



Cabinet Clears ₹12,000 Cr Ujjwala Subsidy

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the targeted LPG subsidy for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries for the financial year 2025-26, with an allocation of ₹12,000 crore. Additionally, the Cabinet sanctioned ₹30,000 crore as compensation to public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) — to cover under-recoveries incurred from selling domestic LPG at regulated prices during 2024-25. PMUY, launched in May 2016, is a flagship initiative aimed at providing deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from economically disadvantaged households. As of July 1, 2025, the scheme has successfully connected over 10.33 crore households across India, significantly promoting clean cooking fuel usage. The program supplies beneficiaries with a comprehensive LPG setup that includes a cylinder, pressure regulator, hose, gas consumer card, and installation free of cost. Under the enhanced Ujjwala 2.0, beneficiaries also receive the first refill and stove free of charge, further encouraging adoption. India currently imports nearly 60% of its LPG requirement, making domestic consumers vulnerable to global price volatility. To shield PMUY beneficiaries from such fluctuations and encourage continuous LPG use, the government introduced a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per 14.2 kg cylinder in May 2022. This subsidy was increased to ₹300 per cylinder in October 2023 and is available for up to nine refills annually in the upcoming financial year, with proportional adjustments for 5 kg cylinders. The subsidy has had a measurable impact on LPG consumption among PMUY households, with average per capita refills rising from 3 in 2019-20 to 3.68 in 2022-23, and further reaching 4.47 in 2024-25. This upward trend reflects greater acceptance of cleaner, healthier cooking fuels, reducing reliance on traditional fuels that pose health and environmental risks. The ₹30,000 crore compensation to OMCs will be paid in 12 tranches to help these state-run fuel retailers manage critical operational expenses such as crude oil and LPG procurement, debt servicing, and capital expenditure. International LPG prices have remained high during 2024-25, but the government has absorbed these costs to protect domestic consumers from price hikes, leading to significant financial losses for OMCs. With total estimated expenditure on PMUY reaching approximately ₹52,000 crore till 2024-25, the continuation of this subsidy reaffirms the government's commitment to empowering women, enhancing public health, and promoting sustainable energy use across rural and urban India.

BJP State Chief Meets PM Modi



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to seek guidance on strengthening the party's presence in Andhra Pradesh and discuss pressing issues impacting various sections of society. Madhav briefed the Prime Minister on BJP's strategic roadmap for expansion in the state, while Modi offered valuable suggestions to bolster the party's growth and outreach efforts. During the meeting, Madhav raised the concerns of aqua farmers who have been severely affected by the Trump tariff, resulting in substantial financial losses. Prime Minister Modi assured Madhav that alternative measures and solutions are being explored to mitigate the impact on these farmers. Madhav also brought to the Prime Minister's attention the difficulties faced by other farming communities and various sections of the population in Andhra Pradesh. Highlighting the BJP's outreach plans, Madhav announced that the party will actively conduct the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign across every village in the state to foster patriotism and national pride. He categorically denied any alliance or cooperation between the BJP and the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), dismissing claims of central government support to YSRCP as baseless and unfounded. Madhav further emphasized BJP's firm commitment to combating corruption and maladministration by the YSRCP government in Andhra Pradesh. He vowed that the party will continue to expose and oppose any corrupt practices, standing firmly with the people's interests. Addressing concerns related to land allotments in Amaravati for central public sector undertakings (PSUs),

CM Launches 'Deerghayushman' App

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu officially launched the 'Deerghayushman' app in the presence of Gannavaram MLA Venigandla Ramu. The app, developed by founder Maddineni Ravichandra, is aimed at delivering affordable and quality medical services to every household, focusing on the needs of common people and middle-class families. In today's era of rising medical costs, the app seeks to bridge the gap by offering accessible healthcare solutions at reasonable rates. Currently oper-

ational in Vijayawada and Guntur cities, the 'Deerghayushman' app enables users to book essential emergency services like bike ambulances and access a range of healthcare-related assistance directly at their homes. Founder Maddineni Ravichandra highlighted the app's potential to revolutionize healthcare delivery in India by extending continuous support to patients, even after they leave hospitals. "Our mission is to merge cutting-edge medical technology with compassion, ensuring healthcare reaches people wherever and whenever needed — whether at home, in the community, or elsewhere," he stated. The recent launch of their medical unit in Amaravati marks a significant milestone in this mission. The app's services extend beyond emergency care to include elderly care with dignity, post-surgery rehabilitation, and chronic disease management. Innovative bike ambulance services ensure timely emergency response, especially in congested urban areas where conventional ambulances face delays. 'Deerghayushman' promises comprehensive healthcare that is accessible and affordable, aiming to improve the quality of life for all segments of so-



Pulivendula Voter Shift Sparks Protest

TPN Correspondent | Pulivendula

As the Pulivendula ZPTC by-election approaches, controversy has erupted over the shifting of voters to neighboring villages. YSRCP leaders have strongly opposed this move, claiming it is a conspiracy by the coalition to prevent voters from reaching their original polling booths. MP Avinash Reddy vehemently condemned the shift, calling it a coalition ploy driven by fear of defeat. Significant vote blocks from villages like Nallapureddipalli, Erriballi, and Nallagondawaripalli have had their polling booths shuffled, affecting nearly 7,000 voters. YSRCP and local voters allege that this change was done without consultation and solely to benefit the ruling coalition. They accuse the TDP leaders of orchestrating this to keep voters away from their usual polling stations and suppress turnout. The Election Commission's role has also come under scrutiny. Critics question how polling booth lists, initially submitted during nominations, could be altered without political party consultations. YSRCP candidates have expressed their readiness to file complaints with the Election Commission over this unauthorized booth jumbling. On Friday, when Collector Sri-

dhar visited to inspect the polling booths, villagers of Nallapureddipalli, Erriballi, and Nallagondawaripalli protested vehemently. They surrounded the Collector's vehicle, expressing anger at the increased distances between voters and their designated booths. Police intervened to escort the Collector's vehicle out of the villages. MP Avinash Reddy called the Election Commission's polling booth list "shameful," accusing the coalition government of orchestrating a major conspiracy. He pointed out that voters from Nallapureddipalli were instructed to vote in Erriballi, a distance of about 4 kilometers, which could drastically reduce voter turnout. Referring to recent attacks on voters in Nallagondapalli, he questioned how affected voters would feel safe traveling to different villages for voting. He urged the Election Commission to ensure voters can cast their votes in their own villages, free from coalition influence. Avinash demanded CCTV cameras be installed at polling booths to ensure transparency and urged that the booth arrangements remain as they were in 2021. This issue has intensified election tensions, with voters demanding fairness and uninterrupted access to their rightful polling locations.

Chief Minister to Lead Tribal Day Celebrations

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

With the NDA government taking charge, a fresh era in tribal development has begun, focusing on uplifting agency districts to the level of plains areas. To mark this commitment, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will attend the International Tribal Day celebrations on Saturday in Paderu, Alluri Sitarama Raju District. This year's United Nations theme, "Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence – Defending Rights, Shaping the Future," aligns with the state's efforts to advance tribal welfare. The Chief Minister's itinerary includes a visit to Modakondamma Temple, participation in traditional tribal ceremonies, and interactions with tribal families to understand their challenges. He will also meet coffee plantation growers and address a public gathering at Lagisapalle. During the event, Naidu will lay the foundation stones for new development projects and oversee the signing of MoUs related to tribal initiatives.



Key government projects include accelerating road and bridge construction, with ₹2,404 crores allocated to connect over 2,075 tribal villages within five years. In Alluri Sitarama Raju District alone, ₹41 crores will fund road corridors. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, ₹2,373 crores have been dedicated to providing clean drinking water to 13,816 tribal habitations by 2026. Healthcare is being boosted with multi-specialty hospitals planned for ITDA regions, each funded with ₹50 crores.



ciety. By integrating technology with personalized care, the app envisions transforming how medical services are delivered, making healthcare a seamless and supportive experience for patients and their families.



CM Naidu Extends Varalakshmi Vratam Greetings

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conveyed heartfelt Varalakshmi Vratam wishes to women across Telugu households through a message on X (formerly Twitter). In his post, Naidu expressed hope that Goddess Mahalakshmi would bless every family with eightfold prosperity, good health, and happiness. The Chief Minister's greeting highlighted the cultural significance of Varalakshmi Vratam, a festival observed with devotion for the well-being and prosperity of families. His wishes resonated with the festive spirit as women prepared for the traditional rituals, prayers, and celebrations associated with the auspicious occasion across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

No Compromise on Medical Education Standards: NMC

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC) filed a Review Petition in the High Court, seeking clarity on two recent verdicts concerning the internship period for Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs). This follows a clarification issued by the National Medical Commission (NMC) to the state government regarding FMG internship requirements. On July 9, the AP High Court ordered APMC to grant permanent registration to an FMG, Katta Vamsi, within a month, despite the Indian Embassy not confirming the authenticity of his medical degree certificate from Kyrgyzstan. Another verdict on August 4 instructed APMC to issue speaking orders for four FMGs in compliance with NMC regulations. Amidst this, Special Chief Secretary M.T. Krishna Babu sought clarifications from NMC about compensating FMGs' online study period during COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war through extended offline study. The query also requested details to be included in compensation certificates issued by foreign institutions. NMC's response, received on Thursday, emphasized that clinical skills and physical study cannot be replaced by online learning. The commission highlighted that any compromise in medical education standards could have severe societal consequences. NMC reiterated existing regulations mandating one-year compulsory internship in India post-medical graduation for FMGs. Additionally, due to COVID-19 and geopolitical disruptions, NMC requires FMGs to undergo one or two more years of clerkship in India, verified by passport records. Compensation certificates must detail all academic and clinical courses completed and be authenticated by Indian Embassies. NMC warned that compliance with the July 9 court order risks arbitrary relaxation of standards nationwide and suggested APMC seek an extension from the High Court. Since August 8 was the deadline for compliance, APMC filed a review petition requesting more time and clarifications. Following government-led discussions with NMC, the council awaits further directions to balance regulatory compliance and court mandates.

Chief Minister to Lead...

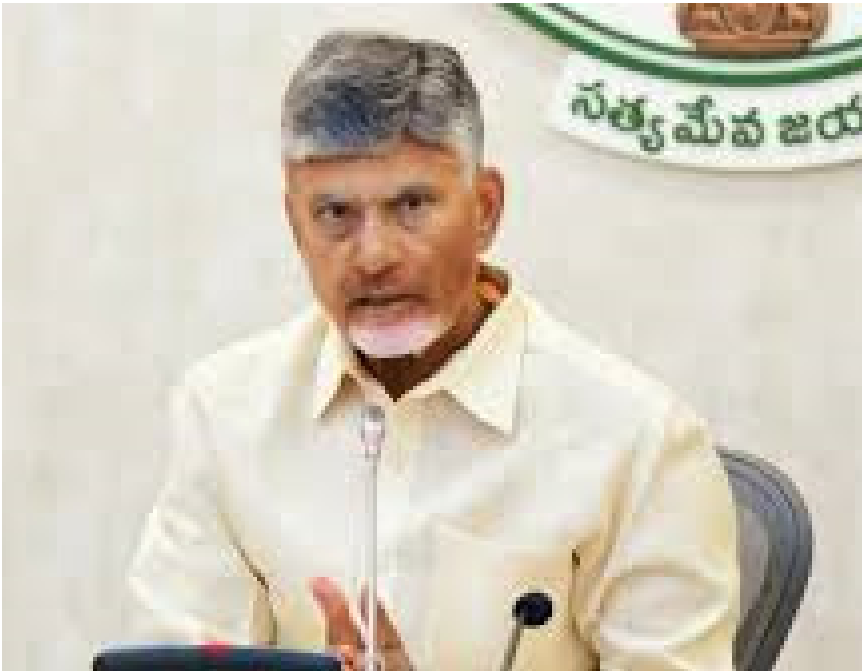
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The medical college in Paderu is progressing rapidly. To empower tribal youth, study circles have been established in major cities, and ₹150 crores are allocated to convert residential schools into hostels benefiting over 520 institutions. The government is also investing ₹202 crores to expand Araku coffee plantations and processing units to boost tribal employment through tourism and agriculture. Tribal welfare remains a priority with ₹7,557 crores allocated for the Scheduled Tribe Component in 2024-25. Schemes like free electricity, NTR Bharosa, and Talliki Vandanam support thousands of tribal families and students. Mission-2047 targets sickle cell anaemia eradication by aiding identified patients financially. The government also promotes natural farming and alternative crops to curb illicit cultivation in tribal areas. The NDA administration continues to drive comprehensive tribal development across Andhra Pradesh.

