM, with a one-hour grace period permitted beyond the closing time. While bars are allowed in most tourist destinations, they will not be permitted in religious places. The policy is expected to bring more order and regulation to the liquor industry while providing opportunities for underprivileged communities.



Jagan Condemns Attack on YSRCP Leaders

TPN Correspondent | Pulivendula

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has strongly condemned the alleged violent attack by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supporters on YSRCP leaders in Pulivendula, ahead of the ZPTC by-election. The former Chief Minister personally called the injured leaders—MLC Ramesh

Yadav, Velpula Ramalingareddy, Saidapuram Suresh Reddy (Chanti), and Amaresh Reddy—to inquire about their condition and the sequence of events. According to the YSRCP leaders, the attack was allegedly orchestrated by TDP supporters under the leadership of B.Tech Ravi. Vehicles were vandalized, and several YSRCP leaders sustained injuries during the assault. Jagan

accused the ruling coalition of resorting to violence out of fear of losing in a democratic election. He slammed the TDP for creating a climate of fear and misusing state machinery to manipulate the electoral process. Jagan expressed confidence that the public is watching these developments closely and will give a strong response to the TDP's actions in the upcoming by-election.

He encouraged his party cadre to stand strong and remain united, assuring them of full support from the party's leadership. The attack, especially targeting BC leader Ramesh Yadav, has triggered sharp criticism from YSRCP, which accused the TDP of being anti-Backward Classes and deliberately disturbing peace in the YSRCP stronghold of Pulivendula.



PVN Madhav Gets Grand Welcome

TPN Correspondent | Bapatla

Andhra Pradesh BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav was accorded a rousing reception in Bapatla on wednesday as part of a grand Shobha Yatra organized by enthusiastic party activists. The rally, which began at the local Town Hall and concluded at Sai Function Hall, witnessed a massive turnout and overwhelming energy from BJP cadres and supporters. Hundreds of activists lined the streets, showering Madhav with garlands, chants, and cheers as the rally proceeded through the heart of the town. According to party leaders, this is the first time in Bapatla's political history that a BJP state president received such an elaborate welcome. The sheer scale of the event and the participation of activists from surrounding areas gave the town a festive atmosphere. The Shobha Yatra was marked by colorful decorations, traditional music, and energetic slogans in support of BJP's mission and leadership. The rally not only showcased the growing strength of the BJP in coastal Andhra but also served as a morale booster for the cadre ahead of upcoming political challenges. Following the rally, a activists' meeting was held at Sai Function Hall where Madhav addressed the gathering. In his speech, he praised the dedication of the local party activists and emphasized the importance of grassroots efforts in strengthening the party's base. He also spoke about BJP's vision for Andhra Pradesh and urged the cadre to actively engage with the public on development and national unity. The event concluded with renewed energy and commitment from the local leadership to work towards BJP's growth in the region.

YSRCP Complains to SEC on Pulivendula Violence

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A delegation of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders met State Election Commissioner (SEC) Neelam Sahni in Vijayawada to lodge a formal complaint against alleged attacks and lawlessness by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supporters in Pulivendula, YSR Kadapa district, ahead of the ZPTC by-election on August 12. The YSRCP accused TDP 'goons' of orchestrating violence to create fear and disrupt the democratic process.

Led by Krishna district YSRCP president and former minister Perni Venkatramiah (Nani), the delegation included former MLA Malladi Vishnu, MLC Lella Appireddy, NTR district YSRCP president Devineni Avinash, Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, and others. They submitted evidence of attacks on YSRCP leaders, including MLC Ramesh Yadav and mandal leader Velpula Ramu, who were allegedly chased by 30 vehicles, assaulted with sticks and knives, and seriously injured. The YSRCP claimed police failed to intervene, accusing them of colluding with TDP to target opposition leaders. Nani condemned TDP's tactics, alleging Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was orchestrating violence for political gain. MLC Appireddy highlighted a pattern of electoral violence, citing similar incidents in Kuppam, and accused TDP of intimidating voters. Devineni Avinash criticized officials for allegedly working in TDP's favor, undermining fair elections. The YSRCP urged the SEC to take immediate action to ensure transparent and peaceful polls, warning that TDP's actions would face consequences from the public through their votes.

YSRCP Alleges TDP Provoking Violence Ahead of Elections

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

YSRCP State General Secretary Satish Reddy and District President P. Ravindranath Reddy have filed a complaint with Kadapa SP Ashok Kumar, alleging that TDP leaders are deliberately inciting violence in Pulivendula and Ontimitta ZPTC election areas. The complaint urged the police to ensure free and fair elections, and requested action against those who attacked YSRCP Activists on Tuesday night, including filing attempt-to-murder charges. Satish Reddy, addressing the media later, accused the TDP of disrupting the peaceful atmosphere in Pulivendula through planned attacks aimed at creating fear. He asserted that even if YSRCP leaders are arrested, women from the party will lead the campaign and ensure victory. "If they chase away the men, our women will fight and win the elections," he said, hand-



ing over the responsibility of the election to the women of Pulivendula. He condemned the attack on YSRCP sympathizers Suresh Kumar Reddy and Amareshwar Reddy, who were allegedly targeted by TDP supporters while en route to a wedding. He criticized the police for not taking any action against the attackers and warned that such violent acts threaten democratic elections. Satish Reddy also highlighted that a YSRCP leader named Rasool was

attacked again this morning by the same group, and demanded that elections be held in a democratic and peaceful manner. He dismissed allegations linking YSRCP to individuals involved in liquor scams, stating that photos with leaders don't imply political affiliation. He accused "yellow media" of spreading misinformation and said people are aware of the truth. The SP reportedly assured that tight security would be arranged to prevent further unrest.

Minister Satya Kumar Attends 'Namo Bharateeyam'



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Health Minister Srikanth Satya Kumar participated in the "Namo Bharateeyam" event held at A-Convention Hall on Bandar Road, Vijayawada. The program was organized to honor and reflect upon the 56 years of dedicated public service rendered by V Valluru Sree-

mannarayana, a prominent figure known for his commitment to societal welfare. Speaking at the gathering, the minister praised Sreemannarayana's lifetime of service, emphasizing that his sacrifices, integrity, and social commitment were exemplary. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including

political leaders, prominent personalities, and social activists, who shared heartfelt tributes and stories highlighting Sreemannarayana's contribution to society. Described as a beacon of patriotism and community spirit, Sreemannarayana's efforts in public life were portrayed as deeply rooted in values of nationalism, discipline, and compassion. Attendees noted that his selfless work continues to inspire younger generations to embrace service as a lifelong mission. The program was rich with messages of gratitude, with participants stressing the need to recognize and celebrate such individuals who dedicate their lives to the betterment of society. The event concluded on a note of collective respect and admiration for Sreemannarayana's unwavering dedication to public welfare.

Collector Orders Swift Dengue Response

TPN Correspondent | Bapatla

Following the recent death of a resident due to dengue in Eedupalli village of Bapatla district, District Collector J. Venkata Murali held an emergency video conference with mandal-level officials and health personnel to launch a coordinated response. Emphasizing strict control of seasonal diseases, the Collector issued a set of urgent directives. He instructed staff to enforce cleanliness across all villages, particularly around schools and Anganwadi centers. "Door-to-door fever surveys must be carried out immediately in all villages to detect and respond to symptoms early," he said. To combat mosquito breeding, the Collector ordered the application of oil balls in drainage systems and widespread spraying to eliminate larvae. He stressed that medical staff must remain vigilant, and any negligence would invite stringent action. Specific attention was drawn to unlicensed practitioners (RMPs), who were strictly warned to offer only basic care and refer serious cases to government hospitals. "If any RMP provides inpatient services, criminal action will be initiated," warned the Collector. The Collector suspended the Panchayat Secretary of Eedupalli for dereliction of duty and emphasized the need for prompt field-level health work. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring the public receives clean drinking water. "Water should be properly purified before supply, and people should be cautious about what they consume," he added. Officials from the medical, panchayat, and rural water supply departments were instructed to work in close coordination to prevent further spread of the disease.



Haj Support in Manifesto Fulfilled, Says Committee



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh State Haj Committee has urged Muslim pilgrims to utilize the Vijayawada embarkation point in large numbers for the upcoming Haj pilgrimage. Chairman SK Hasan Basha, addressing the media in Vijayawada on Wednesday, expressed gratitude to CM Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Lokesh for reinstating the Vijayawada embarkation point. The state government has announced a financial assistance of ₹1 lakh to Haj pilgrims, in line with its manifesto promise. Last year, 72 pilgrims benefited from this aid, and this year over 1900 applications have already been received from the Vijayawada embarkation point. The Central Haj Committee has allocated 2550 seats to Andhra Pradesh. Chairman Basha emphasized that maintaining the Vijayawada embarkation facility requires high turnout from local pilgrims. He assured that the coalition government would resolve the issues faced during the previous regime and offer better amenities to Haj travelers. Director Shaik Abdul Hussain added that the government had proven its commitment through action, not just promises. A request to extend the Haj application deadline has been submitted to the Central Haj Committee. Others present included Habibullah and Mohammad Saji.

Cabinet Boosts Free Electricity for Nayi Brahmins



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Fulfilling another election promise, the coalition government has increased free electricity for Nayi Brahmin salon owners from 150 to 200 units per month. The decision, approved in a cabinet meeting led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, was warmly welcomed by Minister for BC, EWS Welfare, Handlooms, and Textiles, S. Savitha. Expressing her delight, Minister Savitha thanked the Chief Minister for honoring the commitment made during the elections to support the Nayi Brahmin community. She highlighted that the cabinet's approval will benefit 40,808 registered Category-II salon shops across the state, providing them with up to 200 units of free electricity monthly. This initiative is expected to place an annual financial burden of ₹100.20 crore on the state exchequer. The minister recalled Naidu's election promise to alleviate the challenges faced by Nayi Brahmins, emphasizing his dedication to their welfare. Additionally, she noted that the honorarium for Nayi Brahmins working in temples has been raised from ₹20,000 to ₹25,000, further underscoring the government's commitment to their upliftment. Minister Savitha stated that CM Naidu's goal is to empower the Nayi Brahmin community across all sectors. This move is part of a broader effort to support marginalized communities, aligning with the coalition government's vision for inclusive development and economic empowerment.



MP's Intervention Brings 4G to Remote Villages

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Efforts by Tirupati MP Gurumoorthy have paved the way for the installation of BSNL 4G towers in the coastal villages of Pudirayadoruvu (Gudur constituency) and Irakam Island (Sullurupeta constituency), which have long suffered from poor mobile connectivity. These villages, located in eco-sensitive zones, have been facing severe communication issues, especially during emergencies like cyclones. During his visits to these areas, MP Gurumoorthy was made aware of the hardships locals faced due to weak mobile signals. Responding to their concerns, he urged BSNL to include both villages in the nationwide project aimed at enhancing 4G infrastructure in border and remote regions. Though BSNL approved the project, the proposal hit a roadblock as both locations fall under the Eco-Sensitive Zone, requiring forest department permissions. In a subsequent review meeting at the MP's office, BSNL officials explained issues related to forest clearance and power connections for the Pudirayadoruvu tower. Taking swift action, MP Gurumoorthy facilitated power connectivity by coordinating with concerned departments and wrote to Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, seeking forest clearance. Following his intervention, the forest department granted the required permissions.

