

Kavitha's New Party Kit: Name, Flag & Sentiment Packed!

Flag, symbol, and agenda unveiling at Martyrs' Memorial in June

Bathukamma symbol likely to feature prominently

Buzz of KCR's indirect support

BRS leaders' express anger over internal rift

TPN | V Krishna Kumar

Hyderabad: A new political chapter is unfolding in Telangana as Kalvakuntla Kavitha, former MP and daughter of BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, is preparing to float her own political party. Sources reveal that the party name, flag, symbol, and agenda will be announced in the first week of June, with the historic Martyrs' Memorial as the venue for the announcement. The internal groundwork appears to have been in motion for months. Kavitha's close circles have reportedly registered names such as "Telangana Jana Jagruthi" and "Jana Jagruthi Party", indicating a revival of Telangana sentiment as the party's central theme. The flag is said to be light blue, and the party symbol could be Bathukamma, a powerful cultural icon strongly associated with Kavitha herself. With this development, many leaders have begun meeting Kavitha, promising their support and offering to join her new political endeavor. The party's identity is said to center around symbols like the Telangana map, Orugallu Fort, and Bathukamma, aiming to evoke strong emotional resonance, much like the TRS once did with its pink flag and Ambassador car symbol. Kavitha, who gained popularity through Bathukamma and Telangana cultural revival efforts, is said to have prepared for this move since the TRS transitioned into BRS. Her current strategy is to fill the emotional and symbolic vacuum that she believes led to BRS's electoral decline. However, the move has not gone down well within the BRS camp. Party working president K T Rama Rao (KTR) is reportedly upset over the letter Kavitha wrote and the open surfacing of internal matters. Sources suggest that KCR and KTR even held a meeting to discuss the ramifications, with some leaders demanding disciplinary action against



ping case that has rocked Telangana politics, Prabhakar Rao sought refuge in the US claiming political vendetta, but American authorities declined to accept his argument. This development comes amid growing legal action back in India. The Telangana police had earlier issued summons for Prabhakar Rao to appear before the investigating team by June 20 as part of the ongoing investigation. His continued non-cooperation led the SIT officials to approach the Nampally court, requesting that he be declared a fugitive offender.

Kavitha.

Opposition parties, including the BJP and Congress, have dismissed Kavitha's efforts as a "family drama". They allege that this is another strategy by KCR to split votes, especially among women, by creating the illusion of rivalry. They argue that this is part of a long-term plan to negotiate power-sharing or even a strategic alliance with the BJP, possibly aimed at securing a ministerial berth for Kavitha and helping her escape the legal troubles linked to the Delhi liquor scam. Political observers say that KCR's national ambitions through BRS did not yield results, and Kavitha's arrest in the liquor case further cornered the family politically. Now, with central doors closed, there is speculation that KCR is backing this party silently as a dual-track strategy—either to regain power directly or negotiate from a position of influence. Regardless of the motives, Kavitha's party move has stirred the political waters in Telangana, making her letter and the impending party launch a high-voltage episode in the state's political landscape.



Miss England's Allegations Shake Miss World Event

Govt forms high-level panel as CM's office monitor's probe

- Milla Magee alleges pressure to entertain wealthy sponsors
- Govt forms 3-member probe panel
- Officials questioning other participants, Miss World CEO, Tourism Secy

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana government has launched a high-level investigation into serious allegations made by Miss England, Milla Magee, against the organizers of the Miss World pageant held in Hyderabad. The controversy has taken a sensitive turn as the matter has attracted global attention and is being viewed as one that could affect India's international image. Milla Magee alleged that during her visit to Hyderabad for the Miss World pageant, she was subjected to undue pressure to entertain affluent male sponsors. These claims, published in sections of the English media, have triggered outrage and prompted immediate government action. She reportedly expressed frustration over the conduct of the event, stating, "We came for the pageant, but we don't understand what we came for. What kind of pageant is this?" While she acknowledged the hospitality of Telangana, she criticised the pageant's management severely. Following the episode, Milla Magee

chose to exit the competition midway and returned to her country, a move that further intensified the controversy. Reacting swiftly, the Telangana government constituted a three-member inquiry committee to probe the matter. The panel includes senior IPS officers Shikha Goel and Rama Rajeshwari, along with Cyberabad DCP Saishri. The committee has already commenced the investigation and is recording the statements of other contestants who participated in the pageant. According to sources, the inquiry is being conducted with video documentation wherever required, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of events. The investigating team is verifying the timeline of events, including a specific dinner event that Milla Magee referred to, and is identifying individuals who were around her on that occasion. As the issue is considered sensitive and tied to the country's international image, the Chief Minister's Office is personally monitoring the investigation. The committee has also reached out to Miss World Organization CEO Julia Morley and Telangana Tourism Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan for further details. The government has assured that once the investigation is completed, a full report will be submitted, and appropriate action will be taken if any wrongdoing is found.

