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Toshiba Invests Rs 347Cr in Telangana

impressive industrial growth. He said the State's industrial output for the fiscal year 2024-25 is expected to reach Rs 2.77 lakh crore, with manufacturing contributing nearly 48 percent. Merchandise exports from Telangana have already surpassed Rs 1 lakh crore in just nine months, reflecting robust economic activity. The State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of 8.2 percent is notably higher than the national average. The Minister emphasized Telan-

gana's commitment to green energy development. He announced plans to set up exclusive Green Energy Equipment Zones to attract global giants like Toshiba to invest in sectors such as batteries, power components, and smart grids. He also announced a joint initiative between Toshiba and the Telangana government to launch a research and development hub focused on smart energy solutions, positioning the State as a leader in sustainable industrial growth.

Harish Rao Calls for Transparency in Kaleshwaram Project Inquiry

Accompanying Harish Rao were BRS legislators Kaleru Venkatesh, Mutha Gopal, Bandaru Laxma Reddy, and MLC Deshpathi Srinivas, who joined the delegation during the meeting. According to sources, the Chief Secretary assured the BRS leaders that the request for the report would be carefully examined and that a formal response would be provided in due course. The demand for disclosure reflects growing public interest and ongoing scrutiny of the Kaleshwaram project, which is one of the largest lift irrigation schemes

in the country. The project has faced questions over its implementation, cost, and impact on the region. By pressing for the release of the commission's findings, the BRS leadership aims to promote transparency, ensure accountability, and address the concerns of stakeholders and the public at large. As the issue gains momentum, all eyes remain on the state government to respond to this call for openness and provide clarity on the future of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme.

AP Speeds Up Polavaram Project

threatens its water security by bypassing crucial inter-state regulatory approvals. The Centre's NDA government supports Andhra Pradesh's initiative, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu engaging Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for funding assistance. Environmentalists and local activists have voiced concerns about the potential ecological impact on the Nallamala forest and the risks of inter-state water conflicts. As tensions rise, the future of the project remains uncertain amidst ongoing disputes over water sharing in the region.

Singur Reservoir Breach Risk Over 517m



TPN Corresponent |Sangareddy
A Telangana government-appointed Dam Safety Review Panel (DSRP) has warned that storing water beyond 517 metres in the Singur reservoir could endanger the structure and lead to a possible breach. The expert team recommended urgent repairs and strict adherence to the limit to prevent a downstream disaster. The panel Comprising former Central Water Commission members Ashok Kumar Ganju and Yogendar Kumar Sharma, hydrologist and former Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation) P. Ramaraju, retired GSI deputy general manager M. Raju, and irrigation expert Kannaiah Naidu — inspected the project on March 23. They found that prolonged storage at 522 metres had damaged the revetment of the earth dam. According to the report, the water level was capped at 517.8 metres until

2017, when the government permitted storage up to 520.50 metres to meet Mission Bhagiratha needs. This limit was later pushed to 522 metres, worsening structural damage. The panel also called for immediate repairs to the spillway, earth dam, gallery, and other components, and urged the government to release funds without delay. A breach, the experts warned, could devastate towns like Sangareddy and Medak, submerge several villages along the Manjeera river, and threaten downstream structures including the Manjeera dam, Ghanpur anicut, Nizam Sagar, and multiple check dams. Commissioned in 1999 at Singur village in Sangareddy district, the reservoir has a capacity of 29.91 TMCft, irrigating about 40,000 acres. It currently holds around 21 TMCft, with an inflow of 2,000 cusecs from upstream.

Uttam Orders SLBC Tunnel Restart

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Irrigation Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy has initiated steps to resume the stalled Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel work, calling it a "very high priority" for the government. The incomplete 9-km tunnel currently prevents the State from drawing water by gravity from the Srisailem reservoir's bottom, forcing an annual expenditure of nearly ₹750 crore on electricity for water lifting. This affects tribal and fluoride-affected areas especially. A high-level meeting at the Secretariat discussed restarting the project. A meeting with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka will seek clearances from Finance, Energy, and related departments. The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) will conduct aerial electromagnetic surveys using helicopters to map geological faults and challenges. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) will perform an aerial LIDAR survey to ensure precise planning. The remaining tunnelling of nearly 10 km will resume immediately, adhering to approved costs and quality standards. The Minister also announced promo-



tions and transfers in the Irrigation Department after 33 years, emphasizing merit and seniority to boost departmental efficiency. Regarding Singur Dam, an expert team has been sent to assess safety and recommend urgent measures, including sandbagging vulnerable spots. With active monsoons, all water bodies will be closely monitored.

On the Sammakka Sagar Project, IIT-Kharagpur's study indicated a slight increase in submergence in Chhattisgarh due to the barrage. The government will pursue necessary clearances from Chhattisgarh to complete this strategic irrigation project, which aims to stabilize over 16 lakh acres and regulate 6.94 TMC of water.