Lokesh unveils Konaseema Youth Summit Poster

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a step towards empowering the youth of Andhra Pradesh, Minister for IT and Education Nara Lokesh unveiled the poster for the Konaseema Youth Summit on Wednesday morning at the Chief Minister's residence in Undavalli. The event, set to be held on August 12 in Ramachandrapuram, coincides with International Youth Day and is being organized under the leadership of Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subhash. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Lokesh emphasized the importance of youth summits in harnessing and refining the hidden

talent and skills among young people. He said such platforms play a vital role in preparing the youth for the state's future developmental needs. "These summits offer the right stage for young minds to express their ideas, develop leadership qualities, and learn to make swift and informed decisions based on situational demands," Lokesh stated. He highlighted that the Konaseema Youth Summit will not only foster discussions on development agendas and future planning but also instill confidence among participants to play an active role in shaping the



state's future. Lokesh also extended special appreciation to Minister Subhash for his initiative in organizing an event of such significance for youth empowerment. The poster launch took place prior to the scheduled Cabinet meeting. Several ministers including Nimmala Rama Naidu, Anam Ram Narayana Reddy, Kolu-su Parthasarathi, Savitha, Gummadi Sandhya Rani, Anagani Satya Prasad, Ram Prasad Reddy, Kondapalli Srinivas, and Janardhan Reddy were present at the event.

India SME Forum Conducts Workshop



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In alignment with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision of "One Family - One Entrepreneur," the India SME Forum, in collaboration with MEPMA, conducted a special workshop for SHG (Self-Help

Group) Star Performer women at the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation on Wednesday. Under the guidance of Tej Bharat, an MoU was signed between MEPMA and the India SME Forum to assess and support the livelihoods

of SHG entrepreneurs in urban areas. As part of this initiative, women running high-standard businesses were identified as 'Star Performers.' These women will be supported through the LEAP (Livelihoods Enhancement and Aspiring Entrepreneurs Program), jointly run by MEPMA and the India SME Forum. The LEAP program focuses on key sectors such as retail, textiles, food, beauty & wellness, and furniture & wood products. It offers practical skills, sector-specific insights, expert mentorship, and tools to help SHG women scale their businesses from local to global levels. The program also facilitates support through help desks

for Udyam registration, GeM onboarding, IT compliance, packaging and quality, digital tools, market access (online and offline), IPR registration, banking support, and government schemes. During the workshop, officials provided detailed guidance on how SHG women can further grow their businesses and leverage available support systems. Municipal Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner graced the event and assured full government cooperation for women empowerment. The session was coordinated by Project Director P. Venkata Narayana and Technical Expert (Livelihoods) G.S. Sujatha.

VMC Conducts Fire Safety Awareness Drive

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Following the directives of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanchandra H.M., the VMC fire safety team conducted a surprise inspection and awareness program at Brand Factory showroom and Ramraj Cotton & Linen showroom on Pinnamaneni Polyclinic Road. As part of the campaign, the staff explained preventive measures to avoid fire accidents, proper use of fire safety equipment, and the correct procedure to extinguish fires.

Demonstrations included the use of fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, and smoke detectors. Officials elaborated on their placement, functioning, and how smoke alarms are triggered in the event of a fire. The team also emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate fire safety infrastructure around commercial complexes to prevent major mishaps. The program aimed to raise awareness among staff and management of the showrooms about ensuring fire safety compliance and being



prepared for emergencies. District Fire Officer Malyadri, along with other fire department personnel, actively participated in the aware-

ness session. The initiative is part of the VMC's ongoing efforts to strengthen fire preparedness and safety standards across the city.

Commissioner Urges Associations for Cleanliness Drive

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

As per the directives of VMC Commissioner Dhyanchandra H.M., a key awareness meeting was conducted at the new building meeting hall of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. The meeting was presided over by Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. K. Arjuna Rao, and attended by representatives of various Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs), hotels, schools, hospitals, Rythu Bazaars, vegetable markets, and meat stalls. Dr. Arjuna Rao encouraged RWAs to adopt the "50% contribution colony" model, where VMC and the colony share sanitation worker salaries equally through a formal MoU. He mentioned that four colonies are already following this system and receiving worker wages by the 5th of every month. In line with the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (amended 2022), officials reiterated the ban on single-use plastics below 120 microns. Between July 25 and August 6, ten enforcement teams seized 1,371.68 kg of banned plastic and collected ₹7.41 lakh in fines. By August 15, VMC aims to make Vijayawada plastic-free and promote the use of biodegradable, cloth, and jute bags. About 102 participants attended the meeting, with many pledging to adopt the 50% contribution model and ensure proper garbage segregation in support of Swachh Survekshan goals.

Jessy Wins Silver at Skating Championship

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

International skater and Prime Minister's Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardee Jessy Raj Matrapu has once again made India proud by clinching a silver medal in the Solo Dance - Sub Junior category at the 20th Asian Roller Skating Championship 2025 held in South Korea from July 24 to 29. In recognition of her achievement, Jessy was felicitated on Wednesday by Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy at his camp office. The minister extended his heartfelt con-

gratulations and assured full support from the state government for her future sporting endeavors. He lauded the dedication and training of her coaches, Simhadri and Team India Coach Adesh Singh, for their instrumental role in her success. The minister also appreciated Jessy's parents for their unwavering support and encouragement, which has been key to her journey. Jessy's achievement marks another proud moment for Andhra Pradesh on the international sports stage.



Temporary Water supply Disruption

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has announced that damaged gate valves at the Gandhi Bavi booster station were replaced with new ones. Due to these repairs,

there will be partial disruption in water supply on the evening of Friday and the morning of Saturday, in areas receiving water from Srinivasa Mahal, Gandhi Bavi, and Fish Market reservoirs.

Amaravati Eye Hospital Joins P4 Movement

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a significant move towards community upliftment, Amaravati Eye Hospital has announced its participation as a mentor in the state government's Poverty Eradication Program (P4) in NTR District. The hospital, located at Pushpa Centre in Vijayawada, aims to transform lives by guiding underprivileged families on their path to self-reliance. Dr. Shailaja Kethineni, Managing Director of the hospital, presented a formal pledge letter to District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha at the Collectorate. The Collector appreciated the hospital's proactive involvement and said the Chief Minister's call for public participation in P4 is receiving widespread response. "Every day, individuals and institutions are coming forward to contribute to this noble mission. Their efforts to uplift the poor are commendable," she noted. Collector Lakshmisha expressed heartfelt gratitude to Amaravati Eye Hospital for its continued service to society. She emphasized that mentoring a poor family is a meaningful way to contribute to social change. The hospital, already known for its free eye care services to the needy, has now expanded its social impact through this initiative.



'RideIt' with Driver-Friendly Features

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A new ride-hailing app 'RideIt' has been launched in Vijayawada, promising a driver- and customer-friendly experience with several unique features. The app was officially inaugurated at the company's office in Seetharampuram on Wednesday. RideIt Founder-Director Raviteja Painda, Co-founder Sanhitha Madala, and Director Prashanthi Kongara shared the app's vision and benefits during a media interaction. RideIt ensures zero commission and no wallet services, enabling direct payments and eliminating cancellation issues. A dedicated Driver Care call center has been set up to resolve driver grievances, alongside a legal support sys-



tem to assist with disputes. The app also includes pet-friendly ride options and personalized school rides for children's safety. Furthermore, in collaboration with Vijaya Super Specialty Hospitals, RideIt is offering health cards for drivers, providing discounts on treatments and medications. The app is currently available in Vijayawada and will soon expand to other cities across Andhra Pradesh.

Unapproved Layouts regularization Begins

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Dhyanchandra H.M. announced that the Andhra Pradesh government has extended and amended the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) 2020 through G.O. Ms. No. 134 dated 26-07-2025. Under the revised order, unapproved layouts and plots registered up to June 30, 2025, are eligible for regularisation by paying the stipulated penal fee and contributing 14% open space. Owners must get layout plans prepared by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect and apply online at <http://lrstdtcp.ap.gov.in> by October 24, 2025. An initial 50% penalty fee or a minimum of ₹10,000 is required for application submission. After field verification by Corporation staff, the remaining fees and open space charges must be paid. Commissioner Dhyanchandra warned that unregularised plots would be treated as continuous violations and penalized accordingly. Such properties will not receive electricity, water, or drainage con-



nections and will be listed in the "Prohibited Property Watch Register" of the Registration Department. Transactions, registrations, or building approvals for these plots will not be permitted. Applicants submitting full payment within 45 days (by September 10) will receive a 10% concession on penalty charges. Those applying between 45 and 90 days will get a 5% concession. A 50% discount on the open space charges is also available. Developers are urged to submit layout details to the corporation immediately.

Affected areas include Brahmana Veedhi, Fish Market, Mahantipuram, Subbaramaiah Road, Kothapeta Konda, and Subramanya Swamy Temple Hill areas. Normal water supply is expected

to resume by the evening of Saturday, after completion of the repair works. Residents are requested to cooperate during this temporary inconvenience.

‘Swachh Kurnool’ Must Become Reality: Collector

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool
District Collector P. Ranjith Basha has directed all municipal commissioners of Kurnool, Adoni, Emmiganur, and Gudur to ensure proper sanitation and daily door-to-door garbage collection across municipalities, aiming to shape Kurnool as a “Swachh Kurnool.” In a review meeting held at the Collector-ate Conference Hall, attended by officials including EEs, DEs, sanitary inspectors, town planning officers, and municipal managers, the Collector expressed dissatisfaction over the inadequate sanitation in Kurnool city despite having 1200 sanitary workers. He ordered strict action against negligent sanitary inspectors and issued a show-cause notice to the public health officer. He highlighted unclean stretches such as the B Camp to Raj Vihar road and emphasized immediate improvements. The Collector warned that if sanitation progress is not visible within ten days, stern action would be taken. He also instructed officials to ensure 100% garbage collection with pushcarts



and to use general funds if needed. Drinking water arrangements similar to last year must be made, especially for Kallur’s 16 wards. Beautification efforts like divider painting from B Camp to Bus Stand were discussed. He also called for an action plan to utilize general and 15th Finance Commission funds, and speed up long-pending projects including those under ENC funds. On plastic use, he instructed for public awareness campaigns and pamphlet distribution at shops. The Town Planning wing was asked to address frequent negative media reports and submit inquiry reports. Other directives included road widening between Nandyal Checkpost to Gargayapuram, sanitation worker recruitment in Gudur, and addressing housing, ration shops, and Anganwadi needs in TIDCO housing areas.