Coalition Leaders Urged to Win By-election: Chandrababu

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Pulivendula ZPTC by-election has turned into a highly competitive contest between the ruling coalition parties and the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). The coalition has fielded Mareddy Latareddy, wife of B.Tech Ravi, while YSRCP's candidate is Tum-mala Hemant Reddy. Key political leaders from both sides have camped in Pulivendula, vigorously campaigning to sway voters. Amidst the heated electoral battle, Chief Minister and coalition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu convened a vital teleconference with 40 coalition leaders. During this meeting, he stressed the importance of a united approach to secure victory in Pulivendula. Naidu assured special attention towards the development of Pulivendula and urged coalition members to work cohesively with strong determination. The teleconference included prominent participants such as Pulivendula TDP in-charge B.Tech Ravi, BJP MLA Adinarayana Reddy, MLC Ramagopal Reddy, and others. Reflecting on the past coalition government's achievements, Chandrababu recalled the



successful supply of Krishna water to Pulivendula, which safeguarded crops and supported the welfare of farmers. He emphasized the need for coalition leaders to actively promote awareness about government welfare schemes and development projects among the public. "We must develop Pulivendula in a manner that even the YSRCP leadership has not attempted," Naidu remarked, underlining the

significance of collective efforts. With the election approaching, the coalition leaders are working in unison to ensure a decisive win. Their focus remains on outreach, development promises, and strengthening the coalition's influence in the region. The outcome of this by-election is expected to have a substantial impact on the political landscape of Andhra Pradesh, marking it as a critical contest for both sides.



Midnight Drill Tests SHAR Security

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

In a high-alert preparedness exercise, security forces carried out a midnight mock drill at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) in Sriharikota on Thursday midnight. The drill was designed to test the response mechanisms of security agencies against potential terror attacks or other emergency situations at this high-security space facility. The operation involved a coordinated effort from the Andhra Pradesh Police, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and the state's elite anti-terror unit, Octopus. Officials stated that

the exercise was meticulously planned and executed with precision, simulating a sudden hostile intrusion to evaluate the real-time reaction capabilities of the forces deployed at the centre. The primary objective of the drill was to assess how swiftly and effectively the security personnel could respond to unforeseen threats, ensuring that the facility remains secure at all times. It also aimed to test the coordination and communication between multiple agencies during high-pressure emergency scenarios, a crucial factor in managing real attacks. Security experts praised the exercise, highlighting the impor-

ance of regular mock drills at critical national infrastructure sites like SHAR, which is integral to India's space missions and technological advancements. They noted that continuous vigilance, rigorous training, and proactive planning are essential to safeguarding strategic facilities from evolving threats. The drill sent a strong message about the preparedness of security agencies to protect vital installations. Authorities confirmed that such exercises would continue regularly to maintain a high state of readiness, ensuring that the safety and security of the nation's space programme remain uncompromised.

India Advances Green Hydrogen Ship Technology



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has made a significant breakthrough in developing green hydrogen-powered ships, marking a new era for environmentally friendly maritime transport. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, revealed that the government is focusing on hydrogen fuel-based vessels to steer the shipping sector towards sustainability. During a recent Lok Sabha session, MP Keshineni Sivanath raised questions on the progress of green hydrogen ship development. Minister Sonowal responded in writing, stating that Indian shipyards, including Cochin Shipyard Limited and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, are currently constructing vessels powered entirely by hydrogen fuel cells using indigenous technology. To accelerate these efforts, the central government has allocated ₹115 crore under the National Green Hydrogen Mission for the fiscal year 2025-26. These funds will support ship design, technical testing, experimentation, and infrastructure development. The green hydrogen ship initiative is progressing in two phases: the first phase involves retrofitting existing vessels to operate on green hydrogen, while the second phase focuses on establishing hydrogen refueling infrastructure at key ports. The Shipping Corporation of India and the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOC Port) have been designated as the implementing agencies. VOC Port already has a capacity of 750 cubic meters and plans are underway to develop green methanol bunkering facilities. The government also aims to develop VOC Port, Dhamra Port, Paradip Port, and Tuticorin Port as green hydrogen hubs. These hubs will serve as production and export centers, contributing to the country's energy transition roadmap. These initiatives are expected to increase the use of renewable fuels, significantly reduce maritime emissions such as smoke and dust pollution, and position India as a global leader in green hydrogen technology. Minister Sonowal emphasized that these transformative decisions will bring new light to the future of the maritime sector, reinforcing India's commitment to sustainable development and cleaner oceans.

BJP State Chief Meets PM Modi

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Madhav clarified that the allocations are governed by a fixed policy framework with no favoritism or bias. While some companies might have received concessions in the past, he assured that current land allotments adhere to uniform guidelines and policies to ensure transparency and fairness. The meeting underscored BJP's dedication to strengthening its organizational base in Andhra Pradesh and addressing critical issues faced by the state's communities, reflecting its readiness for the upcoming electoral challenges.

NABL Accreditation Boosts Agriculture Labs

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Department of Agriculture has reached a significant milestone by securing NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) accreditation for its key laboratories in Nellore, Bapatla, and Kurnool. This accreditation confirms that these laboratories meet stringent international quality assurance standards, boosting the reliability of chemical analysis of fertilizers and pesticides used by farmers across the state. The accredited laboratories include the Fertilizer Control Laboratory (FCO Lab) in Bapatla, the Bio & Organic Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory (BOFQCL) in Nellore, and the Pesticide Testing Laboratory (PTL) in Kurnool. All have complied with ISO/IEC 17025:2017



standards, underscoring their technical competence and ability to perform precise and trustworthy testing aligned with global benchmarks. This achievement is a matter of pride for the Andhra Pradesh government and a crucial step in assuring farmers of the quality and

safety of agricultural inputs. The accreditation enhances confidence in the sector and supports improved quality control practices throughout the state. Director of Agriculture, Sri Dilli Rao, commended the dedication of staff at all three laboratories for their tireless efforts in attaining this status. He stated that the NABL accreditation is just the beginning of a broader initiative. The government plans to gradually bring all agricultural laboratories under NABL accreditation to maintain uniform quality control and strengthen agricultural development in Andhra Pradesh. This accomplishment aligns with the government's commitment to fostering modern, science-driven agriculture that empowers farmers and ensures sustainable growth.



Change Is Inevitable in Pulivendula: YS Sunitha

TPN Correspondent | Pulivendula

The 74th birth anniversary celebrations of YS Vivekananda Reddy were held with great fervor in Pulivendula town on Friday. Speaking at the event, YS Sunitha stressed the urgent need for change in Pulivendula across all fronts. She lamented that after YS Rajasekhara Reddy, the people of Pulivendula and the district have forgotten the services rendered by Vivekananda. YS Sunitha expressed her dismay over the injustice meted out even during Vivekananda's last rites. She recalled her suggestion to carry out the funeral procession through Pulivendula streets being denied, and instead, the procession was taken via a less visible route to the crematorium. She also rejected a letter brought by Avinash Reddy on that day, stating she never expected such conduct from him, given their long-standing relationship. She rejected calls for "Old Pulivendula," stating the town needs a new identity free from political violence. The Vivekananda murder case is still pending in the Supreme Court and High Court, and the CBI investigation is yet to reach completion. Sunitha expressed confidence that justice will prevail, even if delayed. Reflecting on recent unrest in Pulivendula, she said she does not desire such political turbulence and wishes for peace and tranquility in the town.

YSRCP Slams Free Bus Scheme Restrictions

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

YSRCP Women's Wing Working President S.V. Vijaya Manohari has accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of deceiving women with a "highly restrictive" free bus travel scheme, rolled out 14 months after the coalition government assumed power. Speaking at the YSRCP office in Kurnool, Vijaya Manohari alleged that the scheme, covering only 6,000 out of APSRTC's 12,000 buses, was a betrayal of Naidu's election promise of unrestricted travel, including in AC buses like Garuda and Amaravati to pilgrimage destinations such as Tirupati and Srisailem. "This is a mockery of commitments made to women," she said, urging the government to provide unconditional access to all categories of buses. She further criticised the administration for failing to control liquor and drug proliferation, linking it to an alarming rise in crimes against women, with incidents occurring every 3-4 hours. She condemned the cabinet's nod for "permit rooms" in liquor shops as unacceptable. Vijaya Manohari also accused Naidu of diluting welfare schemes, citing reduced benefits under Thalliki Vandanam, exclusion of 30 lakh mothers, scrapping of YSRCP's Asara and Cheyutha, slashing free gas cylinders from three to one, and failing to clear Rs. 6,000 crore in fee reimbursement dues.

Will Firmly Resist YSRCP Attacks: Adinarayana Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Government Whip Adinarayana Reddy has accused YS Jaganmohan Reddy and YS Avinash Reddy of orchestrating the murder of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy. Speaking after meeting the family members of YS Viveka on his birth anniversary, Adinarayana Reddy dismissed claims that the murder case was falsely imposed on their party. He alleged that Avinash Reddy was present near the site on the day of the murder but instead of seeking justice, tried to erase evidence, a fact well known to the people of Pulivendula. Adinarayana Reddy claimed that YS Jagan was aware of the murder but arrived late in Pulivendula, spreading false narratives on his way. He criticized YSRCP for using the murder and election issues as tools to manipu-



late voters through false propaganda and drama. He praised the previous government for conducting elections democratically despite challenges, highlighting how elections for sarpanches, municipalities, and district councils were held peacefully without allowing opposition candidates to file nominations due to aggressive tactics by ruling party supporters. The current elections, he said, are being conducted peacefully,

allowing all parties to campaign freely. However, YSRCP leaders are allegedly resorting to violence out of fear of defeat, and he assured firm resistance against such attacks. Regarding the Vivekananda murder case, Adinarayana Reddy said he had spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and hoped justice would be served soon. He accused YS Jagan of eliminating his own relative to win elec-

CPM Slams EC Over Voter Cuts



TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

The CPM has strongly condemned the Election Commission of India (ECI) for allegedly acting in line with BJP's interests by using the SIR process to delete genuine votes and include bogus ones. As part of a state-wide protest against alleged voter list ir-

regularities, CPM leaders staged a dharna in front of the Kurnool Collectorate on Friday. Addressing the gathering, CPM District Secretary D. Gouse Desai accused the ECI of large-scale voter manipulation, citing the removal of 6.5 million votes in Bihar without proper explanation. He claimed that this mass

deletion aligns with BJP's political agenda, including indirect implementation of NRC and CAA. Desai alleged that constitutional bodies were being filled with loyalists and that the marginalized, including Muslims, tribals, and Dalits, were being targeted. Speakers questioned whether the 6.5 million voters had died or migrated, slamming the ECI for acting in a one-sided, irresponsible manner. They demanded Supreme Court intervention and strict action against such electoral malpractice. CPI(M) district leaders T. Ramudu, M.D. Anand Babu, G. Ramakrishna, and others participated, along with over 100 activists, including women leaders Padma and Veni.

Minister Subhash Inaugurates Development Works

TPN Correspondent | Ramachandrapuram

Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subhash emphasized the importance of delivering better governance through village secretariats while ensuring accountability among officials. Speaking after inaugurating several development projects in Bandanapudi village of Kajuluru mandal, the minister said the coalition government is committed to welfare schemes and infrastructure development with sincerity. Minister Subhash inaugurated a newly constructed Secretariat building costing ₹40 lakh and a Rythu Seva Kendra built with ₹21.80 lakh. He also opened a Solid Waste Processing Centre



(SWPC) shed worth ₹4.5 lakh and an underground drainage system constructed with ₹4.28 lakh. Highlighting the government's efforts, Subhash said ₹125 crore was brought into the constituency in just one year for various

developmental works. He assured that improving civic amenities and welfare for the people remains a continuous process. "We are working with a clear vision to develop the constituency in a planned manner, ensuring public representatives and officials deliver quality governance," he added. The program saw participation from Mandal Tahsildar Ravindranath Tagore, Jana Sena in-charge Polishetty Chandrasekhar, Panchayat Raj AE Bhavani Shankar, village Sarpanch Degala Thirumala Veni, coalition party leaders, officials, Secretariat staff, and local villagers.



Gandhi Babji Condemns YSRCP Leaders' Violence

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

At a press conference held on Friday at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) office in Visakhapatnam, former MLA and Visakhapatnam TDP president, Gandhi Babji, strongly condemned the brutal assault on a Dalit SC individual by Bhuma Karunakar Reddy and his son in Tirupati town. Babji accused YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders of frequently attacking Dalits and women with impunity. He recalled past incidents, including the COVID-19 period when Dalit doctor Sudhakar was mercilessly beaten by police after requesting masks, which led to harassment, job loss, and ultimately his death. He also cited the killing of a Dalit driver by MLC Anant Babu and other violent acts. Babji stated that the recent attack in Tirupati, caught on video, was extremely inhumane, yet the government acted promptly by registering an FIR and arresting the culprits. He charged the YSRCP government with having no genuine love or concern for BCs and Dalits, claiming their promises were mere words. He also highlighted the political repression faced by opposition leader Chandrababu Naidu, who was jailed for 55 days without cause. Babji alleged that factional politics and murder attempts, such as the killing of Vivekananda Reddy by his own brother, are part of the YSRCP's dirty politics, which have no place in governance. The TDP leader called for justice and condemned the YSRCP's violence and lawlessness, urging the government to protect vulnerable communities instead of promoting such cruelty.