Kargil Veteran Urges National Suicide Prevention Plan

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Concerned over the rising suicide rates, Kargil War veteran and anti-suicide crusader Group Captain G.J. Rao met Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma at Raj Bhavan . During the meeting, Rao presented his sustainable suicide prevention models and urged the Governor to impress upon the Union Government to adopt these cost-effective measures nationwide. Group Captain Rao, who has long championed mental health reform, highlighted his recent film September 10, based on his book on suicide prevention. The film won three awards at the 17th International Film Festival of Hyderabad Charminar (IFFHC) 2025. He stressed the importance of reviving suicide prevention helplines to provide immedi-



ate support to vulnerable individuals. Joining Rao was Dr. S. Ramu, a journalism educator and mental health advocate, who has collaborated with him for over a decade. Dr. Ramu explained

that Rao's commitment to suicide prevention stems from his personal and professional experiences, making his advocacy especially impactful. Rao requested the Governor's support in organizing a major event in Hyderabad to mark World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10. The planned event aims to raise awareness about mental health issues and promote the adoption of Rao's prevention models. With suicides continuing to be a pressing issue across Telangana and India, Rao's meeting with the Governor underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive national suicide prevention policy. The discussion highlighted the importance of government support, community engagement, and accessible helpline services to curb this growing crisis.

Congress Vows Development in Jubilee Hills

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

At a Rahmatnagar Division Booth Level Committee meeting held at HF Nagar Committee Hall in Jubilee Hills, Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Tummala Nageswara Rao, and Vivek Venkat Swamy led discussions on the Congress government's development initiatives. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized that long-standing issues in Hyderabad, especially in Jubilee Hills, are finally being addressed. He revealed that the government has issued 55,000 new ration cards across 15 constituencies, including 6,000 in Jubilee Hills, and added 15,000 names to existing ration cards. Prabhakar praised the distribution of fine rice and free electricity of up to 200 units to benefit the public. The Minister also highlighted the government's focus on rural development through farmer assurance schemes, loan waivers, and sanctioning 3,500 Indiramma houses per constituency to provide shelter and jobs. He noted improvements in hostel food quality with a 40% increase in mess charges. Criticizing the previous BRS administration for depleting state funds, Prabhakar credited the Congress government with bringing Krishna and Godavari river water to Hyderabad, significantly improving infrastructure. Looking ahead to the Jubilee Hills by-election, Prabhakar confidently stated that Congress will secure victory regardless of the candidate and called upon party workers to intensify efforts at the grassroots level to spread awareness about government welfare schemes.



HC Seeks Phased Plan for Telugu in Schools



TPN Corresponent |Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has directed the state government to prepare and submit a detailed action plan for the phased implementation of Telugu as the second language for students from classes 2 to 9 in government, unaided, and private schools. This came during a hearing on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Pramila Pathak of Hyderabad, challenging government orders issued in December 2024 that made Telugu mandatory as a second language in CBSE, ICSE, IB, Cambridge, and other national board schools. The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Aperesha Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin, heard the case on August 7. The petitioner's counsel argued that Telugu should be introduced gradually, starting from Class 6 and extending one class each year. The lawyer contended that a sudden mandatory implementation could severely affect students who have studied in other languages and disrupt their learning. After considering the arguments from both sides, the court refused to stay the government's orders. Instead, it asked the government to submit a clear and feasible phased implementation plan to ensure a smooth transition for students and schools. The court adjourned the hearing for two weeks to allow the government time to prepare and present the plan. This directive highlights the court's effort to balance language policy with students' academic interests.

KTR demands apology from Bandi Sanjay

TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has issued a strong warning to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, challenging him to substantiate his phone-tapping allegations against the previous BRS government. KTR demanded that Sanjay issue a public apology within 48 hours, failing which he vowed to initiate legal proceedings. The confrontation follows Sanjay's recent statements made before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged phone-tapping during the BRS regime. Responding sharply, KTR condemned Sanjay's claims as "cheap political drama" and accused him of crossing all limits with baseless and derogatory accusations.