SP Reviews Safe Fuel Transportation Guidelines

TPN Correspondent | Palnadu
A review meeting on the safe transportation of petroleum products like high-speed diesel (HSD) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was held on Wednesday at the Palnadu District Police Office under the supervision of District SP Kanchi Srinivasa Rao. The meeting, conducted on the instructions of State DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, included petrol bunk owners and gas dealers from across the district. During the meeting, SP Srinivasa Rao emphasized strict adherence to legal guidelines



for transporting petroleum products. He said 35 accident-prone “black spots” had been identified across the district, and urged authorities to implement safety measures in those areas. He instructed

all fuel stations and gas agencies to install clear safety boards and create awareness about road accidents and substance abuse. He specifically advised against allowing minors to drive vehicles and stressed the need for dual drivers for long-distance transport. Companies must reduce bulk transport distances and consider alternate routes, he added. He also recommended mandatory health fitness checks for drivers before travel and adequate rest time during loading and unloading to avoid fatigue-related accidents.

Officials from BPCL, IOCL, and the Legal Metrology Department addressed queries raised by gas and fuel dealers. The session was attended by Admin SP JV Santosh, Women Police Station DSP M. Venkata Ramana, Traffic CI Lokanatham, BPCL Sales Officer Chandrakant Nayak, IOCL Officers Sai Prakash and Vamsikrishna, and Metrology Officer Allurayya, among others. SP Srinivasa Rao concluded by calling for collective responsibility in ensuring public safety and promoting safe transportation practices.

ASR College Holds Breastfeeding Awareness Drive

TPN Correspondent | Tadepalligudem
ASR Homoeopathic Medical College, in partnership with Alisha Academy and the Umar Alisha Rural Development Trust, conducted a series of impactful activities from Friday to Wednesday in observance of World Breastfeeding Week. Under the theme “Invest in Breastfeeding, Invest in the Future,” the initiative aimed to raise awareness about the health benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and child. College Principal Dr. Ananda Kumar Pingali said the college conducted awareness sessions, free medical camps, and competitions involving students, in-



terns, and faculty. Outreach programs were extended to pregnant and lactating mothers across nearby villages with the support of Anganwadi and ICDS workers. On Wednesday key event took place at Tadepalligudem Railway Station, where

a breastfeeding room was inaugurated. Another awareness session was held at Sri Viswa Viznana Vidya Adhyathmika Peetham in association with the Aura Foundation. A major highlight was the free medical camp at Navabpalem Gram Panchayat, where 97 patients were treated by faculty and 22 interns. The week also featured an internal awareness drive within the college. The institution reaffirmed its commitment to maternal and child health and plans to amplify its message through video messages from dignitaries to be shared on social media.

Collector Orders Strict Coastal Security Measures

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram
Vizianagaram District Collector Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has directed officials to implement stringent measures to enhance coastal security. A coastal security committee meeting was held at the Collector's chamber on Wednesday to review protection strategies for the district's 29-km coastline. The committee proposed constructing a coastal road, setting up one watch tower per coastal village, deploying two patrolling vehicles, and installing 16 CCTV cameras along the shore. The Collector assured that a 29-km coastal road will be proposed under the beach corridor project, and CSR funds will be utilized for watch towers, vehicles, and CCTV infrastructure. He emphasized that all fishermen operating in coastal areas must carry biometric ID cards without fail. Marine police will take action against violators. He also instructed fisheries department officials to coordinate with line departments during meetings and suggested organizing medical camps in coastal villages with the support of private hospitals from Vizianagaram town. Officials from the Navy, Intelligence Bureau, Marine Police, and Fisheries Department participated in the meeting, including Additional SP A.M. Srinivasa Rao, Navy Lieutenant Commander Swapnil Chauhan, and Fisheries Deputy Director Vijaya Krishna.



DRO Urges Swift Action Against Encroachments

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur
District Revenue Officer (DRO) Malola directed officials to identify and remove encroachments on water bodies within panchayat and municipal limits as per government norms. He issued these instructions during the district-level Watchdog Committee meeting held at the Mini Conference Hall in the Anantapur Collectorate. DRO Malola emphasized the need for immediate action to preserve water sources such as lakes, tanks, and tank beds in both rural and urban areas. He instructed municipal commissioners, revenue, irrigation, and pollution control board officials to form joint inspection teams. These teams are to conduct on-ground surveys to assess the current conditions, identify encroachments, and take necessary steps to clear them, ensuring smooth water flow. He stressed adherence to G.O. No. 386, under which a review of previously identified



encroachments and removals was also conducted during the meeting. DRO Malola asked for detailed updates on how many water bodies were encroached upon earlier and how many of those encroachments have been removed so far. He stated that the progress on these issues will be reviewed in the next committee meeting and directed officials to complete removal of all identified encroachments within one week. Irrigation SE Vishwanatha Reddy, Collectorate Coordination Section Superintendent Yugeswari Devi, officials from Panchayat Raj, Town Planning, Pollution Control Board, and municipal commissioners attended the meeting.

Fake Death Certificate Scam Busted

TPN Correspondent | Guntur
In a shocking case of forgery and cheating, Tenali Rural Police arrested four individuals for faking a death certificate of a living woman and selling her property. Guntur district DSP Janardhan Rao disclosed the details in a press briefing. The accused, Kolapalli Nares from Burrupalem village in Tenali Rural mandal, allegedly created a fake death certificate and voter ID in the name of his aunt, Gajula Basavapoorna Kumari, who is still alive. He colluded with a MeeSeva center operator named Shivannarayana, who helped generate the fake certificate, and a document writer, Tirupati Mariyadas. With these forged documents, they sold a piece of land through five different registrations to multiple buyers and pocketed approximate-

ly ₹55 lakh. The transactions were reportedly carried out with the help of locals. DSP Janardhan Rao said the gang was involved in similar



fraudulent activities earlier as well, creating fake death and family member certificates to illegally transfer properties. He confirmed that police had seized a laptop and color printer used for forging documents. All four accused have been arrested and produced before the court. The press meet was also attended by Rural CI Umesh, Sub-Inspectors, and other police staff.

Traffic Island Between Rayachoti and Madanapalle : Minister Mandipalli

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
In a key move to enhance road safety, the state government is planning to establish a traffic island between Rayachoti and Madanapalle on the national highway. Minister for Transport and Youth Services, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, held a high-level meeting with NHAI Chairman R.K. Singh and Principal Secretary of Transport, Kantilal Dande, at the Secretariat on Wednesday. During the discussions, Minister Reddy directed officials to prioritize commuter safety and replace the underpass currently in the planning stage with a traffic island. He emphasized that traffic islands play a crucial role in minimizing road accidents and should be incorporated without delay. The minister further instructed the authorities to redesign the current plan and implement the revised safety structure swiftly. He stressed that there should be no compromise when it comes to public safety on highways. Officials were asked to prepare the necessary plans and begin execution immediately to ensure smooth and secure travel for motorists on this busy stretch of road. This decision is part of the state's ongoing efforts to improve transportation infrastructure and reduce the frequency of accidents on high-risk routes.

SITAMS College Hosts National Space Day

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor
Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar emphasized the importance of cultivating scientific curiosity among students in today's fast-evolving technological world. He was speaking at the National Space Day celebrations held at SITAMS College, where he inaugurated the two-day event by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The program was attended by MARL Director Dr. Amit Kumar Patra, SHAR GM Krithivasan, College Principal Venkata Chalapathi, Secretary Badri Narayana, and over 2,000 students. The event was organized to commemorate India's successful Chandrayaan-3 mission launched in 2023. Collector Sumit Kumar noted that students, particularly from Class 9 onwards, should

actively seek additional knowledge beyond textbooks by utilizing books and the internet. He announced that, with the support of the state government and National Atomic Research Laboratory (NARL), a 50-day awareness program would soon be launched to educate students on various aspects of space research. SHAR GM Krithivasan highlighted the recent success of the GSLV-F16 mission and called it a milestone in ISRO's history. He added that preparations for Chandrayaan-4 are already underway. As part of the event, various space-related activities, including a quiz, model presentations, and a mock rocket launch, were held. Around 6,000 students from high schools, junior colleges, and engineering institutions are expected to participate.

Waste is not a waste until it is wasted - a problem into an opportunity

Waste is not wasted until it is wasted” – this powerful adage serves as the guiding principle for a zero-carbon lifestyle practiced by all successful cities in the world and the evolution of the circular economy. As an outsider to Andhra Pradesh, I’m consistently struck by the apparent disregard many residents show for keeping their surroundings clean. It’s a disheartening observation. Take, for instance, the affluent LIC Colony in Vijayawada where I live. Every morning, the dedicated staff of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) diligently collect trash from homes and meticulously clean the streets. Yet, by nightfall, a disheartening sight emerges: most of the resident’s water clean their house front yard and draw Rangoli. But just before this cultural welcoming of deity, they dump all waste including kitchen waste over the street, yards away from their clean home. These wastes are then scattered by foraging street dogs. The sincere efforts of the VMC staff, who work tirelessly to maintain cleanliness, are undermined daily. This raises a crucial question: Whose responsibility is this? I keep my kitchen waste (biodegradable) and plastic waste separate and hand it over to VMC workers every morning. But the truth, as soon as they collect the separated waste, they dump it together into their truck, making it impossible to separate degradable and non-degradable



for recycling. Over and over, when I ask them to keep it separate, they comment what will we do at the end of the day. We can dump it together only, showing the inability of the authorities to provide a waste management solution. It’s clear that a fundamental shift in behavior is desperately needed, not just in LIC Colony, but across all of Andhra Pradesh with the public and the responsible local bodies. We aren’t lacking in environmental laws. Rather, the issue lies in their inadequate implementation and enforcement. Recent news, however, offers a glimmer of hope. It was encouraging to read about Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s visit to a waste processing unit run by Jindal.

Then the 300-acre Circular Economy Industrial Park at Thukivakam near Tirupati. Furthermore, the government’s recent ban on plastic covers across the state is a commendable step. While these initiatives are positive, it’s important to acknowledge the scale of the challenge. The amount of waste generated in Andhra Pradesh is at least 98% more than what the Jindal plant can convert into energy, highlighting the immense task ahead. The Circular Economy Industrial Park is the solution to processing the huge reservoir of plastics produced in a day to recycling and value-added product manufacturing like the Plastwood, the alternative for wood and many other value added products.