Asylum Rejected for Prabhakar Rao



- US denies political refuge, legal pressure mounts in phone tapping case
- Court warns of fugitive tag if he fails to appear by June 20
- Passport cancelled; red corner notice issued by Interpol

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Former Telangana Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) chief T. Prabhakar Rao has suffered a major legal blow in the United States after his plea for political asylum was officially rejected. Facing serious charges in the high-profile phone tapping case that has rocked Telangana politics, Prabhakar Rao sought refuge in the US claiming political vendetta, but American authorities declined to accept his argument. This development comes amid growing legal action back in India. The Telangana police had earlier issued summons for Prabhakar Rao to appear before the investigating team by June 20 as part of the ongoing investigation. His continued non-cooperation led the SIT officials to approach the Nampally court, requesting that he be declared a fugitive offender.

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Revanth Seeks PM's Nod for Metro Phase 2, RRR

- CM urges Centre to approve ₹24,269 cr Metro Phase 2 project
- Requests parallel execution of both RRR corridors



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ACB Issues Fresh Notice to KTR in Formula Race Case



5 PAGE

Corona Cases Cross 1,000 in India ICMR DG Issues Important Guidelines

- No need to panic over new variants, but caution is essential
- Over 1,000 active cases, 750 new infections last week



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Center To Roll Out New Toll Policy

- Rs. 3,000 annual pass allows unlimited toll-free travel
- Rs. 50 per 100 km fixed-rate option for occasional travelers
- FASTag pass system aims to ease toll costs and travel delays



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Central government is preparing to roll out a new toll policy aimed at benefiting regular commuters on national highways. The proposed changes are expected to reduce toll expenses and streamline the experience at toll plazas through the

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Cabinet Expansion on Cards

CM Revanth stays back in Delhi on high command’s instructions

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The long-awaited expansion of the Telangana cabinet is finally gaining momentum. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who was scheduled to return to Hyderabad, has stayed back in Delhi following directions from the Congress high command. His presence in the capital is seen as crucial for finalizing the list of new ministers to be inducted into the cabinet. Revanth Reddy is set to meet Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge today. These meetings are considered pivotal, as their approval is essential before any official announcement of the cabinet expansion.



Last night, Revanth Reddy along with Telangana PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud met AICC general secretary KC Venugopal. During this discussion, significant progress was made regarding the cabinet reshuffle as well as the formation of the PCC executive committee. Sources indicate that names were finalized based on

both community and district representation. It is reported that Revanth Reddy also conveyed the representations and requests made by various MLAs during his meeting with Venugopal. While a tentative list has reportedly been prepared, it will be formally cleared only after consultation with Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjuna Kharge.

Since the formation of the Congress government in Telangana, no cabinet expansion has taken place, resulting in growing impatience among several MLAs awaiting cabinet berths. Presently, six ministerial posts remain unfilled. Notably, districts such as Adilabad, Nizamabad, Ranga Reddy, and Hy-

derabad currently lack any representation in the cabinet. These areas are likely to get representation in this round of expansion. The Congress leadership is expected to make a formal announcement soon after Monday’s high-level meetings.

Transgender Traffic Assistants Prove Successful In Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a landmark move, the Telangana State Government appointed 44 transgender individuals as Traffic Assistants in Hyderabad in December 2024, becoming the first state in India to include transgender persons in government employment. This initiative was launched as a pilot project with a six-month review to assess performance and public feedback.

Today, a review meeting was held at the Secretariat, chaired by Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Water, and Women & Child Welfare, Smt. Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka). The meeting included Hyderabad Police Commissioner Shri C.V. Anand IPS, Secretary Smt. Anitha Ramachandran IAS, officials from the Department for Empowerment of PWDSC & TGP, representatives from transgender NGOs, and the Traffic Assistants themselves.