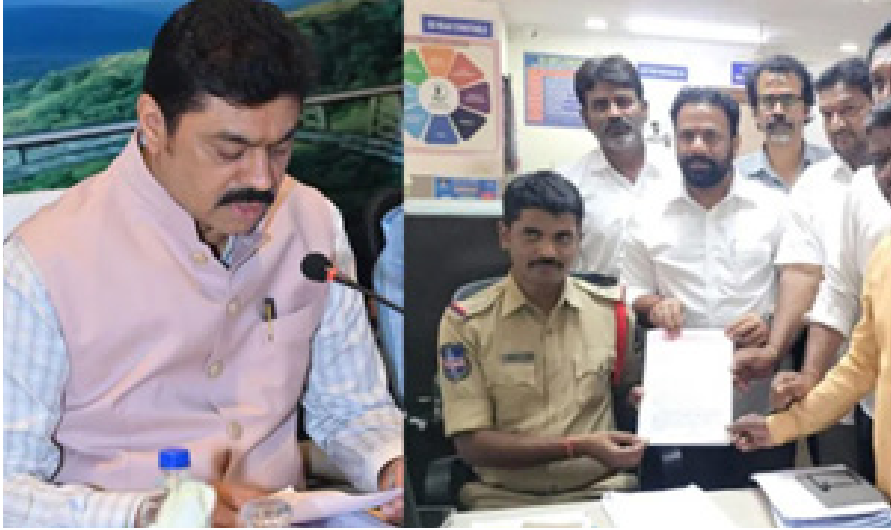


"I will serve a formal legal notice. If you fail to retract your statements and apologize publicly within 48 hours, I will drag you to court," KTR declared firmly. He also criticized Sanjay for lacking basic understanding of intelligence operations, despite holding the position of Union Minister of State for Home. KTR mocked Sanjay's desperate political tactics, saying, "If only being a responsible minister was as easy as carrying the chappals of Delhi bosses." This exchange adds fuel to the ongoing political firestorm over the contentious phone-tapping allegations, reflecting the deepening rivalry between the BRS and BJP in Telangana's volatile political landscape. The SIT inquiry continues to draw attention from all sides, with the phone-tapping scandal remaining a highly sensitive and contested issue.

BRS Complains Against BJP MP Over Merger Rumors

TPN Correspondent|Telangana

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) filed a police complaint against BJP MP CM Ramesh, accusing him of spreading false rumors about a possible merger between BRS and BJP. The complaint was submitted by BRS leader Manne Govardhan Reddy at Banjara Hills Police Station, demanding a formal FIR against Ramesh and warning of strict legal action if such statements continue. Addressing the media after filing the complaint, Govardhan Reddy accused CM Ramesh of involvement in serious financial crimes, including a massive Rs. 450 crore bank fraud and illicit gains from the liquor trade. He alleged that Ramesh switched from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) to BJP to escape



enforcement actions by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). Govardhan Reddy further claimed that CM Ramesh acted as a key mediator for the Revanth Reddy-led Telangana government in mortgaging the Kancha Gachibowli forest land. In return, Ramesh was rewarded with a lucrative Rs. 1,600 crore road development project in the controversial Fourth City area. Highlighting the corruption allegations, he cited revelations made by senior Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, who exposed how contractors from Andhra Pradesh were looting Telangana under the Revanth Reddy government. Govardhan Reddy accused CM Ramesh of benefiting from these corrupt deals, painting him as a key player in the ongoing exploitation of Telangana's resources. The BRS warned that it would take strong action against any further attempts by CM Ramesh to spread misinformation and undermine the party. The complaint signals rising political tensions between BRS and BJP ahead of upcoming elections.

KTR Blasts Congress for Scrapping Driver Insurance

TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a fierce attack on the Congress government for scrapping the Rs 5 lakh accident insurance scheme meant for gig workers, private drivers, and unorganised sector labourers. He accused the government of betraying these vulnerable groups by abruptly withdrawing the scheme and demanded its immediate revival along with clearing all pending claims. KTR warned that if the Congress fails to reinstate the insurance cover and release due payments, the BRS will organise a massive agitation to expose the government's negligence and hold it accountable. He recalled



that under the previous BRS regime led by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao, comprehensive welfare initiatives including insurance protection were extended to farmers, weavers, and drivers. He highlighted the stark contrast with the current administration headed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who had promised significant support to unorganised sector workers prior to the elections but is now withdrawing this critical scheme from October 2024. KTR slammed this move as heartless, leaving the families of accident victims without any financial aid, and accused the Congress of abandoning the very people it claims to protect. Terming the withdrawal as a betrayal of poor drivers and gig workers, KTR urged the government to reconsider its decision immediately and emphasized the need for compassionate governance that safeguards the rights and welfare of all citizens.

Seethakka Urges Tribal Rights Protection

TPN Correspondent|Telangana

Minister Seethakka highlighted the urgent need to preserve the dreams, culture, and way of life of tribal communities, cautioning against attempts to displace them and hand over their lands to corporate interests. Reflecting on the natural lifestyle of tribals, she shared nostalgic memories of drinking water from a pumpkin bowl in the forest—symbolizing the health benefits of traditional, natural foods over modern processed alternatives. She noted how tribal customs, once dismissed as primitive, are now gaining acceptance even among the affluent.



The Minister lauded the efforts of activists like Jayadiri Tirumala Rao, who work tirelessly to keep tribal heritage alive. She stressed the vital role of forests, culture, and traditions in protecting tribal societies and called for greater respect for nature, warning that ignoring it would lead to dire consequences. She also mentioned the government's plan to allocate space for the Aadhy Art Museum, a step toward honoring tribal art and culture. Minister Seethakka emphasized that World Tribal Day is not merely a celebration but a call to defend tribal rights, which she said are under threat from central government policies. Expressing confidence in the justice system, she praised the work of intellectuals and activists fighting for tribal causes. Quoting Rahul Gandhi, she reaffirmed the government's commitment to mobilize tribal communities across districts and protect their constitutional and forest rights, ensuring that tribal aspirations are fully respected and realized.