Achchennai Vows Welfare for All Eligible



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Achchennai reaffirmed the government's commitment to delivering welfare schemes to every eligible beneficiary, in line with election promises. On Friday, at the Nimmada camp office in Tekkali constituency, the minister personally received petitions from local residents regarding various public issues. He stated that the coalition government is working with dedication to resolve citizens' grievances and improve livelihoods. Among the petitions received were requests for new pensions, allocation of new houses, and measures to create employment opportunities. Achchennai assured the public that these benefits would be sanctioned soon. The minister also reviewed the grievances on the spot, directing officials to respond promptly and ensure that assistance reaches the people without delay. He stressed the need for proactive action from government departments, instructing officers to avoid negligence in their duties and maintain efficiency. Residents expressed their concerns in large numbers, highlighting the urgency of welfare support and job creation. The minister emphasized that timely implementation of welfare schemes is a top priority for the coalition government, aiming to bring tangible improvements in people's lives. The event witnessed active participation from local leaders and officials, reflecting the administration's focus on public service.

Coalition Delivers on Weaver Promises

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Andhra Pradesh State Padmashali Corporation Chairman Nandam Abaddayya praised the coalition government for swiftly fulfilling promises made to weavers during the election campaign. Speaking at a media meet held at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Mangalagiri, he said the coalition government, led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has been committed to giving new direction to the state's weaving sector since taking office. Abaddayya noted that the previous government neglected the weaving community, leaving weavers without adequate support or marketing facilities, resulting in a dark period for the sector during 2019-24. However, after 2024, the government acted promptly to address these challenges.



Key initiatives include a new textiles policy with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore aiming to generate employment for 1.51 lakh people, special units for weavers in MSME parks to modernize production, and plans to build a Handloom Museum in Amara-

vati showcasing weaving heritage. The government has also launched schemes like free electricity supply—200 units for weavers and 500 units for power looms—budgeted at Rs 190 crore annually. Additionally, it will pay Rs 15 crore yearly to exempt 5% GST on woven fabrics and has restored thrift funds, releasing Rs 5 crore to 5,386 weavers. Health insurance schemes for weavers are being planned, and preparations are underway for co-operative society elections. Chief Minister Naidu's special program aims to empower weavers as entrepreneurs, promoting financial stability and dignified livelihoods. The coalition government's dedicated efforts are revitalizing the weaving sector and illuminating weavers' lives, including providing a monthly NTR pension of Rs 4,000 to weavers aged 50 and above.

Durga Temple Sets Varalakshmi Vratam Schedule



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam has announced special arrangements for Varalakshmi Vratam and modifications to the upcoming city Giripradakshina schedule. On Friday, the presiding deity will be adorned as Sri Varalakshmi Devi, with rituals conducted privately by temple priests. A special community Varalakshmi Vratam will be held on August 22, 2025, at the Sri Mallikharjuna Maha Mandapam (6th floor) in two sessions. The first, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM, requires a fee of ₹1,500 and allows post-ritual darshan through a ₹300 queue ticket for one woman participant. A second free session will run from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, with registrations open from August 18 at the temple's toll-free counter. Participation is limited to one woman per application. All participants will receive a prasadam kit containing kumkum (150 g), blouse piece, bangles, laddu, and a Shakti kankanam. Meanwhile, changes have been made to the city Giripradakshina on Saturday, due to the Pournami procession starting at 5:55 AM and ongoing three-day Pavithrotsavams. Only the temple's publicity chariot will be used, without the processional idols of Swamy and Ammavaru, to ensure smooth conduct of rituals. Devotees are requested to cooperate with these arrangements. Adding to the spirit of charity during the festival, noted philanthropist Keeshe Sujatha, wife of Parimi Koteswara Rao, along with their daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter donated ₹1,00,001 towards the temple's Free Prasadam Distribution Scheme. The contribution was made at Stella College, Benz Circle, Vijayawada, in the presence of temple authorities, who expressed gratitude for the generous support.

Shakti Team Rescues Lost Child

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District

In a swift and sensitive response, members of the Krishna district Shakti team safely reunited a five-year-old girl with her parents after she wandered away from her grandmother's home. The child, identified as Lodde Lalitha of Puli Rama Rao Nagar, Kanakipadu, had been staying at her grandmother's house in Penamaluru for a week. On Friday, while her grandmother was away at work, the girl left unnoticed, intending to walk to her parents' home. She wandered about four kilometres before being spotted by Shakti team members PC 2823 Uday Kiran, WPC 3154 Baby, and WPC 1586 Samrajyam, who were on duty near Kanakipadu Road. Upon inquiry, she said she was heading from her grandmother's house to her parents' home in Kanakipadu. The team took her to Kanakipadu Police Station, where further investigation confirmed her parents' identity. In the presence of Inspector J. Muralikrishna, Sis Sandeep and Tatacharyulu, the girl was safely handed over to her parents. The grateful parents, moved to tears, thanked the officers for their timely intervention. The Shakti team received special appreciation from DSP Srinivasa Rao, the CI, and Sis for their quick action.

Drug Discovery Awareness Seminar Concludes

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Nirmala Pharmacy College successfully hosted a two-day national-level seminar titled “Next Generation Bio-informatics Integrating AI Tools Trends for Drug Discovery and Development,” sponsored by DBT City AP. The event, held Thursday and Friday, attracted 670 students from 68 colleges across India. The seminar aimed to enhance scientific understanding and provide practical insights into research methodologies for the students. The opening ceremony featured a welcome song and dance performances, followed by a lamp-lighting ceremony by dignitaries. College Principal Prof. B. Pamula Reddy delivered the welcome address, while Secretary and Correspondent Rev. Sister G. Nirmala Jyothi presented the inaugural message. College Director



Rev. Sister Dr. U. Shaurilu, Guest of Honor Dr. G. Prasanthi (Managing Director, Vijayawada Vijay Super Specialty Hospital), and Chief Guest Prof. G. Simhachalam (IC Registrar, Acharya Nagarjuna University) addressed the gathering with their inspiring messages. Organizing Secretary Dr. G. Swapna explained the objectives of the seminar. The event booklet was also released by the guests. Re-

nowned experts from prestigious educational institutions across the country participated as keynote speakers, enriching the knowledge base of the attendees. The seminar provided students with valuable exposure to advanced scientific concepts and emerging trends in bioinformatics and artificial intelligence, encouraging their interest in drug discovery research.

Awareness Seminar on Civil Services

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

An awareness session on how to easily prepare for Civil Services exams was held at KL Deemed University under the BA (IAS) program. Donipudi Vijay Babu, Assistant Commissioner of State Income Tax, attended the event as the chief guest. He emphasized that dedication and perseverance are key traits aspirants must develop to succeed in prestigious services like IAS and IPS. He advised students to regularly read English newspapers and competitive exam magazines, but more importantly, to summarize key points in writing, which aids memory retention. Instead of reading many books superficially, he suggested focusing on a few standard texts with commit-



ted study to achieve goals. Dr. B. Shivanagiah, Head of the BA (IAS) department, chaired the session and explained the structured curriculum designed by experienced professors and civil services trainers. The course covers all subjects from NCERT Class 6 up to Plus 2 level, with weekly mock tests to continuously evaluate student progress. Merit scholarships are provided to tal-

ented intermediate students upon admission to the BA (IAS) course. The university library, stocked with competitive exam materials, remains accessible at all times. The BA (IAS) department also supports students' overall growth by encouraging participation in sports, yoga, gym, and cultural activities to promote physical and mental well-being. Motivational lectures by senior civil servants like IRS Assistant Commissioner Vijay Babu are regularly arranged. Dr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Head of the BA Department, and Associate Professors Dr. Prajapati Prabrutulu participated in the event. Third-year student Lakshmi conducted the program, during which many students clarified their doubts about IAS preparation with Vijay Babu.

Siddhartha to Host All India Tournaments

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

As part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, Siddhartha Academy of General and Technical Education will host the All India Invitational Tournaments from Monday, at P.B. Siddhartha Arts and Science College grounds in Vijayawada. The inaugural ceremony, scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, will be graced by Kolusu Parthasarathy, Minister for Housing and I & PR, as the chief guest. The tournaments will begin with volleyball competitions for both men's and women's teams from Monday to



Thursday. Men's basketball matches will follow from August 17 to 20. The closing ceremony will be attended by M. Ramprasad Reddy, Minister for Youth and Sports. A press meet at the college seminar hall was addressed by Principals Dr. Meka Ramesh and Ch. Venkateswar-

lu, Director Vemuri Baburao, Academic Advisor L.K. Mohana Rao, and former SAP Chairman Ankamma Chowdary. Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala, Kavuri Sridhar, Dr. T. Balakrishna Reddy, and Markandeyulu from the Department of Sports were also present.

APSPF Sports Fest Kicks Off

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

As part of Independence Day celebrations, the Andhra Pradesh Special Protection Force (APSPF) Vijayawada Zone inaugurated its sports meet at the AP Secretariat on Friday. The event, held under the directions of APSPF Director General Dr. Trivikram Varma and IG B.V. Ramireddy, featured volleyball and badminton competitions. Vijayawada Zone Commandant Mudada Shankar Rao, the chief guest, said that personnel from five units — AP Secretariat, AP High Court, Vijayawada Guards, Dr. NTPS Ibrahimpatnam, and Gannavaram Airport — showcased their talent in the competitions. He noted that such sporting events help reduce stress and enhance personality development. Chief Security Officer of the State Secretariat, P.V.S.N. Mallikarjuna Rao, highlighted that games promote teamwork, mental resilience, and physical fitness. The tournaments were sponsored by SBI, UBI, Canara Bank, ICICI Bank, and KIA. The event saw active participation from officers, inspectors M. Venkateswarlu and S. Ramana, and other staff members. Prizes were awarded to the winners at the conclusion of the games.

Ex MLA condemns TDP MLC's threats



TPN Correspondent | Tadepalli

Former MLA Malladi Vishnu has strongly condemned TDP MLC Alapati Rajendra's alleged attempts to grab five acres of prime land belonging to Satavahana College in Vijayawada. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office, Vishnu accused Rajendra of issuing death threats to Principal Vankayalapati Srinivas, warning him of dire consequences if he resisted. “Why is Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu silent when his party leaders act like this?” Vishnu questioned. He pointed out that Rajendra had no connection to the 50-year-old institution and had no right to interfere in its affairs. Despite Srinivas filing complaints, police have allegedly failed to act, fuelling doubts over their impartiality. Vishnu recalled YSRCP's earlier efforts to protect the college lands from encroachers and criticised the TDP government for neglecting such issues. He urged immediate government intervention to secure the land and restore public faith. Assuring full YSRCP support to the college's staff and students, Vishnu warned that Vijayawada residents are closely watching the developments.

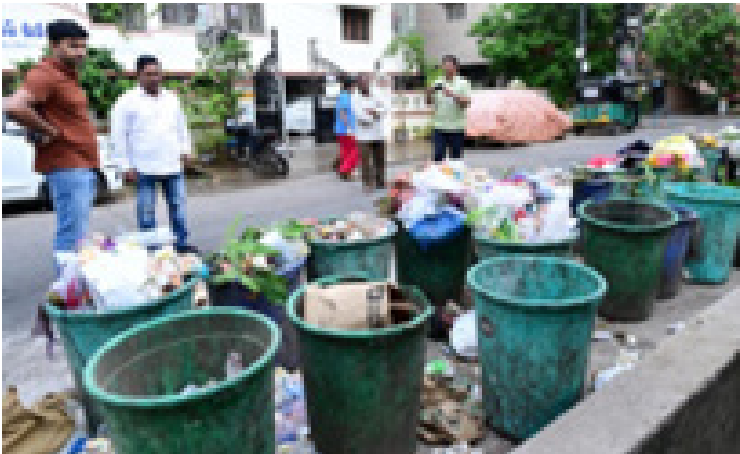
VMC to Add Bins in High-Waste Areas

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanchandra H.M. has directed officials to increase the number of compactor bins in areas where waste generation is high. During an inspection tour on Friday morning, he visited Labbi Pet Water Tank Road, Erra Meda Road, Boyapati Madhava Rao Street, Kristu Rajapuram, Dental College Road, Government Hospital Service

Road, BRTS Road, Narasaraaju Road, and Ayodhya Nagar. At Boyapati Madhava Rao Street, the Commissioner instructed the installation of additional compactor bins and told officials to survey all city areas to ensure waste is not left on roads. He stressed the importance of promptly clearing bins and avoiding negligence in waste removal. Dhyanchandra emphasized the need for flawless sanitation management to main-

tain a healthy environment. He urged public awareness on waste segregation, advising households to separate wet and dry waste for collection. Later, he inspected the Anna Canteen in Ayodhya Nagar, directing that sanitation be maintained without lapses, and that drinking and utility water supply remain uninterrupted. He instructed officials to monitor regularly so that visitors face no inconvenience.