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

The adage “Waste is not wasted until it is wasted” holds profound resonance in the context of Andhra’s swelling urban population and its escalating waste crisis. While seemingly paradoxical, it underscores a crucial truth: every discarded item, regardless of its initial perceived worthlessness, retains potential value until it is irreversibly lost through irresponsible disposal. India’s rapid urbanization has unfortunately been accompanied by a pervasive “trashing culture” that overlooks this inherent value, leading to severe environmental degradation and public health hazards. The core problem lies not just in the quantity of waste, but in the pervasive “trashing culture” that perme-

ates many urban landscapes. It is not that different in Andhra villages too. A fundamental pillar of effective waste management is segregation at the source (households, offices, commercial establishments). In India, despite rules mandating it, the practice remains largely inconsistent. Mixed waste streams, where wet and dry, recyclable and non-recyclable materials are haphazardly combined, make efficient processing and recycling almost impossible. This “trashing” of mixed waste immediately reduces its potential value, effectively “wasting” it before it even leaves the doorstep. Initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) have raised awareness about cleanliness, a deep-seated behavioral change regarding waste disposal is still evolving. Insufficient public participation in segregation and a lack of stringent enforcement of waste management rules contribute significantly to the irresponsible trashing culture. More than enforcement, the government should wake up and start setting up waste management units than allocating waste dumping yards. Recent fire in God’s Own Country Kerala’s Bhramapuram Waste Treatment plant, which become a dump yard due to improper planning and corruption is a classic wakeup call on how many governments take this critical matter lightly and create land, air and water pollute.

India’s Strategic Bipolarity

Subtitle: Hubris vs Victimhood



India’s foreign policy establishment is gripped by a growing bipolarity—between triumphalism and victimhood. This internal contradiction, more evident now under the Modi government, has complicated India’s response to shifting global dynamics, particularly under the unpredictable Trump-led U.S.

The first pole emerged in 2014 with Modi’s rise. India was seen as a rising power, finally acting like one. From economic growth to global diplomacy, the narrative was that India had arrived. The 2023 G20 summit symbolised this peak. New Delhi was hosting world leaders, asserting its autonomy, and seen as an indispensable power in global alignments like the Quad.

But by late 2024, cracks began to show. India’s diplomatic relations with the U.S., Canada, and Britain turned tense. The Nijjar-Pannun affair, Joe Biden canceling his Republic Day visit, and the fall of Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka—all signalled a turning tide. Suddenly, the narrative shifted. The same West that once embraced India was now seen as hostile. From strategic ally, America became a conspiratorial force. The establishment’s tone turned defensive—asserting India’s autonomy through Russian oil deals, blaming the ‘liberal deep state’ for Hasina’s fall, and suspecting foreign plots in every setback.

This sense of betrayal fuels the second pole—strategic victimhood. A mindset that sees India surrounded by enemies: China, Pakistan, and now, even the West. Instead of introspection, the ecosystem blames others. India failed to sense Hasina’s domestic unpopularity or the scale of opposition Washington supported. Despite massive diplomatic investments in Bangladesh, India was outplayed.

Pakistan, ironically, has worked U.S. diplomacy better. So have Hasina’s critics. India’s diaspora potential remains untapped as diplomacy leans too heavily on Modi’s personal brand. The result is a volatile narrative—one day India is a global leader, the next, a wronged lone warrior.

The real challenge isn’t Trump, but this internal incoherence. While the Prime Minister and senior ministers maintain quiet diplomacy, their broader support ecosystem lapses into Cold War-era rhetoric and reactive nationalism. A more grounded, measured approach—acknowledging foreign roles without inflaming domestic politics—would serve India better.

India must step back, reassess, and stabilise its strategic outlook. The world hasn’t turned against India—but India can’t afford to turn against itself.



India's Road to Lord’s 2027 Is Well Underway

India’s Test team has made a powerful statement with its performance in England, signaling the start of a confident march toward the 2027 World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord’s. What began as a tour clouded by uncertainty—an inexperienced captain, unsettled middle order, and doubts about the bowling attack—has turned into a defining moment of transition and belief.

Despite the skepticism, this squad has surpassed expectations. Jaiswal and his opening partner scored over 1,000 runs across the series, including four centuries. Shubman Gill, batting at No. 4, has now etched his name among the greats with a record comparable to Bradman. Rishabh Pant, back in form and thriving in English conditions, has emerged as India’s most reliable middle-order batter.

Veterans like Jadeja, now 38, are

rewriting narratives—earning comparisons to Garry Sobers—while Washington Sundar has made a compelling case for a permanent role as an all-rounder, particularly after his memorable performance at Lord’s.

But the heart of this turnaround has been India’s pace attack. Jasprit Bumrah, hailed by Scyld Berry as the greatest fast bowler of all time, has become a legend across all formats. When Bumrah isn’t on the field, Mohammed Siraj steps up. His match-winning spells—especially at The Oval—have proven he’s more than a supporting act. Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep have added depth, with the latter impressing in Edgbaston before being sidelined by injury.

The WTC journey is just beginning. India has 13 Tests left in this cycle, including nine at home. The home stretch will fea-

ture series against South Africa, West Indies, and Australia. This offers a chance to bring back Kuldeep Yadav and trust India’s evolving all-round attack rather than rely on spin-friendly pitches alone.

Yet, selection remains a concern. The No. 3 spot is still unclaimed, with Karun Nair and Sai Sudharsan yet to deliver consistently. Playing two spinners on a green-top at The Oval backfired, highlighting recurring selection gambles. India needs to embrace logic over sentiment if they are to succeed overseas.

With a renewed mindset and a squad that’s maturing fast, India’s path to Lord’s 2027 has begun with promise. If this momentum is maintained, fans can start dreaming—seriously—about a WTC final featuring the Men in Blue at the Home of Cricket.

PM inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan-03, the first of ten buildings planned under the Common Central Secretariat initiative. The landmark project aims to consolidate several ministries and departments under one roof to improve governance efficiency.

Located in the heart of the national capital, Kartavya Bhavan-03 will house key ministries including Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, MSME, DoPT, Petroleum & Natural Gas, and the Principal Scientific Adviser's office.

The inauguration marks a significant milestone in the Centre's plan to modernise its administrative infrastructure. The older buildings—such as Shastri Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan, Nirman Bhawan, and Udyog Bhawan—constructed in the mid-20th century, are now considered “structurally outdated and inefficient,” as per government officials.

Prime Minister Modi was accompanied by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and HUA Secretary



Katikithala Srinivas during the inauguration. The Prime Minister toured the new facility, while Mr. Srinivas briefed him on the building's modern features and energy-efficient design.

The Common Central Secretariat project is part of the broader Central Vista Redevelopment Plan, which also includes the new Parliament building, the Prime

Minister's residence, and a new Vice-President Enclave.

According to officials, Kartavya Bhavan has been designed with sustainability and modern workplace needs in mind, including advanced security, digital infrastructure, and eco-friendly architecture.

Once completed, the entire Cen-

tral Secretariat complex will not only help streamline inter-ministerial coordination but also reduce real estate and operational costs, while improving employee productivity. The remaining nine buildings are expected to be inaugurated in phases over the next few years, making this project one of the largest administrative infrastructure overhauls in independent India's history.



Rahul Gandhi Granted Bail in Jharkhand Defamation Case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was granted bail on Wednesday by an MP-MLA court in Chaibasa, Jharkhand, in connection with a 2018 defamation case linked to remarks he allegedly made against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Gandhi appeared before the court around 10:55 am, following directions from the Jharkhand High Court, which had earlier set August 6 as the date for his appearance after postponing a prior court-scheduled date of June 26.

“Rahul Gandhi appeared before the court as directed and sought bail, which has been granted. We will now continue with the legal process,” said his counsel.

The defamation case was filed by Pratap Kumar, who alleged that Gandhi had made defamatory statements against Amit Shah during a political rally in Chaibasa in 2018, intending to tarnish the Home Minister's public image.

The special court had initially directed Gandhi to appear on June 26. However, his legal team approached the high court citing prior commitments and requested an extension. The high court accepted the plea and granted the revised date of August 6.

Gandhi arrived in Jharkhand on Tuesday to attend the funeral of former Chief Minister Shibu Soren at his ancestral village Nemra in Ramgarh district. From there, he traveled to Chaibasa by helicopter, landing at a specially prepared helipad at Tata College Ground.

This case adds to the series of legal challenges Gandhi has faced over past public remarks. Despite these, he continues to maintain a high-profile political presence, especially in the wake of his new role as the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. The court is expected to schedule the next hearing in the coming weeks.

INDIA bloc seeks SIR debate in Parliament: Kharge

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Leaders of the INDIA bloc on Wednesday called for an urgent debate in Parliament on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted in Bihar, alleging that the exercise threatens the voting rights of minorities, Dalits, and adivasis.

At a joint press conference at Vijay Chowk, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the alliance of opposition parties is united in demanding that the issue be discussed in both Houses.

“We are urging the Speaker, the Chairman and the government again and again – people's voting rights must not be stolen. That's exactly what's happening through the SIR exercise,” said Kharge, who also



heads the Congress party.

He asserted that the INDIA bloc parties will continue to protest both inside and outside Parliament, despite the government's stand that the functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI) – a con-

stitutional body – cannot be debated in the House.

“Everything under the sun can be discussed in Parliament. This is not just about the ECI. They're essentially casting doubt on the citizenship of individuals,” Kharge said.

Prominent leaders present at the briefing included Priyanka Gandhi Vadra (Congress), Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena-UBT), Supriya Sule (NCP-SP), and John Brittas (CPI-M).

Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose announced a protest march to the Election Commission office on August 11, and alleged targeted harassment of Bengali-speaking communities in BJP-ruled states.

The Election Commission's SIR drive in Bihar, which involves re-verifying voter rolls, has drawn criticism from various quarters for allegedly being opaque and exclusionary. Opposition parties claim the exercise could disenfranchise vulnerable communities ahead of key elections.

Trump doubles tariff on India to 50% for buying Russian oil

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant escalation of trade tensions, the United States has announced a steep hike in tariffs on Indian goods, doubling the rate from 25% to 50%. The decision, made under the leadership of former President Donald Trump, comes in response to India's continued purchase of crude oil from Russia despite Western sanctions.

According to the U.S. administration, the tariff increase is meant to penalize India for “undermining global efforts” to isolate Russia economically. The initial 25% duty will take effect on August 7, with the additional 25% surcharge coming into force 21 days later, effectively raising the total import duty to 50%. India has strongly condemned the U.S. move, calling it “unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable.” In an official statement, the Indian government emphasized its right to pursue an independent foreign policy and energy strategy, especially during a time of global volatility and rising oil prices.

“We will take all necessary steps to protect our national interest,” an Indian government spokesperson stated. “Energy security is a critical concern, and we will not compromise on our sovereign right to choose our trade partners.” India has defended its oil purchases from Russia as legal and essential for



meeting its domestic energy needs. Officials argue that such decisions are based on economic pragmatism, not geopolitics. Trade analysts warn that the tariff hike could significantly impact bilateral trade between the two countries, which has already seen strain in recent years over issues like digital taxes and defense partnerships. With this new tariff move, tensions could escalate further, potentially spilling over into other strategic areas of cooperation. Diplomatic talks are expected in the coming weeks as both sides seek to avoid a deeper rift.

