

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C


L 26° C

Etala Reacts To Kaleshwaram Notices

- Etala says he hasn't received the notice yet
- Questions why the PC Commission was repeatedly extended
- Says many ex-ministers now in Congress

TPN Correspondent | Telangana



Former Minister and BJP MP Etala Rajender responded to the PC Ghosh Commission's notices issued over the Kaleshwaram project irregularities. In his first reaction, Etala stated that he had not received any official notice so far and emphasized that there was nothing to fear. Speaking to the media, Etala pointed out that Ramakrishna Rao, who was then Secretary of the Finance Department during his tenure as Finance Minister, is now the Chief Secretary of the state. He questioned the motive behind repeated extensions of the PC Ghosh Commission, which was formed to probe the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP). Etala further noted that many of his fellow ministers from that time, including Tummala Nag-eswara Rao, Kadiyam Srihari, and Jupally Krishna Rao, have now joined the Congress. He questioned whether the Commission or the government would also seek their explanations, raising concerns over selective



accountability. The PC Ghosh Judicial Commission had issued notices on Tuesday to former CM KCR, former Irrigation Minister Harish Rao, and Etala Rajender, asking them to appear for questioning. The dates set are June 5 for KCR, June 6 for Harish Rao, and June 9 for Etala. Although the Commission was expected to submit its report this week, it appears the submission will be delayed until after statements are recorded from these key political figures. Officials believe that excluding their testimonies could lead to legal complications, especially given the magnitude of the Medigadda Barrage collapse and other alleged failures in the project. So far, the Kaleshwaram Commission has examined 109 officials and private individuals, making these upcoming testimonies crucial for the final report. Meanwhile, in a parallel political development, Harish Rao met

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Top Maoist Leader Basava Raju Killed in Chhattisgarh Encounter

27 Maoists killed in Narayanpur operation

Basava Raju carried ₹1.5 crore reward on his head

Amit Shah calls it a milestone in anti-Naxal campaign

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

Maoist Central Committee General Secretary and top Naxal commander Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basava Raju, was killed in a major encounter between security forces and Maoist insurgents in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district. The operation, which took place early Wednesday morning, led to the death of 27 Maoists, including Basava Raju — a key strategist and long-time leader of the insurgent group. Union Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed the death of Basava Raju on social media, calling it a significant breakthrough in the fight against Left Wing Extremism. Shah stated, "This is a milestone victory in the ongoing fight against Naxalism. Among the

27 Maoists killed was Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basava Raju, the General Secretary of the Maoist Party and considered the backbone of the Naxal movement." He emphasized that this is the first time in nearly 30 years that a Maoist leader at the General Secretary level has been eliminated in a security operation. Basava Raju had a bounty of ₹1.5 crore on his head and was regarded as one of the most elusive and influential figures in the Maoist hierarchy. Amit Shah further revealed that after the culmination of Operation Black Forest, 54 Naxalites have been arrested and 84 have surrendered across Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Maharashtra. He reiterated the Modi government's commitment to eliminate Naxalism completely by March 31, 2026. The encounter marks one of the biggest blows to the Maoist leadership in recent times and is seen as a morale booster for the security forces. Officials expect this operation to significantly weaken Maoist influence in core insurgency zones.

PM Modi Lauds Forces


Responding to this significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the bravery and efficiency of the security forces. Reposting Amit Shah's message on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "I am proud of your remarkable victory. Our government is committed to completely eliminating the threat of Maoism and providing a life of peace and progress to the people." Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed the encounter a "milestone victory" in the battle against Maoist extremism. He declared that the Central government is determined to eradicate Naxalism entirely by March 31, 2026. Shah emphasized that the killing of Basavaraju marks a crucial turning point in the fight against left-wing extremism.

KTR Slams Notices to KCR as Political Drama by Congress-BJP

- Says notices are a ploy to divert attention from public issues
- Alleges Congress and BJP are colluding against BRS
- Accuses govt of ignoring real problems like tunnel and project collapses

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) reacted sharply to the notices issued by the Justice P.C. Ghosh Commission to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) regarding the Kaleshwaram project. He termed the move as a politically motivated stunt orchestrated by the Congress government in collusion with the BJP, aimed at deflecting public attention from



pressing governance failures. KTR alleged that the Congress, having completely failed in administration over the past 17 months, was now engaging in diversionary tactics. "There is no governance, only a kingdom of commissions running the state. Even Congress MLAs and ministers admit that no work is happening without commissions," he said, describing the current government as corrupt and directionless. Highlighting recent tragedies such as the SLBC tunnel collapse, which killed 8 workers, and the Sunkishala project mishap in Nalgonda, KTR criticized the government's inaction and insensitivity. "They aren't interested in relief; they're only chasing commissions. This is a Daddamma government that can't even recover bodies," he said scathingly.

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Rain Delays Miss World 2025 Contestants' Shilparamam Visit

- Contestants' Shilparamam tour postponed to May 22
- IMD issues yellow alert for Hyderabad till May 25
- Heavy rains disrupt Miss World 2025 event schedule

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The ongoing heavy rains in Hyderabad forced organizers to postpone the Miss World 2025 contestants' scheduled visit to Shilparamam. The



visit, originally planned for Wednesday, will now take place on Thursday, May 22, as per reports from The Hindu. The contestants were supposed to attend an arts and crafts workshop hosted by

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HYDRAA Chief Probes Land Encroachments Across City

Ranganath inspects Lingampally, Boduppal, Chengicherla, and Shaikpet

Encroachments during COVID-19 and political interference alleged

HYDRAA assures resolution meetings within 10 days

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath on Wednesday conducted an extensive field inspection across Hyderabad in response to mounting complaints received during the Prajavani public grievance program. The focus of the visit was to address illegal land encroachments, particularly those allegedly carried out under the cover of the COVID-19 pandemic and through politically connected groups. At Ranganatha Nagar in Lingampally, where the inspection began, plot owners revealed that their legally developed layout from 1985—

spread across 184 acres with over 850 plots—had been encroached upon. They alleged that during the 2021 pandemic, a group backed by powerful real estate lobbies took over the area, demolishing homes and converting roads, parks, and even a temple into farmland. The owners, armed with decades-old ownership documents, said the matter had already reached the Supreme Court, which directed the High Court to resolve the issue within four weeks. Despite GHMC orders to remove the encroachments, they claimed no action was taken. Responding to the appeals, Commissioner Ranganath assured the residents that both parties would be summoned within 10 days for a detailed review and resolution. "We will ensure justice and take action based on the facts and legal merits," he stated.

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PACs Must Inspire Systemic Reform, Not Just Reports: India at Asia-Pacific Workshop

- India calls for greater scrutiny, citizen-centric oversight at Asia-Pacific PACs workshop
- K. Laxman (BJP) and K.C. Venugopal represent India at Fiji workshop
- Delegation stresses PAC’s evolving role beyond audits and reports
- 81% of PAC recommendations accepted by Govt in 2023–24

TPN Correspondent | Fiji

India’s Parliamentary delegation, led by K. Laxman, Rajya Sabha MP (BJP), and K.C. Venugopal, senior Member of Parliament, called for performance-driven oversight by Public Accounts Committees (PACs) across the Asia-Pacific. They emphasized that PACs should aim to inspire systemic reform, not just produce reports. The delegation was speaking during Session 10 on “Assessing PAC Effectiveness, Measuring Impact and Enhancing Performance” on Day 3 of the Regional Workshop for Asia-Pacific PACs, held in Fiji on May 21, 2025.

In their address, the MPs highlighted India’s proactive measures in enhancing PAC effectiveness through a combination of field inspections, informal interactions with field officers, and study visits covering key areas like Income Tax, GST, Customs, Jal Jeevan Mission, National Highways, and Railways. These visits, they noted, help in gathering real-time feedback and practical insights, which inform PAC reports presented before Parliament.

“The PAC is not merely an auditing body—it is a tool for democratic accountability,” said K. Laxman. He underlined the PAC’s increasing focus on critical national issues, including reforms in banking, insurance, energy transition, regulation of public utilities, and welfare scheme implementation. K.C. Venugopal added that PACs in India now go beyond audit paras and technicalities, taking up suo moto studies on subjects of national relevance. He also noted that the Committee regularly involves domain experts, trade representatives, and other stakeholders in its examination process to make its analysis more inclusive and impactful.

The MPs stressed the importance of Action Taken Reports, which are used to ensure ministries implement PAC recommendations. They noted that 223 out



of 275 PAC recommendations in 2023–24 were accepted by the government—an impressive 81.09% acceptance rate.

Capacity-building has also been prioritized through PRIDE (Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies) workshops and CAG-led training sessions. The PAC Secretariat staff is sent for specialized training, and the committee regularly invites experts for consultations.

In terms of transparency and digital governance, the Indian delegation informed participants that each MP has access to a dedicated e-portal for all PAC-related materials. Soft copies of agendas, notices, and reports are uploaded and shared via official parliamentary email. The PAC website and official Twitter accounts of Indian Parliament further enhance public access to information.

Despite challenges such as resource constraints and the increasing complexity of public finance, India’s PAC remained highly active—presenting 152 reports during the 2019–2024 Lok Sabha term. The delegation emphasized that PACs should be judged not by quantity of reports but by their real-world impact on governance.

“Let us not just file reports but fix systems,” said K. Laxman in his closing remarks. “As a proverb from India says—‘A lamp does not speak, it simply shines.’ Likewise, PACs must shine by illuminating the path to reform, not just through words, but through measurable impact.”

Vinaka vaka levu. Dhanyawad. Jai Hind.

Bhatti Studies Bengaluru’s Underground Power Model

- 7,400 km of lines made underground since 2018
- Telangana eyes similar tech for Future City project
- Bhatti, Transco & Discom heads assess feasibility

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday visited Bengaluru to study the city’s underground power supply system, with an eye toward implementing a similar setup in Telangana’s upcoming Future City project on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Accompanied by Transco CMD Krishna Bhaskar and Discom CMD Musharraf Ali, Bhatti met with officials from Karnataka’s electricity departments to discuss the design, construction methods, and logistics behind Bengaluru’s extensive underground power infrastructure.

Officials briefed the Telangana delegation that since the project began in 2018-19, around 7,400 kilometers of power lines in Bengaluru have already been converted to underground cable networks, significantly improving urban power reliability and reducing outages due to external damage.

The Telangana team took a ground-level tour of areas where the system is active and interacted with local engineers to understand the technical hurdles, finan-



cial models, and safety measures involved. They also gathered information on bank loans, profitability, and the feasibility of large-scale implementation. Deputy CM Bhatti remarked that this underground system is particularly beneficial for densely populated urban zones, which face frequent disruptions due to overhead lines. He emphasized that Telangana’s Future City, planned as a high-tech urban space, will greatly benefit from such modern infrastructure. The Telangana government is expected to soon prepare a feasibility report based on insights from the Bengaluru tour, with a potential rollout plan tailored for Hyderabad’s urban development blueprint.

Telugu Candidates Shine in IFS 2024

- Nikhil Reddy from Miryalaguda tops Telugu candidates
- Over 10 selections from Telugu states in UPSC IFS 2024
- Aishwarya (13), Prashanth (25), Avinash Reddy (40) among top scorers



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Candidates from Telugu states have made their mark in the UPSC Indian Forest Service (IFS) – 2024 final results, with more than ten aspirants securing top ranks in the prestigious exam. Among them, Chada Nikhil Reddy from Miryalaguda, Nalgonda district, emerged as the highest-ranked Telugu candidate by securing the 11th position nationally.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced the final list of 143 selected candidates, out of which a significant number belong to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Nikhil Reddy’s success stands out, as he not only represented the region with distinction but also set an example of perseverance and determination. Nikhil Reddy is the son of government teachers Chada Srinivas Reddy and Sunanda. He completed his B.Tech in Computer Science from IIT Delhi in 2018 and later worked in the software industry. However,

driven by a strong desire to serve the nation, he quit his job and dedicated himself to civil services preparation. Speaking about his success, Nikhil credited his parents’ encouragement and said that the achievement has boosted his self-confidence. He added that while securing a position in the Forest Service is a proud moment, his ultimate goal remains cracking the IAS.

Other notable rankers from Telugu states include Yeduguri Aishwarya Reddy (13), G. Prashanth (25), Cheruku Avinash Reddy (40), and Chintakayala Lavakumar (49). Also making it to the top 100 are Atla Tarun Teja (53), Alapati Gopinath (55), K. Udayakumar (77), and TS Sisira (87).

The performance of Telugu candidates in this year’s IFS results highlights their growing presence in national-level competitive exams and underscores the strong educational foundation and support systems in the region.

Mahesh Goud Pays Tribute to Rajiv Gandhi

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

TPCC Chief and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, calling him the visionary who laid the foundation for a modern India. Speaking at a program held in Somajiguda, Mahesh Goud described Rajiv Gandhi as a leader who transformed the technological and political landscape of the country.

He noted that Rajiv Gandhi’s famous message at the United Nations, emphasizing that human development is possible through peace, freedom and equality, was applauded by world leaders and remains relevant even today. Highlighting Rajiv Gandhi’s legacy in technology, Goud said, “He is the architect of the mobile phone revolution that has wrapped the world in our hands.” He recalled how Rajiv Gandhi lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, empowering youth to participate in building the nation. “Leaders like me are saplings planted by Rajiv Gandhi,” Goud remarked, noting that many of today’s top leaders were inspired and nurtured by the former Prime Minister. He also recalled the special bond Rajiv Gandhi shared with former PCC Chief Ha-

numanthu Rao, calling him one of Gandhi’s most trusted associates.