Smt. Seethakka praised the Traffic Assistants for their exemplary work and widespread public satisfaction. She highlighted that this pioneering step has inspired other states and the central government to consider similar measures. She announced that transgender individuals will be allotted Indiramma housing under the disability quota and that Maitri Clinics will be established in districts to support the community. Further, efforts will be made to create



more government job opportunities for transgender persons.

Secretary Anitha Ramachandran noted the overwhelming positive response to this initiative from across India and stated that plans to recruit transgender individuals in other departments and districts are underway based on the pilot report.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand revealed that the recruitment was completed swiftly within 10 days following Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy’s directive. Presently, 38 transgender Traffic Assistants serve in the Hyderabad Traffic Department, with no complaints recorded in the last six months. He lauded them as role models and emphasized Telangana’s leadership in providing employment to the transgender community. He encouraged them to maintain discipline and offered assistance for private security jobs, promising continued government support.

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Asylum Rejected for Prabhakar Rao

The court has now issued clear directions, warning that failure to appear will result in him being legally declared a proclaimed criminal.

The court’s order empowers police to confiscate Prabhakar Rao’s properties should he fail to respond. Already, notices have been pasted at his residence notifying him of the court directive.

In parallel, the Central Government has cancelled his passport and Interpol has issued a red corner notice to facilitate his extradition. Investigating agencies are now working closely with US Homeland Security in a bid to

bring him back to India. According to reports, American authorities have pinpointed his current location.

Analysts note that with the rejection of his asylum plea, Prabhakar Rao’s options to avoid legal proceedings are narrowing rapidly. It is now widely believed that he may be compelled to return to Hyderabad and face the investigation. Officials hope that his interrogation could uncover more critical details in the phone tapping scandal that continues to generate political tremors across the state.

Center To Roll Out New Toll Policy

introduction of two new FASTag-based payment options. According to the upcoming policy, motorists will be given the choice between two toll payment models:

The first option is an annual FASTag pass, where users can pay a one-time fee of Rs. 3,000 per year. This pass will allow unrestricted travel on national highways, expressways, and state expressways throughout the year. It is especially beneficial for daily commuters and long-distance travelers who frequently use the highway network.

The second option offers a fixed-rate toll plan, under which users can pay Rs. 50 for every 100 kilometers of travel. This model

is designed for those who don’t travel daily but still use highways often enough to benefit from predictable toll costs. Significantly, the new system will not require additional documentation for registration, making it easier for motorists to opt in. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is expected to finalize the proposal soon and announce further implementation details. With these changes, the Center aims to bring relief to highway users who often face hassles with repeated FASTag recharges and variable toll costs. The policy is part of the government’s broader initiative to improve road infrastructure and ease of transportation across the country.

Corona Cases Cross 1,000 in India ICMR DG Issues Important Guidelines

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has witnessed a fresh surge in Covid-19 cases, with the total number of active cases crossing the 1,000 mark. States like Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have reported a significant increase in infections over the past week, raising concerns among the public.

In response, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Dr. Rajiv Bahl issued key instructions to the public, emphasizing that there is no need to fear new variants of the coronavirus. However, he stressed that continued vigilance and basic health precautions remain cru-

cial.

Dr. Bahl highlighted that the government and health agencies are closely monitoring the situation. He particularly urged cancer patients and individuals with weakened immune systems to take extra care to avoid contracting the virus.

According to data released by the Union Health Ministry, there are currently 1,009 active Covid-19 cases nationwide, with 750 new infections reported in the last seven days.

The message from health authorities is clear: stay alert, follow preventive measures, and protect those who are most vulnerable.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Meets Rahul Gandhi in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, who is currently on a visit to Delhi, met senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Following the meeting, Mahesh Kumar Goud revealed that the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee’s (TPCC) new executive committee will be announced within a day or two.

Speaking to the media after his meeting, Goud said he specifically requested Rahul Gandhi to ensure adequate representation for Backward Classes (BCs) in the soon-to-be-formed state cabinet. He stated that Rahul responded positively and assured that the final decision on cabinet composition will be made shortly.



Goud further added that the duo discussed several key political and developmental matters concerning Telangana. He also informed that he had briefed Rahul Gandhi on the internal organizational structure of the TPCC, the party’s future strategies, and the ongoing programs being undertaken

in the state, including the ‘Jai Babu - Jai Bhim’ campaign.