Over 60 Feared Missing in Uttarkashi Floods

Rescue Operations Intensify

TPN Correspondent | Dehradun

Dehradun, Aug 6 – As torrential rains continue to pound Uttarkashi, rescue teams are racing against time to locate over 60 people feared missing after flash floods and landslides struck the region. The disaster, which unfolded earlier this week, has triggered widespread destruction in Harsil and surrounding areas.

Colonel Harshvardhan, who is leading the Indian Army's rescue operations, confirmed that while the exact number of missing remains uncertain, operations are ongoing round-the-clock. “Additional Army columns, tracker dogs, drones, and heavy earth-moving machinery have been deployed to intensify search and rescue efforts,” he said.

The situation remains critical as several rivers have breached danger levels, raising fears of further flash floods. In response, residents have been shifted to higher ground to prevent casualties from potential water surges.

Air Force helicopters are also being mobilised to deliver essential supplies, medicines, and facili-



tate evacuation of marooned villagers, the Army said in a statement.

Rescue operations entered their second day on Wednesday, with teams working to clear thick walls of debris and mud from blocked roads, especially near Harsil. Excavators and bulldozers were seen clearing landslide-hit sections to restore access.

Local officials said that many areas remain cut off due to collapsed bridges and damaged roads, complicating efforts to reach those stranded. Communication lines have also been partially disrupted in remote villag-

es.

The Uttarakhand government is closely monitoring the situation and has urged residents to stay alert, avoid riverbanks, and follow safety advisories. Emergency response teams, including NDRF and SDRF units, remain on high alert.

Authorities have also warned of continued heavy rainfall in the region over the next 48 hours, which could further hamper rescue operations.

This is one of the worst monsoon-related disasters to hit Uttarkashi in recent years.

I never said a percentage: Trump

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

U.S. President Donald Trump has signalled a potential hike in tariffs on imports from India, citing New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian oil. In a press conference on Tuesday, Trump said, "I never said a percentage, but we'll be doing quite a bit of that," while addressing questions on reports suggesting a 100% tariff. Trump's statement came after earlier reports claimed he planned to raise the current 25% tariff on Indian imports "very substantially" within 24 hours. Speaking to CNBC, he said, "They're fuelling the war machine, and if they're going to do that, then I'm not going to be happy."

According to Trump, the core issue is that India not only buys significant volumes of Russian oil but also allegedly resells it in global markets for profit. "India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian oil but also selling it on the open market for big profits. They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed," Trump posted on Truth Social. Former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, criticised Trump's stance,



warning against jeopardising ties with India, a key U.S. ally. She also questioned why China — the top buyer of Russian and Iranian oil — received a 90-day tariff pause while India was being singled out. "Don't give China a pass and burn a relationship with a strong ally like India," she posted on X.

Trump had already announced a 25% reciprocal tariff on India, alongside a planned penalty for oil imports from Russia. No exact figures have been confirmed yet, and the White House said meetings with Russian officials are expected soon to assess the situation further.

India, Russia Reaffirm Defence Ties

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Moscow: India and Russia have reaffirmed their strong defence cooperation and strategic partnership during a meeting between Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Aleksandr Fomin and Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar on Tuesday.

According to a statement by the Russian Defence Ministry, the leaders discussed key areas of bilateral defence cooperation and emphasized strengthening the "particularly privileged strategic partnership" between the two nations. The ministry noted that the meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the long-standing cordial ties between the two countries. The meeting comes amid rising geopolitical tensions and pressure from the United States on India over its continued oil imports from Russia. Krem-



lin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov defended India's trade choices, stating that sovereign nations have the right to independently choose their economic partners and cooperation terms based on national interests. "We believe that sovereign countries must have and do have the right to choose their trade partners... that suit the interests of the country," said Peskov, countering US remarks. On the same day, US President

Donald Trump announced plans to substantially raise tariffs on Indian imports within 24 hours, citing India's ongoing energy trade with Russia. In response, India strongly rejected the criticism, calling the targeting of its policies "unjustified and unreasonable."

India's Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement asserting that energy imports from Russia began only after traditional sources were redirected to Europe following the Ukraine conflict. The statement further highlighted that several Western nations, including the US, continue to import key Russian commodities such as uranium, palladium, and fertilisers. India reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding its economic interests and energy security. "Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests," the statement said.



France Battles Year's Largest Wildfire

TPN Correspondent | France

France is grappling with the biggest wildfire of the year, which has ravaged 27,000 acres (12,000 hectares) in the southern Aude department. The fire, which started Tuesday and continued into Wednesday, has injured nine people, including one critically injured with severe burns, and claimed the life of an elderly woman at her home.

Over 1,800 firefighters are battling the blaze as it threatens several villages. So far, 25 homes have been destroyed or damaged, and authorities have partially evacuated one village and closed several roads and campsites to ensure public safety.

Lucie Roesch, Secretary General of the Aude prefecture, said, "The fire is advancing in an area where all conditions are ripe for it to progress. We are monitoring the edges and back of the fire to prevent flare-ups." Despite a slowdown due to rising humidity, officials warn the firefighting efforts will be a "long-term operation."

The wildfire has been fueled by a combination of low rainfall, strong winds, rising temperatures, and dry vegetation. The removal of vineyards, which previously acted as firebreaks, has also contributed to the fire's spread.

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed the nation's full support, stating on social media that "all of the Nation's resources are mobilised," while urging citizens to exercise "the utmost caution."

The Aude wildfire is the largest so far in a summer that has already witnessed some 9,000 fires, primarily along France's Mediterranean coast.

Prime Minister Francois Bayrou is scheduled to visit the affected area to oversee relief and recovery operations.

As firefighting efforts continue, authorities remain vigilant against potential flare-ups amid unfavorable weather conditions that could exacerbate the blaze.

Afghanistan's hunger crisis worsens



TPN Correspondent | Kabul

Kabul: Afghanistan's hunger crisis is rapidly worsening, with the World Food Programme (WFP) warning that the situation is becoming dire amid ongoing economic instability, prolonged droughts, and the forced return of thousands of Afghan migrants from neighbouring countries.

According to a report by Tolo News, the WFP has identified women, children, and returnees as the most vulnerable groups in this growing crisis. The agency stated that it needs nearly USD 540 million to sustain its humanitarian programs over the next six months to reach the most at-risk populations across the country.

"For the next six months, the World Food Programme in Afghanistan needs nearly 540 million US dollars to carry out its programs," said WFP communications officer Ziauddin Safi.

Experts, however, caution that while aid is crucial in the short term, long-term solutions require deeper investment in infrastructure and development. Economic analyst Mir Shaker Yaqubi stressed that

humanitarian aid, although vital in preventing immediate disaster, cannot solve Afghanistan's structural economic issues.

"These aids are humanitarian and prevent a serious crisis, but they cannot be considered a fundamental solution," Yaqubi said.

Sayed Masood, another economist, pointed out that Afghanistan's crisis is primarily political, not economic. "We have the resources to develop, but political barriers and lack of global engagement are halting progress," he noted.

Deputy Minister of Economy Abdul Latif Nazari echoed the importance of continued aid, particularly with the rising number of returning migrants. "Our request is that international aid organisations and the global community continue their humanitarian and emergency assistance," he said.

The UN had earlier appealed for over \$2 billion in aid to assist nearly 23 million Afghans. With limited domestic resources and increasing humanitarian needs, Afghanistan remains heavily reliant on international support.

Pakistan to Repatriate Over 1.3 Million Afghan Refugees from Sept 1

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

The Pakistan government has announced it will begin the repatriation of over 1.3 million Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards starting September 1, 2025, following the expiration of these cards on June 30. This marks a continuation of the country's efforts to expel illegal aliens that began in 2023.

According to a letter from the Interior Ministry dated August 4, the voluntary return process for PoR cardholders will start immediately, with formal repatriation and deportation commencing from September 1. The ministry has instructed provincial governments and law enforcement agencies to map PoR cardholders and develop repatriation action plans, including transit areas, transportation, and financial support for deportees.

The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) will assist with deregistration at border points, while the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will facilitate returns at designated crossings. The Interior Ministry has also called on authorities in Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan to share PoR databases with relevant committees.

The decision follows the Interior Ministry's July 31 declaration that PoR cardholders are now considered unlawful residents after their cards expired. Over 800,000 Afghan refugees have already been repatriated since 2023.

UNHCR has expressed concern over the forced returns, highlighting reports of arrests and detentions of PoR cardholders in Pakistan. The agency emphasized that such forced repatriation violates the principle of non-refoulement and Pakistan's long-standing humanitarian stance toward Afghan refugees. As of June 30, 2025, more than 1.3 million Afghans lived in Pakistan, with the majority residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, followed by Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, and Islamabad.

The PoR cards were first issued in 2004-05 with UNHCR assistance, and Afghan Citizenship Cards (ACC) were introduced in 2016 under the Foreigners Act. The coming months will be crucial for the fate of Afghan refugees in Pakistan amid growing tensions.



RBI Policy Status Quo and Global Uncertainty Weigh on Dalal Street

Domestic stock markets fell moderately on Wednesday. The benchmark indices initially remained range-bound. Investors were cautious due to mixed signals from Asian and international markets, Trump's tariff threats and RBI keeping interest rates unchanged. The movement of the indices is not understandable due to the lack of decisiveness. Overall, the Nifty 75 and the Sensex rose by 166 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,710 in the previous session, opened at 80,694 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 80,448. It reached an intraday high of 80,834. It finally closed at 80,543, down 166 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,641, touched a low of 24,539 and a high of 24,671. It closed at 24,574, down 75 points. The Nifty Bank rose 50 points to settle at 55,411.

In the Nifty50, 12 companies gained and 38 lost. Asian Paints, HDFC Life, Mahindra & Mahindra, BEL, CoalIndia were the top gainers. Wipro, Sun Pharma, Jio Finance, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank lost the most. All sectoral indices, except PSU banks, turned red today. Pharma, telecom,



healthcare, IT, realty, media, FMCG, consumer durables, auto, metal and oil indices were volatile.

Market breadth favored sellers on NSE today. Out of a total of 3071 stocks traded, 846 gained and 2128 lost. 35 shares touched their 52-week high and 85 touched their 52-week low. The upper circuit was 62 and the lower circuit was 95.

The rupee strengthened by 7 paise against the dollar to settle at 87.73. KPR Mills' net profit fell 28.5% to Rs. 121

crore from Rs. 169 crore. Morgan Stanley has maintained its underweight rating on Berger Paints with a target price of Rs 482. It has given a neutral rating to Exid Industries with a target price of Rs 404. The Highway Infra IPO received a response of 64.23 times at the close of the second day of the market. The rights net profit was Rs 91 crore. Godrej Agrovet's net profit in the first quarter rose 13% to Rs 148 crore from Rs 131 crore. Jefferies has given a buy rating to DLF with a target price of Rs 1000. CLSA has given an outperform rating to Britannia Industries with a

target price of Rs 5973.