Referring to Telangana’s new Secretariat, Mahesh Kumar Goud said, “We are honoring Rajiv Gandhi’s memory by installing his statue in the Secretariat premises.” He credited the Congress government for this initiative, reflecting its commitment to Gandhi’s ideals.

He further announced the launch of Rajiv Yuva Vikasam, a scheme named after the late Prime Minister, aimed at creating self-employment opportunities for the youth in Telangana. Goud affirmed that the Congress government is committed to offering better opportunities to youth, in line with Rajiv Gandhi’s vision for a progressive, youth-driven India.



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KTR Slams Notices to KCR as Political Drama by Congress-BJP

KTR accused the Revanth Reddy-led administration of trying to sabotage the Kaleshwaram project by making it a scapegoat for political vendetta. “Notices are being served out of confusion. But no matter how many notices are sent, we will never back down from our commitments to the people,” he asserted.

He also took aim at the Congress’ unfulfilled six guarantees, questioning the whereabouts of the ₹4,000 pension promise and the gold guarantee.

Étala Reacts To Kaleshwaram Notices

BRS Chief KCR at the Erravalli farmhouse shortly after receiving the Commission’s notice. Harish Rao, who was the Irrigation Minister during the project’s execution, reportedly held a one-hour closed-door

meeting with KTR. He later told reporters that “Telangana wants KCR to lead again,” sparking speculation over whether KCR will appear before the commission or not.

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HYDRAA Chief Probes Land Encroachments Across City

The HYDRAA chief also visited Chengicherla and Boduppal in Medchal district. In Mata Aravinda Colony, residents complained of alleged encroachment attempts on Endowment Department Trust land by a former MLA. They said registration processes for plots in their seven-acre, 444-plot layout were being deliberately blocked.

In Boduppal’s Vikas Welfare Colony, residents reported that 35 out of 70 plots had been encroached upon by individuals with political affiliations, including a recent election candidate. Basic infrastructure like roads and parks had reportedly been obstructed.

Further, a grave allegation surfaced regarding land meant for a crematorium being converted and sold as plots. HYDRAA officials also flagged the absence of proper fencing around 60 acres belonging to the Housing Board in Gopannapally. The commissioner capped the day with an inspection in OU Colony, Shaikpet, where road irregularities were noted. Plot owners were asked to submit documentation for further investigation.

Ranganath reiterated that HYDRAA is committed to protecting public and private property rights and that swift action will follow once inquiries are completed.

Rain Delays Miss World 2025 Contestants’ Shilparamam Visit

During this segment, contestants from across the globe, grouped into regions like Americas/Caribbean and Africa & Europe/Asia & Oceania, presented their views, social impact projects, and personal motivations.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for Hyderabad and several other districts of Telangana until May 25. The city is likely to continue witnessing thunderstorms, lightning, and squalls in the coming days. Due to the ongoing rains, daytime temperatures are expected to remain between 36°C and 40°C across Telangana till May 22. A decline below 36°C is forecast starting May 23.

Despite the weather, the Miss World 2025 schedule in Hyderabad has remained largely on track. Earlier this week, contestants visited iconic city landmarks like Charminar and Laad Bazaar, receiving a warm welcome and showcasing their enthusiasm for Indian heritage.

The organizers are closely monitoring the weather to ensure the safety and continuity of the pageant events in the city.

Seethakka Hits Back at Harish Rao Over Anganwadi Issue

- Seethakka slams Harish Rao for decade-long neglect
- Says 3,438 mini Anganwadi teachers already promoted
- Accuses BRS of using GOs for poll propaganda

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Panchayat Raj and Women & Child Welfare Minister Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka has strongly criticised former Finance Minister T. Harish Rao, accusing him of hypocrisy over his concerns about Anganwadi workers. Her response came after Harish Rao wrote an open letter to the Chief Minister demanding equal salaries for mini Anganwadi teachers. In her statement on Tuesday, Seethakka questioned why the BRS government, during its ten-year tenure, failed to address the long-pending



demands of mini Anganwadi teachers. She alleged that Harish Rao's recent concern is politically motivated and aimed at scoring points post-election. "If he truly cared about mini Anganwadi workers, why were their problems ignored for a decade? Those GOs is-

sued just before elections without Finance Department approval were only for votes, not for justice," Seethakka said. She revealed that the current Congress government has already promoted 3,438 mini Anganwadi teachers to regular Anganwadi posi-

tions, with the Finance Department's approval. The promotions will be fully implemented by April 2025, and these workers will start receiving equal salaries from this month. In addition to salary hikes, the government also plans to upgrade mini Anganwadi centres and introduce new helper positions to strengthen the grassroots childcare system. Seethakka stated that it would be more fitting for Harish Rao to apologise for the previous government's failure to act rather than criticize the current administration. "We are working step by step to correct the damage caused over the last ten years," she asserted. The Minister assured continued efforts to strengthen the Anganwadi system and safeguard the rights and welfare of both teachers and helpers.

Show Cause Notice to Sunita Rao Over Protest Against TPCC Chief

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The internal discord within the Telangana Congress has come into the spotlight once again after a show cause notice was issued to Telangana Mahila Congress (TMC) president Sunita Rao by the party high command. This move comes in the wake of her open criticism of TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud and the protest she led at Gandhi Bhavan. Sources revealed that the National Women's Congress president sent the notice citing disciplinary violations. The central leadership reportedly expressed serious displeasure over the public demonstration and comments made by Sunita Rao, emphasizing that intra-party issues must be discussed through internal mechanisms rather than aired publicly. The notice directed Sunita Rao to provide an explanation within seven days regarding her actions and statements. The Congress leadership made it clear that failure to respond in time could lead to further action under the party's disciplinary rules. Recently, Sunita Rao, along with a few women Congress leaders, staged a dharna in front of Mahesh Goud's office chamber at Gandhi Bhavan. She alleged that women leaders in the Con-



gress party were being sidelined in the distribution of nominated posts. She specifically accused TPCC chief Mahesh Goud of allocating key positions to his relatives while ignoring the contributions of women leaders in the party. Her statements created significant turbulence within the party. These actions were reportedly viewed as a breach of discipline by the National Mahila Congress, especially since they occurred in the party headquarters while the Congress is in power. Party

insiders say the leadership sees this as a serious challenge to the internal order and unity of the organization. The developments have triggered discussions in Congress circles about possible action if the explanation from Sunita Rao is deemed unsatisfactory. As the deadline for her reply approaches, all eyes are on how the Congress leadership will handle this sensitive episode involving its own state women's wing president.

Congress Slams BRS, BJP Over Gulzar Houz Fire

TPCC spokesperson accuses opposition of politicizing tragedy

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) strongly condemned the political opportunism of the BRS and BJP following the devastating fire at Gulzar Houz that claimed 17 lives, including children. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, TPCC official spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin accused opposition parties of "doing politics over corpses" instead of supporting grieving families. Nizamuddin called for an end to blame games and urged the start of a comprehensive, people-centric fire safety movement across Telangana. "This is not just a tragedy—it is a wake-up call," he said, highlighting that the Congress government under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy responded promptly with ex-gratia payments of Rs 5 lakh to each bereaved family along with full support. Meanwhile, he accused the BRS and BJP of exploiting the incident for political gain. Condemning what he called "shameless attempts" by opposition leaders to divert attention from public safety, Nizamuddin stressed the urgent need for accountability and systemic reform.



He noted that a six-member high-level committee has been constituted to investigate the fire's cause and recommend measures to prevent future incidents. "Fire safety is not a slogan; it is a civic necessity," he said. The Congress spokesperson emphasized that preventable fires must not be dismissed as routine accidents. He questioned the lack of public education on fire prevention and safety measures, and called for statewide awareness campaigns targeting homes, schools, apartments, and commercial spaces. Key recommendations included regular electrical audits, controlled use of high-power devices during peak hours,

installation of alarms, and improved ventilation systems. Highlighting challenges in Hyderabad's Old City, Nizamuddin pointed out narrow lanes obstruct firefighting and urged equipping fire departments with compact vehicles capable of navigating congested areas. He also advocated for school-level fire safety education, including drills and emergency training for children. Citing alarming recent data, Nizamuddin said Telangana recorded 5,407 fire incidents in the first five months of 2025 alone, including 50 serious and 20 major cases. Hyderabad experienced over 2,500 fire calls last year and more than 450 this year, mostly caused by electrical faults. He listed several recent fire tragedies in areas such as Begum Bazaar, Chandanagar, Puppalaguda, and Yakutpura, all marked by delayed responses and poor preparedness. "This is not the time for political drama; this is the time to fix the system," Nizamuddin asserted. "Stop trading lives for headlines. Let's build a safer Telangana." The Congress plans to soon submit a comprehensive fire safety reform proposal to the state government.

HC Quashes Endowments Notice on Bandi Sanjay Family's Temple



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has set aside a notice issued by the Endowments Department to bring the Maha Shakti temple in Chaitanyapuri, Karimnagar, built and managed by BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar's family, under its regulatory control. The court found that the department had not followed due procedure in assessing whether the temple qualifies as a public religious institution. Justice EV Venugopal, who delivered the order, directed the Endowments Department to reconsider Sanjay Kumar's representation for exemption under the Telangana Endowments Act, within three months. He ruled that the notice issued by the department was premature, and due process under Section 6, which determines eligibility for inclusion in the official list of charitable institutions, had not been followed. The dispute dates back to July 2016, when the Assistant Commissioner of Endowments directed Sanjay to register the temple under Section 43(1) of the Act. This would have placed the temple under government regulation. Sanjay resisted, stating that the temple, built in 2010 with Rs 2 crore of his personal funds, is run by his family un-

der the spiritual guidance of Sri Hampi Virupaksha Vidyaranya Bharathi Swamiji of Karnataka. Sanjay is appointed as the Swamiji's agent and Dharmakartha. He argued the temple is private, with no income, donation boxes, or ritual fees, and that all expenses are covered by his family. Sanjay cited a pending exemption application under Section 154 and referenced other exempted temples like Sri Balaji Temple in Chilkur and Sri Subramanya Swamy Temple at Skandagiri. In response, the Endowments Department argued that the temple is a public place of worship and that the absence of hundis or fees does not qualify it as private. They also stated that the temple's adoption by the Hampi Mutt was never formally ratified, and beyond the initial notice, no further action was taken by them. Justice Venugopal observed that both parties acknowledged the existence of a pending exemption application and criticized the department for failing to assess income or initiate proceedings as required by law. The court has now given the Endowments Department three months to examine Sanjay Kumar's plea and take a decision in accordance with the Act.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Flags Off Haj Pilgrims

₹3,591 crore allocated for minority welfare in Telangana's budget

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy flagged off the convoy of Haj pilgrims from Haj House in Hyderabad on Tuesday night, reiterating the Congress government's steadfast commitment to secularism and the protection of minority rights. Addressing the gathering, Uttam Kumar Reddy stressed that true progress is impossible without equal opportunities for all citizens, especially religious minorities. "A society that neglects its minorities cannot claim to be democratic or just. Economic empowerment, educational access, and social inclusion are the pillars of true development," he said. He warned against rising communalism, cautioning that the nation's secular fabric must be protected amid attempts to promote divisive narratives for short-term political gains. "Secularism is not merely a political slogan but a core value that defines India's identity — a value that the Congress party has always upheld," Uttam Kumar Reddy added. Highlighting the Telangana

Congress government's inclusive initiatives, he noted a historic allocation of ₹3,591 crore for minority welfare this year, with ₹840 crore dedicated to the 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' program supporting minority youth through skill development and employment. The Minister also pointed out the improved sense of safety and dignity among minorities since the Congress took office. "Our government is committed to creating an environment where no one has to live in fear because of their identity or beliefs," he said. Uttam Kumar Reddy appealed to the Haj pilgrims to pray for the country's unity, peace, and prosperity, especially for Telangana. "Carry with you the hopes of millions and pray for communal harmony, economic progress, and social justice," he urged. The event was attended by Telangana Haj Committee Chairman Khushro Pasha Biyabani, Waqf Board Chairman Syed Azmatullah Hussaini, and other prominent community leaders, who extended their best wishes to the departing pilgrims.

Heavy Rains Lash Telangana, CM Issues High Alert to Officials

- Urgent steps to protect paddy stocks
- More rains forecast till May 23

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

With heavy rains pounding several districts across Telangana, including Hyderabad, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday directed district officials to remain on high alert and take immediate precautionary measures. The Chief Minister emphasized the urgent need to safeguard paddy stocks stored at procurement centres and market yards from rain damage. District collectors were specifically instructed to ensure the immediate shifting of paddy to rice mills after weighing, and to implement safety protocols in low-lying and flood-prone areas to prevent hardship to residents. However, farmers in several re-

gions remain distressed. In Jagtial and Mahabubabad districts, reports suggest that soaked grain has been lying unsold for over 20 days due to delays in shifting. In Metpally market yard, farmers complained of a 25-day wait, while villagers in Ammapuram stated that rain-drenched paddy sacks have remained unmoved since the start of the local lockdown. In Hyderabad, CM Revanth Reddy has instructed civic bodies to prevent waterlogging, maintain smooth traffic flow, and avoid power outages in rain-affected zones. GHMC, HYDRAA, traffic police, and electricity departments have been told to work in close coordination to handle emergencies and ensure public safety. Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna



Rao has been assigned to monitor the weather situation and oversee ongoing response efforts throughout the state. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast continued rainfall across Telangana until May 22, with Hyderabad expected to receive showers accompanied by gusty winds until May 23. The IMD also predicted

generally cloudy skies and a drop in temperatures over the next couple of days. Renowned weather analyst T. Balaji echoed the IMD's warning, indicating that widespread rainfall, up to 100 mm in some regions, could impact multiple districts. He also projected a dip in temperatures starting today due to the intensified weather system.