The visit marks a crucial step for the Telangana Congress as it looks to strengthen its presence and representation, particularly with a focus on inclusivity in leadership roles.

One Crore Accident Insurance for Electricity Workers

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Monday announced a historic achievement for electricity workers, as accident insurance worth over one crore rupees was provided to them for the first time in the country. The event took place at Praja Bhavan, where the Deputy CM handed over a cheque of one crore rupees as accident insurance compensation to the family of Jogun Naresh, an electricity worker who lost his life while on duty under NPDCL. Alongside, a compassionate appointment letter was given to Naresh’s wife, Ramesh Shrimati, in the Electricity Department.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu highlighted that such a significant accident insurance benefit was made possible only under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Indiramma government. He emphasized that no previous administration had prioritized

the welfare of workers in such a substantial manner. “This is a reflection of the government’s vision, action, and humane approach towards workers,” he said.

Recalling the origins of the accident insurance scheme, the Deputy CM noted that it was initially launched for Singareni employees and later extended to the electricity department workers. The provision of insurance worth more than one crore rupees provides a new level of security for electricity workers, he added. He urged all electricity employees to continue serving the people of Andhra Pradesh with dedication and commitment. Deputy CM Bhatti also congratulated NPDCL CMD Varun Reddy for effectively implementing the government’s vision.

The event was attended by government advisor Vem Narender Reddy and senior officials from the electricity and banking sectors.

Aadhaar e-Signature Introduced in Armur, Kusumanchi SRO Offices

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has directed the swift implementation of Aadhaar e-signature in the Sub-Registrar offices of Armur in Nizamabad district and Kusumanchi in Khammam district. This move aims to streamline the registration process, making it corruption-free, transparent, and time-saving.

Speaking on Monday at his Secretariat office while reviewing the slot booking system and postings of additional registrars, the Minister said the Aadhaar e-signature system will en-

able registration to be completed within 10 to 15 minutes. He emphasized the importance of taking prior technical precautions before rolling out the slot booking system statewide starting June 2.

To reduce workload, additional Sub-Registrar Officers (SROs) have been appointed in the offices of Pathancheruvu, Yadagiri Gutta, Gandipet, Suryapet, Jadcharla, Mahabubnagar, Vanaparathi, and Gadwal.

Minister Ponguleti urged officials to provide efficient services to the public and uphold the government’s reputation by eliminating corruption in the registration process.

Weather Cools Down Across Telangana With Monsoon Showers

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

With the arrival of the southwest monsoon, Telangana has witnessed a sudden drop in temperatures, bringing much-needed relief to people reeling under intense heat. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed that rains are falling under the influence of a surface trough and are expected to continue across many parts of the state.

According to the IMD, rain is likely to continue till 7 PM today in districts including Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Medak, Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Mal-



kajgiri, Siddipet, Rajanna Sircilla, Jagtial, Kumaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Peddapalli and Karimnagar. Authorities have advised citizens and especially farmers to stay alert during this weather activity.

In Hyderabad, heavy rain lashed several localities such as Jubilee Hills,

Banjara Hills, SR Nagar, Lingampalli, Gachibowli, and Rayadurgam. The downpour led to waterlogging in several low-lying areas, severely affecting traffic flow on key roads. Motorists faced long delays and inconvenience as several junctions in the city experienced gridlock due to the sudden spell of rain.

While the showers have brought some respite from soaring temperatures, they have also highlighted the need for better rainwater drainage systems in urban areas, especially Hyderabad. The IMD continues to monitor the situation and may update its forecast based on evolving conditions.

KTR Slams Congress, Hits Out at Rebel MLAs



- **Calls Abhayastam manifesto a century's biggest fraud**
- **KTR criticizes Congress manifesto, calls it a massive fraud**
- **Says Revanth Reddy's rule is driven by threats and bribes**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, branding its Abhaya-hastam manifesto as the “biggest fraud of the century.” Speaking at a meeting in Hyderabad where BJP and Congress workers from Gad-wala constituency formally joined the BRS, KTR made sharp political comments targeting the ruling party and defected MLAs. Taking strong exception to the defection of 10 BRS MLAs, KTR expressed outrage, remarking that such betrayal is unpardonable and should be met with extreme condemnation. He criticized the current Congress-led government un-

der Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that its governance model operates on “sticks, donations, and threats.” KTR accused the Congress government of being afraid to face the people in elections and said this fear is reflected in their hesitancy to hold polls or accept public judgment. He alleged that despite lofty promises, the Congress has failed to deliver on its commitments, leading to public dissatisfaction. He also used the platform to announce that BRS will soon undertake a large-scale membership registration drive across Telangana. He revealed that party committees would be formed at the booth level in June to reorganize and strengthen the party's grassroots presence. KTR concluded his address with confidence, stating that the Congress party's empty promises would soon be exposed, and that the public would rally behind BRS once again.