MLA Attends Weekly Grievance Program

TPN Correspondent | Kovvur

As directed by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, a weekly grievance program was conducted at the Telugu Desam Party office in Kovvur on Friday. Kovvur MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao actively participated in the session, where local residents brought forth various petitions seeking government intervention. Among the key requests were the issuance of 11 ration cards, provision of health pensions to eligible individuals, and corrections to names on birth certificates. Additionally, residents from Brijipeta raised concerns about the lack of a proper drinking water supply and appealed for the construction of a pipeline to address this issue. MLA Venkateswara Rao assured the petitioners that their grievances would be taken seriously and resolved at the earliest possible time. The program also saw the involvement of leaders from coalition parties, who engaged with the public to understand their issues better. They took careful note of the complaints to ensure prompt follow-up and action by the concerned departments. The grievance program strengthened the bond between elected representatives and citizens, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing grassroots problems efficiently.

IIITDM Unveils Drone Health Monitor



TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

Kurnool District Collector P. Ranjith Basha announced that the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Kurnool, is developing a drone-based health monitoring system aimed at enhancing emergency medical response. On Friday, the Collector reviewed a demonstration of the system at his camp office. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said the system will help monitor patients' health conditions during emergencies and provide immediate medical assistance. It will allow doctors to observe patients' conditions in real-time both at the incident site and en route to hospitals, ensuring timely treatment. The system will also establish a real-time communication network between doctors and hospitals, enabling better coordination. Additionally, it will assist in issuing emergency alerts and clearing routes for ambulances during green channel operations, thereby reducing delays in patient transport. The Collector noted that the project is being developed by professors and students from IIITDM Kurnool's Electronics and Communications Engineering and Mechanical Engineering departments. The demonstration was attended by Professor K. Krishna Naik (ECE), Professor Dr. Ravikumar (Mechanical Engineering), and student developers. The Collector instructed the team to complete the project soon and make it fully operational.

Fogging Mandatory in Every Village: Collector

TPN Correspondent | Bapatla

With a rise in seasonal diseases across the district, the Bapatla administration has stepped up efforts to control the spread of dengue. On Friday, District Collector J. Venkata Murali conducted a video conference with district and mandal-level officials to review preventive measures. So far, 18 dengue cases have been reported in the district. The collector assured that the government is taking full precautions and there is no need for public panic. He emphasized the mandatory conduct of fogging in every village and instructed authorities to enforce a weekly 'dry day' to eliminate stagnant water breeding grounds. Continuous fever surveys should be carried out. He also suggested releasing Gambusia fish into water tanks to control mosquito growth. All primary health centers were directed to stock sufficient medicines, IV fluids, and beds in ad-



vance. RMP doctors were warned to limit their role to basic treatment only. The collector stressed that mosquito control activities should be strengthened in welfare hostels, with wardens responsible for student health. Medical staff must report every dengue case promptly to ensure timely and effective treatment.

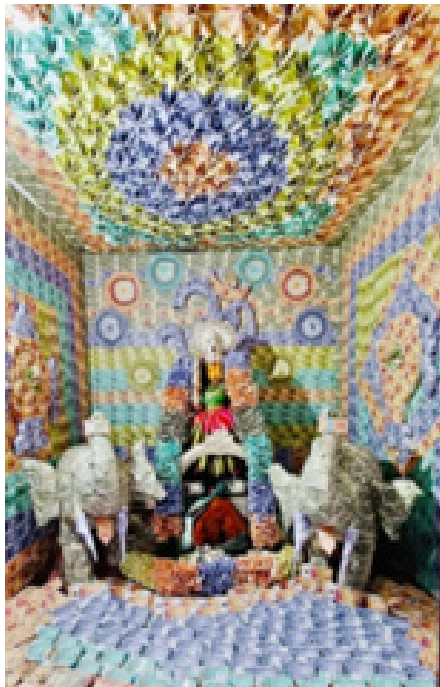
People were urged to remain vigilant and seek immediate treatment at government hospitals if they develop fever symptoms. They were also advised to cover drinking water containers and maintain cleanliness around their homes. The collector assured the public of the government's full responsibility for health safety. Officials and staff must remain available to the public even during holidays. Monitoring of sanitation in panchayats should be intensified, with special medical teams assigned to hotspot areas. RWS officials were instructed to clean drinking water tanks, and the education department was directed to conduct dengue awareness classes in schools. The meeting was attended by District Medical Health Officer Dr. Vijayamma, District Panchayat Officer Prabhakar Rao, RWS SE Anantaram, District Agriculture Officer Subrahmanyam, and DRDA Project Director Srinivas.

Godavari Temples Glow in Varalakshmi Festivities

TPN Correspondent | East Godavari

On the occasion of the second Friday of the holy month of Sravana, the Godavari region witnessed grand Varalakshmi Vratam celebrations. Temples along the riverbanks were beautifully decorated, with some deities adorned in lakhs worth of currency notes. In East Godavari district's Kadiyapalanka, Sri Musalamma was decorated with currency notes worth ₹30 lakh, depicting her as Goddess Dhanalakshmi. Devotees thronged

from early morning for darshan. Organizers have been following this unique tradition for the past five years. In Yanam, Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari was adorned with ₹25 lakh in currency notes, drawing large crowds. Similarly, at Palangi in Undrajavaram mandal, Sri Kanaka Durga Devi was also decorated as Dhanalakshmi, with her sanctum and mandapam embellished with currency. The celebrations created a vibrant spiritual atmosphere along the Godavari, with mass vratas and special poojas marking the auspicious day.



Slot Booking Eases Land Registrations

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

The land registration process has become easier and faster with the introduction of the slot booking system for property buyers and sellers. Earlier, registrations were done manually, causing delays and inconvenience. Now, with the online slot booking system implemented since April 2025, the entire registration is completed in about 30 minutes, and documents are handed over on the same day, saving valuable time. The new system was first piloted in Draksharamam, East Godavari district, followed by trials in Amalapuram, and has since been rolled out statewide. Under slot booking, applicants can select their preferred registration date in advance, benefiting people from distant areas and women by offering greater convenience. Before the registration day, buyers, sellers, witnesses, and officials must prepare all documents and fees. The local sub-registrar verifies survey numbers, fees paid, and other details, ensuring the process is smooth.



During registration, the system sends OTPs (one-time passwords) to the mobile numbers of buyers and sellers, which must be provided to complete registration, ensuring transparency and security. Digital signatures are collected to prevent fraud. Earlier, documents were handwritten by registrars, often causing delays and higher costs. To overcome this, the Inspector General of Registration and Stamps launched a "Public Data Entry" web portal providing ready templates for vari-

ous registrations, allowing users to fill details online and submit to the sub-registrar for approval. If all documents are in order, the sub-registrar hands over the registered documents to the buyer on the same day, enhancing transparency. If a registered applicant misses the appointment, rescheduling is possible by paying a Rs. 200 fee. This modernized slot booking system has greatly improved efficiency, convenience, and transparency in land and property registration.



₹10 Lakh Aid for Blast Victims

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

The State government has announced financial assistance to the families of those who lost their lives in the recent gas cylinder explosion near the Fishing Harbour in Visakhapatnam. District in-charge Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy said on Friday that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has sanctioned an ex-gratia payment of ₹10 lakh each to the bereaved families. In an official statement, the minister said the Chief Minister has instructed officials to ensure the compensation reaches the victims' families without delay. He also confirmed that those injured in the incident are receiving quality medical care, with doctors providing continuous monitoring. The tragic accident occurred at a welding shop near the harbour, claiming multiple lives and leaving several injured. Minister Veeranjanya Swamy assured that the government stands firmly with the victims during this difficult time and is committed to supporting them in every possible way. The administration is also focusing on preventing such accidents in the future through safety measures and strict enforcement of guidelines.

Drunken Son Kills Mother

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

A tragic incident occurred in Kurnool where a son, addicted to alcohol, murdered his mother. According to family members, Rudrakshala Jammanna, who lives on Budaga Jungle Street in Budhavara Pet, woke up around 2 AM and told his wife and children that he was going to sleep at his mother's house nearby. Soon after, screams were heard. When his wife and children rushed to check, they found Jammanna sitting on his mother Rudrakshala Ellamma's chest, with a cloth stuffed in her mouth and nose. By the time they arrived, she had died. Jammanna fled the scene. The wife, Sharada, revealed that her mother-in-law breathed her last after she was doused with water on her face. Sharada added that Jammanna, driven by his addiction and desire for money, committed this brutal murder. Following a complaint filed by their young daughter Gnaneshwari, the Kurnool Third Town police registered a case and are searching for the accused.

Two Boys Drown While Swimming

TPN Correspondent | Ongole

In a tragic incident in Prakasam district's Pedda Dornala mandal, two boys drowned while swimming in a deep water pond near Chinna Gudipadu village. The victims, P. Adbhuta Kumar (16) and P. Pavan Kumar (14), both students from Jammi Dornala-Harijanawada, went for a swim on Friday, a holiday. Unfortunately, the pond's depth caused both boys to drown. After receiving the report, Pedda Dornala Sub-Inspector reached the site, recovered the bodies, and sent them to the government hospital. The police have registered a case and started an investigation into the incident. This unfortunate event has deeply saddened the local community and serves as a reminder of the dangers of swimming in unguarded water bodies, especially for children. Authorities urge caution and recommend supervising children near water to prevent similar tragedies.

Congress Calls for BJP Public Apology



TPN Correspondent | Nidadavolu

Congress leaders from the Nidadavolu constituency staged a protest on Friday, accusing the BJP of colluding with the Central Election Commission to seize power in an undemocratic manner. They alleged that the BJP had violated the Indian Constitution by stealing votes for political gain, declaring that

such a party was unfit to govern the country. Speaking at the event, leaders demanded the immediate resignation of the BJP leadership and an apology to the nation. The protest was held near the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, architect of the Indian Constitution, where demonstrators raised slogans against the BJP and set fire to its effigy. They hailed Rahul Gandhi as the only leader fighting

to uphold the Constitution and protect the rights of the people. Participants included Nidadavolu constituency coordinator Medavarapu Bhadram Dora, Congress state secretary Chinnam Muralikrishna, district social media coordinator Agarwal Heeralal, Peravali mandal president Buddana Lakshman Rao, and Nidadavolu mandal president Bhavana Ramesh, among others.

Israel Bombs Syria's Druze

Ancient Community Holds India Connection

Fresh violence has erupted in Syria's southern Sweida province, home to the Druze minority, following Israeli airstrikes purportedly to protect the embattled community. On August 6, aid trucks reached the area after prolonged shortages, even as tensions rise under Syria's new president, Ahmed al-Sharaa.

The Druze, an ancient, secretive religious group spread across Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, are being targeted amid escalating sectarian violence. Their beliefs — including reincarnation, a non-proselytizing faith, and reverence for Jethro, Moses' father-in-law — echo similarities with Indic spiritual traditions. Some Druze even believe their lost scriptures may be hidden in India.

While Israel claims to protect Druze near its borders, it has expanded military operations in southern Syria, citing the need to build a "buffer zone" in the Golan Heights, which it seized from Syria in 1967. The region remains a strategic flashpoint.



Meanwhile, Turkey and Qatar have deepened involvement in Syria, backing Islamist factions and expanding military and economic influence. Ankara sees Syria as key to countering Kurdish threats and securing regional dominance. As Turkey strengthens ties with Damascus, Israel views Turkish expansion as a direct threat.

Analysts now warn that a new proxy war may be brewing — not just involving Israel and Iran, but Israel vs. Turkey, with shifting alliances and covert support, including from Iran itself, now edged out of Syria. The fate of the Druze — and the stability of the region — hangs in the balance.

How Modi's Government Shapes India's Media Narrative



In Narendra Modi's India, the media reflects multiple layers of truth—what is broadcast, what is questioned by alternative voices, and what actually occurred. Over the years, mainstream media has shifted from reporting government narratives to actively attacking opposition parties, eroding press neutrality. Key independent institutions like Centre for Policy Research, Amnesty International, and Oxfam have faced funding cuts and government scrutiny. Pro-government think tanks, however, thrive with official patronage. Print media, re-

liant on government ads and costly to run, has become increasingly vulnerable to pressure—forced to balance state-approved messaging with attempts at credibility. Journalists receive Modi's speeches pre-drafted with headline suggestions. Critical opposition voices are routinely buried or reframed, often accompanied by BJP rebuttals. Stories highlighting rifts within the opposition are aggressively amplified, while internal BJP conflicts remain underreported.