Hydra Demolishes Illegal Structures at Sage School

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad's Hydra officials on Wednesday demolished illegal structures on the premises of Sage School in Medipalli RAR Colony following long-standing complaints from local residents. The encroachments were reportedly on the Hyderabad-Warangal National Highway connection route, causing severe traffic disruptions. Locals had accused the school management of occupying a portion of this vital link road and constructing unauthorized buildings, leading to difficulties for motorists and pedestrians alike.

Residents have been protesting against these encroachments for over 15 years. After receiving the complaints, Hydra officials conducted a thorough field inspection which confirmed the illegal constructions. Acting on this, special teams accompanied by police personnel reached the site early Wednesday morning to carry out the demolition. Police maintained strict security to prevent any untoward incidents during the operation. The removal of these structures is expected to ease traffic flow and restore proper access on the critical link road.

Doctor Accused of Rape in Hotel on Pretext of Marriage

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A disturbing case has come to light in Hyderabad where a young female doctor was allegedly raped by a fellow doctor under the pretext of marriage. The incident reportedly occurred at a prominent star hotel in Banjara Hills earlier this year. According to police, the victim, a doctor working at Niloufer Hospital, was sexually assaulted by Dr. Swamy, who is currently employed at the Mahabubabad Government Hospital. The two doctors had first met in 2023 when Dr. Swamy joined a hospital in the same town, and they developed a close relationship over time. In January 2024, Dr. Swamy allegedly invited the female doctor to a hotel in Banjara Hills, assuring her of marriage. However, after allegedly sexually assaulting her, he began to avoid further contact and refused to go ahead with the marriage, according to the complaint. Following months of being ignored and misled, the victim finally approached the Banjara Hills police and filed a formal complaint against Dr. Swamy. The case has been registered and an investigation is underway. Police are verifying the evidence and may take further legal action based on the findings.

Three Killed in Road Accident Near Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Ranga Reddy

A tragic road accident rocked the suburbs of Hyderabad early this morning, claiming the lives of three individuals and leaving another critically injured. The incident occurred near Kuntlur in Hayatnagar mandal, under the jurisdiction of the Hayatnagar police station. According to initial reports, a speeding car collided head-on with a DCM van at a curve near Kuntlur. The force of the impact was so severe that the car was mangled beyond recognition. All three occupants of the car died on the spot due to grievous injuries, while another passenger sustained serious injuries and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Upon receiving information, police personnel arrived at the scene and began a preliminary investigation. Authorities stated that CCTV footage from the area showed the car approaching the bend at a dangerously high speed before crashing into the DCM. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.



London-educated brothers turn drug peddlers

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Two brothers who pursued higher education in London and were expected to establish high-end businesses and educational institutions in India have instead landed in police custody for running a drug racket. Varun and Prabhu Chaitanya, along with their associate Kiran, were arrested by the Excise and Enforcement Special Task Force (STF) while selling MDMA and OG Kush in Hyderabad. According to officials, the trio was caught red-handed during a raid. In a shocking turn of events, the accused resisted arrest and even attacked a female constable and STF SI Sandhya in an attempt to flee. However, the STF managed to overpower them and took them into custody. Varun and Prabhu Chaitanya, both brothers, frequently traveled to Bengaluru where they established connections with Nigerian drug dealers. With help from these contacts, they smuggled drugs into Hyderabad and distributed them locally, mainly through their associate Kiran. The STF revealed that

their operations were well-organized and included the distribution of high-grade narcotics such as MDMA and OG Kush. **During the operation, the STF seized:**

- 2.58 grams of MDMA
- 38.56 grams of OG Kush
- One bike and three mobile phones

The STF has also booked three more individuals—Vamsi, Sai Krishna, and Nandu Sai—who are currently absconding. SI Balaraju and SI Sandhya confirmed that efforts are underway to trace and arrest the remaining suspects. STF team leader Pradeep Rao stated that the investigation is being extended to Bengaluru, where the accused are suspected to be operating front businesses that could be linked to the drug trade. The incident has raised concerns about how highly educated individuals are getting drawn into the drug trade and exploiting international networks for illegal profits. Authorities are determined to dismantle the entire network and bring all involved to justice.

Mother Jumps from Building with Child After Gold Theft

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A tragic incident unfolded in Hyderabad where a 28-year-old woman, Sudeshna, allegedly jumped from the third floor of her apartment building along with her two-and-a-half-year-old son, Aarush Kumar, following the theft of her gold jewellery. Sudeshna, a resident of Chintalkunta, had recently attended a relative's auspicious ceremony on the 16th of this month. It was during this event that gold ornaments weighing around seven tolas reportedly went missing. Despite efforts to trace them, the jewellery could not be recovered, deeply upsetting Sudeshna. Grief-stricken and emotionally overwhelmed by the loss, she allegedly jumped from the third floor



of her building while holding her young son. Neighbours and residents immediately rushed to their aid. Sudeshna sustained severe injuries and was shifted to a hospital where she succumbed during treatment. Miraculously, her son Aarush survived the fall with minor injuries. The incident has left the locality in shock. Police have launched an investigation into the theft of the gold ornaments as well as the circumstances that led to the extreme step.



Myanmar Nationals Nabbed in Hyderabad

- Illegal entry in 2011, settled in Pedda Amberpet
- Fake documents used with madrasa teachers' help

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A gang of Myanmar nationals illegally residing in Hyderabad has been busted for obtaining Indian identity cards such as Aadhaar, PAN cards, and gas connections using forged documents. The Rachakonda Special Operations Team (SOT) conducted raids on Tuesday and arrested three members of the group, who had entered India unlawfully years ago. According to police, the prime accused, Mohammad Amin, along with his wife Mohammad Rumana Akhtar and son Mohammad Naeem, entered India illegally from Myanmar in 2011. They eventually moved to Hyderabad in 2014 and settled in the Pedda Amberpet area. Mohammad Amin has been running a battery shop locally to conceal their undocumented status. The investigation revealed that the accused acquired Aadhaar cards with the assistance of two madrasa teachers — Mohammad Haris and Ayaz. Mohammad Amin reportedly used a Mee-Seva center in Manchala village to obtain his Aadhaar card, aided by the two teachers. He later fabricated a marriage certificate to secure an Aadhaar card for his wife. Their son, Naeem, received his Aadhaar card through Shoaib Malik, another illegal immigrant from Myanmar residing in Balapur. Based on a tip-off, the SOT police arrested the trio and seized several forged documents, including Aadhaar and PAN cards, gas connection books, bank account passbooks, and other identity-related paperwork. Authorities said the accused used these fake identities to access various government services. Police confirmed that madrasa teachers Ayaz and Shoaib Malik, who played a key role in the forgery racket, are currently on the run. Special teams have been deployed to trace and apprehend the absconding accused. The case has raised concerns over the misuse of public service platforms and highlights a larger issue of undocumented foreign nationals residing with fabricated credentials.

Lufthansa flight makes emergency landing in Shamshabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

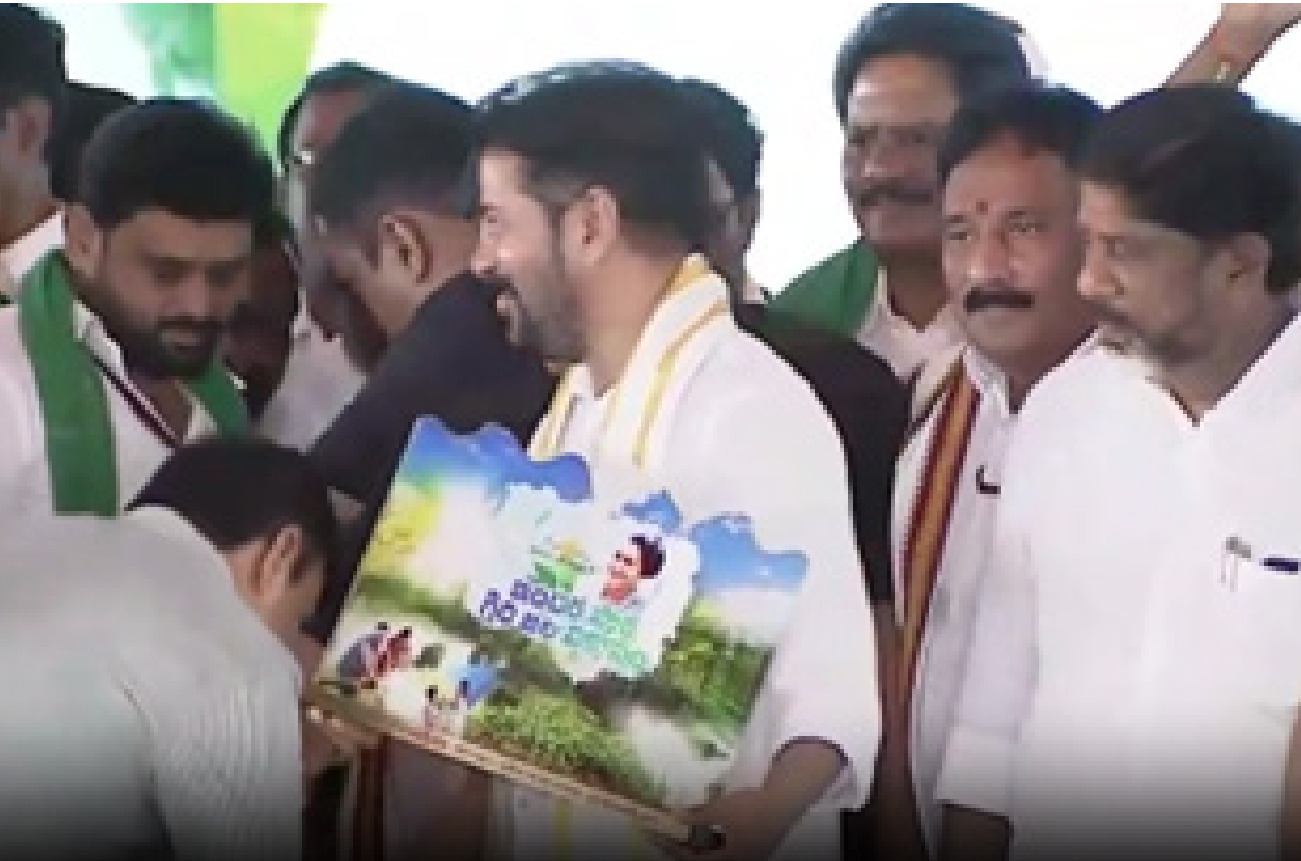
A major aviation mishap was narrowly averted at Shamshabad International Airport in Hyderabad when a Lufthansa Airlines flight experienced a technical fault in its landing gear shortly after takeoff. The incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday as the aircraft was en route to Frankfurt, Germany. According to airport sources, the German carrier had 160 passengers on board when it departed from Shamshabad. Moments after takeoff, the pilot detected an issue with the aircraft's landing gear. Responding swiftly, the pilot alerted the Air Traffic Control (ATC) and requested permission to return. The ATC cleared the emergency route, and the pilot managed to safely land the plane back at Shamshabad Airport without any harm to the passengers or crew. Thanks to the alertness and prompt response of the flight crew, a potentially dangerous situation was brought under control. Airport officials confirmed that no one was injured, and all passengers were safely deboarded. The incident caused temporary delays in scheduled operations, but services resumed soon after. An official statement from Lufthansa is awaited.

Bureaucrat Reprimanded for Touching CM's Feet

- Tribal Welfare Secretary A Sharath attempts gesture at public event
- CS issues memo citing violation of conduct rules
- Similar incident occurred in 2021 involving ex-Siddipet Collector

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A video of Principal Secretary of Tribal Welfare A Sharath seemingly attempting to touch Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's feet during a public meeting in Macharam village, Amrabad mandal of Nagarkurnool district, has triggered controversy and disciplinary action. The incident occurred on Monday, May 19, during the launch of the 'Indira Soura Giri Jala Vikasam' scheme. As Sharath posed alongside the CM, Deputy CM, and other ministers on stage, he appeared to bend in a gesture that was widely interpreted as an attempt to touch the CM's feet. Revanth Reddy, however, did not allow the act, and Sharath promptly turned away.



The video clip of the moment has since gone viral. Responding swiftly, Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao issued a memo on Tuesday, May 20, reminding public servants that such public displays undermine the image of civil services and public confidence. He cited Rule 3 of the Telangana Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, which requires government employees to uphold discipline, impartiality, propriety, and the dignity of their office. The memo noted that such be-

havior was "unbecoming of a government employee" and warned officers against engaging in actions that diminish the prestige of government service. This is not the first time such an incident has occurred in Telangana. In July 2021, then Siddipet Collector P Venkatarami Reddy touched the feet of then CM K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) during a public function. Unlike the current incident, KCR accepted the gesture and even blessed the official with 'Akshinthalu' (turmeric rice).