Congress to Fast-Track Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Project

- Assures Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN Correspondent | Kalwakurthy

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu addressed a public meeting at Khanapuram village in Kalwakurthy constituency, emphasizing the Congress government's commitment to fast-track the completion of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project. Speaking after inaugurating several electricity substations in the region, he assured that funds for land acquisition for pending reservoirs would be released immediately. Bhatti recalled that it was under Congress governments that key irrigation projects such as Jurala, Koilsagar, Net-tempadu, and the Srisaillam Lift were initiated and completed, bringing water to the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. “We are determined to provide water to farmers swiftly,” he said, criticizing the previous KCR-led government for neglecting agricultural and welfare needs. He highlighted that the Congress government is investing ₹70,000 crore on various welfare schemes, including ₹45,000 crore dedicated to farmers. Bhatti criticized the KCR regime for the state's financial woes, saying, “Lakhs of crores were borrowed, leaving a debt burden that costs ₹6,500 crore monthly in interest payments.” He added that this debt constrained development ef-



orts under the former government. The Deputy CM alleged that during KCR's tenure, people lost their right to raise questions and express opinions without fear of arrests. “Now, the people have chosen a government that works for them,” he stated. Bhatti highlighted the government's farmer-centric initiatives, including ₹1,800 crore spent on a bonus scheme providing ₹500 per quintal for fine rice and ₹1,589 crore on crop insurance. The government supplies free electricity to 29 lakh agricultural pump sets, costing ₹11,496 crore annually. Additionally, under schemes like Indiramma Aat-meeya Bharosa and Rythu Bharosa, significant financial support is being given to landless poor and farmers. He criticized the previous government's loan waiver promise, noting that they provided only ₹25,000 in four installments, insufficient even to cov-

er interest. In contrast, the current government has waived ₹22,000 crore in farm loans in just three months. Bhatti also outlined other welfare measures such as monthly pensions costing ₹11,496 crore under the Cheyutha scheme, ₹3,600 crore aid to RTC for free bus travel for women (Mahalakshmi Scheme), free electricity for rural households, enhanced health insurance under Rajiv Aarogyasri, and affordable housing under the Indiramma Housing Scheme with a ₹22,500 crore budget. He mentioned free distribution of fine rice to 90 lakh families, subsidized gas cylinders, and plans to establish 44 Young India Residential Schools with a ₹200 crore budget per school. The government also increased school diet and cosmetic charges to improve children's welfare. Ending his speech, Bhatti asserted, “We will not compromise on Telangana's self-respect. We will make it a model state in India.” He also criticized KCR's leadership, saying, “KCR, your games are over—the people have understood everything.” The event saw participation from local officials and public representatives, marking a renewed focus on development and welfare under the current government.

Etala Rajender's explosive take on Kavitha-KCR fallout



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BJP leader Etala Rajender delivered sensational comments on the strained relationship between Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and his daughter Kavitha, indicating that their political and personal ties are effectively over. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Etala asserted that KCR is a man who, once he forms a negative opinion about someone, never changes it. Etala, who has closely observed KCR over two decades since the Telangana movement, described KCR as a ruler who thinks like an emperor or king. “Once KCR gets a negative opinion about someone, that's it. There is no chance of reconciliation,” Etala said, adding that Kavitha's chances of mending relations with her father are now nil. He elaborated that KCR ruthlessly targets and isolates those he perceives as opposition, regardless of their identity or position. “If he sets his eyes on someone, he will not leave them alone until the end. If needed, he will even trample them,” Etala said. He emphasized that KCR does not forget past differences, making future cooperation impossible. Etala further commented that KCR's political downfall stems from his dictatorial style and habit of using and discarding people, creating rifts even within his own family. Despite this, Etala acknowledged KCR's formidable stature, calling him a “great” leader even in times of crisis. However, he noted that KCR is currently unwilling to accept reality or change his approach. These remarks add fuel to ongoing speculation about deep fissures within the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) family and party dynamics ahead of future political battles.