Ponguleti Blames BRS for Housing Scam

TPN Correspondent| Warangal

State Revenue, Housing, Information and Civil Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy accused the previous BRS government of looting the poor by making illegal collections in the name of double-bedroom houses. He alleged that the houses were used as a political tool in two elections and that the people saw through the deception in the third. The minister handed over 592 double-bedroom houses to beneficiaries in Balasamudram, Hanumakonda, in the presence of MLAs Nayini Rajendra Reddy, Nagaraju, Mayor Gundu Sudharani and others. He said the selection of beneficiaries was conducted transparently, irrespective of political affiliation, unlike during the BRS regime when houses were allotted mainly to party workers and select government employees. Ponguleti said the houses, sanctioned in the names of women,



were like Rakhi Pournami gifts to 592 "sisters" and reaffirmed the Congress government's commitment to housing for both rural and urban poor under the Indiramma scheme. He pointed to the recent sanctioning of over six lakh ration cards and phased implementation of six guarantees. The minister also accused the BRS of massive corruption in the Kaleshwaram project, alleging thousands of crores went to the KCR family and that the project collapsed due to greed. He said Telangana is the first state to conduct a BC census and will implement a 42 per cent BC quota.

Prashanth Slams Revanth on BC Reservations

TPN Correspondent|Hyderabad

BRS MLA and former Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy has accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the Congress government of deceiving Backward Classes (BCs) through false promises on reservations. He described the Kamareddy BC Declaration as a political stunt aimed at winning BC votes during Assembly elections, followed by hollow promises and theatrical protests. Prashanth Reddy pointed to a series of actions by the Congress government passing an Assembly resolution, introducing BC Reservation Bills, issuing an ordinance, and staging a dharna in Delhi. However, he questioned the absence of senior Congress leaders such as Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge from the protests. "If the Congress was genuinely committed, why did these leaders not attend?" he asked. He accused the Congress of misleading BC communities by prom-



ising 42 percent reservation, while failing to implement promises that are within the State government's jurisdiction. "Revanth Reddy claims BC reservations will be implemented only when Rahul Gandhi becomes Prime Minister. Does this mean local body polls will be stalled until then?" he questioned sharply. Prashanth Reddy urged BC voters to reject Congress in the upcoming elections, warning them not to fall for empty promises and political games. He stressed that the Congress government's actions were more about theatrics than genuine commitment to the welfare of BCs.

Former MLA Guvvala Balaraju to Join BJP

TPN Correspondent|Telangana

Former MLA Guvvala Balaraju announced his decision to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), expressing his admiration for the party's ideology and goals. He visited the BJP state office and met with the party's state president, Ramachandra Rao. Speaking to the media afterward, Balaraju confirmed that he will officially join the BJP on August 10 in the presence of Ramachandra Rao. Balaraju emphasized that his move is based on his belief in the BJP's vision and political direction. He also dismissed recent meetings and conferences held in Achampeta, stating that they would not influence his decision or political plans. This development adds to the BJP's growing influence in Telan-



gana as the party continues to attract leaders from other political groups. Guvvala Balaraju's entry is seen as a boost for the BJP ahead of upcoming elections, strengthening the party's position in the region.

The formal induction on August 10 is expected to be a significant event, with the BJP leadership welcoming Balaraju into their ranks.

Bandaru Dattatraya Invited for Ganesh Immersion

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The newly elected committee of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi met former Governor Bandaru Dattatraya, at his Ramnagar residence in Hyderabad. The delegation extended a formal invitation to Shri Dattatraya to participate in the Samoohik Ganesh Immersion event scheduled for September 6, 2025, in Bhagyanagar.

During the meeting, Bandaru Dattatraya felicitated the newly elected General Secretary of the Samithi, Shri Ravinutala Shashidhar, recognizing his



commitment to the community. The gathering included Vice President Shri Karodimal Agarwal, Secretary Shri Ale

Blasker, members Shri Baddam Mahipal Reddy, Shri Naini Buchi Reddy, Shri G. Anand Goud, former Corporator Shri Vaikuntam, Shri Shriram Vyas, and other Samithi members. Kailas Nagesh, Private Secretary to the former Governor, was also present. The invitation reflects the Samithi's dedication to fostering community spirit and enhancing cultural celebrations during the Ganesh festival. The Samithi aims to ensure a grand and inclusive immersion ceremony, with active participation from prominent leaders and citizens alike.

446 City Cops Felicitated for Excellence

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Hyderabad City Police organised a mega rewards programme to felicitate officers and staff for their exceptional work in the first two quarters of 2025. The event, held at the CP Office Auditorium, ICCB Building, Banjara Hills, recognised 446 personnel for their role in solving cases and maintaining law and order from January to June.