Stock Recommendations

Asian Paints: This stock is showing a bullish trend. Buy above Rs. 2450. Momentum and relative strength are increasing. Investors are showing interest in this stock due to strong demand in the paints and home decor sector. These shares closed at Rs. 2491 on Wednesday.



Swiggy: Bullish momentum has started in the stock of food delivery and quick-commerce giant Swiggy. Market expansion and operational efficiency make this stock attractive. These shares closed at Rs. 393 on Wednesday and should be accumulated in the Rs. 380 range.

HDFC Life: This insurance giant is showing a bullish trend. Buy on dips above Rs. 730 should be followed. Strong financial fundamentals and increasing demand for life insurance

products are the reasons for this stock's positive trend. These shares closed at Rs.752 on Wednesday.



Adani Ports: This stock is slowly changing to a bullish trend. Relative strength is good. Optimism over port operations and infrastructure growth is the reason for the uptrend. This counter closed at Rs.1367 on Wednesday. Should be bought in the Rs. 1350 range.



Jindal Stainless Steel: These shares, which have been in a downtrend for a few months, have given good returns in the last two months. They have been consolidating well for a few days. Momentum is currently picking up. This counter closed at Rs.734 on Wednesday, should be bought in the Rs.700 range.

RBI MPC keeps repo policy rate unchanged at 5.5% in August



The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Wednesday decided to keep the policy repo rate steady at 5.5%, reflecting a cautious yet optimistic stance on the economy. The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 5.25%, while the marginal standing facility (MSF) and Bank Rate continue at 5.75%.



The MPC maintained the GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2025-26 at 6.5%, with quarterly projections ranging from 6.3% to 6.7%. The real GDP growth for Q1 of 2026-27 is projected at 6.6%, with risks described as evenly balanced.

Inflation outlook has improved, with retail inflation falling to its lowest level in over six years. CPI inflation for 2025-26 is now expected at 3.1%, down from the earlier 3.7% projection. Quarterly inflation estimates stand at 2.1% for Q2, 3.1% for Q3, and 4.4% for Q4, with a projected rise to 4.9% in Q1 of 2026-27. The MPC noted that while headline inflation has eased, core inflation remains moderately above 4%, driven largely by stable food prices and other demand-side factors.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said supportive government policies combined with RBI's measures bode

well for India's near-term economic outlook, despite lingering global trade challenges and geopolitical uncertainties. He highlighted the RBI's coordinated use of monetary tools to accelerate policy transmission during the current easing cycle.

Malhotra also emphasized that while growth remains robust, uncertainties around tariffs and the full impact of the 100 basis points rate cut since February 2025 are still unfolding.

The MPC unanimously decided to maintain the neutral policy stance and pledged to closely monitor incoming data to guide future monetary decisions, balancing growth support with inflation control.

India Poised for Major Economic Leap : Vaishnaw

India's steady economic growth during a transformative global period was highlighted by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who spoke at the inauguration of SAP Labs India Innovation Park in Devanahalli on August 5, 2025. The newly established facility represents a €194 million investment by SAP Labs and is expected to generate 15,000 jobs for AI innovators.



Addressing SAP Labs' leadership and employees virtually, Vaishnaw emphasized India's rising global economic stature, noting that the country has moved from the 11th largest economy 11 years ago to being on track to become the world's third largest soon. He cited the eightfold growth in electronics exports and upcoming production of India's first domestically made chip as milestones. Vaishnaw also praised technological advancements in the railways, comparing the acceleration of the Bullet train and Vande Bharat.

The minister highlighted the government's efforts to democratize computing power through public-private part-

nerships, providing 34,000 GPUs to students, researchers, and startups nationwide at a cost far below the global average. This initiative empowers young innovators and fuels India's technology ecosystem.

Strategically located near Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, SAP Labs' sprawling 41-acre campus will serve as a flagship R&D and innovation hub for India and the Asia-Pacific region. The campus will house 15,000 professionals, becoming SAP's largest office in the country and focus-

ing on global AI roles in product engineering and customer service.

The facility will lead development of Joule's agentic AI capabilities and feature advanced AI labs, a customer experience centre, startup incubation hubs, hybrid collaboration zones, and green spaces. Vaishnaw described the investment as a sign of global confidence in India's talent and innovation ecosystem, reinforcing the country's growing role as a trusted technology partner.

Airtel Q1 Net Profit Soars 57%, Revenue Up 28%

Mumbai: Bharti Airtel Limited reported a strong performance for Q1 FY26, with net profit jumping 57.32% to Rs 7,421.8 crore, compared to Rs 4,717.5 crore in the same quarter last year, according to a stock exchange filing.



The telecom giant's revenue from operations rose 28.45% to Rs 49,462.6 crore from Rs 38,506.4 crore in Q1 FY25, driven by robust growth in India and a recovery in Africa on a reported currency basis.

Consolidated EBITDA stood at Rs 28,167 crore, with an improved EBITDA margin of 56.9%. Airtel's average revenue per user (ARPU) increased to Rs 250 from Rs 211 in the previous year's quarter.

India operations delivered an EBITDA of Rs 22,352 crore, with margins rising by 598 basis points to 59.5% year-on-

year. The company's net debt to EBITDA ratio improved to 1.70 times from 1.86 times as of March 31, excluding lease obligations which stood at 1.26 times.

Airtel invested Rs 8,307 crore in capital expenditure during the quarter, with Rs 7,273 crore dedicated to strengthening digital infrastructure in India. In Africa, revenue grew 24.9% year-on-year in constant currency terms, with

EBITDA margins rising to 48.1%.

During the quarter, Airtel introduced new prepaid OTT packs giving access to over 25 streaming platforms and launched the Business Name Display (BND) feature for enterprises.

Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Gopal Vittal highlighted consistent growth with India mobile revenues rising 2.9% sequentially, helped by portfolio premiumisation and 4 million new smartphone data customers. The Homes business added a record 939,000 new connections, resulting in 7.6% sequential revenue growth.

Airtel's total customer base reached 605 million across 15 countries by the quarter's end. Vittal emphasized that sustained investments, focus on customer experience, and disciplined capital allocation continue to strengthen Airtel's strong balance sheet and cash flow.

USS Nautilus: First Undersea Voyage to the North Pole



Sixty-seven years ago, on August 3, 1958, the USS Nautilus etched its name into history by becoming the first submarine to complete an undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole. This groundbreaking achievement marked a milestone not only in naval exploration but also in the use of nuclear power for marine transport.

The USS Nautilus was the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine, launched by the United States Navy in 1954. Named after Jules Verne’s fictional submarine in Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Nautilus revolutionised naval capabilities by overcoming the limitations that had long plagued conventional submarines.

Before nuclear propulsion, submarines could remain submerged for only 12 to 48 hours, primarily due to the need to surface for air and recharge batteries. Nuclear power changed that forever. The Nautilus could stay underwater for weeks, making long-distance submerged voyages possible for the first time.

Its journey beneath the Arctic ice cap, code-named “Operation Sunshine,” began in late July 1958. Navigating through thick ice and treacherous underwater terrain, the submarine made its way to the geographic North Pole, surfacing days later to worldwide acclaim. This voyage proved the viability of nuclear submarines for stealth and endurance, especially during the Cold War era.

The USS Nautilus was decommissioned in 1980 and is now preserved as a museum exhibit at the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, Connecticut. Visitors can explore the vessel that not only changed the course of naval history but also symbolised the technological leap of the 20th century.

The historic mission of Nautilus remains a landmark in maritime history, showcasing how innovation and engineering reshaped global naval power and undersea exploration.

Youth Turning to AI for Emotional Support Raises Mental Health Alarms

A growing number of teenagers are turning to AI chatbots like ChatGPT to share emotional struggles, raising concerns among mental health experts and educators. Professionals warn this trend is fostering validation-seeking behaviour, emotional dependency, and social isolation, while undermining real-life communication skills.

Sudha Acharya, Principal of ITL Public School, highlighted that many students wrongly believe their phones offer a “private space,” making them confide in chatbots instead of people. “They’re looking for comfort, but they’re just feeding an illusion,” she said.

Acharya pointed out that a lack of emotional communication at home drives children toward AI tools. “If parents don’t open up about their own struggles, how will children learn emotional regulation?” she asked.

To address this, her school has introduced a digital citizenship curriculum from Class 6 onwards, aiming to educate students on ethical digital behaviour.

One concern is that AI bots like ChatGPT respond with comforting phrases like “We’ll solve this together,” which creates a false sense of emotional connection.

Teenagers such as Ayeshi, 16, admit to turning to AI for fear of being judged by friends or

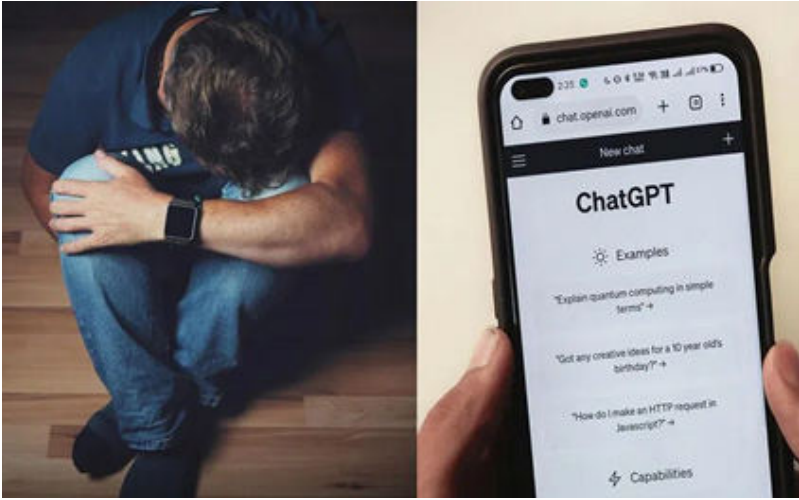
family. “It felt like my safe space. It always gave positive feedback,” she said, before realising the chatbot wasn’t offering real guidance.

Psychiatrist Dr. Lokesh Singh Shekhawat warned that repeated validation by AI can embed false beliefs, leading to mental distortions like attention and memory bias.

He likened the AI dependence to addictions such as gaming or alcohol. “There’s no constructive criticism, no emotional growth — just dependency,” he added.

With rising cases of self-harm linked to validation issues, experts urge parents to provide more emotional support and caution youth about relying on emotionless AI tools for guidance.

“It’s a machine — not a mentor,” Acharya summed up.



WhatsApp Rolls Out ‘Safety Overview’ Tool

Bans 6.8 Million Scam Accounts

WhatsApp has launched a new ‘Safety Overview’ feature aimed at protecting users from unwanted group adds and scams, as the Meta-owned messaging platform steps up efforts against fraudulent activities.



The Safety Overview alerts users whenever someone not in their contacts adds them to a new WhatsApp group. This tool provides essential information about the group along with safety tips. Users can choose to exit the group without viewing any messages if they don’t recognise it, while notifications from the group remain muted until the user opts to stay.