At that time, no disciplinary action was taken, and Reddy later joined the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) and was elected as an MLC, prompting criticism from civil services associations and the opposition, who took the issue to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). Sharath's act has reignited the debate on the increasing tendency of bureaucrats to display undue reverence to political leaders, raising concerns about the erosion of institutional integrity in public administration.



Untimely Rain Soaks Paddy in Nirmal

TPN Correspondent | Nirmal

Untimely rain on Tuesday night has left paddy soaked and damaged at a procurement center set up under the Agricultural Market Yard Paks in Khanapur town, Nirmal district. Farmers were seen expressing deep concern and disappointment as their harvested paddy turned wet and mushy in the downpour. Farmers alleged that the center managers failed to procure the grain on time and did not even provide basic facilities like covers to protect the yield from rain. They said the paddy, cultivated with great effort during the summer season, has now suffered severe quality loss due to the government's negligence. With the harvested grain on the verge of rotting, the distressed farmers urged authorities to purchase the wet paddy immediately to prevent further damage and financial hardship.

Illegal Black Soil Mining Near Kadem Project

TPN Correspondent | Nirmal

Illegal excavation of fertile black soil from the upper reaches of the Kadem Narayana Reddy Project has come to light near Ippamada village in Khanapur mandal, causing concern among local officials. Despite having no permission from the irrigation department, some contractors have been extracting and transporting the soil under the guise of helping farmers. With the backwaters of the Kadem project drying up this year, rich black soil has become accessible, prompting opportunistic businessmen to launch a large-scale soil trade using multiple JCBs and tractors. Sources said the excavation continued round the clock, exploiting the lack of surveillance. After receiving reports about the illegal activity, Assistant Executive Engineers Nithin Kumar, Vishal, and Muralikrishna rushed to the site and halted the operations. The officials subsequently filed a complaint with local police, and seized 3 JCB machines and 12 tractors involved in the illegal transport. Authorities have warned of further legal action against those involved and urged locals not to support or participate in unauthorized excavation activities.

Teacher Arrested for Alleged Sexual Assault of 5th Grade Student

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar

A junior lecturer at a Gurukul in Karimnagar district has been remanded into custody following allegations of sexually assaulting a 5th grade female student. The incident came to light after the victim's parents sought medical attention when their daughter, who returned home for summer vacation after her annual exams, did not get her period. Concerned, the parents visited several hospitals, where a doctor at a private hospital in Karimnagar suspected that the girl may have been subjected to an attempted rape. Upon ques-



tioning by her parents, the girl revealed that a junior lecturer at the Gurukul had taken her to

a room last month and misbehaved with her. Outraged by the revelation, the

parents lodged a complaint with the local police, who promptly registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The accused junior lecturer was taken into custody and remanded for further investigation. The incident has sparked widespread anger, with the victim's parents demanding strict action against not only the accused but also the Gurukul staff for failing to ensure the safety of students. Authorities have assured a thorough investigation into the matter, and the case has raised serious concerns about child safety in educational institutions. Further details are awaited as the investigation continues.

Telangana BSF Jawan Dies by Suicide in Kashmir

TPN Correspondent | Warangal

A tragic incident has come to light from the Samba sector of Kashmir, where a young Border Security Force (BSF) jawan from Telangana committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon. The jawan has been identified as Sampangi Nagaraju (28), a resident of Narsampet in Warangal district. He had joined the BSF in 2016 and had been serving in the Kashmir sector for the past three years. According to official sources, Nagaraju took the extreme step three days ago, reportedly due to mental stress. Details surrounding the cause of his stress or any official inquiry into his death have not yet been made public. His body was brought back to his native village on Tuesday, where family members and locals wept inconsolably. The heart-wrenching scenes of grief have deeply affected the community, with villagers and former colleagues paying their fi-



nal respects. The incident has once again raised concerns over the mental health and stress management systems available for soldiers serving in difficult and high-risk regions like Kashmir. Authorities are expected to conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the suicide.

Drain Encroachments Surface Amid Mumbai Highway Expansion

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy

While the expansion of the Mumbai National Highway from Muttangi, Isnapur, Rudraram to Sangareddy Crossroads is progressing at a brisk pace, disturbing irregularities have come to light along the stretch. Chief among them is the large-scale encroachment of drainage channels, which is raising serious concerns about public safety and administrative negligence. Despite the state government's initiative to widen roads for smoother traffic and development, certain individuals are allegedly encroaching upon public drainage land and erecting illegal constructions. This not only constitutes an infringement of government property but poses a severe risk to lives and property during heavy rains or flooding. What has particularly alarmed residents and activists is the allegation that these encroachments are occurring openly, in the presence of Irrigation Department officials. Accusations are surfacing that some department personnel are turning a blind eye to these violations in exchange for bribes. Locals allege that despite visible disappearances of drains in many zones under development, the responsible offi-



cials are choosing to remain silent. Adding fuel to the fire, recent raids by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) at the Sangareddy Irrigation Department office have revealed deep-rooted corruption. Sources confirmed that ACB teams conducted surprise inspections based on specific intelligence, during which some officials were reportedly caught red-handed accepting bribes. Despite the exposure and chaos that followed, residents claim there has been no visible change in the functioning of the department. This sequence of inaction is triggering growing unrest among the public. Many are now questioning why no disciplinary steps are being taken against those who allowed encroachments to happen. Con-

cerns are being raised about the continuing negligence and the emboldening of land-grabbing activities in such a sensitive development corridor. Citizens are now urging the District Collector to step in and personally inspect the situation. They demand that a thorough field investigation be carried out, and that strict action be taken not only against those responsible for encroachments but also against negligent officials within the Irrigation Department. With fears of future floods and a general loss of trust in the administrative machinery, the public hopes for an immediate and resolute response from higher authorities to safeguard public infrastructure and uphold the law.



Kanimozhi Heading Indian Delegation – A Welcome Step

Time to move beyond old politics – A call to DMK leadership



Kanimozhi leading an Indian delegation is symbolic :

It highlights Tamil Nadu's federal participation at the national and international levels. It shows DMK's evolving posture, moving beyond rigid regional identity politics. As a respected parliamentarian with strong communication skills, she represents a progressive face of DMK. This is a diplomatic and political signal that the party is willing to engage more with the Indian mainstream.

Need for Strong, Public Condemnation of Terrorism- ? Stalin silent

Given rising global concerns over extremism and national security: Political leaders, especially from major parties like DMK, are expected to unequivocally condemn terrorism — not as a political act, but as a moral and national duty. Silence, or overly cautious statements, can be perceived as ambivalence or appeasement. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and senior DMK leaders should lead by example, showing strong support for national security and unity, regardless of political calculations. As India rises globally, Tamil Nadu should not be a dissenting voice—it should be a leading voice.

Time for DMK to shed Its traditional Stance for economic development

Historically, DMK and its ideological base (Dravidian movement) stood against:

- **Anti-Hindi imposition**
- **Anti-Sanskrit**
- **Anti- Brahminical dominance**
- **Anti- Hindu Religious and Snatana Dharma**
- **Anti Central government**

These stances were rooted in the colonial and early post-Independence context, where Tamil pride and caste resistance shaped political identity. However, as India and Tamil Nadu have modernized, there's a growing expectation that the party must distance itself from



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extreme or divisive rhetoric. Inclusive nationalism can coexist with Tamil identity. Respect for Hindu cultural traditions, Sanskrit, or even interstate cooperation should not be seen as betrayal of Tamil roots.

India's polity is evolving, and parties like the DMK must modernize with national outlook

Kanimozhi's leadership role should be the start of deeper national integration. DMK must shed its anti labels while holding on to its social justice legacy. A proactive, inclusive nationalism — rooted in Tamil values and Indian unity is both necessary and possible. India's political and economic landscape has evolved, and it's time for such parties to transition from regional assertiveness to national responsibility.

India's security and economic Development of states are Interconnected

Rising global terrorism, border threats, cyber warfare—these transcend regional boundaries. National security requires non-partisan condemnation of extremism. Silence or ambivalence on such matters weakens India's internal solidarity and economic development. Tamil Nadu's economy thrives through national schemes, global FDI, and pan-Indian trade. State-specific issues like infrastructure, jobs, and education often need Center-State cooperation. A confrontational stance toward

the Centre can stall growth, investments, and national visibility

Youth and Voters Are Aspirational and Religious and Cultural Harmony Matters

Young Indians want economic growth, global exposure, and national integration. They are less interested in out dated ideological battles and wants more inclusion and opportunity. A modern DMK must represent Tamil Nadu at the national table with pride, not resentment. The anti-Hindu or anti-faith image associated with earlier DMK rhetoric is no longer tenable. Tamil Nadu has a rich Hindu temple heritage, which is a source of pride, not just ritual. Modern Dravidian politics should celebrate Tamil identity without alienating national culture. Temple tourism holds great promise for enhancing economic growth, representing a valuable resource that the state has yet to fully utilize.

DMK must embrace Inclusive Nationalism and Hindu Cultural Roots

It's important to recognize that Hinduism is deeply ingrained in Tamil culture, including in the temples, arts, music, and literature of the region. While DMK has championed rationalism, it can also respect faith traditions without ideological compromise. Inclusive nationalism doesn't mean abandoning Dravidian ideals — it means broadening them to accommodate the evolving aspirations of Tamil youth

A new DMK narrative could emphasize:

- **Social justice + national unity**
- **Tamil pride + Hindu inclusivity**
- **Federal values + cooperative federalism**
- **National unity needs inclusive minds**
- **Faith and language can coexist**
- **Tamil pride should not mean cultural division**

Kaleshwaram: A Holy Place Where Rivers & Beliefs Meet



Sagar Vanaparthi
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Ancient Temple with a Special Story

Kaleshwaram, a small and holy town in the Jayashankar Bhupalapally district of Telangana, is hosting the Saraswati Pushkaralu, a special river festival that happens once every 12 years. This religious event takes place at the spot where two rivers-Godavari and Pranahita-meet. The town is located near the border of Telangana and Maharashtra. Kaleshwaram is most famous for its Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy Temple, an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. What makes this temple unique is the presence of two Shiva Lingas placed on one base, which is a rare sight in India. This temple is also one of the three most important Shiva temples in the Telugu-speaking states, along with Srisailem and Draksharamam. These three temples together are called Trilinga Desham, meaning "land of three Lingas," and the area is considered very holy. To ensure a smooth and safe experience for visitors, the Telangana government has made extensive preparations for the festival. Telangana Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu are leading the efforts. Jayashankar Bhupalapally district Collector Rahul Sharma and SP Kiran Khare are also working hard on the ground with their teams. A mobile app and a website have been launched to provide important information and services to pilgrims. Basic needs such as water, food, toilets, and transport are also being taken care of to help the visiting devotees.

According to the Skanda Purana, a holy Hindu book, the Godavari River prayed to Lord Shiva, who appeared at this place as Mukteshwara Swamy. People who bathed in the river and saw the Lord were freed from sin and the cycle of birth and death. Seeing this, Yama, the god of death, became worried because no one was coming to his world. He also prayed to Shiva, who then asked him to install another Shiva Linga beside the first one. This new Linga was called Kaleshwara Linga. This is why the temple has two Lingas today, representing both salvation and the continuation of life. The temple is believed to be 850 years old, built during the rule of Kakatiya King Rudra Deva. The temple has four entrances, and each side has a statue of Nandi, the sacred bull of Lord Shiva. Inside, there are also shrines for Goddess Saraswati and the Sun God (Surya). It

is said that the water poured on the Lingas during rituals goes underground and finally reaches the Godavari River, which is about 1 kilometer away.

Where Three Rivers Meet – A Place of Great Faith

Kaleshwaram is also known as Dakshina Triveni Sangam, which means the "southern meeting of three rivers"—Godavari, Pranahita, and a hidden river called Saraswati, believed to flow underground. This makes the place even more spiritual and powerful for religious rituals. Every year, thousands of people visit the temple, especially during Karthika Masam and Maha Shivaratri. Many devotees also come from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka. Kaleshwaram is about 270 kilometers from Hyderabad. Interestingly, Kaleshwaram lies on the same longitude as many other famous ancient Shiva temples in India, such as Kedarnath, Chidambaram, and Rameswaram. These temples were all built centuries ago, long before modern tools or satellite maps were available, which adds to the mystery and wonder of this alignment. As the Saraswati Pushkaralu festival continues, Kaleshwaram is ready to welcome lakhs of pilgrims from across the country. With its holy rivers, rare twin Shiva Lingas, and spiritual energy, this town is truly a must-visit for anyone seeking blessings, peace, and divine connection.

Why India Needs a Grand Museum of Hindu Art

With the spotlight currently on Qatar for hosting ongoing Gaza peace talks, the country's cultural investments—like the stunning Museum of Islamic Art in Doha—are also drawing attention. Opened in 2008 and designed by the legendary architect I.M. Pei, the museum presents a rich and diverse collection of Islamic art spanning continents and centuries. But its scope is broader than it seems—many exhibits hail from pre-Islamic times or regions no longer under Muslim rule. This inclusive narrative is a deliberate counter to perceptions of Islamic iconoclasm, such as the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas by the Taliban in 2001.

The Doha museum's brilliance lies in positioning Islamic art not just as religious output but as the cultural expression of regions influenced by Islam. This reframing—presenting "art from the Islamic world" rather than strictly "Islamic art"—reclaims civilizational prestige through art, echoing Christian traditions that link religious belief to artistic excellence, especially in periods



like the Renaissance.