The awardees included 2 ACPs, 49 Inspectors, 38 SIs, 21 ASIs, 30 Head Constables, 220 Police Constables, 11 Home Guards, 45 ministerial staff, 25 public



prosecutors and assistant public prosecutors, and 5 others.

Speaking on the occasion, Police Commissioner Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, lauded the dedication of the force in keeping the city safe despite the growing chal-

lenges. He said Hyderabad, with a population of 80 lakh and increasing 24/7 activity, demands quick and effective policing. "Whenever any crime occurs, we respond immediately and solve cases without delay. It is our collective efforts that have earned the Hyderabad City Police a strong reputation across the country," he said.

He also noted that the Women Safety Wing and Cyber Crime Wing are now fully operational and praised all departments for their contribution. The event was attended by Sri P. Viswa Prasad, IPS, Additional CP (Crimes), Smt. N. Shwetha, IPS, CCS DD, other senior officials, and award recipients.

Collector Inspects Musi Catchment Areas



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

District Collector Hari Chandana inspected the Musi River catchment areas at Chaderghat and Shankar Nagar to evaluate the flood situation and instructed officials to take necessary precautions in case of increased flood flow and stressed the importance of ensuring the safety of residents living in low-lying areas prone to flooding. The Collector reassured the public that there was no immediate cause for concern, as only two floodgates at Himayat Sagar had been opened, and water levels remained under control. However, she emphasised the need for continuous monitoring to respond swiftly if the situation worsens.

During the inspection, officials from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Revenue Department, and other Hyderabad administration departments briefed the Collector on ongoing flood prevention and safety measures. They confirmed that regular situation reviews were being conducted to stay updated on changing conditions. Tehsildars from Amberpet and Himayatnagar, along with representatives from multiple government departments, participated in the inspection to coordinate efforts for flood management and ensure timely action to protect vulnerable communities in the Musi River catchment areas.

Poor Drainage Causes Flood at Malkam Lake

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Excessive inflow of rainwater combined with inadequate outflow capacity has been identified as the primary cause of flooding around Malkam Lake and adjacent Gachibowli areas, Hyderabad Commissioner A.V. Ranganath stated following an on-site inspection.

The Commissioner observed that while large volumes of water from upstream entered the lake, outflow was restricted to a single drain, resulting in waterlogging of nearby roads and residential localities. He recommended the installation of sluice gates to regulate water levels effectively during the monsoon season and instructed officials to commence the necessary works once rains subside.

The inspection also included an

assessment of the lake's inlets and outlets, as well as floodwater channels originating from Biodiversity Park. Measures were directed to prevent blockages at bridges and ensure unobstructed flow of water into the reservoir.

Recent heavy rainfall led to submergence in parts of Gachibowli, Osmania Colony, and the Sheikhpeth bridge area. Relief teams comprising GHMC, Disaster Response Force (DRF), and traffic police worked overnight to address 78 complaints, clear fallen trees at 41 locations, and drain floodwaters at 36 spots. Additionally, a woman trapped in floodwaters near Banjara Hills was safely rescued. Officials emphasised that prompt implementation of the Commissioner's directives is critical to mitigating future flood risks.



STH Arrests Ganja Peddler

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Excise State Task Force (STF) and Hyderabad Task Force (HTF) teams have cracked down on illegal drug activities with significant seizures and arrests. A total of 1.904 kg of ganja and Rs 1.50 lakh in cash were confiscated, and multiple cases have been registered against four individuals, with one person apprehended so far.

During a raid in the Rahimpur area of Karwan, STF arrested Dhanraj Singh, alias Dhanraj, caught red-handed while selling ganja. Along with the narcotics, a substantial amount of cash was recovered. Cases have also been registered against associates Basu Kawal Singh, Komal, and Uttaresh Alapati for their involvement. The seized drugs and cash have been handed over to the Dhoolpet Excise Station. In a separate operation near Balaji-



nagar, Saifabad, the STF team led by CI Venkateswarlu seized 1.1 kg of ganja and arrested Sheikh Khaja Pasha (31). A case was registered against another accused, Nazim Rahman. The contraband and accused were transferred to

the Ameerpet Excise Station. Authorities reaffirm their commitment to combating drug trafficking and abuse, warning that such illegal activities will be met with stringent legal action.

GHMC Chief Speeds Up Post-Monsoon Works

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

GHMC Commissioner R V Karnan has instructed field officers to accelerate post-monsoon activities across Greater Hyderabad to ensure public safety and smooth movement in the city.

The Commissioner, accompanied by Karwan MLA Kausar Moinuddin, inspected several rain-affected areas including Tolichawki X Road, Hakimpet KGN Nalla, Moti Darwaza, Ahmed Colony, Langar House HUDA Tank, and nearby localities. The team assessed the impact of recent rains and reviewed ongoing relief work.