CM Photo Clash at KTR Camp Office Sparks Tension

Congress-BRS workers clash after Revanth Reddy's portrait broken

TPN Correspondent | Rajanna Siricilla

High tension gripped the Rajanna Siricilla district headquarters after a serious clash broke out between Congress and BRS activists at the MLA camp office of KTR. The confrontation began when Congress leaders attempted to install Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's portrait in the office, citing official protocol. However, the attempt met with strong resistance from BRS ranks. According to reports, the Congress cadre went to the office demanding that the CM's photo be placed prominently, as is customary in government offices. But BRS activists allegedly blocked their efforts, leading to a heated argument. As tempers flared, the verbal exchange



soon escalated into a physical altercation. Amid the commotion, the portrait of CM Revanth Reddy was broken, infuriating the Con-

gress leaders. The destruction of the portrait further intensified the situation. Police personnel stationed nearby intervened and tried to pacify both groups, but the unrest continued. In order to disperse the agitated crowds, the police resorted to a lathicharge. During the action, Siricilla Town CI Krishna sustained a finger injury. Eventually, both groups were forced to vacate the premises, and normalcy was restored under police supervision. The incident has sparked political outrage, with Congress condemning the act as disrespectful to the office of the Chief Minister, while BRS supporters argue that political decorum was violated by storming the office without permission.

Telangana BC Congress Leaders Meet Rahul Gandhi in Delhi



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BC leaders of the Telangana Congress Party met senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Delhi to express their appreciation for his consistent stand and advocacy on the caste census. The meeting served as both a gesture of gratitude and a strategic discussion on the implementation and benefits of the ongoing caste census initiatives. Telangana State Minister and senior Congress leader Ponnamm Prabhakar gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the state's progress in conducting the caste census. He explained the steps being taken by the state government to ensure a comprehensive and transparent enumeration process, aimed at delivering justice and equitable resource distribution to backward communities. Several prominent BC leaders from the Telangana Congress participated in the meeting. They highlighted the historical neglect faced by BCs and emphasized how the caste census would play a crucial role in policy formulation, welfare schemes, and political representation. The leaders expressed confidence that the Congress party's initiative would empower marginalized communities and pave the way for inclusive governance. Rahul Gandhi, who has been vocal on the issue at the national level, was reportedly encouraged by the Telangana government's efforts and reiterated the Congress party's commitment to social justice through scientific and data-based policies.

Revanth Reddy Is a Puppet in Chandrababu's Hands: Jagadish Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Suryapet

Former minister and Suryapet MLA Jagadish Reddy launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, branding him a puppet in the hands of TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu and accusing him of acting under the pressure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the media during his visit to the IKP procurement center in Aepur village of Atmakur (S) mandal, Reddy alleged that the Congress government is allowing the looting of Telangana's resources and failing its farmers. “Revanth Reddy is kneeling at Modi's feet out of fear of cases, while ministers are dancing to Chandrababu's tunes for commissions,” he claimed. He further accused the BJP, TDP, and Congress of conspiring to divert Telangana's river waters to Andhra Pradesh. “The Krishna River has already been looted. Now, efforts are underway to divert Godavari waters through Banakacharla. Revanth is losing sleep but doing nothing to stop it,” he said. Reddy asserted that injustice to Telangana would not be tolerated and hinted at another people's movement under the leadership of former CM KCR. “If you cannot govern properly, resign and apologize to the people,” he said, warning the Congress leadership. Inspecting the procurement center,



Jagadish Reddy expressed anger over the delay in paddy purchase, pointing out that the grains have been soaked and sprouted after lying unsold for over 60 days. He said it was shameful that farmers, who should be ploughing their lands, were instead forced to stand guard over their unsold grain heaps. “Even the harvested grain is not being bought and is being manipulated by millers. Farmers are waiting for lorries for days. This government is committing grave injustice to farmers and all other sectors. Every grain at IKP centers must be procured without further delay,” Reddy demanded. He held the Congress government directly responsible for the plight of farmers and accused it of ignoring their struggles. His remarks come amid growing criticism over procurement delays and alleged mishandling of inter-state water issues.