In comparison, other religions have yet to create institutions on this scale. While Jewish and Buddhist art museums exist, none offer the vast civilizational sweep that Doha's museum achieves. Surprisingly, no comparable project exists for Hindu art—despite Hinduism's profound and far-reaching influence on art, architecture, mathematics, and astronomy, especially across South and Southeast Asia.

India is uniquely positioned to correct this omission. A grand Museum of Hindu Art could illuminate the expansive cul-

tural and aesthetic footprint of Hinduism—not only within Indian borders but across ancient trade routes and former Hindu-influenced kingdoms in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and even parts of the Middle East.

Such a museum would enrich both global understanding and self-perception among Hindus. It could reclaim narratives often limited to Buddhist and Islamic contributions to Indian art, offering a more comprehensive picture. More importantly, it could highlight the ongoing dialogue between Hinduism and other artistic traditions across centuries.

PM Modi to Visit Bikaner, Launch Projects Worth ₹26,000 Crore

Visit IAF Nal Airbase Near Pak Border

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Bikaner, Rajasthan on May 22, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over ₹26,000 crore. His itinerary includes a significant visit to the Indian Air Force's Nal Airbase, located just 150 km from the Pakistan border — a strategic site recently in the spotlight due to reported drone threats from across the border.

As part of his visit, the Prime Minister will also perform darshan at the Karni Mata temple in Deshnoke and address a massive public rally in Palana. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal highlighted the strategic importance of Nal airbase and emphasized that the Prime Minister's address will have wide-reaching significance across the country.

Key Highlights of PM Modi's Visit:

Boost to Rail and Road Infrastructure

PM Modi will inaugurate the redeveloped Deshnoke Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He will flag off a new Bikaner-Mumbai Express Train. 103 redeveloped railway stations across 86 districts in 18 states and UTs will be inaugurated. In road development, the PM will lay the foundation for:

3 vehicle underpasses
Widening and strengthening of national highways
Dedicate 7 key road projects worth ₹4,850 crore, enhancing connectivity up to the Indo-Pak Power and Clean Energy Projects Launch of solar energy projects in Bikaner and Nawa



(Didwana-Kuchaman)

Inauguration of transmission systems to evacuate power from solar hubs, including:

- **PowerGrid Sirohi (Part B)**
- **PowerGrid Mewar (Part E)**
- **Neemuch and Bikaner Complex systems.**

Expansion of transformation capacity at Fatehgarh-II Power Station for cleaner and more reliable energy.

State Development Projects

- **Foundation stone and inauguration**

of 25 major Rajasthan state projects, including:

- **12 State Highways upgrades (750+ km), with plans for another 900 km under expansion.**
- **Nursing Colleges in Rajsamand, Pratappgarh, Bhilwara, and Dholpur.**
- **Water infrastructure upgrades, including:**
- **Rural Water Supply & Fluorosis Mitigation in Jhunjhunu.**
- **Restructuring of Urban Water Supply Schemes in 7 towns of Pali district.**

PM Modi's visit aims to give a substantial push to infrastructure, connectivity, clean energy, and border area security, reinforcing the government's focus on holistic regional development and national preparedness.

76% Of Indians, Including AP Residents, At Risk from Extreme Heat: CEEW



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

A major part of India's population — including Andhra Pradesh — is facing a dangerous level of heat threat, warns a new study by the Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). The study, released on Tuesday, shows that 57% of India's districts are exposed to high or very high heat risk, covering 76% of the total population.

Andhra Pradesh figures among the top ten states and union territories most vulnerable to this escalating crisis, alongside Delhi, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

One of the study's most concerning findings is the rapid rise in nighttime temperatures over the past decade, which has serious implications for human health. "The lack of relief even at night weakens the body's ability to cool down and recover, leading to increased health risks," said Vishwas Chitale, Senior Program Lead at CEEW.

Key Findings from the Study:

Researchers from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) have conducted a detailed analysis using four decades of weather and satellite data spanning from 1982 to 2022 across 734 districts in India. The study took into account a wide range of factors, including day and night temperatures, humidity levels, heat index, land use patterns, water availability, vegetation coverage, urban density, socio-economic conditions, and associated health risks.

The findings highlight a concerning trend: 266 districts have been classified as being at very high risk due to rising heat-related threats, while 151 districts fall under the high-risk category. Another 201 districts are at moderate risk, and only 116 districts have been identified as having low or very low risk.

The study also emphasized that cities and districts with populations exceeding one million are among the worst affected. This is largely due to the urban heat island effect, where dense concrete infrastructure traps and retains heat, leading to significantly higher temperatures in urban areas compared to surrounding rural regions.

Regional & Economic Impact

Even the Himalayan regions are not spared — heat and humidity levels have increased here too, severely affecting fragile ecosystems. In North India, humidity during summers has surged from 30–40% to 40–50% in recent years, escalating heat stress in densely populated agricultural regions like the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

Pakistan's attempt to hoodwink world doomed to fail: India on Islamabad's allegations

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

India has firmly rejected Pakistan's allegations of Indian involvement in a suicide bomb attack on a school bus in Balochistan's Khuzdar, calling the claims "baseless" and an attempt to deflect attention from Pakistan's internal failures and international reputation as a hub of terrorism.

The incident, which occurred earlier on Wednesday, claimed the lives of five individuals, including three schoolchildren, and left several others injured. Following the attack, Pakistani authorities alleged that India had a role in orchestrating the bombing.

Responding to these claims, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a strong statement dismissing the accusations. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal condemned the attempt to malign India and underscored that such habitual blaming would not succeed in misleading the international community.



"India rejects the baseless allegations made by Pakistan regarding Indian involvement in the incident in Khuzdar earlier today," said Jaiswal in a press briefing. "India expresses its condolences on the loss of innocent lives in this tragic attack."

He went on to criticize Islamabad for its consistent use of unfounded accusations to shift global attention from its own internal instability and its entrenched support for terrorism.

"It has unfortunately become second nature for Pakistan to blame India for every incident within its borders," Jaiswal said. "This is a cynical effort to deflect from its growing isolation and to cover up its image as the global epicenter of terrorism." India has long maintained that Pakistan's state machinery supports cross-border terrorism and has used proxy groups to destabilize the region, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir. Pakistan, in turn, frequently accuses India of interfering in Balochistan and supporting separatist movements—claims that India has consistently denied.



Gandhis Beneficiaries Of Rs 142 Crore In National Herald Case: Probe Agency

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) informed a Delhi court on Wednesday that senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were direct beneficiaries of ₹142 crore in alleged proceeds of crime linked to the National Herald money laundering case. The agency asserted that it has established a prima facie case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED's claims were presented during a hearing at the Rouse Avenue Court before Special Judge Vishal Gogne. The proceedings focused on whether the court should take cognizance of the ED's prosecution complaint against the Gandhis and other key accused in the case.

This development marks a significant point in the investigation, which stems from a 2014 private criminal complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. The magistrate's court had taken cognizance of the complaint in June 2014, prompting subsequent investigations. The ED officially launched its probe in 2021.

Representing the defence, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi sought additional time to respond, citing the extensive nature of the case documentation, which reportedly runs over 5,000 pages.

According to the ED, Young Indian Pvt Ltd—a company controlled by the Gandhis—was used as a "sham entity" to take over Associated Journals Limited (AJL), the former publisher of the now-defunct National Herald newspaper. The agency alleged that this move enabled the transfer of public assets, originally intended for journalistic purposes, into private hands. AJL's assets are estimated to be worth more than ₹2,000 crore.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, argued that Young Indian was created with the sole intention of laundering money through property acquisition, using donations made to the Congress party. He added that the Gandhis and other accused individuals benefited from rental income generated from these properties, amounting to ₹142 crore.

The ED further stated that assets in the case were attached in November 2023. Until then, the accused were allegedly enjoying the benefits derived from these proceeds of crime. The court has yet to decide on the formal cognizance of the complaint as arguments continue.



Top Maoist Leader Basavaraju Among 27 Naxals Killed in Chhattisgarh: Amit Shah

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant breakthrough in India's decades-long battle against Naxalism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday confirmed that top Maoist leader Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavaraju, was among 27 Naxals killed by security forces in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district.

Basavaraju, the general secretary of the banned CPI-Maoist outfit, was considered the highest-ranking leader within the Naxal hierarchy and regarded as the ideological and operational backbone of the Maoist movement. He was believed to be in his late 60s.

"This is a landmark achievement in our mission to eliminate Naxalism," Shah said in a post on social media platform X. "For the first time in over 30 years of India's fight against Naxalism, a leader of general secretary rank has been neutralised," he added, commending the courage and commitment of the security forces involved. The encounter took place in the dense Abhujmad forests, located at the tri-junction of Narayanpur, Bijapur, and Dantewada districts. The area has long served as a strategic hideout and base of operations for Naxal leaders. The joint operation included personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) units of Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur, and Kondagaon districts. It was launched two days ago following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of senior Maoist leadership, including members of the central committee and politburo.

The death of Basavaraju is seen as a major blow to the CPI-Maoist organisation, as he played a crucial role in coordinating armed operations and shaping strategic directives for the group. Amit Shah also revealed that the successful completion of Operation Black Forest has resulted in the arrest of 54 Naxalites and the surrender of 84 others across Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Maharashtra.



Covid-19 Cases Surge Across Asia Amid Rise of JN.1 Variant: Key Affected Countries and Trends



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A fresh wave of Covid-19 is sweeping across parts of Asia, with several countries reporting sharp increases in infections, hospitalisations, and viral activity. The spike, driven by the emerging JN.1 variant and post-holiday gatherings, has prompted public health authorities to issue fresh advisories and call for booster vaccinations, particularly for vulnerable groups.

In Hong Kong, health officials have sounded the alarm over the “quite high” virus activity in the city. The percentage of respiratory samples testing positive for Covid-19 recently hit a 12-month high. In the week ending May 3, Hong Kong recorded 31 severe cases—its highest in a year—along with rising Covid-related medical consultations and sewage surveillance data pointing to active transmission.

Singapore has also experienced a notable jump in Covid-19 cases, with infections rising 28% to 14,200 in the week ending May 3. Daily hospitalisations surged by about 30%, marking the first time in nearly a year that Singapore’s health ministry has issued a detailed update. Authorities attributed the spike to waning immunity but clarified that current variants, including JN.1, do not appear to cause more severe illness than before.

In Thailand, the situation is more acute. Weekly Covid-19 cases doubled from 16,000 to over 33,000 in the week ending May 17. Bangkok alone recorded 6,290 cases, followed by Chon Buri, Rayong, and Nonthaburi. Most infections occurred in individuals aged 30 to 39. Health officials believe the spike is linked to gatherings during April’s Songkran festival and are urging high-risk individuals to get booster shots immediately.

China is also seeing an upward trend. Between March 31 and May 4, the national Covid-19 positivity rate among outpatient and emergency flu-like illnesses surged from 7.5% to 16.2%. Hospitalised case positivity also nearly doubled, signaling a possible early stage of a summer wave similar to last year’s.

In India, while the situation remains under control with only 257 active cases reported, health authorities are on alert and closely monitoring trends across Asia.

The JN.1 variant has not been flagged as more severe, but its rapid spread reinforces the need for vigilance, vaccinations, and readiness to manage potential outbreaks.

14,000 Babies In Gaza Could Die In Next 48 Hours, Warns UN

TPN Correspondent | Gaza

The United Nations has issued a dire warning, stating that up to 14,000 babies in Gaza could die within the next 48 hours unless critical humanitarian aid is allowed to enter the war-torn enclave. The warning comes as Israeli authorities continue to allow only a limited amount of aid to cross into Gaza, following over 11 weeks of a near-total blockade. International pressure, particularly from the United States, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom, has led to this slight shift in Israeli policy.

On Monday, only five trucks carrying aid, including baby food, entered Gaza—far from what is needed to address the overwhelming crisis. UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher described this as a “drop in the ocean” given the severity of the situation. He emphasized that aid had yet to reach the areas where it is most urgently needed, particularly for the countless families unable to feed their malnourished children.

Fletcher spoke to BBC’s Radio 4, warning that unless more aid is allowed in immediately, thousands of babies could die. “There are 14,000 babies that will die in the next 48 hours unless we can reach them,” he said. “We run all sorts of risks trying to get that baby food through to those mothers who cannot feed their children right now.” The UN’s statement followed a joint condemnation from the leaders of the UK, France, and Canada, who criticized Israel’s continued blockade and the rhetoric from members of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government, who have threatened to displace large numbers of Palestinians. In their joint statement, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney warned of potential international action if the restrictions on humanitarian aid were not lifted.

Trump Unveils \$175 Billion ‘Golden Dome’ Missile Defense Shield Led by Space Force General

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has unveiled plans for an ambitious \$175 billion missile defense system dubbed the “Golden Dome,” a satellite-based shield aimed at intercepting missile threats from adversaries such as China and Russia. The announcement was made during a high-profile press conference at the White House on May 20, 2025, where Trump also introduced U.S. Space Force General Michael Guetlein as the project’s lead program manager.

The Golden Dome, ordered earlier this year, is modeled after Israel’s successful Iron Dome but will operate on a much broader and more technologically advanced scale. Unlike its land-based counterpart, Trump’s version will rely heavily on space infrastructure, including hundreds of surveillance and interceptor satellites capable of detecting, tracking, and neutralizing incoming missile threats shortly after launch.