Later, Karnan, along with Traffic Joint CP Gajrao Bhupal, visited Malkam Tank to inspect water levels and traffic conditions in the surrounding areas. He directed GHMC field officers to coordinate with the drainage department, traffic police, Jal Mandal, Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams, and other agencies for quick water removal, silt and garbage clearance, and implementation of road safety measures. Continuous monitoring



was stressed to ensure residents face no inconvenience.

The Commissioner advised citizens to avoid areas where rainwater has stagnated, use alternative routes, and report any problems to the GHMC helpline 040-21111111 for prompt action.

Later in the day, Karnan made a surprise visit to the GHMC control room at the headquarters. He interacted with OSD Anuradha to review complaints received in the wake of the rains. He instructed that all rain-related grievances be resolved immediately and that field teams be informed without delay. Real-time monitoring and preventive measures were emphasised to avoid disruption to public life. Deputy Commissioner E Lal Singh, AMOH Irshad Iqbal, and other officials joined the inspections.

Musi River Rises as Himayat Sagar Gates Open

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The water level in Hyderabad's Musi River is set to rise following the opening of floodgates at the Himayat Sagar reservoir. Officials from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) opened the fourth gate out of 17 to release excess water, as the reservoir's level reached 1763.15 feet—just shy of its full tank level of 1763.5 feet. Recent heavy rains have increased the inflow to the reservoir to 1,500 cusecs, while the outflow is at 1,391 cusecs. To manage this, authorities have raised the four gates to a height of one foot each. This controlled release aims to maintain safe water levels but will cause the Musi River to swell, potentially affecting low-lying neighborhoods along its banks.

The authorities are closely monitoring the situation to ensure timely action if water levels rise



dangerously. Residents in vulnerable areas have been alerted to stay cautious.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted continued heavy rainfall over the next few days. In response, officials are prepared to open more gates at Himayat Sagar as needed to regulate reservoir levels and reduce the risk of flooding. The ongoing efforts aim to balance water management with public safety, minimizing the impact on Hyderabad's residents while addressing the challenges posed by the current monsoon season.

KPHB Police Nab Serial Burglar

TPN Correspondent | Kukatpally

The KPHB police arrested Kanaparthi Shiva, 41, a notorious habitual offender, following reliable information. Shiva, a plumber residing in Phase-9, KPHB Colony, and originally from Kadam, Andhra Pradesh, was found in possession of approximately 15 tolas of gold and 30 tolas of silver ornaments linked to multiple house burglary cases.

The recovered items include stolen gold jewelry such as a chowkar weighing 37.495 grams, a vanki ring, bracelets, earrings, diamond necklace and studs, along with silver bracelets and leg chains. A mobile phone and the crime weapon were also seized.

Shiva is connected to two serious and one non-serious burglary cases registered under various sections of the IPC at KPHB Police Station. His previous offenses include



automobile theft in Miyapur and a night burglary at Bachupally.

The accused has been produced before the court for judicial remand.

The successful operation was carried out under the supervision of DCP K. Suresh Kumar, ACP Ravikiran Reddy, SHO S. Rajashekar Reddy, and DI K. Ravikumar. Staff members Abdul Samad, K. Sangameshwar, E. Narender Goud, Ramchander, Raghuram, Suresh, and WPC Zaheda Begum were commended for their dedicated efforts. The police department has announced rewards for the team as encouragement for their exemplary work.

Officials Review Indiramma Housing Progress

TPN Correspondent |Nizamabad

District Collector Ashish Sangwan conducted an inspection of Indiramma housing construction in Rangampet village and advised beneficiaries to complete their houses at the earliest. He reiterated the government’s commitment to providing housing for the poor, ensuring they live with dignity and comfort. During the visit, Sangwan assured that the district administration would supply all necessary construction materials without delay. He emphasized that the Indiramma housing scheme was designed to uplift the underprivileged and urged beneficiaries to take full advantage of the ini-



tiative. “The government is extending full support, and beneficiaries must act promptly to finish construction,” he said. Officials, including Housing Project Director Vijayapal Reddy, MPDO Nag-

eswara Rao, Mandal Special Officer, and Housing Assistant Engineer, accompanied the Collector. They reviewed the progress and addressed any concerns raised by beneficiaries. The Indiramma housing scheme, a flagship welfare program, aims to provide affordable and durable homes to low-income families. The district administration has been closely monitoring implementation to ensure transparency and timely completion. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the support and pledged to expedite construction. The visit underscored the government’s proactive approach to rural development and housing welfare, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive growth.