Media owners face financial threats—raids, ED probes, or tax notices—while

dissenting journalists face arrests, sedition charges, or physical assault. Outlets like BBC, Dainik Bhaskar, and The Quint have faced raids. Platforms like NewsClick were accused of foreign funding violations. The Modi government amended IT rules to remove "fake" content, tightening grip over digital platforms like YouTube and WhatsApp. International bodies like CPJ and RSF have condemned these tactics, citing record journalist imprisonments and attacks. India's media, under sustained state pressure, now navigates a fragile line between survival and censorship.



Is GDP enough?

Measuring India's True Economic Strength

India has recently surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy in terms of Nominal GDP—the market value of all goods and services produced, calculated at current prices. With a population of over 1.46 billion, India's economic output in dollar terms appears impressive. Reports from institutions like Morgan Stanley project that India could reach \$10.6 trillion in GDP by 2035, making it the third-largest economy by 2028. But is Nominal GDP a true reflection of India's economic strength and citizens' well-being?

The Limits of Nominal GDP

While nominal GDP is essential for international rankings, investment inflows, and membership in global economic forums like the G20 or IMF, it has significant limitations:

Inflation Distortion: Nominal GDP can rise due to inflation, even if actual production remains stagnant, giving a misleading picture of growth.

Low Living Standards: A high total GDP does not translate to high GDP per capita. India's GDP may rival Japan's in size, but Japan's smaller population ensures a far higher standard of living.

Income Inequality: Nominal GDP doesn't capture how wealth is distributed. India's economic gains remain concentrated, with large segments of the population still under poverty.

Lack of Purchasing Power Insight:

Without accounting for the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), nominal GDP fails to reflect the real value of money for the average citizen.

Overlooks Informal Economy & Sustainability: India's vast informal sector, along with environmental and health concerns, are invisible in GDP numbers.

What Should We Measure Instead?

To gauge a country's real economic strength and its impact on people, economists recommend a combination of indicators:

Real GDP: Adjusted for inflation, it reflects actual growth in production.

GDP Per Capita: Shows average income and living standards.

PPP-based GDP: Compares real purchasing power.

(HDI): Includes education and health indicators.

Gini Coefficient: Measures income inequality.

Global Competitiveness Index & Ease of Doing Business: Evaluate economic potential and systemic efficiency.

Conclusion

Nominal GDP is important for showcasing India's global economic status, but it's only one part of the story. True progress must be measured through a multi-dimensional lens, considering real growth, social equity, purchasing power, and quality of life. For India to achieve sustainable prosperity, focusing beyond GDP is not just ideal—but essential.

Rahul's Poll Claims Demand Deeper Scrutiny

Time to Move Beyond Politics

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's explosive claims of systemic electoral fraud in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls have ignited a political storm, with demands now rising for an impartial investigation to uphold the credibility of India's democratic institutions.

On August 7, Gandhi alleged the presence of over 1.02 lakh fake votes in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment under the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha seat—far exceeding the 32,707-vote victory margin of BJP MP P.C. Mohan. Gandhi accused the Election Commission (EC) of complicity, saying the fraud was deliberate and designed to benefit the ruling party.

The Congress candidate from the seat, Mansoor Ali Khan, reportedly spearheaded a detailed audit that led to the discovery of alleged irregularities. Gandhi also claimed similar discrepancies occurred in other constituencies and accused the EC of



helping "steal" the 2024 elections.

While the BJP has dismissed the charges as politically motivated, electoral officials have asked Gand-

hi to submit his claims under oath. However, with media reports validating some of the claims—including one house allegedly hosting 80 non-existent voters—the matter has

moved beyond mere partisan rhetoric.

The issue now poses two serious questions:

- Why did these allegations emerge over a year after the elections?
- What impact could they have on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, especially in Bihar?

Critics argue that had the Congress acted earlier—perhaps by filing a legal challenge—the issue could have been addressed within established democratic mechanisms. Instead, Gandhi's public accusations ahead of legal action are seen as an attempt to corner the EC and the government politically.

Still, experts insist that such grave charges from a national leader cannot be ignored. A proposed solution is an inquiry led by former Election Commissioners, possibly under Supreme Court oversight, to investi-

gate and present findings transparently.

Rahul's claims come even as the Congress secured major electoral wins in recent years—Karnataka in 2023 and alliances with DMK and TMC in 2024. This complicates its full-throated criticism of the EC, suggesting selective trust in outcomes.

The controversy also casts a shadow over the EC's ongoing efforts to clean up electoral rolls through the SIR process. Ironically, Gandhi's claims may strengthen the case for such roll revisions—if done transparently.

At stake is not just political mileage but public faith in the democratic process. The need of the hour is not partisan point-scoring, but a fact-based inquiry that holds either the accuser or the institution accountable—restoring the trust that India's democracy depends on.

Priyanka Slams EC

Priyanka Gandhi's Dig At Poll Body



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission (EC) on Friday, questioning its neutrality after it demanded that Rahul Gandhi submit an affidavit to support his poll rigging allegations.

Priyanka questioned the EC's intent behind asking for a sworn declaration under a rule that only applies within 30 days of polling. "If they believe their responsibility is only to the BJP, they need to rethink. This is about Indian democracy, not a political party," she said, asserting that the EC should investigate the allegations instead of dismissing them. Her remarks came after Chief Electoral Officers from at least three states asked Rahul Gandhi to share specific names of voters allegedly added or removed from electoral rolls wrongly, along with a signed statement.

Rahul Gandhi had earlier alleged "vote chori" involving over 1 lakh fake or duplicate entries in a Karnataka assembly constituency. He presented data on voters with invalid addresses, photos, and bulk registrations, calling it a co-ordinated electoral fraud. Priyanka defended her brother, saying the allegations are based on evidence. "How can the EC call it baseless without probing it?" she asked. "If such a big scam is happening, the least they can do is check."

She warned that those enabling electoral malpractice would be held accountable when the Opposition returns to power. "They are attacking the foundation of democracy. This cannot be ignored," she added. The Congress said the INDIA bloc will collectively decide the next steps. Meanwhile, the EC insists Rahul Gandhi must either formalise his claims or stop misleading voters. Rahul Gandhi stood by his allegations, saying he had already made the claims publicly and that the EC should "take it as an oath."

Tharoor Backs Rahul on Vote Chori



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has come out in support of Rahul Gandhi over allegations of electoral irregularities, endorsing the Congress leader's recent criticism of the Election Commission and concerns of "vote chori" (vote theft). Tharoor's endorsement is significant amid ongoing tensions between him and the party's central leadership.

Sharing Rahul Gandhi's presentation on alleged voter fraud in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment of the Central Bangalore Lok Sabha seat, Tharoor posted on X (formerly Twitter): "These are serious questions which must be seriously addressed in the interests of all parties & all voters. Our democracy is too precious to allow its credibility to be destroyed by incompetence, carelessness or worse, deliberate tampering. @ECISVEEP must urgently act & @SpokespersonECI should keep the nation informed." Rahul Gandhi had accused the Election Commission of acting in collusion with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to undermine the Constitution and manipulate the electoral process.

Tharoor's support is seen as a notable shift, as he has been at odds with the Congress high command in recent months. He drew criticism from within the party after being selected by the central government to lead an all-party delegation on Operation Sindoor, following the Pahalgam terror attack. His views on India-Pakistan relations and diplomacy also diverged from the party line.

Adding to the strain, Tharoor recently praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomatic efforts in an op-ed for The Hindu, lauding the PM's "energy" and "dynamism" on the global stage — remarks that didn't sit well with Congress leadership. With his latest remarks, Tharoor appears to realign with the party on the issue of electoral integrity, underscoring the need for transparency and immediate corrective action by the Election Commission.

China Welcomes PM Modi's Visit to SCO Summit

TPN Bureau | New Delhi

China has warmly welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, scheduled from August 31 to September 1. This will mark PM Modi's first trip to China since 2019.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun highlighted that the summit will be the largest in SCO's history, with leaders from over 20 countries attending, including all nine member states—China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan—and heads of 10 international organizations. Guo described the event as a "gathering of solidarity, friendship, and fruitful results," emphasizing China's optimism for the summit's outcomes.

PM Modi's visit to Tianjin follows his stop in Japan for the annual India-Japan Summit with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on August 30. His attendance is part of a broader series of SCO-related diplomatic engagements in China, which have involved Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in recent months.



The summit comes amid growing geopolitical tensions, including criticism from former US President Donald Trump targeting BRICS nations—many of which are SCO members—for their purchase of Russian oil. Russia plans to send representatives to the summit, but it remains unclear if President Vladimir Putin will attend.

Relations within the SCO have faced challenges, such as India's refusal in June to en-

dorse a defence ministers' document that omitted mention of the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people, while referencing unrest in Pakistan's Balochistan region. China, however, condemned the Pahalgam attack in July and called for enhanced regional counterterrorism cooperation.

With India's active participation, the upcoming SCO summit is expected to reinforce ties and address regional security and economic cooperation among member states.

India will not bow to anybody: Piyush

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Amid rising global trade tensions, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal declared that India "will not bow down to anybody," asserting the country's economic resilience and growing influence in the global trade order.

Speaking at the Business Today India@100 Summit, Goyal addressed concerns over the US imposing an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods over its continued purchase of Russian oil. He stressed India's self-confidence and growth trajectory, saying, "India is growing at 6.5% and will likely export more this year than last. We have put in place systems to respond to trade challenges effectively."

Rejecting claims of global "deglobalisation," Goyal said the world is merely recalibrating its partnerships, and India is emerging stronger in this reconfiguration.



Highlighting future prospects, he announced that the India-EFTA (European Free Trade Association) trade pact would come into effect on October 1. The agreement will bring in \$100 billion in investments and is expected to generate over 10 lakh direct jobs and 50 lakh total employ-

ment opportunities. In a sharp rebuttal to US President Donald Trump's recent remark calling India a "dead economy" and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's alleged endorsement of the view, Goyal said, "It's a shame when opposition leaders parrot foreign criticism. The nation will not forgive such negativity."

He reiterated India's economic strength—stable currency, healthy forex reserves, robust stock markets, and low inflation—and credited the IT sector and pandemic-era reforms for India's resilience. "India turned the Covid crisis into opportunity," he said, adding, "We will always emerge victorious during challenging times."

Looking ahead, Goyal confirmed that India is finalising or negotiating FTAs with over 10 countries, including the UK, EU, US, Chile, and Australia, positioning itself as a central player in the evolving global trade landscape.

India Pauses Plans To Buy US Weapons

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has paused plans to procure advanced U.S. weapons and aircraft following President Donald Trump's steep tariff hike on Indian exports, in a sign of growing diplomatic strain between the two countries, according to Reuters.

Three senior Indian officials confirmed that the government had shelved upcoming defence deals, including the planned visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Washington. During the now-cancelled trip, Singh was expected to announce major military purchases, including six Boeing P8I reconnaissance aircraft in a \$3.6 billion deal, Stryker combat vehicles from General Dynamics, and Javelin anti-tank missiles developed by Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

The decision follows Trump's August 6 order imposing an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods, raising total duties to 50%. The move was justified by Washington as a response to India's continued purchases of discounted Russian oil, which the U.S. claims supports Moscow's war effort in Ukraine.

While formal instructions to cancel the arms deals have not been issued, officials said that all progress has been frozen "for now," with possible resumption depending on how the tariff dispute evolves.



India, the world's second-largest arms importer, has increasingly shifted defence procurement toward Western countries. However, the freeze in U.S. deals comes amid renewed Russian interest in supplying Delhi with new systems, including the advanced S-500 air defence system.

Despite the tensions, intelligence sharing and joint military exercises between India and the U.S. continue unaffected. In-

dian officials also indicated that New Delhi remains open to reducing Russian oil imports—if equivalent pricing from other sources, including the U.S., is available.

The fallout marks one of the most serious setbacks in U.S.-India ties in recent years and has added complexity to India's balancing act between long-standing Russian ties and its growing strategic alignment with Washington.



Trump Helped Ease India-Pak Tensions: US Secretary Rubio

TPN Correspondent | New York

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has claimed that former President Donald Trump played a key role in defusing tensions between India and Pakistan, calling him a “president of peace.” Speaking in an interview with EWTN’s The World Over, Rubio asserted that the US “got involved directly” when the two nuclear-armed neighbours approached the brink of war.

“When India and Pakistan went to war, we got involved directly, and the president was able to deliver on that peace,” Rubio said, praising Trump’s diplomatic approach to global conflicts. Since May 10, Trump has repeatedly claimed that he helped ease hostilities between India and Pakistan by offering economic incentives. “We told them we’ll do a lot of trade with them if they stopped fighting,” Trump has said at public events.

However, India has consistently maintained that the cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was achieved through direct communication between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both countries, without any third-party mediation.

Rubio’s remarks come as part of a broader narrative promoted by Trump’s campaign about his global peacemaking efforts. Rubio also cited several other instances where Trump-led diplomacy allegedly resolved or de-escalated conflicts — including between Cambodia and Thailand, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. He highlighted a peace agreement in the DRC-Rwanda conflict, noting the US facilitated a deal in a war that had claimed over seven million lives.