“This will be a monumental leap in our national security,” Trump said from the Oval Office, emphasizing that the system would “protect our homeland like never before.” He also mentioned that Canada had expressed interest in participating in the project.

Elon Musk’s SpaceX has emerged as the leading contender to develop core components of the defense network, positioning the company to take a central role in constructing the system. Alongside SpaceX, firms like Palantir and Anduril are also expected to contribute critical technologies, including data analytics and autonomous defense capabilities.



However, the Golden Dome faces intense political scrutiny, particularly from Democratic lawmakers. Critics have raised questions about the program’s procurement strategy and the prominent involvement of Musk, a known Trump ally. Funding concerns also loom large, as the \$175 billion price tag could face resistance in Congress amid broader debates about defense spending and national priorities.

Despite these hurdles, the Pentagon is moving swiftly to begin testing the various systems—missiles, sensors, and satellites—that will form the backbone of the Golden Dome. The development timeline spans several years and represents a key element of Trump’s broader military modernization agenda.

If successful, the Golden Dome could become the most comprehensive space-based missile defense system ever constructed, reshaping the strategic defense architecture of the United States and its allies.

"Want To End War But Not Sure If Russia Is Ready": Zelensky

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has reiterated his country’s willingness to pursue a full ceasefire to end the ongoing war with Russia, but expressed skepticism over Moscow’s commitment to peace. His remarks came after holding talks with U.S. President Donald Trump and other European leaders regarding potential ceasefire negotiations.

Speaking on Monday, Zelenskyy said Ukraine remains ready to accept a ceasefire without preconditions, a proposal initially introduced by Trump. However, he emphasized that Ukraine needs to see “concrete actions” from Russia before it can fully trust any peace initiative. “Too many lives have been lost. We really want to finish this war. But I’m not sure that Russia is ready, and we don’t trust them,” Zelenskyy stated.

According to Zelenskyy, Russia has indicated a willingness to outline its own “principles” for a ceasefire, including additional terms beyond just halting hostilities.



ities. “From our dialogue with U.S. President Trump, it seems the Russian side wants to send a memo on how they see the principles of ending the war—not just a ceasefire, but more,” he noted.

Zelenskyy expressed appreciation for Trump’s initiative, calling the proposed unconditional ceasefire a positive step. “I was very happy when President Trump proposed a full ceasefire without any conditions or preconditions. We’ve been ready for this,” he said, reaffirming Ukraine’s position.

The Ukrainian leader also stressed that a ceasefire must be followed by additional steps, including a humanitarian exchange of prisoners and broader diplomatic engagement. “These are our principles: ceasefire first, and then other steps like prisoner exchanges,” Zelenskyy explained.

Zelenskyy has maintained consistent communication with international partners, including the United States and European Union members. He confirmed Ukraine’s openness to direct negotiations with Russia, contingent on a verifiable commitment from Moscow.

This diplomatic momentum comes amid Trump’s recent announcement that both Russia and Ukraine are expected to begin immediate negotiations, with the Vatican offering to facilitate peace efforts.

While hopes for a breakthrough remain cautious, Zelenskyy’s message was clear: Ukraine is ready for peace—if Russia truly is.

UK Professor Nitasha Kaul Says India Revoked OCI Over ‘Anti-India Activities’

TPN Correspondent | London

British-Kashmiri academic Nitasha Kaul, a Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Westminster in London, has claimed that the Government of India has cancelled her Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) over alleged “anti-India activities.”

Taking to social media on Sunday, Kaul revealed that she received an official communication from Indian authorities accusing her of “malice and complete disregard for facts or history” in her writings and speeches. The academic said the cancellation follows her earlier public statements in February, when she was denied entry into India to attend a conference in Bengaluru.



“Know that arresting academics in India for speaking against hate is closely tied to removing access to country and family for academics outside India,” Kaul wrote on X (formerly Twitter). “The idea is to send a signal — don’t dare challenge us within and don’t dare analyse what’s

going on to convey to audiences outside,” she added.

According to India’s rules governing OCI holders, the government has the authority to revoke OCI status if it determines that the individual has shown “disaffection towards the Constitution of India as established by law.”

Kaul, who also serves as Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy at Westminster, shared a portion of the cancellation document she received. The notice reportedly cites her “numerous inimical writings, speeches and journalistic activities at various international forums and on social media platforms,” which Indian authorities allege target “India and its institutions on the matters of India’s sovereignty.”

Markets Rebound After Consecutive Losses; Sensex Rises 410 Points, Nifty Up 129

Indian equity markets closed in the green on Thursday, halting a string of consecutive losses. Despite mixed cues from global markets and concerns surrounding the U.S. debt rating downgrade, benchmark indices opened with a strong gap-up and maintained momentum throughout the session. Investor sentiment improved with a “buy-on-dips” strategy, helping the market recover from intra-day declines. Gains in sectors such as metals, realty, pharma, and financials provided significant support.

The BSE Sensex opened higher at 81,327, up from its previous close of 81,186. It climbed to an intraday high of 82,021, dipped slightly to a low of 81,237, and finally settled at 81,596, marking a gain of 410 points. The NSE Nifty followed a similar trajectory, opening at 24,744, reaching a high of 24,946, and closing at 24,813, up 129 points. The Nifty Bank Index also added strength, advancing by 197 points to close at 55,075.

Within the Nifty50, 35 stocks advanced while 15 declined. The top gainers included BEL, Tata Steel, HDFC Life, and Bajaj Finserv, while the biggest losers were IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel, Kotak Bank, Coal India, and Grasim.

Sector-wise, the day saw broad-based gains. Indices for realty, pharma, finance, healthcare, auto, telecom, IT, PSU banks, metals, oil, media, and FMCG all ended higher. The Consumer Durables Index posted a marginal rise.

Market breadth was positive on the NSE, with 1,753 stocks advancing out of 2,941 traded, while 1,095 declined. Notably, 50 stocks hit their 52-week highs,



while 17 touched 52-week lows. 75 stocks hit the upper circuit and 65 stocks touched the lower circuit.

On the currency front, the rupee closed flat at 85.64 per dollar.

In corporate updates, Unomind reported revenue of ₹4,530 crore with total expenses at ₹421 crore. NTPC Green's revenue grew 22.5% year-on-year to ₹622 crore, while EBITDA surged 28% to ₹560 crore. Trident's net profit jumped to ₹133 crore from ₹56 crore. Power Finance Corporation posted a 22% rise in revenue to ₹14,949 crore.

Market optimism was also reflected in the Borana Waves IPO, which saw a 22x subscription on its second day. Meanwhile, mutual fund holdings hit a record ₹43.74 lakh crore in April.

Morgan Stanley projected that the Sensex could touch 89,000 by June 2026, while Moody's highlighted India's economic resilience amid global trade headwinds. Short-term bonds rallied, buoyed by news of a potential RBI dividend, and Swiggy saw 32 lakh shares traded during the session.

Core Sector Growth Slumps to 8-Month Low in April, Raising Concerns Over Factory Output

India's key infrastructure industries saw a sharp slowdown in April, with the growth of the eight core sectors plummeting to just 0.5% year-on-year — the weakest expansion recorded in eight months. This marked a significant drop from the 4.6% growth posted in March, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday.

The core sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity — form the backbone of the country's industrial ecosystem and collectively account for 40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). A sluggish performance in these sectors typically signals broader weakness in industrial and manufacturing activity.

Out of these eight sectors, six registered either negligible growth or contraction in April, further highlighting the breadth of the slowdown. Analysts say this sharp deceleration could have a cascading effect on India's overall industrial production, which is set to be officially reported by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on May 28.

While the exact reasons for the slowdown vary by sector, broad factors in-

clude weak domestic demand, export challenges, and high input costs. The refinery products and cement sectors were among the most significant drags, while sectors like natural gas and coal managed to register modest growth.

Economists warn that if the weakness in core industries persists, it could weigh heavily on India's near-term industrial outlook. Factory output, as measured by the IIP, is expected to reflect the muted momentum, potentially reversing the moderate recovery observed in early 2025.

The April data also comes amid global economic uncertainty and fluctuating commodity prices, which have impacted the operational efficiency and profitability of several core sector industries.

Policymakers may need to consider targeted interventions to stimulate infrastructure-related activity and manufacturing if the trend continues. With factory output closely tied to employment, investment, and consumption, a sustained dip could challenge India's economic recovery momentum heading into the second half of 2025.



Honda Joins Global Shift Away from EVs Amid U.S. Market Slowdown

Honda Motor Co., Japan's second-largest automaker, announced on Tuesday that it is shelving its earlier target of making electric vehicles (EVs) account for 30% of its cumulative global vehicle sales by 2030. The move comes in response to a growing slowdown in EV demand, particularly in the United States, where even market leader Tesla has posted its weakest quarterly earnings in over two years.

This pivot places Honda in line with a broader automotive industry trend that's seeing a shift in focus from battery-only EVs to hybrid vehicles, which combine internal combustion engines with electric motors. Honda's CEO, Toshihiro Mibe, described the adjustment as “a switch in the planned course,” emphasizing that while full electrification remains the ultimate goal, the timeline is being extended to better align with current market realities.

Honda's realignment follows a series of setbacks in its EV strategy. Last year, the company abandoned a partnership with General Motors aimed at producing affordable EVs for the U.S. market. More recently, talks of a potential alliance with Nissan and Mitsubishi Motors—which could have helped Honda leverage Nissan's EV expertise—collapsed earlier this year.

The retreat from aggressive EV expansion is not unique to Honda. Across the auto industry, manufacturers are re-evaluating their electrification roadmaps amid flagging con-



sumer demand, limited charging infrastructure, and rising costs of battery technology. Hybrids, viewed as a practical middle-ground solution, are seeing a resurgence in production and popularity.

For Honda, hybrids already represent a strong segment of its lineup, especially in markets like Japan and India. By doubling down on hybrids, Honda aims to maintain environmental performance targets while navigating the bumpy road toward full electrification.

The development underscores the evolving complexity of the global transition to clean mobility. While governments and regulators continue to push for all-electric futures, automakers are increasingly adopting more flexible, demand-responsive approaches that account for economic, technological, and consumer behavior factors.

Moody's: India Better Positioned Than Most Emerging Markets to Withstand Global Trade Shocks

India is more resilient than many other emerging markets in facing the impact of U.S. tariffs and global trade disruptions, according to a report released by Moody's Ratings on Wednesday. The agency pointed to India's strong domestic growth drivers and relatively low reliance on goods exports as key reasons for this resilience.

The report emphasized that government-led initiatives—such as stimulating private consumption, expanding manufacturing capabilities, and boosting infrastructure investment—will play a significant role in shielding the Indian economy from softening global demand. These domestic strengths are expected to cushion the economy, even as global trade becomes more uncertain.

Moody's also noted that easing inflationary pressures could pave the way for interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India, offering further support to economic activity. Additionally, healthy liquidity in the banking sector continues to facilitate credit growth, another positive factor contributing to India's robust economic foundation.

“India's large domestic economy and its relatively limited dependence on global goods trade place it in a better position to absorb external shocks,” Moody's stated.

While the report acknowledged some exposure to global volatility—particularly for export-oriented sectors like automobiles—it pointed out that India's diversified service sector and domestic consumption-driven economy remain strong buffers.



On geopolitical risks, Moody's observed that recent tensions between India and Pakistan are likely to impact Pakistan more significantly. The report highlighted that major Indian economic hubs are geographically distant from conflict zones and that economic ties between the two nations are minimal. However, the agency warned that a prolonged military standoff could lead to increased defense spending by India, which may hinder fiscal consolidation efforts and strain public finances.

Earlier this month, Moody's downgraded India's GDP growth projection for 2025 to 6.3% from the earlier estimate of 6.7%. Despite the downward revision, India is still projected to be the fastest-growing economy among G20 nations.

Moody's also touched on the U.S. decision to impose new tariffs—though implementation has been temporarily paused for 90 days. While base tariff levels remain at 10%, sectors such as steel and aluminium continue to be subject to higher duties.

Tourists Discover 598 Gold Coins in Czech Forest – Here’s What Happened Next

What began as a peaceful hike in the Krkonoše Mountains of northern Czech Republic turned into a real-life treasure hunt for two anonymous tourists. While walking through the lush forest, they stumbled upon a partially buried aluminium box among the stones. Curiosity led them to open it—and what they found inside has since captured global attention.

The box contained a breathtaking treasure trove:

- 598 gold coins
- 10 gold bracelets
- 17 sealed cigar boxes
- A vintage powder compact
- An ornate comb

Weighing about 3.7 kilograms (8 pounds), the gold coins alone are estimated to be worth over 80 lakh Czech Koruna (approximately ₹3 crore or USD 340,000). Even more intriguing are the 17 sealed cigar boxes, whose contents are yet to be examined, deepening the mystery surrounding the find.

Instead of keeping the treasure, the tourists acted responsibly and handed it over to the East Bohemia Museum in Hradec Králové. According to Miroslav Novák, the head of the museum’s archaeological department, the pair arrived without notice and presented the discovery, prompting an immediate investigation by experts.

Initial analysis reveals that the coins date back as far as 1921, with origins split between France



and the Balkan region, including coins from the former Yugoslavia. Historians believe the treasure might have been hidden during the interwar period or near the end of World War II, possibly as an act of protection during political unrest.