Kavampalli Slams Opposition Over Welfare Schemes

TPN Correspondent | Manakondur

Manakondur MLA Dr. Kavampalli Satyanarayana has claimed that opposition parties are stunned by the Congress government’s implementation of unprecedented welfare schemes in Telangana. At Praja Bhavan in LMD Colony, the MLA distributed cheques worth ₹42.17 lakh to 148 beneficiaries from Thimmapur mandal under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF) and Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to 18 others. Speaking at the event, Dr. Satyanarayana criticised BRS leaders for attacking the government “out of anger” despite failing to provide double-bedroom houses and new ration cards during their 10-year rule. “The opposition should at least now recognise the good work being done and change their stance,” he said, adding that no criti-



cism would deter the Congress from delivering welfare schemes to the poor. The MLA highlighted that, unlike in the past, financial aid under CMRF is now being released within the stipulated timeframe, even to applicants from the previous BRS regime. Thimmapur Mandal Congress presi-

dent Bandari Ramesh, Block Congress president Sudhagoni Lakshminarayana Goud, and several local leaders including Tummenapalli Srinivasa Rao, Gankidi Lakshma Reddy, Chintala Lakshma Reddy, Goguri Narasimha Reddy, and others were present.

CPM Protests Voter List Changes



TPN Correspondent | Warangal

The CPM party urban committee staged a protest at the local Ambedkar Center against the comprehensive amendment of the voters list being undertaken by the Central Election Commission. The meeting that followed was chaired by district committee member Bandaru Sarath Babu. Speaking on the occasion, CPM district secretary M.B. Narsa Reddy alleged that the ruling BJP-led NDA government was using the Election Commission as a tool to influence the upcoming Bihar elections through “tricks and conspiracies.” He claimed that about 65 lakh votes, largely belonging to weaker sections and members of a particular religion, had been arbitrarily removed from the rolls. Reddy argued that many people in Bihar migrate to other regions for livelihood and

their votes should not be deleted simply because they are temporarily absent. He demanded the immediate repeal of the policy and the reinstatement of all previously registered voters. Accusing the Election Commission of bias, he urged it to act independently and warned that CPM would lead large-scale nationwide agitations if the issue was not addressed. He also alleged discrepancies in recent Maharashtra elections, claiming that six percent more votes were counted than cast, which he said favoured the BJP-NDA alliance. CPM urban secretary Y. Venkatrama Rao, committee members N. Nagaraju and Kolagani Ramesh, along with several activists including Ko Rada Srinivas, S.D. Feroz, S. Ajay Kumar, D. Raghavaiah, Ravi, Muralikrishna, Nagamma, and Prasad, participated in the protest.

Train Coach Catches Fire, Workers Safe



TPN Correspondent | Mahabubabad

Four South Central Railway (SCR) employees had a narrow escape when a fire broke out in a stationary coach at Kesamudram railway station in Telangana. The coach, which was being used as a resting place by the track machine staff, caught fire while the employees were asleep inside. Thanks to their quick response and alertness, the employees managed to open the coach doors and evacuate safely before the fire spread. Firefighters promptly arrived at the scene and brought the blaze under control. However, the coach was completely gutted by the fire. Railway officials suspect an electrical short circuit to be the cause of the fire, but a thorough investigation has been launched to determine the exact reason. The incident has raised concerns about safety measures and maintenance protocols for stationary railway coaches used as staff quarters. The South Central Railway authorities have assured that necessary steps will be taken to avoid such incidents in the future and that the probe will be conducted transparently. No casualties or injuries were reported, and the swift action of the staff helped prevent any loss of life.

Bridge Collapses as Rains Batter Telangana

TPN Correspondent |Telangana

The intense rainfall has thrown life out of gear across several Telangana districts, triggering floods, a bridge collapse, and a tragic electrocution. The downpour was particularly severe in Nalgonda, where Shaligowram mandal recorded 13 cm of rain in just four hours. In Arvapally mandal, floodwaters inundated a Kas-



turba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) school and a veterinary hospital. In Mulugu district, a section of a bridge on the Kakatiya Canal collapsed after severe soil erosion weakened its base, forcing authorities to divert traffic. The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre attributes the downpour to cumulonimbus clouds and warns of heavy rains persisting for the next three days. A

low-pressure system is also brewing over the Bay of Bengal, which could intensify showers between August 13 and 15. Tragedy struck in Narayanpet, where a 30-year-old farmer was electrocuted after rainwater came into contact with live electric wires. Meanwhile, in Yadadri Bhongir district, seven people narrowly escaped uninjured after their car was swept away by a swollen stream. Officials have urged the public to exercise caution, avoid flooded roads, and report any damaged power lines immediately.