Historic Meeting at Telangana Secretariat

Panchayat Secretaries Thank Minister Seethakka
Minister Seethakka Addresses Panchayat Issues

First Ever Panchayat Secretaries Meet Held

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a historic event at the Telangana Secretariat, Panchayat Secretaries expressed their gratitude to Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Dr. Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka for convening the first-ever meeting with them since the formation of Telangana. The Telangana Panchayat Secretaries Federation executive committee, representing nearly ten thousand Panchayat Secretaries across the state, met the

minister to discuss their ongoing concerns. The meeting was also attended by Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Secretary Lokesh Kumar and Director Srujan. During the discussion, Minister Seethakka assured the federation members that she is committed to addressing and resolving the pending issues faced by Panchayat Secretaries. “Our government is committed and positive about solving the problems faced by Panchayat Secre-

taries,” the Minister stated. She acknowledged that many challenges arose due to policies adopted by the previous government, which imposed conditions on Panchayat Secretary appointments that were not extended to other employees. Minister Seethakka highlighted that when Panchayat Secretaries were recruited in 2019, their probation period was initially set for three years, later extended by another year, but the effective date has yet to be finalized.

“There are many complexities in your recruitment, but we are working to resolve these without legal obstacles,” she added. She instructed the department’s Secretary, Lokesh Kumar, and Director, Srujan, to prepare a plan addressing the concerns raised by the Federation. “Legal complications have hindered your service since the beginning, but the government is determined to deliver justice,” said Seethakka. “The Collector is the boss of the district, while Panchayat Secretaries are the bosses of the Panchayats. We cannot imagine village Swaraj without you.” She also urged Panchayat Sec-

retaries to expand their roles beyond limited tasks, as village development depends on their efficiency. On ongoing legal matters, Seethakka referenced a court case regarding the proposal to regularize 1,038 outsourced Panchayat Secretaries as junior secretaries and the reinstatement of 98 junior secretaries dismissed under the sports quota. She expressed hope for a favorable verdict and assured job opportunities based on court decisions. Addressing demands for TA and DA for Panchayat Secretaries who travel to mandal centers, Minister Seethakka said the issue would be examined. She



further said the proposal for transfers within the sports category would be studied and decisions taken accordingly.

“If Panchayat Secretaries are happy, villages will thrive. Therefore, I urge you to improve your performance,” she concluded.

Keep surroundings clean, urges Mayor Vijayalakshmi

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi launched the Free Monsoon Sanitation Drive at NBT City, Banjara Hills on Monday, urging residents to keep their surroundings clean. The Mayor emphasized the importance of properly disposing of garbage through clean autos rather than throwing waste outside, warning that improper disposal leads to mosquito breeding and diseases.

She urged people to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness, avoid dumping garbage in open areas lacking bins, and not to throw construction waste on roads. The Mayor highlighted that the GHMC C&D Waste Management Plant can be contacted to remove construction debris safely. She also suggested setting up harvest pits to prevent waterlogging and reiterated that development issues should be kept free of politics.

Noting permissions granted for house construction in several localities of Banjara Hills ward, Mayor Vijayalakshmi advised care to ensure construction waste is not discarded on roads



or drains. Plans to set up anganwadis, community halls, and health centers in the division were announced. She instructed officials to create large harvest pits to prevent black water accumulation on roads and assured regular fogging to prevent mosquito breeding. Additional Commissioner Raghu Prasad said that a pre-sanitation drive will clean Banjara Hills within three to five days and promised seamless attendance for sanitation workers. He added that a similar clean ward initiative will be completed in three days in another division, and 150 wards across Greater Hyderabad

will undergo similar drives. Jalmandali GM Harishankar emphasized public and worker safety during the rainy season, advising against opening red-colored manholes in waterlogged areas and promised full cooperation with GHMC programs. Zonal Commissioner Anurag Jayanthi assured timely measures for garbage management, construction waste disposal, and fogging ahead of early rains, urging residents’ cooperation for a clean ward. Deputy Commissioner Sammayya and other officials participated in the event.

Senior Executive Dies After Partying Suspicious Death Case Registered



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Harshavardhan, a senior executive working in an AC company in Secunderabad, died under mysterious circumstances after a night out with friends. The incident occurred following a party at Kondapur’s Quack Pub, where Harshavardhan and his colleagues celebrated together. After returning to his apartment in Gachibowli, the group continued drinking. In the early hours, Harshavardhan vomited and was rushed by his friends to AIG Hospital. Despite treatment, he succumbed to his condition at the hospital.