“We dedicate a significant amount of time to stopping and ending wars,” Rubio said, adding that Trump’s administration was proud of these diplomatic achievements and continues to work toward resolving major conflicts, especially the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

The comments are part of Trump’s broader re-election messaging that paints him as a global peace broker.

Trump Halts Trade Talks With India

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump has ruled out any trade negotiations with India until the ongoing tariff dispute is resolved, following a sharp escalation in economic tensions between the two countries. The White House on Wednesday issued an Executive Order imposing an additional 25% tariff on Indian imports, doubling the total levy to 50%.

When asked by ANI in the Oval Office whether he expected trade talks to resume, Trump responded bluntly: “No, not until we get it resolved.”

The order, which cites national security and foreign policy concerns, specifically targets India’s continued import of Russian oil. The administration argues these imports — whether direct or routed through third countries — pose an “unusual and extraordinary threat” to the United States, thereby justifying emergency economic action.

According to US officials, the initial 25% tariff took effect on August 7, and the additional



25% will be implemented in 21 days. The new measures will apply to all Indian goods entering US ports, except items already in transit or those falling under certain exempt categories.

The order allows the President flexibility to adjust or remove the tariffs depending on geopolitical developments or retaliatory actions from India.

In response, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi struck a defiant tone during a speech at the MS Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi. “India will never compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and dairy farmers,” Modi declared. “We are ready to pay the price. India is ready for it.”

India has repeatedly resisted US pressure to open sensitive sectors such as agriculture and dairy to foreign competition, arguing that doing so would jeopardize rural livelihoods. The move marks a significant downturn in bilateral trade relations, with both nations now entrenched in a broader economic and strategic standoff.

Germany Halts Arms Exports to Israel

TPN Correspondent | Berlin

In a significant policy shift, Germany has announced a suspension of military exports to Israel that could be used in Gaza, citing deep concern over Israel’s plans to seize control of Gaza City.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz stated that it had become “increasingly unclear” how Israel’s military actions aligned with the stated goals of disarming Hamas and freeing Israeli hostages. “Under these circumstances, the German government will not authorise any exports of military equipment that could be used in the Gaza Strip until further notice,” Merz said. Germany, traditionally one of Israel’s closest allies, had ap-

proved €485 million (\$565 million) in arms exports to Israel between October 2023 and May 2025. These included firearms, ammunition, weapons parts, and armoured vehicles.

While reiterating that “Israel has the right to defend itself against Hamas’ terror,” Merz stressed that the humanitarian suffering in Gaza had reached intolerable levels and warned Israel against moves toward West Bank annexation. The decision has drawn mixed reactions within Germany. Vice Chancellor Lars Klingbeil of the Social Democrats called it a “just decision,” citing the “unbearable” situation in Gaza. However, the Central Council of Jews in Germany labelled the move “dis-

appointing” and urged Berlin to apply pressure on Hamas instead.

A recent poll by ARD showed 66% of Germans support stronger government pressure on Israel to change its Gaza policy. Despite increasing international support for Palestinian statehood, Germany has declined to follow countries like France and Canada in formally recognising Palestine, citing the need for negotiations.

Germany continues to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza, including air force-led air-drops. Merz emphasized the need for comprehensive U.N. access to deliver aid and warned against further Israeli annexation efforts in the West Bank.

Israel Approves Gaza City Takeover Plan



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israel’s Security Cabinet has approved a controversial plan to seize full control of Gaza City, signaling a major escalation in its nearly two-year-long military campaign against Hamas. The decision, taken early Friday, follows Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s announcement that Israel ultimately aims to control the entire Gaza Strip and transfer its administration to “friendly Arab forces.”

Netanyahu stated on Thursday (August 7) that dismantling Hamas’ infrastructure requires expanding Israel’s territorial hold in Gaza. Israel already controls about three-quarters of the war-ravaged territory.

The plan has sparked domes-

tic and international backlash. Families of the approximately 20 Israeli hostages still held in Gaza protested outside the Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, fearing the move could endanger their loved ones. Former Israeli security officials also voiced concerns, warning that full occupation of Gaza could lead to a long-term quagmire with minimal strategic gains. An Israeli official, speaking anonymously before the formal announcement, confirmed the Cabinet was weighing a gradual implementation strategy aimed at applying sustained pressure on Hamas-held areas.

The humanitarian toll in Gaza continues to mount. Israel’s 22-month air and ground campaign, launched in response to Hamas’ October 7, 2023 attacks, has killed tens of thousands of

Palestinians, displaced most of the population, and destroyed key infrastructure. International aid agencies report widespread hunger and worsening conditions across the enclave.

Critics argue that expanding military operations risks further isolating Israel diplomatically and could inflame regional tensions. Meanwhile, Palestinians brace for increased suffering amid deepening insecurity.

As the Israeli offensive intensifies, calls grow — including from former Israeli leaders — for renewed international mediation to end the conflict and secure the safe return of hostages. However, the new takeover plan suggests a prolonged and intensified military engagement is on the horizon.

China marks 60 years of cultural destruction in Tibet

TPN Correspondent | Dharamshala

As China prepares grand celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) on September 9, Tibetan advocacy groups have condemned the event as an attempt to whitewash six decades of repression, forced assimilation, and cultural destruction.

In a statement released on August 6, the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), based in Washington, DC, said Tibetans have suffered “60 years of calamity” under Chinese rule. “Instead of forcing Tibetans to put on a performance of gratitude, China must change course and put the interests of the Tibetan people ahead of their own compulsive need for power and control,” said ICT President Tencho Gyatso.

The TAR, formed in 1965, covers less than half of Tibet’s historical territory. ICT pointed out that this followed China’s 1950 military invasion and the coercive 17-Point Agreement of 1951, which promised autonomy and cultural preservation—



pledges the group says were never honored.

ICT also highlighted that no Tibetan has ever held the top political post of Party Secretary in TAR. Instead, the role has always been filled by Han Chinese officials, including Chen Quanguo and Wu Yingjie, both facing serious allegations of human rights abuses.

Other ongoing issues include the banning of the Dalai Lama’s image, disappearance of the 11th Panchen Lama, and forced assimilation policies like boarding schools and Man-

darin instruction replacing Tibetan.

Environmental degradation has added to the crisis, with nomadic communities relocated and extensive mining operations disrupting traditional lifestyles without local consent.

With Freedom House consistently ranking Tibet among the least free regions globally, rights groups are calling on the international community not to be deceived by China’s “celebrations” but to recognize the continued suppression of Tibetan identity and freedoms.

Dalal Street Bleeds as Sensex Falls 765 Points

Investors Lose ₹3.5 Lakh Crore

Domestic stock markets were volatile on Friday. Benchmark, sectoral and broader market indices were bleeding. Negative signals from global markets, foreign institutional investment outflows, rupee weakness and Trump tariffs fears are the reasons for this. Selling pressure was on realty and consumer durables shares. Overall, investors lost Rs 3.5 lakh crore in wealth as Nifty lost 232 and Sensex lost 765 points. Fear index India VIX also rose sharply.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,623 in the previous session, opened at 80,478 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 79,775. It reached an intraday high of 80,550. It finally closed at 79,857, losing 765 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,544, touched a low of 24,337 and a high of 24,585. It closed at 24,363, down 232 points. The Nifty Bank fell 516 points to settle at 55,004.



In the Nifty50, 9 companies gained while 41 lost. NTPC, Titan, Dr. Reddy's, HDFC Life, Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, Adani Enterprises, Shriram Finance, and Tata Motors were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices were mixed today. Realty, consumer durables, telecom, metal, auto, healthcare, pharma, private bank, IT and FMCG indices lost the most.

Market breadth in NSE today is in favor of sell-

ers. Out of a total of 3038 stocks traded, 984 gained. 1969 lost. 54 shares touched their 52-week high and 79 touched their 52-week low. The upper circuit was 75 and the lower circuit was 61.

The rupee strengthened by 4 paise against the dollar to settle at 87.66. The central government has withdrawn the first version of the Income Tax Bill 2025. It will be replaced by a revised bill. CLSA has given HPCL an underperform rating with a target price of Rs. 340. Jefferies has revised its target price to Rs 1020 for Ramco Cement and given it a Hold rating. Defense stocks fell on weak earnings and profit booking. Citi has maintained its Buy rating on Godrej Consumers with a target price of Rs 1400. All Time Plastic IPO received a response of 0.88 times at the close of the second day of the market. Wockhardt's net loss increased from Rs 14 crore to Rs 90 crore. JSW Cement IPO received a response of 0.49 times at the close of the second day of the market

Rupee Slips to 87.63 Against Dollar Amid Trade Tensions

The Indian rupee declined by 5 paise to 87.63 against the U.S. dollar in early trade on Friday, pressured by persistent foreign fund outflows and escalating trade tensions with the United States.



Opening at 87.56 at the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee moved within a narrow range and touched an intraday low of 87.63, down from the previous close of 87.58. Forex traders said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is actively managing volatility and appears to be defending the rupee around the 87.95 level.

"Despite fresh headwinds from U.S. tariff hikes, the rupee remained largely stable due to RBI intervention," said Amit Pabari, MD at CR Forex Advisors. He added that while near-term resistance is seen at 87.70, a meaningful recovery would only follow a decisive drop below 87.20.

The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against six major currencies, slipped 0.27% to 98.13. Meanwhile, Brent crude fell 0.17% to \$66.32 per barrel, easing concerns about India's oil import bill.

On the domestic front, the BSE Sensex fell 242.24

points to 80,381.02, and the NSE Nifty declined by 54.85 points to 24,541.30 in early trading. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers, offloading equities worth ₹4,997.19 crore on Thursday.

Trade tensions between India and the U.S. have intensified after President Donald Trump ruled out trade negotiations with India until a tariff dispute is resolved. The U.S. recently imposed an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods, raising total duties to 50%, in response to India's continued imports of Russian oil.

The additional levy is set to take effect on August 27, potentially deepening economic uncertainty and currency pressure.

Moody's Warns U.S. Tariffs Could Weaken India's Manufacturing Growth



Moody's Ratings has cautioned that the recent 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on Indian imports could significantly hamper India's manufacturing ambitions and slow its economic growth.

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration imposed an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods last Wednesday, citing India's continued imports of Russian oil. This brought total tariffs to 50%, considerably higher than those levied on other Asia-Pacific countries.

Moody's warned that India's real GDP growth could decline by about 0.3 percentage points from the current forecast of 6.3% for the fiscal year ending March 2026 due to these tariffs.

"The wider tariff gap compared to other regional countries could severely curtail India's push to develop its manufacturing sector, especially in high-value sectors like electronics," Moody's said. The agency also noted that the tariffs might reverse recent gains in attracting investment into manufacturing.

Furthermore, the pressure to

reduce Russian oil imports to avoid tariffs might make it challenging for India to secure alternative crude supplies in sufficient quantities. This could lead to a larger import bill, widening India's current account deficit and dampening tariff competitiveness, which may deter investment inflows.

Moody's expects a negotiated resolution between India and the U.S. but highlighted that the degree of economic impact would influence India's fiscal policy choices. The government is likely to continue its focus on gradual fiscal and debt consolidation despite these challenges.

In recent developments, the Reserve Bank of India maintained its key interest rates and kept a neutral monetary stance after a surprise rate cut in June. Meanwhile, global trade uncertainties and tariff-related tensions have unsettled foreign investors, with \$900 million in equity outflows so far in August, following \$2 billion in July.

India's benchmark indices, Nifty 50 and Sensex, declined 2.9% in July and continue to slip amid rising investor anxiety.

Tesla Leases 8,200 Sq. Ft. Space in Delhi's Aerocity Amid India Expansion

Electric vehicle maker Tesla India is ramping up its presence in the country by leasing an 8,200 sq. ft. commercial space in Delhi's Aerocity, according to real estate data analytics firm CRE Matrix. The space is located in the Worldmark 3 project and has been leased from Oak Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. on a nine-year contract, with a starting monthly rent of ₹17.22 lakh (₹210 per sq. ft.).

The lease agreement, registered on July 30, 2025, includes a rent escalation clause of 15% every 36 months, signaling Tesla's long-term commitment to strengthening its footprint in the national capital region.

This development follows Tesla's recent retail debut in India last month with a store at the Bandra Kurla Complex business district in Mumbai. Tesla is currently selling the China-made Model Y in India, priced at nearly ₹60 lakh after



import duties.

In addition to the Delhi lease, Tesla recently acquired a 33,000 sq. ft. commercial space in Gurugram's Orchid Business Park. The Gurugram property is intended for use as a service centre and sales outlet. The lease, registered on July 28, spans nine years with a starting rent of ₹40 lakh per month, which will escalate annually by 4.75%. The leased area includes 33,475 sq. ft. chargeable area and a super-built-up area of 50,914 sq. ft.,

with a three-year lock-in period.