Villagers Protest Against Sand Quarry

TPN Correspondent | Jagtial

Atmakur village residents in Metpalli mandal, Jagtial district, held a protest demanding the immediate cancellation of the Peddavagu sand quarry. The protest took place at the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) office, where villagers submitted a formal representation to RDO Srinivas, raising serious concerns about the environmental and water-related impact of sand mining in the area. Villagers explained that Peddavagu is their sole source of drinking and irrigation water. The water supply depends heavily on overflow from the upstream Rollavagu project; however, most of the year the rivulet remains dry. The government had permitted sand extraction at Peddavagu to support construction projects such as the Indiramma housing scheme and the Kalikota Suramma irri-



gation project. However, extensive sand mining has caused a drastic decline in the groundwater table, resulting in severe water scarcity for the community. Residents fear that if mining continues unchecked, their water security will be further compromised, affecting daily life and agriculture. The villagers have urged the State government to prioritize their water needs and immediately revoke permissions for sand quarrying at Peddavagu. They called on authorities to take swift action to protect their essential water resources and prevent further ecological damage.

Permanent Judge Needed for Mobile Court

TPN Correspondent | Kothagudem

The Bhadrachalam Bar Association, led by president Kota Devadanam, has urged authorities to appoint a permanent judge for the Bhadrachalam sub-divisional magistrate mobile court, which has been managed by in-charge judges for the past two years. The Bar Association submitted a memorandum to MLA Dr. Telam Venkat Rao, seeking speedy justice for the 28 mandals in the agency area. Devadanam also called for filling the vacant posts of Assistant Government Pleader and Special Deputy Collector, essential for resolving land transfer regulation (LTR) cases in the region. He highlighted that the pecuniary jurisdiction of the mobile court remains at Rs 5,000 as per the 1924 Agency Act and demand-



ed it be increased to Rs 10 lakh, matching that of junior civil judges in plain areas. MLA Venkat Rao responded positively and promised to take up the issues with the State government and relevant departments. Devadanam warned that if no action is taken soon, the Bar Association would hold a general body meeting to decide on further steps to press the government. Senior advocates and community leaders, including Kodali Srinivasan and Chimala Narasimha Rao, were present during the memorandum submission.

Collector Calls for Trust in Public Hospitals

TPN Correspondent |Khammam

Khammam District Collector Anudeep Durisetty called upon the public to place their trust in government hospitals and highlighted the efforts underway to enhance healthcare facilities in the district. Speaking at the Hospital Development Society meeting held at the district main hospital, the Collector outlined the progress made in strengthening the hospital infrastructure. He noted that under the State Urban Development (SUD) scheme, 13 key development projects have been initiated at the district hospital, with a total investment of Rs. 25 crore aimed at improving healthcare delivery. Among the ongoing projects, the Collector emphasized the importance of expediting the completion of the 50-bed critical care block, which has a budget of Rs. 23.75 crore. This facility is expected to significantly enhance the hospital’s capacity to treat critical patients.



Collector Anudeep Durisetty also encouraged hospital authorities to submit proposals for procuring advanced medical equipment and creating additional facilities that would enable the hospital to offer quality medical services at affordable rates. He assured that the government is committed to sanctioning the necessary funds promptly to facilitate these improvements. The meeting underscored the government’s commitment to upgrading public health infrastructure and ensuring that quality medical care is accessible to all sections of society in Khammam district.

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:
1. Why did these allegations emerge over a year after the elections?
2. 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.

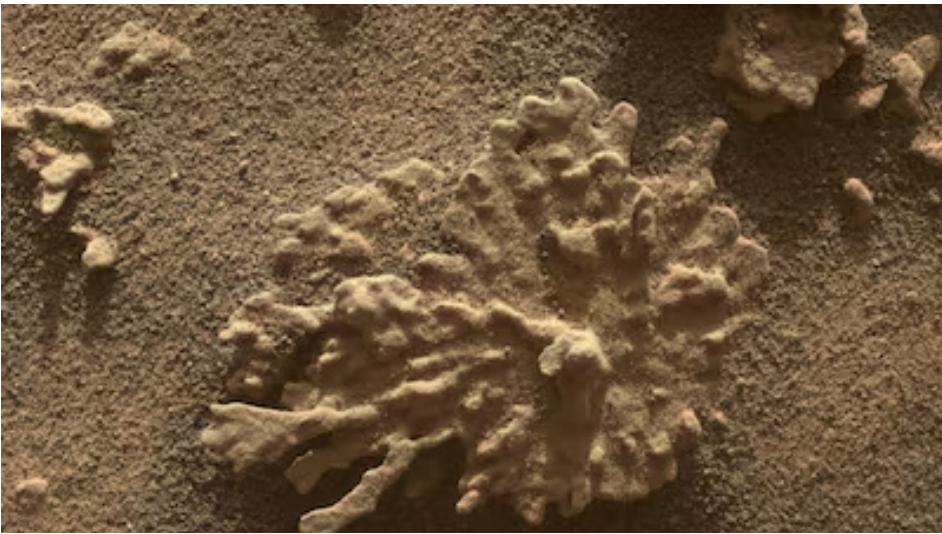
Jateen Trivedi, Analyst at LKP Securities, attributed gold's decline to resistance near the \$3,370–\$3,375 zone on Comex, coupled with a firm rupee trading around 87.80, adding pressure to local gold prices.

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.



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.

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.

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.