Additionally, WhatsApp is working on features to inform users when they start a chat with someone outside their contacts, enabling better decision-making on who they interact with.

WhatsApp’s crackdown on scams is already showing results. In the first half of 2025, the platform, alongside Meta’s security teams, detected and banned over 6.8 million accounts linked to organised scam centres, many of which are reportedly run through forced labour in Southeast Asia.

One notable disruption involved a scam network in Cambodia that used ChatGPT to craft deceptive initial messages containing WhatsApp chat links. Victims were then redirected to Telegram, where they were tasked with liking TikTok videos as part of a pyramid-like scheme promising fake earnings. Eventually, targets were pressured to deposit money into cryptocurrency accounts.

WhatsApp emphasises that these enforcement actions are proactive, aiming to dismantle scam operations before they become fully functional.

With these steps, WhatsApp aims to enhance user safety and curb the rising threat of scams exploiting its platform.

Users are encouraged to stay vigilant and use the new Safety Overview feature to protect themselves from unwanted groups and potential fraud.

Experts Dismiss Claims That Wireless Earbuds Harm Brain

A recent viral claim by a Bengaluru-based neurosurgeon warning that wireless earbuds could “fry your brain” has been dismissed by medical experts and engineers, who affirm there is no scientific evidence supporting such fears.

The doctor’s statement — suggesting that the microwaves from earbuds can damage brain tissue as they operate on frequencies similar to microwave ovens — sparked wide concern online. However, neurologists and tech professionals have responded, labelling the claim as misleading and unsubstantiated.

Dr. Sudhir Kumar, a senior neurologist from Hyderabad, clarified that Bluetooth earbuds operate on very low-power radio frequencies, typically around 2.4 GHz. “There is no evidence that such low-intensity signals can cause brain damage,” he said. “People



should not panic. The real risk comes from prolonged exposure to loud volume, which can lead to hearing loss or tinnitus — not brain injury.”

Engineers echoed this sentiment, pointing out that Bluetooth technology uses non-ionising radiation, which lacks the energy to

alter DNA or heat tissue — unlike high-energy microwave radiation. They emphasized that audio signals from earbuds are physical sound waves, not harmful electromagnetic waves.

Experts agree that wireless earbuds are safe when used responsibly, recommending users keep volume levels moderate and limit usage time to avoid ear fatigue and potential hearing damage.

While online fear-mongering around gadgets isn’t new, professionals are urging the public to verify health-related claims before accepting them. “The idea that earbuds are frying brains is simply not backed by science,” Dr. Kumar stated.

In conclusion, the consensus remains clear: wireless earbuds do not harm brain health, but like any audio device, responsible use is key to avoiding hearing issues.

Humanoid Robot joins PHD programme in China

In a groundbreaking development, China’s humanoid robot Xeuba01 has been officially admitted to a four-year PhD programme at the Shanghai Theatre Academy. The acceptance was announced during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference held on July 27, 2025.

Developed by the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology in collaboration with DroidUp Robotics, Xeuba01 will pursue a doctorate focusing on Chinese opera within the Drama and Film department. The robot has been assigned a student ID and will be mentored by Shanghai artist and professor Yang Qingqing.

Xeuba01 is expected to arrive on campus on September 14 to begin its academic journey. The curriculum will include stage performance, scriptwriting, and set design, as



well as technical subjects such as motion control and language generation. Standing 1.75 meters tall and weighing 30 kilograms, the humanoid has a realistic human-like face and the ability to physically interact with fellow students.

The admission of Xeuba01 marks a notable milestone in integrating AI and robotics into higher education, especially in creative fields traditionally dominated by humans.

However, the announcement has sparked mixed reactions on social media. Some users expressed skepticism, concerned about robots replacing human students. Twitter user @mikekalilmfg commented, “Now robots are replacing students. Meet Xeuba01, China’s first AI robot to enter a PhD program.” Another user, @MatTrang911, noted that the robot will undergo full training and write a dissertation, highlighting that an earlier version of Xeuba01 had previously won a bronze medal at a robo-marathon.

With over 60 humanoid robot models showcased by 80 companies at the WAIC, Xeuba01’s enrollment symbolizes the expanding role of AI in education and the arts, setting the stage for future collaborations between humans and intelligent machines.

Naomi To Face Clara Tauson In WTA Canadian Open Semi-Finals

Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka advanced confidently to the semi-finals of the WTA Canadian Open with a dominant 6-2, 6-2 win over 10th seed Elina Svitolina on Wednesday. Osaka needed just 68 minutes to dispatch the Ukrainian star, securing a spot in the semi-finals against Denmark's 16th seed Clara Tauson.

Osaka, who is chasing her first WTA Tour-level title since the 2021 Australian Open, said, "I'm just having a lot of fun playing. I'm glad to be here. I think I'll be seeded in the US Open because I won my match. That was a really good goal for me. I'm just really excited."

Tauson's semi-final spot came after a stirring 6-1, 6-4 victory over reigning Australian Open champion Madison Keys. The Danish player dedicated her win to her late grandfather, who passed away just days before her stunning upset over second seed Iga Swiatek.

"Two days ago, my grandfather unfortunately passed away, so I really wanted to win for him today," Tauson said tearfully. "I was told the day after I beat Iga, so I really wanted to come out and show my best tennis for him. Hopefully he's watching."

The US Open warm-up in Montreal has been



a breakthrough for Tauson, marking the first tournament where she has defeated two top-10 players. At 22, she is aiming for her fourth career WTA title after previous wins at Lyon, Luxembourg, and Auckland.

Osaka and Tauson previously met earlier this year at Auckland, a match cut short by Osaka's injury. "She's really tough," Osaka said. "I'm really excited that I'm healthy."

In the other semi-final, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina will face 18-year-old Canadian rising star Victoria Mboko. Rybakina won their only previous meeting last month in Washington.

Siraj Rises to Career-Best 15th in ICC Rankings

Dubai, Aug 6 (PTI) – India pacer Mohammed Siraj has achieved a career-best 15th position in the latest ICC Test bowling rankings, following his sensational nine-wicket haul in the fifth Test against England at The Oval.

Siraj's fiery spell, which included a crucial five-wicket haul, helped India clinch a thrilling six-run victory and level the five-match series 2-2. His efforts earned him the 'Player of the Match' award and a 12-spot jump in the rankings.

The Hyderabad-born speedster now surpasses his previous best of 16th, achieved in January 2024.

In the match, Siraj delivered under pressure on the final day, claiming three vital wickets, including the last dismissal of Gus Atkinson, to seal the narrow win for India. His partnership with Prasidh Krishna, who also picked up four wickets in each innings, marked a historic feat. They became the first Indian fast-bowling pair since Bedi and Prasanna in 1969 to take four or more wickets each in both innings of a Test match.

Jasprit Bumrah, despite playing only three Tests in the series, remains the No. 1 ranked Test bowler with 889 rating points.

In the batting rankings, young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal returned to the top-5 after his second century of the series. He moved up three spots and now has 792 points. Rishabh Pant, who missed the final Test due to injury, slipped to eighth.



On the English side, Joe Root maintained his dominance at the top of the batting chart after notching his third consecutive century. Harry Brook, with a brisk 111 off 98 balls, rose to second.

Among bowlers, England's Atkinson broke into the top-10, while Josh Tongue jumped 14 places to 46th after their impressive performances at The Oval.

Tendulkar Slams Stokes Over 'Handshake Drama', Backs Team India

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has defended Team India's decision to refuse a handshake from England captain Ben Stokes on Day 4 of the Manchester Test, which ended in a draw. The incident occurred during the fourth Test of the India-England series, sparking controversy and debate over the spirit of the game.

Tendulkar responded to criticism over the move, particularly because Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar were nearing centuries when the handshake was declined. "Why shouldn't it be in the right spirit?" Tendulkar questioned in a Reddit video. "They were playing for a draw.



England had a go at them, and India negotiated it well."

The former India captain argued that resting England's bowlers for the fifth Test was not India's responsibility. "If Ben Stokes didn't want to bowl his frontline pacers, it was his choice. India had every right to continue batting. They were not batting for personal milestones but to save the Test."

England handed the ball to part-timers Joe Root and Harry Brook after the handshake was refused. Stokes later justified the move, saying his bowlers were exhausted and the result was already clear.

Tendulkar also praised Washington Sundar for his adaptability across the series. "He dropped anchor in Manchester, scoring 101* off 206, and accelerated brilliantly at The Oval. He showed immense maturity."

He added his full support to the Indian team's stance. "I am 100% with them — whether it's Shubman, Jadeja, or Sundar. They made the right decision for the team, not for personal glory."

India eventually drew the match, keeping the series alive, and later went on to level it 2-2 after a dramatic win at The Oval.

Fortuna Dusseldorf Drops Shon Weissman Over Controversial Posts

German club Fortuna Dusseldorf abruptly withdrew from signing Israeli striker Shon Weissman following backlash over his past anti-Gaza social media posts. The move to sign Weissman from Spanish side Granada was expected to be finalized but was called off at the last minute after intense fan objections.

Though the club did not publicly specify the reason, a statement from Dusseldorf said, "We looked into Shon Weissman intensively, but ultimately decided not to sign him." According to German media outlet Bild, the decision came amid protests from fans after resurfaced posts where Weissman reportedly called for Israel to "wipe Gaza off the map" and to "drop 200 tons of bombs on it." These posts have since been deleted.

Weissman, who joined Granada in 2023 amid similar protests, addressed the controversy on Twitter after the Dusseldorf deal collapsed. He expressed that he is not a promoter of hate and clarified the posts were deleted immediately after being shared.

"I am a son of a nation still grieving from the horrors of October 7th, when entire families were murdered, kidnapped, and brutalized," Weissman said. "It's both possible and necessary to oppose harm to innocent people on both sides. But I won't allow myself to be painted as someone who promoted hate with 3 likes and 1 comment that was deleted instantly."



He added, "While I accept all criticism, it pains me that the full context was not considered. In a moment of national and personal heartbreak, I remain committed to the values of humanity, sportsmanship, and mutual respect."

Weissman concluded by reaffirming his loyalty to Israel, saying, "At the end of the day, a person will always stand with their country. I will continue to proudly carry the Israeli flag wherever I play."

This controversy highlights the sensitive intersection of sports, politics, and social media, as clubs weigh fan sentiments and player backgrounds in recruitment decisions.

A gripping series and a fantastic finale



How do you even begin to sum up a series like this? Words like "classic" or "epic" feel inadequate. For five Tests, across 25 days and over 70 sessions, India and England were locked in a relentless battle that swung back and forth like a pendulum, refusing to allow one side to dominate for long.