Speculation is rife in the region. Some locals suggest the hoard could have belonged to the aristocratic Svirts-Shpork family of the Kuks Estate. Others believe it may have been stashed by Czechoslovak soldiers during wartime.

Under Czech law, the treasure now belongs to the local administration, but the tourists are entitled to a reward based on the treasure’s value.

As archaeologists continue their investigation—especially into the mysterious sealed cigar boxes—this remarkable find serves as a reminder that history often lies just beneath our feet, waiting to be uncovered.

Airport Scanner Refused To Recognise This Make-Up Lover Forced to Remove Makeup

A Chinese woman recently found herself in an awkward and unexpected situation at an airport when her heavy makeup caused a facial recognition scanner to reject her identity. The incident, which took place at Shanghai Airport, has resurfaced online, drawing attention and sparking debate across social media.

The video, which has now gone viral, shows airport officials instructing the woman to remove all her makeup using wet wipes. She had reportedly arrived wearing bridal-style makeup, complete with contouring, false lashes, and a full glam look, which failed to match her passport photo. As a result, the airport’s biometric verification system flagged her, causing a delay and prompting immediate intervention by the staff.

In the clip, one of the officials is heard sternly telling the woman, “Clean all the makeup until you look like your passport photo. Why did you wear such heavy makeup? You’ve invited trouble.” The tone and the situation sparked a mix of reactions online, with some sympathizing with the woman and others agreeing with the security protocol.

The incident initially occurred in September of last year, but the footage resurfaced only recently, gaining fresh traction across Chinese platforms and being reported by global outlets such as Oddity Central.

Facial recognition systems are increasingly being used in airports around the world to speed



up identity verification. However, the technology still faces limitations—especially when it comes to drastic changes in facial appearance due to makeup, cosmetic procedures, or aging.

While many viewers found the video amusing, others highlighted concerns about privacy, over-reliance on facial recognition, and the need for better manual backup options at critical security points like airports.

The incident also touched on broader cultural topics—such as beauty standards, the societal pressure on women to maintain a certain appearance, and the fine line between personal expression and practical inconvenience in public systems.

Though embarrassing, the woman complied with the request, eventually boarding her flight after matching her face with her official ID. The story serves as a reminder that in the age of biometric security, your digital twin needs to look just like you—makeup or not.

Viral Video Shows A Day in the Life of a Matcha Farmer in Japan, Wins Hearts Online

Matcha has become a global sensation, appearing in everything from lattes and smoothies to cakes and skincare. But behind the vibrant green powder lies a meticulous and labor-intensive farming process that few have seen—until now.

A heartwarming reel shared by Instagram user Max (@matchabae) offers a rare glimpse into the daily life of a matcha farmer in Japan. The video has gone viral, garnering widespread appreciation for its simplicity, authenticity, and the effort it showcases behind the matcha we so often enjoy.

The video begins at 6:30 am, as Max starts his day. After slipping on his footwear, he heads into the kitchen



with his laptop and prepares breakfast around 7 am. His morning meal

is wholesome and modest, featuring a bowl of yoghurt with cereal,

banana, and a few additional ingredients—a nourishing start before a long day on the farm.

By 8 am, Max is on the move. He loads his truck with large black mats—special coverings used to shade the tea plants. This shading process is crucial in matcha farming, as it increases chlorophyll production and enhances the flavor of the leaves.

Once at the farm, the reel shows Max and fellow workers carefully rolling out the coverings over rows of lush green tea plants. The process is surprisingly detailed. Battling strong winds that keep lifting the mats, Max remarks, “The wind has been so insane. They keep getting pulled up.” He demonstrates how the coverings

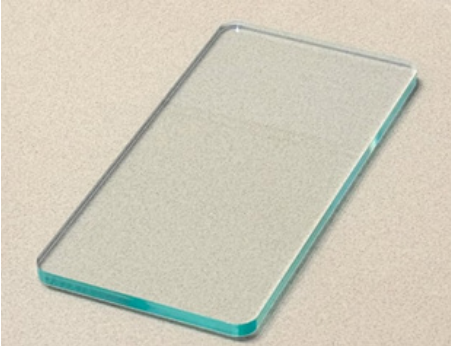
must be tied “three times around the branches” to hold them securely in place.

The serene visuals of the farm, combined with Max’s calm narration and dedication, have captivated viewers worldwide. The reel offers a touching reminder of the craftsmanship and care that go into producing even the simplest ingredients in our daily lives.

Social media users have flooded the comments with praise, expressing newfound respect for matcha farmers and gratitude for this intimate look at their world. The video is a quiet tribute to slow living, hard work, and nature’s rhythm—one that continues to resonate with thousands.

No Apps, No Notifications: US Startup’s ‘Fake’ Phone Goes Viral as a Cure for Screen Addiction

In an age where digital overload is increasingly linked to anxiety and reduced attention spans, a US-based startup has taken an unconventional approach to tackle phone addiction — by creating a phone that doesn’t actually do anything.



Enter the Methaphone, a minimalist, screenless device designed to replicate the shape, weight, and feel of a smartphone, but with zero functionality. Priced at just \$20, this “fake” phone features a smooth, transparent acrylic surface, allowing users to mimic the scrolling motion so familiar in daily life—without accessing any content or notifications.

The Methaphone gained widespread attention after a TikTok video went viral, showing a woman scrolling on what appeared to be a futuristic transparent phone. Speculation erupted online, with some users calling it a new “Nokia glass phone.” It was later revealed that the object was actually a Methaphone — a psychological tool aimed at helping people break their compulsive phone habits.

Made from durable clear acrylic, the Methaphone is shaped like a modern smartphone and offers a tactile experience that mirrors

the feel of real devices. It’s designed for people who often reach for their phones out of habit or boredom, rather than necessity.

“When the urge strikes to pick up your phone and scroll aimlessly, the Methaphone offers a similar physical sensation without the distraction,” the company said in a statement. “It’s a way to become conscious of your screen time without going cold turkey.”

The idea is based on the principle of substitution therapy—redirecting habitual behavior to a non-disruptive alternative. By replacing real phones with Methaphones during moments of mindless scrolling, users can become more aware of their digital consumption and begin reducing it gradually.

The product has sparked a mix of curiosity, praise, and skepticism online. While some call it a clever mental health tool, others view it as a commentary on how deeply ingrained our tech habits have become.

Still, in a world where constant connectivity is the norm, the Methaphone offers a refreshingly low-tech response — no apps, no alerts, just mindful mimicry.

FaceAge: The AI Tool That Measures Your Health from a Selfie

A groundbreaking AI tool called FaceAge is making waves in the medical community by promising to assess a person’s health simply from a photograph. Developed by researchers at Mass General Brigham, a leading nonprofit healthcare system based in Boston, FaceAge uses deep learning algorithms to analyze facial features and predict a patient’s “biological health age” rather than just their chronological age.

FaceAge is inspired by the traditional “eyeball test” used by physicians—an intuitive, quick judgment about a patient’s health based on appearance. However, while human doctors might rely on subjective experience, FaceAge uses large datasets and AI to deliver a more standardized, objective measurement. According to the research team, this system evaluates visible facial cues such as skin texture, muscle tone, and other subtle features to estimate how “aged” a person appears in terms of overall health.

The goal is not to tell you how many birthdays you’ve had, but rather how your body is aging biologically. This distinction matters: two people aged 50 chronologically might differ significantly in biological age depending on factors like lifestyle, disease, and genetics. A person with a biological age of 60 may be at higher health risk than someone whose biological age is closer to 40.

Published in The Lancet Digital Health on May



8, 2025, the study highlights how FaceAge could help doctors make faster, data-driven decisions, especially in emergency and critical care settings. Early results suggest that FaceAge’s assessments correlate with health outcomes and mortality risk more accurately than some traditional methods.

That said, the researchers caution that FaceAge is still in the experimental phase and not ready for clinical deployment. More testing across diverse populations and environments is needed before it can become a trusted tool in hospitals or clinics.

Still, the potential is immense. In a future shaped by AI, FaceAge could help personalize treatments, monitor aging, and even catch health issues before symptoms appear—all from a single selfie.

Kidambi Srikanth Enters Main Draw of Malaysia Masters, Other Indians Fall in Qualifiers

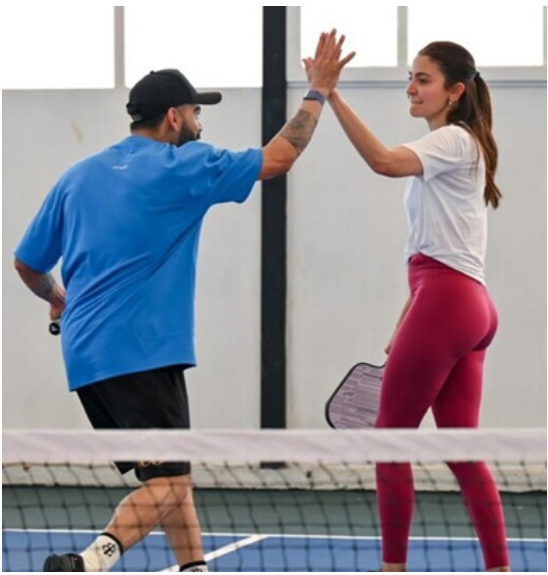
Veteran Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the main draw of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament with two convincing wins in the qualification rounds on Tuesday. However, it was a disappointing day overall for Indian badminton, as none of the other singles or doubles players managed to progress beyond the qualifiers. Srikanth, a silver medallist at the 2021 World Championships and former world No. 1, showed signs of a strong comeback. After a slow start in his second qualifying match, he bounced back impressively to defeat Huang Yu Kai of Chinese Taipei 9-21, 21-12, 21-6. Earlier in the day, the 32-year-old had made light work of another Taipei shuttler, Kuo Kuan Lin, winning 21-8, 21-13 in straight games. Srikanth will now face a tough test in the main draw as he goes up against sixth-seeded Chinese player Lu Guang Zu in the opening round. Lu is known for his aggressive style of play and has consistently been among the top-ranked Chinese singles players in recent years.



Meanwhile, the rest of the Indian contingent had a forgettable outing in the qualifying rounds. Tharun Manne palli narrowly lost to Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul in straight but closely contested games, 13-21, 21-23. S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian also fought hard but went down 20-22, 20-22 to China's Zhu Xuan Chen. In women's singles, young Indian prospect Anmol Kharb, a key member of India's historic Asian Team gold medal-winning squad last year, failed to advance as she lost 14-21, 18-21 to Hung Yi-Ting of Chinese Taipei. The mixed doubles pair of Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan were also unable to make it past the qualifiers, falling 15-21, 16-21 to the Malaysian duo of Ming Yap Too and Lee Yu Shan. Top Indian stars PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy are scheduled to begin their campaigns in the main draw of the \$475,000 tournament on Wednesday, with hopes resting on their performances to bring glory for India in Kuala Lumpur.

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma Team Up for Pickleball at RCB Camp

India's cricket star Virat Kohli and his wife, Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, have added a fun twist to their time at the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) camp by teaming up for a session of pickleball. With Virat now retired from T20Is and Tests, he has more time to explore new activities, and pickleball seems to be one he's enjoying alongside Anushka. The couple joined forces for a light-hearted match, which was also joined by RCB mentor Dinesh Karthik and his wife, professional squash player Deepika Pallikal, making it a spirited session of the popular sport.



RCB shared the exciting moment on Instagram, highlighting how the pickleball trend has caught on within their squad. Kohli, who has been in top form during the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL), is also using his downtime to explore hobbies with his wife.

Recently, the couple has been enjoying spiritual journeys, including a visit to the holy town of Vrindavan, where they met Sant Premanand Govind Sharan and sought his blessings. Their trip went

viral on social media, reflecting their deep spiritual bond. The couple has frequently visited temples, including the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain and the Neem Karoli Baba Ashram in Uttarakhand.

Virat's decision to retire from Test cricket was a major moment in his career, as he bid farewell to the format after a remarkable 14-year journey. His Test career included an impressive 9,230 runs in 123 matches, with 30 centuries and 31 fifties. Kohli's aggressive leadership and iconic batting played a pivotal role in India's rise as a dominant Test team.

As Kohli transitions into new chapters of life, it's clear that he's making the most of his time with family, exploring hobbies like pickleball, and staying engaged in spiritual practices with Anushka by his side.

India's Star Javelin Thrower At Olympics Fails Dope Test, May Be Banned

Indian javelin thrower Shivpal Singh, who represented the country at the Tokyo Olympics, has once again found himself embroiled in a doping scandal. Sources have revealed that Shivpal has been provisionally suspended after traces of methandienone, a banned anabolic steroid, were found in his sample during an out-of-competition test conducted earlier this year. Shivpal, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, was training at the National Centre of Excellence in Patiala under the guidance of India's javelin coach Sergey Makarov when the test was conducted. Following the test, he notably did not participate in the National Federation Senior Athletics Championships held in Kochi in April, raising early questions about his absence. This is not Shivpal's first brush with anti-doping regulations. In October 2021, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) suspended him for four years after methandienone was detected in his sample. However, in January 2023, the ban was reduced to one year following a successful appeal



by his legal representative, Parth Goswami. The appeal was based on Shivpal's claim that the positive result stemmed from a contaminated supplement, the name of which he had disclosed during the doping

control process. Despite having already served a suspension, this latest development places the 28-year-old athlete in serious jeopardy. Under current anti-doping rules, a second offence carries a much harsher penalty—Shivpal could now face an eight-year ban if found guilty. That outcome could effectively end his professional athletics career. Shivpal's case is particularly disheartening given his position as one of India's few Olympic-level javelin throwers. At the Tokyo Games, he finished 27th in the qualifying round. Though he has never reached the heights of Neeraj Chopra, India's Olympic gold medallist, Shivpal was seen as a strong national contender in the sport. The recurrence of methandienone in his samples raises significant concerns about either negligence or intent, both of which will be closely examined by NADA during the ongoing investigation. As of now, Shivpal awaits a final ruling, and the future of his athletic career hangs in the balance.