These strategic property acquisitions indicate Tesla's focused approach to expanding its retail and service network across key Indian markets, catering to the growing demand for electric vehicles in the country.

Tesla continues to make significant inroads in India's EV market as it balances imported models with plans for future local operations.

Silver Shines Bright While Gold Slips Slightly

Precious metals witnessed a mixed day in the markets on Tuesday, with silver recording strong gains and gold seeing a modest decline, both in domestic and international trading.

According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), 24-carat gold dropped by ₹91, settling at ₹1,00,076 per 10 grams, down from ₹1,00,167 on Monday. Similarly, 22-carat gold saw a minor dip from ₹91,753 to ₹91,670 per 10 grams. 18-carat gold also slipped, priced at ₹75,057 per 10 grams compared to ₹75,125 the previous day.

In contrast, silver prices surged, gaining ₹522 to reach ₹1,12,422 per kg from ₹1,11,900 — reflecting a bullish sentiment for the metal.

A similar pattern was observed in the futures market. Gold futures for October 3 delivery on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) declined by 0.37% to ₹1,00,830 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, silver futures for September 5 delivery rose by 0.33%, hitting ₹1,12,160 per 10 grams.



Globally, the trend echoed these movements. Silver on Comex jumped 0.65% to \$37.58 per ounce, while gold slipped 0.31% to \$3,416.20 per ounce.

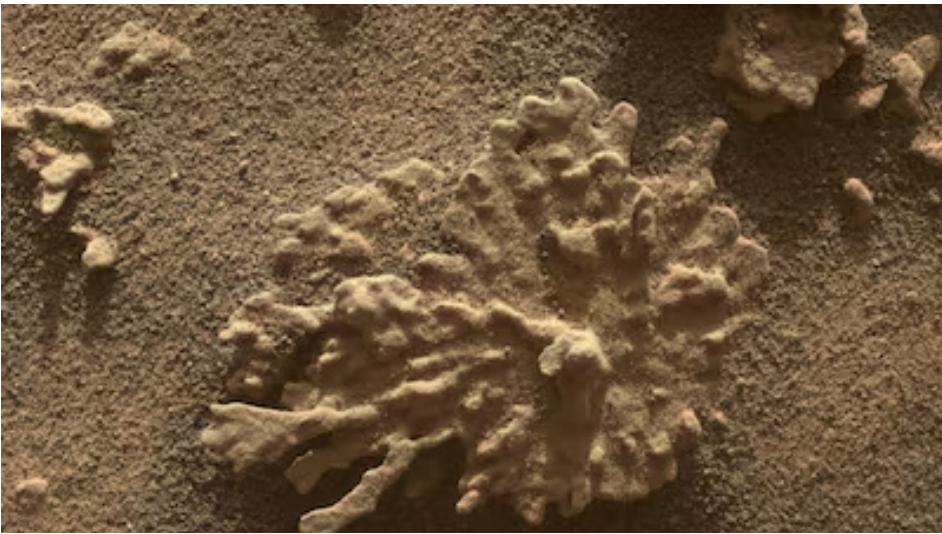
Jateen Trivedi, Analyst at LKP Securities, attributed gold's decline to resistance near the \$3,370–\$3,375 zone on Comex, coupled with a firm rupee trading around 87.80, adding pressure to local gold prices.

Despite the dip, analysts suggest gold remains supported by ongoing global uncertainties, particularly around trade tariffs and dollar fluctuations. "Gold is expected to trade in a volatile range of ₹99,000–₹1,01,500," Trivedi noted.

Investors continue to watch key economic indicators, including Manufacturing PMI and developments in U.S. trade policy, which are likely to influence short-term trends in bullion markets.

New Curiosity Discovery Points to Mars’ Watery Past

In a groundbreaking discovery, NASA’s Curiosity Rover has uncovered new evidence suggesting that liquid water once existed on Mars, potentially supporting life in the planet’s distant past. The find was made using the rover’s Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) — a camera located on the end of its robotic arm — which captured a striking image of a coral-shaped, wind-eroded rock in the Gale Crater.



NASA scientists believe the flower-like rock formation, roughly 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide, was created by minerals deposited by ancient water flows, later shaped by billions of years of wind erosion. This unique structure resembles ocean-bottom corals found on Earth, prompting further interest in Mars’ ancient, possibly habitable environment.

The rover recently entered a region on Mount Sharp, the towering 5-kilometer-high mountain within Gale Crater, filled with boxwork formations — hardened ridges formed by underground water activity billions of years ago. NASA says these formations may offer vital clues about whether microbial life once

thrived below Mars’ surface.

Curiosity, which landed on Mars on August 5, 2012, has spent over 13 years exploring the Martian landscape. Its mission centers on answering the pivotal question: Could Mars have ever supported life? Despite the rover’s age, engineers are continually enhancing its capabilities to ensure it continues to deliver valuable scientific data.

This latest discovery not only strengthens the hypothesis that Mars had liquid water, but also pushes the boundaries of how long the Red Planet might have remained habitable as it slowly lost its atmosphere. With each finding, Curiosity brings humanity closer to understanding the mysterious history of Mars — and whether it once had the right conditions to support life.

OpenAI’s GPT-5 Nears Release, Smarter AI But Smaller Leap

OpenAI is preparing to launch its next-generation AI model, GPT-5, the successor to the powerful GPT-4 that helped make ChatGPT a global phenomenon in 2022. The model’s release is said to be imminent, raising anticipation across the tech world for what could be another step forward in generative AI capabilities.



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has hinted throughout the year that GPT-5 will bring together the strengths of large-scale models and test-time compute, a technique where more computing resources are allocated during inference for improved results. This combination could make GPT-5 more adaptive and accurate across a broader range of tasks.

According to two early testers who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity due to non-disclosure agreements, GPT-5 has shown notable improvements in coding, mathematics, and scientific problem-solving. However, they noted that while it is more capable and refined than GPT-4, the leap in performance and intelligence may not be as dramatic as the jump from GPT-3 to GPT-4.

GPT-4, launched in 2023, was praised for its multimodal abilities and more accurate reasoning. It powered the premium versions of ChatGPT and was later integrated into Microsoft products and numerous enterprise tools. GPT-5 is expected to expand on these capabilities, potentially with enhanced memory, better real-world grounding, and increased reliability.

While OpenAI has not announced an official release date, the testing phase suggests that a public launch could happen soon. With AI safety, alignment, and regulation becoming central concerns globally, GPT-5’s release will also likely reignite debates about responsible AI development and the pace of innovation in the space.

US–Russia Battle for Ocean Supremacy

As US-Russia tensions intensify in a new Cold War-style standoff, the two powers are ramping up their undersea military posturing. In response to former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev’s warning of Russia’s “dead hand” nuclear retaliation system, US President Donald Trump has ordered the repositioning of two nuclear submarines to strategic waters.

This high-stakes move follows Moscow’s dismissal of Trump’s threats over tariffs and sanctions. Medvedev invoked “dead hand,” a Cold War-era semi-automated nuclear strike system designed to launch a counterattack even if Russia’s leadership is destroyed.

Russian lawmaker Viktor Vodolatsky responded to Trump’s deployment, claiming that Russian nuclear submarine activity outmatches that of the US globally. “The submarines the

US ordered to reposition are already tracked and surrounded,” he said.

US Submarine Strength:

Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBNs): The US Navy operates 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, also called “boomers.” Each can carry up to 20 Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and is designed for long-range, stealth nuclear deterrence. These SSBNs can remain at sea for months and operate for 15 years between major overhauls.

Fast Attack Submarines (SSNs): The US also deploys Virginia, Seawolf, and Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered attack submarines. These submarines are armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and MK-48 torpedoes. They conduct offensive operations, gather intelligence, and support special op-



erations. The Virginia-class SSNs, including the USS Hawaii and USS North Carolina, are among the most advanced, with cutting-edge stealth and

special forces capabilities.

As the US and Russia maneuver undersea, the contest for strategic domi-



nance beneath the waves underscores the renewed risks of an arms race — this time, below the surface.

Fiery Orange iPhone 17 Pro? Sparks Mixed Reactions

Apple may be shaking up its traditionally muted iPhone Pro colour palette with the bold introduction of a vibrant orange variant for the upcoming iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max. According to a recent leak, the eye-catching shade could debut alongside standard options like black, white, and dark blue when Apple unveils its iPhone 17 series next month.



A short video shared by reliable leaker Majin Bu shows what appears to be a dummy unit of the iPhone 17 Pro in a bright orange finish. Bu called the colour “so good,” but reactions from fans online were sharply divided. Some praised the bold move, calling it a “refreshing change,” while others dismissed it as “the worst colour in iPhone history” and “hideous.”

Whether or not the orange version is real remains uncertain. Apple’s colour leaks have often proven unreliable in the past. Still, the possibility of a bright new option has stirred excitement and debate ahead of the official announcement.

The iPhone 17 line-up is expected to be unveiled

in early September, with speculation pointing to a possible launch event on September 9. Apple typically announces its flagship devices in the second week of September, and multiple reports — including from Bloomberg’s Mark Gurman — support this timeline.

In terms of hardware, the iPhone 17 and 17 Air are likely to feature the new A19 chip, while the Pro models may be powered by the A19 Pro. Display sizes are expected to range from 6.3 inches (iPhone 17/17 Pro) to 6.9 inches (Pro Max). The Pro Max is also rumoured to retain a titanium frame, while the rest of the line-up may shift to aluminium.

Instagram Rolls Out Reposts, Friend Map & New Reels Feed

Meta-owned Instagram has unveiled three new features aimed at enhancing social connectivity on the platform. The additions—Reposts, Friend Map, and a ‘Friends’ feed in the Reels tab—are designed to make the app more interactive and community-focused. In a video message, Instagram head Adam Mosseri said the platform wants to be “not just a lean-back experience that is just fun and entertaining, but also a participatory one.”



Reposts: Share What You Love

Instagram now lets users repost public Reels and feed posts. The reposted content appears in followers’ feeds as recommendations and is saved in a new “Reposts” tab on the user’s profile. Importantly, original creators are automatically credited, giving them exposure to a broader audience, including users who don’t follow them.

This move is expected to boost engagement for creators and simplify content sharing for regular users. To repost, simply tap the repost icon below a post or Reel.

Friend Map: Location Sharing with Control

Borrowing from Snapchat’s Snap Map, Instagram’s Friend Map lets users share their last active location with friends. The feature, accessible through the DM inbox, can be toggled on or off

at any time. Users can control who sees their location—be it Close Friends, selected users, or no one.

Instagram ensures privacy by allowing users to exclude specific people or places from seeing their activity. The location updates automatically when users open or return to the app.

‘Friends’ Reels Feed

A dedicated Reels feed for friends is also being added. This feed helps users view and interact with Reels shared by their closest connections, making the app feel more personalised. Together, these features mark Instagram’s latest effort to blend entertainment with real-time social interactions, while offering better content discovery and privacy control.

Ronaldo Nets Hat-Trick for Al-Nassr in 4-0 Win Over Rio Ave

Cristiano Ronaldo once again proved why he remains one of the greatest in football history, scoring a brilliant hat-trick to lead Al-Nassr to a dominant 4-0 victory over Portuguese side Rio Ave in a pre-season friendly at the Estadio do Algarve on Thursday.

The match began with Mohamed Simakan opening the scoring for Al-Nassr. What followed was a Ronaldo masterclass that left fans in awe. The Portuguese superstar linked up brilliantly with Joao Felix in the penalty area to fire home a thunderous second goal for his side.

Shortly after Sadio Mane missed a penalty, Ronaldo pounced again — this time heading in a pinpoint cross just 16 seconds later to score Al-Nassr's third. He then completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot five minutes later, wrapping up a sensational personal performance.

The hat-trick further cements Ronaldo's impressive record for the Saudi club, where he has now scored 93 goals in 105 appearances across all competitions since joining in late 2022.

Contract Extended Till 2027
Ronaldo also ended weeks of speculation about his future, confirming he will remain at Al-



Nassr until 2027. Posting on X (formerly Twitter), Ronaldo shared: "A new chapter begins. Same passion, same dream. Let's make history together."

Al-Nassr soon confirmed the news: "Cristiano Ronaldo is staying at @AlNassrFC until 2027."

Ronaldo's move to Saudi Arabia marked a pivotal shift in global football, attracting top talent and international attention to the Saudi Pro League. His renewed commitment reinforces Al-Nassr's ambitions and sets the stage for more star-studded action in the region.

Fans now look ahead eagerly to the new season, with Ronaldo showing no signs of slowing down.

Victoria Mboko Stuns Osaka to Win WTA Montreal Title

In a fairytale finish on home soil, 18-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko claimed her maiden WTA title by defeating four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 at the WTA Canadian Open in Montreal on Thursday.