India, armed with experience and home conditions, faced a fearless and hungry English unit that refused to be overawed. The contest brought everything a cricket fan could ask for—brilliant centuries, gritty fightbacks, devastating spells, electric fielding, and even heated confrontations. There were moments of brilliance, lapses under pressure, and displays of pure heart from both camps.

After four Tests, the series stood at 2-1 in favour of India. But just when it seemed like the home side

might close it out, England produced a stunning performance at The Oval, securing a memorable victory to level the series. That win wasn't just a statistic; it was a statement. England's young brigade had stepped up under pressure, and the seasoned heads guided them through.

India, too, had its heroes—batters standing tall, bowlers relentless, and moments of individual genius that kept the team afloat. But in the end, the scoreboard read 2-2—an outcome that felt fitting after such an intense, balanced contest.

This wasn't just a series; it was theatre. And as the dust settled, both teams walked away with their heads held high, their reputations enhanced. Cricket was the real winner.



Manoj Manchu Announces Period Drama ‘David Reddy’

Actor Manoj Manchu has officially announced his next big project titled David Reddy, a historical action drama set during the British colonial era. Directed by Hanuma Reddy Yakkanti, the film will chronicle the untold story of a brave Indian who fought back against British oppression between 1897 and 1922.

The film was announced today to mark Manoj Manchu’s 21st year in the film industry. Known for taking up intense and unconventional roles, Manoj takes on a powerful character once again—this time, portraying a rebel who rises from the shadows to challenge the might of the British Empire.

David Reddy promises a gritty blend of emotional storytelling, high-octane action, and raw realism. The film is being produced by Motukuri Bharath and Nallagangula Venkat Reddy, with the script currently in the final stages of development.

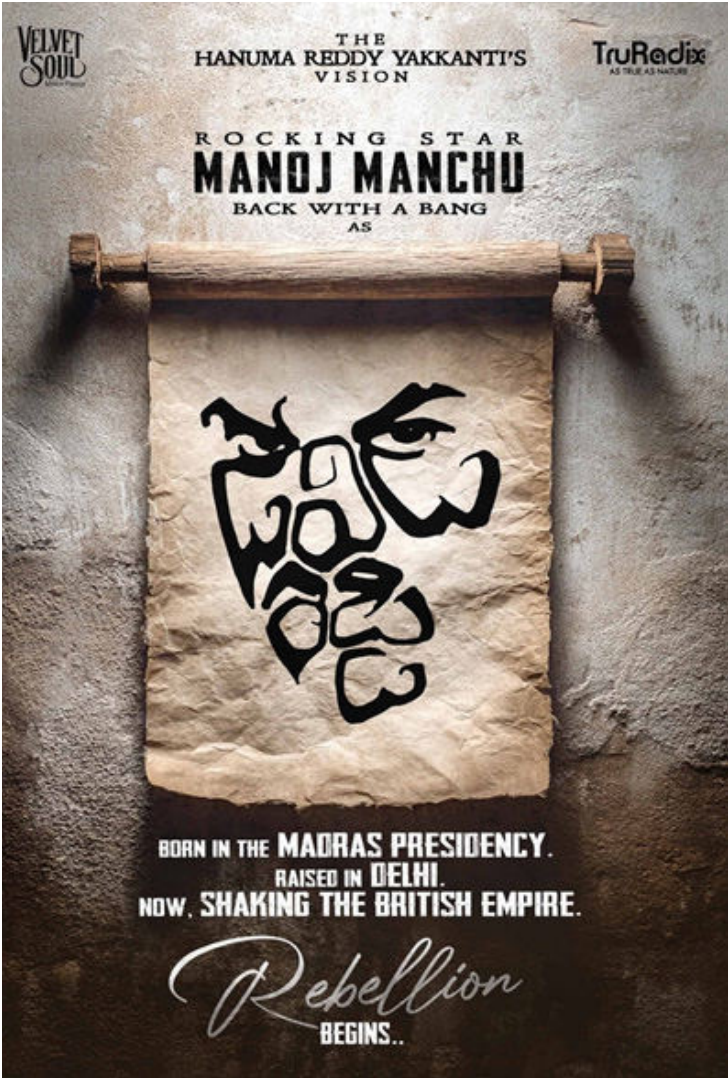
The announcement poster, featuring a fierce and determined Manoj, captures the essence of the film’s tone. It hints at the character’s journey: born in the Madras Presidency, raised in Delhi, and ultimately becoming a force that shakes the British Empire.

Speaking about the film, sources close to the production say it aims to shed light on a lesser-known chapter of India’s freedom struggle while delivering cinematic spectacle. The team is now working on extensive pre-production, with casting and location scouting underway.

This marks a significant milestone for Manoj,

whose return to full-fledged acting roles in recent years has been met with excitement by fans. David Reddy is expected to go on floors early next year, with more details to follow soon.

The film adds to the growing trend of patriotic period dramas in Indian cinema and is expected to generate strong buzz in the coming months.



‘Ole Ole’ Song from Mass Jathara Delivers a Folk Punch



The second single from Mass Jathara, titled Ole Ole, has finally dropped — and it’s already creating waves with its folk energy and festive vibe. Starring Ravi Teja and Sreeleela, the film is directed by Bhanu Bogavarapu and is shaping up to be a full-on commercial entertainer.

Composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, who is known for his pulse-pounding mass numbers, Ole Ole hits the mark with high-voltage beats and vibrant rhythms rooted in folk traditions. Sung by Bheems himself along with Rohini Sorrat, and written by Bhaskar Yadav Dasari, the track is an instant crowd-pleaser.

Adding to the song’s appeal are the electrifying dance moves by Ravi Teja and Sreeleela. Their chemistry and energy light up the screen, and the choreography matches the upbeat tempo of the song, making it a likely chartbuster for festive playlists.

Produced by S Naga Vamsi under Sitara Entertainments in collaboration with Sai Soujanya of Fortune Four Cinemas, Mass Jathara is building momentum with each update. With two singles now released, the film’s promotional campaign is well underway, and fans can expect more announcements in the coming days.

The buzz around Mass Jathara continues to grow, especially with Ravi Teja and Sreeleela reuniting after their successful collaborations in the past. Ole Ole is a perfect teaser of what’s to come — full of color, dance, music, and mass appeal.

With its catchy hook, folk essence, and star power, Ole Ole is poised to become one of the standout songs of the season. Stay tuned as Mass Jathara heads towards release with more exciting updates on the way.

‘Tribandhari Barbarik’ to Release on August 22



The much-awaited mythological drama Tribandhari Barbarik is set to release in theatres on August 22. With an impressive lineup of teasers, songs, and promotional content, the film has generated strong buzz among moviegoers ahead of its release.

The film stars veteran actor Sathyaraj, widely known for his role as Kattappa in Baahubali, in the titular role of Barbarik—an intense character inspired by Indian mythology. Directed by Mohan Srivatsa, Tribandhari Barbarik promises to deliver a powerful blend of mythological storytelling, emotion, and drama.

One of the major highlights from the promotions is the chart-topping song Iskithadi Uskithadi, featuring a sizzling special appearance by Udaya Bhanu. Sung by Rahul Sipligunj with music composed by the Infusion Band, the song has gone viral, boosting anticipation for the film’s release.

Produced by Vijaypal Reddy

Adidhala under the Vanara Celuloid banner and presented by noted filmmaker Maruthi, the film brings together a talented cast including Satyam Rajesh, Vasishta N. Simha, Saanchi Rai, Kranthi Kiran, and Udaya Bhanu. Notably, Udaya Bhanu also plays a negative role in the film, adding an intriguing layer to the narrative.

With a rich mythological backdrop and a focus on storytelling that appeals to both mass and class audiences, Tribandhari Barbarik is expected to be a visual and emotional spectacle. The film’s team has hinted that more promotional material will be released in the coming days as part of the final marketing push.

With its official release date now locked for August 22, expectations are high for Tribandhari Barbarik to make a strong impact at the box office and win the hearts of mythological film lovers across the country.

Double Treat for Mega Fans This August

August is always special for Mega fans, and this year, the celebrations are set to reach a whole new level. As Megastar Chiranjeevi gears up to celebrate his 70th birthday on August 22, fans can expect a double dhamaka both in theatres and online.

In a special tribute to the iconic star, his 2006 blockbuster Stalin, directed by AR Murugadoss, will be re-released in cinemas. The film, known for its strong social message and Chiranjeevi’s commanding performance, will once again hit the big screen, giving fans a chance to relive the magic.

Adding to the excitement, Anjana Productions has made a surprise announcement that will thrill Pawan Kalyan’s followers. The much-awaited Firestorm song from Pawan Kalyan’s upcoming action entertainer They Call Him OG will be played exclusively in theatres screening Stalin. This surprise sneak peek has already creat-



ed a buzz across social media platforms.

The track, loaded with high-octane visuals and pulsating energy, is composed by Thaman S and has taken the internet by storm. Directed by Sujeeth of Saaho fame, OG is being produced by DVV Entertainments, the banner behind RRR. The film is slated for a global release on September 25, 2025, and expectations are sky-high.

With the re-release of Stalin and the Firestorm song debut, this birthday month becomes a celebration of two Mega stars — Chiranjeevi and Pawan Kalyan. Fans across the world are gearing up for this unique cinematic event that promises nostalgia, adrenaline, and plenty of fanfare.

The Mega family has once again proved why they hold a legendary status in Indian cinema — by giving fans not just one, but two reasons to celebrate.

‘120 Bahadur’ Teaser Brings Rezang La Battle to Life

The teaser of 120 Bahadur, a gripping war drama starring Farhan Akhtar, was officially released today. The film is based on the heroic real-life story of the Battle of Rezang La, one of the most iconic moments in Indian military history.

Farhan Akhtar takes on the powerful role of Param Vir Chakra awardee Major Shaitan Singh, leading a battalion of 120 Indian soldiers who held their ground against overwhelming Chinese forces during the 1962 Indo-China war. The film is directed by Razneesh Razy Ghai and will hit theatres on November 21.

The teaser sets an emotional and patriotic tone, combining stirring visuals with intense battlefield moments. The line “Hum Peechhe Nahin Hatenge” (We won’t step back) echoes through the clip, symbolising the bravery and un-



wavering resolve of the Indian soldiers who fought till their last breath.

Alongside Farhan Akhtar, the film also stars Raashii Khanna, Ajinkya Ramesh Deo, Eijaz Khan, and Vivaan Bhatena in pivotal roles. The visuals in the teaser showcase snow-covered battlefields, gritty close-combat scenes, and moments of deep camaraderie, giving audiences a taste of what promises to be a powerful cinematic experience. 120 Bahadur aims to honour the memory of the 120 Indian soldiers of the 13 Kumaon Regiment who created history with their unmatched courage in Rezang La. The film adds to Bollywood’s growing slate of patriotic war dramas, but stands apart with its strong historical foundation and emotional depth.

With Farhan Akhtar leading the charge and a compelling true story at its core, 120 Bahadur is set to be one of the most anticipated films of the year. The film releases nationwide on November 21.