Jasprit Bumrah Emerges as Top Choice to Lead India in England Tests

With India set to tour England for a challenging five-Test series, the debate over team leadership has intensified. Amid uncertainties surrounding captaincy and player fitness, former national selectors MSK Prasad, Devang Gandhi, and Jatin Paranjpe have unanimously endorsed Jasprit Bumrah as the ideal captain—despite lingering concerns over his fitness. Bumrah, who previously led India briefly in Tests, is seen as a proven leader with the temperament suited for England's demanding conditions.

While the trio agreed on Bumrah's leadership, they differed on the vice-captain. Prasad backed Shubman Gill for the role, citing the need to groom future leaders. Gandhi and Paranjpe, however, showed strong support for Rishabh Pant, praising his overseas Test performances, especially in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia) countries.

Mohammed Shami also emerged as a key talking point. Despite a lackluster IPL 2025 season, all selectors emphasized that Shami's Test pedigree makes him indispensable. "IPL performance is not the yardstick for Test selection," Gandhi noted, while highlighting Shami's preparations with the red Dukes ball.

On squad composition, all former selectors agreed on including at least six specialist pacers due to the physically demanding nature of a five-match series in England. Arshdeep Singh featured in all line-ups as a left-arm swing option, while Prasidh Krishna



and Mohammed Siraj were also consistent picks.

The squads also saw young talents like Nitish Reddy, Dhruv Jurel, and Sai Sudharsan being backed, with selectors emphasizing the need for freshness and adaptability. Interestingly, Jatin Paranjpe included Sarfaraz Khan and Shardul Thakur as batting all-rounders, while Gagan Khoda proposed KL Rahul as captain and included Karun Nair as an extra batter.

Selectors emphasized a balance between youth and experience, pointing to names like Jadeja, Rahul, and Pant to hold the batting core. While official announcements are yet to be made, this consensus among former selectors could influence the BCCI's final squad for what promises to be one of the most intense Test series in recent years.

Thailand, Nepal Qualify for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Global Qualifier

Thailand and Nepal have officially booked their places in the Global Qualifier for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, following strong performances in the Asia Regional Qualifier's Super Three stage. Alongside the UAE, both teams competed in a round-robin format, with the top two sides earning spots in the next round of qualification.

Nepal sealed their progression on Monday with a nail-biting five-wicket win over the UAE in Bangkok. Chasing 115, Nepal paced their innings carefully, reaching the target in the final over. Key contributions came from skipper Indu Barma (30) and Rubina Chhetry (23), while Manisha Upadhyay impressed with the ball, claiming 4/20 to restrict the UAE to 114/7 in 20 overs.

Nepal's disciplined bowling attack never allowed the UAE to build momentum, despite a steady 39 from opener Esha Oza. Tight fielding and consistent pressure meant the Emirati side fell short of a defendable total on a decent batting surface.

Thailand, on the other hand, had already confirmed their spot with a dominant victory over the UAE in an earlier Super Three clash. Led by Naruemo Chaiwai, Thailand posted 144/5 thanks to a dynamic 46* off just 20 balls by Natthakan Chantham and a steady 49 from Nattaya Boochatham. The UAE faltered in their chase after the early loss of Oza and finished at 90/5, never truly threatening the target.

With one Super Three fixture remaining—Thailand vs Nepal—both teams are now uncatchable at the top of the standings, confirming their advancement.



Thailand and Nepal will join Bangladesh, Scotland, and the USA at the Global Qualifier. Bangladesh and Scotland earned automatic entries due to their participation in the last ICC Women's T20 World Cup, while the USA secured their place through the Americas Qualifier held in Argentina in March.

Additional teams will qualify via the upcoming Europe and Africa regional tournaments, each offering two spots. One final team will qualify through the East Asia-Pacific region.

The Global Qualifier will determine the final four spots for the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales, joining the already qualified Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa, West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and host nation England.



Asura Hananam from Hari Hara Veera Mallu

A Powerful Track That Falls Short of Anthem Expectations

Asura Hananam, the latest single from Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited film Hari Hara Veera Mallu, has finally been released, stirring mixed reactions among fans. Dropped as the third track in the film's musical lineup, this song arrives with high expectations—especially as buzz around the movie intensifies ahead of its release in five languages.

Pawan Kalyan has been actively promoting the film and recently met with music maestro MM Keeravaani, a moment that went viral online. The release of Asura Hananam was timed to follow that buzz, further building anticipation. However, the song hasn't quite hit the mark fans were hoping for.

Many expected a high-energy mass anthem to match Pawan Kalyan's heroic screen presence. Instead, Asura Hananam leans more towards a cinematic background score, meant to heighten the emotion and intensity of a battle sequence. It carries the essence of war and struggle, with powerful lyrical content, but lacks the pulsating beat and catchy hook that fans associate with a blockbuster lead single.

The composition begins with Sanskrit verses, setting a mythic tone, before transitioning into emotionally charged Telugu lyrics. The



vocals, delivered by Airaa Udupi, Kaala Bhairava, Sai Charan Bhaskaruni, Lokeshwar Edara, and Hymath Mohammed, are commanding and atmospheric. Rambabu Gosala's lyrics are rich in symbolism and battle imagery, adding depth to the narrative of the song.

Though the audio might not deliver the mass punch fans hoped for, the full impact may be realized once the song is paired with visuals featuring Pawan Kalyan. As with many cinematic songs, the combination of music, action, and performance could elevate its appeal dramatically.

Directed by Krish Jagarlamudi and Jyothi Krishna, with AM Ratnam producing, Hari Hara Veera Mallu also stars Nidhhi Agerwal as the female lead. The film is slated for release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam, aiming for a pan-India impact.

For now, Asura Hananam stands as a strong thematic piece—but the true verdict awaits its on-screen debut.

Will 'Rana Naidu' Season 2 Keep Its Promise to Fans?

Netflix has officially announced the release date for Rana Naidu Season 2, set to premiere on June 13. The streaming giant dropped a bold teaser with the tagline, "Jab baat parivaar ki ho, Rana harr line cross karega," promising another intense chapter in the gritty family-crime saga. But with the new season on the horizon, a big question looms—will the series keep its promise to tone things down?

When Season 1 debuted two years ago, Rana Naidu drew significant attention not just for its gripping storyline but also for its controversial content. Many viewers, especially in the South Indian fan base, were caught off guard by the raw and explicit nature of the show. Bold scenes, vulgar language, and a heavy dose of adult content sparked backlash from fans who were expecting a more traditional crime drama.

The criticism was particularly strong from fans of veteran actor Venkatesh Daggubati, who plays a central role in the series. Known for his clean image in Telugu cinema, Venky's involvement in such a bold project surprised many. In response to the backlash, Venkatesh reportedly assured his fan base that the upcoming season would scale back on the explicit content and avoid the kind of abusive language that marred the first season for some viewers.

This pledge has raised expectations—and skepticism. As the premiere date nears, fans are wondering whether Rana Naidu Season 2 will truly shift gears while retaining the intense, emotional drama that made it binge-worthy. With Rana Daggubati reprising



ing the titular role, viewers can expect high-stakes action and family drama, but they're also hoping for a more balanced tone that resonates better with regional audiences.

Rana Naidu is the Indian adaptation of the American series Ray Donovan and features a blend of Bollywood and Tollywood talent. While Season 1 was lauded for its performances and sleek production values, critics pointed out that certain themes felt forced or out of place in the Indian context.

Season 2 now carries the burden of living up to its promise—and winning back disillusioned fans.

Mohanlal's Birthday Surprise: His Powerful Kirata Look Boosts Hype for Kannappa

On the occasion of legendary actor Mohanlal's birthday, the makers of Kannappa delivered a thrilling treat for fans. A special video featuring Mohanlal in his role as Kirata has been released, instantly igniting buzz around the film. The visuals of the Mollywood superstar descending from the hills with his army, armed with a bow and dressed in a fierce warrior avatar, have captivated audiences and significantly heightened anticipation for the mythological epic.

Mohanlal's role as Kirata is expected to be a key turning point in the narrative, and director Mukesh Kumar Singh has hinted that this character will play a vital and impactful part in the storyline. With this latest glimpse, the hype surrounding Kannappa has reached a new high, especially among fans eager to see the South Indian icon take on such a powerful role.

Tollywood actor Manchu Vishnu leads the film in the titular role of Kannappa. The project has already attracted attention with its first-look posters and teaser, both of which went viral across social media platforms. The film blends elements of devotion, myth, and grandeur, aiming to be a major cinematic spectacle.

The film boasts a stellar cast alongside Mohanlal and Manchu Vishnu. It features veteran actor Mohan Babu, pan-India superstar Prabhas, Nayanthara, Madhubala, Sarathkumar, Shivarajkumar, and Aishwarya in pivotal roles. This ensemble

ble of powerhouse performers is expected to bring a multi-layered richness to the narrative.

Music is being composed by the celebrated duo Melody Brahma Mani Sharma and Stephen Devasi, who are providing both the songs and the background score. With such a rich musical team, audiences can expect a powerful and emotionally resonant soundtrack that complements the grandeur of the story.



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Produced by 24 Frames Factory and Ava Entertainment, the film's screenplay is penned by Paruchuri Gopalakrishna, Burra Sai Madhav, and Thota Prasad. As excitement builds, Mohanlal's birthday reveal serves as a perfect promotional moment, setting the stage for Kannappa to become one of the most talked-about mythological films of the year.

Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning

Tom Cruise Wore '125 Pound' Diving Suit For Underwater Sequence

Hollywood icon Tom Cruise has long been celebrated for performing his own death-defying stunts, but for the final chapter of the Mission: Impossible franchise, the actor has taken his physical commitment to a whole new level. As Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning marks the end of the high-octane series, Cruise went all-in to ensure the film delivers a fitting finale. According to a report by Variety, one of the movie's standout action sequences required Cruise to wear a specially designed diving suit that weighed a staggering 125 pounds. The intense underwater scene reportedly pushed the actor to his physical and mental limits. Known for always preferring practical effects over CGI, Cruise trained



extensively for the sequence, focusing on breath control, mobility, and strength conditioning. The heavy suit, designed for deep-sea dives and customized for the film's needs, made movement incredibly difficult, further elevating the danger and complexity of the shoot. "Tom thrives on challenges, and he wanted this scene to be as authentic and thrilling as possible," a crew member

told Variety. "Wearing that suit and performing underwater stunts required a level of discipline and physicality that only a few actors could pull off." This isn't the first time Cruise has pushed boundaries for the Mission: Impossible franchise. Over the years, he's famously clung to the side of a flying plane, scaled the Burj Khalifa, performed high-speed motor-

cycle chases, and completed over 500 skydives — all in the name of cinematic realism.

The Final Reckoning, directed by long-time collaborator Christopher McQuarrie, is expected to be a massive conclusion to the beloved action series. The film will reportedly tie together major storylines and deliver some of the most ambitious stunts yet seen in the franchise.

While plot details are tightly under wraps, Cruise's latest stunt is just one of many reasons fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release. With each installment, the Mission: Impossible series has redefined action cinema — and it seems the final mission will be no exception.

'OMG 3': Akshay and Director Amit Rai Brainstorm Ideas for Next Installment

Film Likely to Roll in 2026

Fans of the popular OMG (Oh My God) franchise have reason to be excited, as actor Akshay Kumar and director Amit Rai are currently developing ideas for the highly anticipated third installment, OMG 3. Following the success of the previous two films, the creative duo is now deep into discussions to shape the next chapter of the satirical drama series. According to sources close to the project, director Amit Rai recently accompanied Akshay Kumar during the shoot of Bhoot Bangla, a horror-comedy directed by Priyadarshan and filmed in Kerala. The shoot also featured actress Wamiqa Gabbi, and a song from the film was completed over three days in scenic locations across the state.

While in Kerala, Amit Rai and Akshay Kumar took time to brainstorm multiple concepts for OMG 3. A source told Pinkvilla, "Amit had sev-



eral storylines in mind for the third part of OMG, and he presented them to Akshay during their time together. They explored different narrative directions and discussed which themes could resonate most with the audience."

The OMG franchise is known for tackling socially relevant issues with a satirical twist. The original OMG:

Oh My God! (2012) focused on blind faith and religious dogma, while OMG 2 (2023) addressed sex education and societal taboos in a bold yet sensitive manner. With both films striking a chord with audiences and critics alike, expectations for the third installment are high.

"The jamming session between Akshay and Amit went really well," the source added. "The next step is for Amit Rai to finalize a compelling script. Once the narrative is locked in, the project is expected to go on floors in the latter half of 2026."

While official details about the plot or cast are yet to be revealed, fans can rest assured that OMG 3 is in active development, with Akshay Kumar and Amit Rai determined to deliver another thought-provoking cinematic experience.