Mboko, playing in her first WTA final, overcame a sluggish start and an early wrist injury scare to dismantle the former world No. 1 in front of a roaring 11,000-strong crowd. After dropping the opening set, Mboko mounted an inspired comeback, converting eight of nine break points and seizing control of the match with relentless pressure and fearless shot-making.

Her win marks the fourth time this week that she has defeated a Grand Slam winner — a stunning run that included victories over Sofia Kenin, Coco Gauff, and Elena Rybakina, against whom she saved a match point in the semifinals.

"I would never have thought that something like this would have come so suddenly," said a tearful Mboko, overwhelmed by the standing ovation from the home crowd. "It just proves that your dreams are closer than you think."

Osaka, 27, appeared in her first final since returning from maternity leave in 2024 but strug-



gled with unforced errors in the later stages of the match. Despite her strong start, the Japanese star couldn't contain Mboko's momentum and faltered under pressure in the deciding set.

With this victory, Mboko is projected to rise from World No. 85 to 34, a remarkable jump for a player who started the season ranked outside the top 300.

While Mboko skips the upcoming Cincinnati Open to recover, Osaka aims to regroup before the US Open, acknowledging her disappointment: "Victoria played really well... I felt I could've done better."

Montreal, it seems, has witnessed the rise of a new tennis star.



Ben Shelton Clinches First ATP Masters 1000 Title in Thrilling Toronto Final

American tennis star Ben Shelton lifted his maiden ATP Masters 1000 title at the Canadian Open on Friday, defeating Karen Khachanov in a gripping final that showcased his grit and rising stature in world tennis.

The 21-year-old Shelton edged past Khachanov with a 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-6(3) victory in a match filled with high-pressure moments and dazzling shot-making. After dropping the first set in a tie-break, Shelton showed remarkable composure to serve out the second set and push the match into a decider. He then saved three break points in a tense final set and ultimately sealed the title with a strong performance in the tie-break.

"It is a surreal feeling," Shelton said after the match, as quoted by ATP's official website. "It has been a long week, not an easy path to the final. My best tennis came out when it mattered most. I was

clutch, I persevered, I was resilient. All the qualities I like to see in myself."

With this triumph, Shelton becomes the youngest American to win an ATP Masters 1000 event since Andy Roddick claimed the Miami title in 2004 at the same age. The win propels him to World No. 6 and fourth in the ATP Live Rankings, significantly strengthening his bid for a spot in the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, scheduled from November 9 to 16.

Shelton's path to the title was anything but easy. He overcame top players including World No. 8 Alex de Minaur and No. 4 Taylor Fritz. His earlier rounds also featured hard-fought tie-break wins over Brandon Nakashima and Flavio Cobolli.

This marks Shelton's third career singles title, following earlier wins in Tokyo (2023) and Houston (2024).

India Suffer 100-69 Loss to China in FIBA Asia Cup

India's struggles continued at the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 as they fell to a dominant China 100-69 in their second Group C game on Thursday, suffering their second consecutive defeat of the tournament.

Coming off a narrow loss to Jordan in their opener, world No. 76 India once again found themselves outmatched—this time against 16-time champions and world No. 30 China. The defeat puts India in a must-win situation in their final group game against hosts Saudi Arabia.

India got on the scoreboard early, thanks to a two-point-er from Palpreet Singh Brar, but China responded with a 12-point unanswered run to seize control. By the end of the first quarter, China had established a commanding 29-14 lead.

China continued to dominate in the second



quarter, stretching their advantage to 53-31 at halftime, leaving India struggling to close the gap. The Chinese side, led by Mingxuan Hu and Jiayi Zhao with 17 points each, maintained pressure throughout the second half to cruise to a comprehensive win.

India's Sahaaj Sekhon was the top scorer

for the side, contributing 14 points. However, the team failed to match China's offensive and defensive prowess.

This loss marks India's fifth straight defeat against China in international basketball and their second in the current tournament. India's last win at the Asia Cup came in 2015, and their historical best performance remains a fourth-place finish in 1975.

India will face world No. 65 Saudi Arabia in their final group game on Saturday. A loss would eliminate them from the competition, while a win could offer a lifeline through the qualifying round for the quarter-finals.

Only group winners advance directly to the last eight, while second and third-placed teams will compete in a playoff round to fill the remaining spots.

MP Hathodas' Sachin Goyal steals spotlight with 10-0 victory

Local hero Sachin Goyal stole the spotlight on Thursday at the Pro Panja League Season 2 in Gwalior, powering MP Hathodas to a thrilling 10-0 win over Sher E Ludhiana's Rahul Kumar in the 80 kg main card category. His emphatic victory electrified the home crowd at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports, where packed stands and roaring fans marked a day of high-octane action.

Goyal's dominant win capped off a successful outing for MP Hathodas, who racked up 16 points overall. In the undercard contests, Shaju AU and Arvika Dutta contributed crucial wins for the home side, defeating their opponents from Sher E Ludhiana in the 100 kg and 65 kg categories, respectively.



However, Sher E Ludhiana managed to hit back in some categories. Dilshad Ma defeated Tushar Awasthi 4-1 in the 100+ kg main card clash, while Tawheed Shaikh

dominated Sagar Bhati 10-0 in the 90 kg event. In the women's 65+ kg undercard, Theertha edged past Farheen Dehalvi 2-1.

Earlier in the day, Jaipur Veers and Rohtak Rowdies clashed in both undercard and main card fixtures. Mazahir Saidu and Vanlallura led Jaipur Veers to main card victories, while Arvind Rajak of Rohtak Rowdies impressed with a 10-0 win in the specially abled category.

The Pro Panja League, co-founded by Parvinn Dabass and Preeti Jhangiani, continues to elevate Indian arm wrestling, combining traditional sport with a franchise-based spectacle. With intense battles and rising stars like Goyal taking center stage, Gwalior has become a key hub for India's growing arm-wrestling scene.



Sonakshi Sinha vs Sudheer: Jatadhara Teaser Unleashed



The highly anticipated bilingual mytho-action film *Jatadhara*, starring Sudheer Babu and Sonakshi Sinha, has dropped its official teaser—and it's nothing short of stunning. Directed by Venkat Kalyan and Abhishek Jaiswal, this Telugu-Hindi project is being mounted on a lavish scale by producers Umesh KR Bansal, Prerna Arora, Shivin Narang, and Nikhil Nanda. The teaser was unveiled by none other than Rebel Star Prabhas, setting high expectations.

From the first frame, the teaser immerses the viewer in an epic battle of values. Sudheer Babu's character embodies sacrifice and righteousness, while Sonakshi Sinha takes a darker turn as the fierce and greedy Dhanapisachini, a demonic goddess figure. The central theme pits greed versus sacri-

fice, wrapped in layers of spirituality and mythology.

What sets *Jatadhara* apart is its cinematic presentation. Sudheer Babu showcases a drastic transformation—both physically and emotionally—bringing intensity to his role. Meanwhile, Sonakshi delivers a spine-chilling performance, amplified by powerful visuals and commanding character design.

Though the teaser contains no dialogue, it leaves a lasting impact. The stunning visuals, arresting cinematography, and thunderous background score combine to create an immersive experience. The climax of the teaser, featuring the divine arrival of Lord Shiva, elevates the narrative to a spiritual crescendo.

Nani's stunning first look as Jadal is jaw-dropping

Natural Star Nani, fresh off a streak of blockbusters, unveils a never-before-seen avatar in his upcoming epic *The Paradise*. Directed by Srikanth Odela of *Dasara* fame, the period action drama promises a global spectacle with a release planned in English and Spanish. The newly revealed first look showcases Nani as Jadal, a fierce, beast-like character, hinting at a darker and more intense narrative.

Gone is the charming, boy-next-door image. In *The Paradise*, Nani undergoes a jaw-dropping transformation. He sports long, braided Jedaalu, a thick beard, and a handlebar mustache, giving him a raw, untamed appearance. His red collared denim shirt, left partially unbuttoned, combined with layered metal chains adorned with tribal and demonic symbols, completes the rugged, rebellious look. Dark-tinted sunglasses add a surprising touch of menace and authority.

The poster's background deepens the atmosphere, featuring a massive spiked wheel made of knives and bullets, with ominous crows circling him—symbolizing chaos and foreboding. The visual language is rich, setting a haunting tone that signals the film's intense, mythic world.

This isn't just a makeover—it's a total reinvention. Nani's commitment to pushing creative and physical boundaries is evident. The character of Jadal appears to be layered, violent, and unpredictable—possibly his most complex role to date.



Raghava Lawrence Unleashes Bullettu Bandi Teaser

Actor-choreographer Raghava Lawrence is back in action with his latest film *Bullettu Bandi*, and the teaser released today has already grabbed attention. Directed by Innasi Pandian, the film promises to be a high-octane entertainer with Lawrence in a powerful avatar.

Released during the auspicious occasion of Varalakshmi Vratam, the teaser was unveiled by Akkineni Naga Chaitanya, who extended his best wishes to the film's team. The glimpse introduces Lawrence in a rugged and commanding look as a police officer, blending mass appeal with a heavy dose of action and attitude.

From the opening shot, the teaser is packed with punchy visuals, high-speed chases, and intense sequences. Lawrence's character appears to be a fearless and fiery cop, taking on crime with full swagger. The film seems to cater to fans of commercial action cinema, with all the right ingredients — style, heroism, and adrenaline.

Adding to the excitement, Sunil plays a crucial role in the film, suggesting that there will be plenty of entertaining moments and strong supporting performances. The background score composed by Sam CS amplifies the en-



ergy of the teaser, setting the tone for a mass entertainer.

Bullettu Bandi is shaping up to be a blend of action, drama, and commercial elements, anchored by Lawrence's screen presence. With its stylish visuals and energetic presentation, the teaser promises a full-on masala experience.



Rukmini Vasanth Shines as Kanakavathi in Kantara Chapter 1

After the roaring success of *Kantara*, actor-director Rishab Shetty is all set to return with the much-anticipated prequel, *Kantara Chapter 1*, which is gearing up for a grand release on October 2, 2025. The film, set in pre-colonial coastal Karnataka, promises to delve deeper into the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the region, specifically focusing on the sacred Bhuta Kola traditions and mythological tales of land protectors.

While the film has already generated massive buzz, the excitement reached a new high with the reveal of Rukmini Vasanth's first look poster. The rising Sandalwood star plays Kanakavathi, and in the poster, she looks absolutely regal and captivating. Dressed in traditional attire with

intricate jewelry and a commanding presence, her appearance hints at a royal or princess-like character in this mytho-folkloric tale.

The majestic aura captured in the poster not only highlights Rukmini's grace but also hints at the grandeur and authenticity the film is aiming for. Her role is expected to be pivotal to the narrative, possibly adding a new dimension to the film's exploration of faith, power, and tradition.

The film's shoot has been completed, and post-production work is currently in full swing. Backed by the powerhouse banner Hombale Films, and featuring music by Ajaneesh Lokanath, *Kantara Chapter 1* is shaping up to be an immersive cinematic experience.

Arabia Kadali: A Tale of Love, Struggle, and Survival



Arabia Kadali, the latest web series starring Satyadev and Anandi, is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video in five languages including Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada. Inspired by the Munniti Geetalu novels of Chintakindi Srinivasarao, the series echoes the core of *Tandel* but carves its own path with a strong emotional core.

Set around Bhimilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh, the story follows two rival fishing villages, Mathsawada and Kamilavada. With limited access to fishing resources,

the villagers migrate to Gujarat for livelihood. A love story between Badi (Satyadev) and Ganga (Anandi) is caught amidst this socio-political backdrop. Their journey unexpectedly leads into Pakistani waters, triggering a cross-border crisis.

Though comparisons with *Tandel* are inevitable, Krish Jagarlamudi's writing focuses more on community struggles, patriotism, and sacrifice rather than just romance. Satyadev delivers a powerful performance, capturing the spirit and dialect of coastal Andhra. Anandi is equally natural as Ganga.

Kaantha's First Single 'Pasi Manase' Set for Release

Dulquer Salmaan's upcoming film *Kaantha* is creating waves ahead of its release, with the makers gearing up to launch the first single titled *Pasi Manase* (Tamil: Pani-malare). The song is scheduled to drop tomorrow at 4:30 PM on YouTube and will later be available on all major music streaming platforms.



The announcement follows a teaser release on Dulquer's birthday, which garnered a massive response from fans impressed by his transformation and the intriguing character he portrays. The film, a period drama, stars Bhagyashree Bose opposite Dulquer, with Samuthirakani in a pivotal role.

Music for the single is composed by Jhanu Chanthar, while details about the sing-

ers are expected to be revealed soon.

Directed by Selvamani Selvaraj and produced by Rana Daggubati, Dulquer Salmaan, Prashanth Potluri, and Jom Varghese, *Kaantha* is slated for a theatrical release on September 12, 2025.

With anticipation building, the first single is expected to be a musical treat, adding to the excitement surrounding this much-awaited film.