Rayadurgam police have registered a case of suspicious death and are actively investigating the matter. Harshavardhan was identified as a resident of Prasad Nagar in Vizianagaram district. His family members have been informed about the tragic incident.

Rs. 1.26 Crore Worth Cannabis and Drugs Destroyed

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Narcotics and cannabis worth Rs. 1.26 crore seized in 102 cases under the Hyderabad excise division were burnt on Monday at nine excise stations as part of a large-scale disposal operation. The items destroyed included 171.34 kg of cannabis, 21.03 kg of cannabis chocolates, 20 kg of kulpi, 320.6 grams of hashish oil, 51 grams of OG Kush, 17.66 grams of MDMA, and 12 grams of cocaine.

Following instructions from Hyderabad Deputy Commissioner K.A.B. Shastri, acting as the Disposal Officer, AES officials N. Srinivasa Rao and A. Mohan Babu, along with officers from excise stations in Ameerpet, Dhoolpet, Golconda, Jubilee Hills, Kacheguda, Malakpet,



Musheerabad, Narayanguda, and Secunderabad, conducted the burning at M/S GJ Multicove Private Limited. The operation signals the excise department’s continued efforts to crack down on illegal drugs and cannabis trafficking in the city.

Ganja, LSD Seized in Raids

STFA teams bust narcotics in Dhoolpet and Ameerpet areas

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In separate operations, the Special Task Force A and B teams carried out anti-drug raids in Dhoolpet and Ameerpet areas of Hyderabad and seized narcotic substances, including ganja and LSD.

STFA A team, acting on a tip-off, raided the residence of Sonia Bai in Dhoolpet and recovered 1.162 kg of ganja. Team leader Anji Reddy confirmed that Sonia Bai was taken into custody. A case has also been registered against Satishpal Singh alias Gidda Satish in connection with the same incident.

Meanwhile, the STFA B team, under the leadership of CI SI Balaraju, conducted a raid in the Ameerpet area and seized 6 LSD busts and 2 LST pills. Two individuals were arrested in this operation and were handed over along with the seized substances to the Ameerpet Excise Station for further investigation.

Officials said that the crackdown was part of ongoing efforts to curb drug circulation and sale in the city’s sensitive zones. Authorities have vowed to continue such operations across Hyderabad.



Four Ganja Peddlers Nabbed in Secunderabad



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a joint operation based on credible intelligence, the Commissioner’s Task Force, North Zone Team, along with Bollaram Police, apprehended four ganja peddlers and seized 3.8 kg of contraband from their possession in Secunderabad. The main accused, Tamata Sanjay alias Tuna, a rowdy sheeter from Marredpally with a criminal history involving 24 cases, was arrested alongside his cousin Tamata Shiva Singh alias Maneesh, a suspect sheeter of Tukaramgate PS. Two others, Jwala Deepanshu Kumar alias Bad Boy, a Zomato delivery boy, and Ravula Naresh alias Chintu, a scrap dealer, were also arrested.

Police first apprehended Deepanshu and Naresh near Mission Model School, Bollaram,

with 2.3 kg of ganja. Their interrogation led to the arrest of Sanjay and Shiva, who were in possession of an additional 1.5 kg of ganja. In total, 3.8 kg of ganja, five mobile phones, and property worth ₹1.75 lakh were seized.

Investigations revealed that the gang procured ganja from Subba Rao of Araku, who remains absconding. The accused had planned to sell the narcotics in Balajinagar, Yapral, Alwal, Bollaram, and Tirumalagiri areas to earn easy money for their extravagant lifestyle. The arrests were made under the supervision of Sri P. Raghavendar, Inspector of Police, with the efforts of SIs P. Gnanadeep, Srinivasulu Dasu, C. Raghavendra Reddy from the North Zone Task Force, and Sri M. Prabhakar, Detective Inspector, Bollaram PS, along with their teams.

Four Held for Selling Rs.1.01 Crore Worth Fake Apple Accessories

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Four accused persons were apprehended by the Commissioner’s Task Force, Central Zone Team along with Abids Police, for illegally procuring and selling duplicate Apple iPhone accessories worth Rs. 1.01 crore. The accused used counterfeit Apple logos and packaging to deceive customers into believing the products were genuine.

The accused, identified as Vikram Singh (30) of Shree Mataji Mobiles, Suresh Kumar Rajpurohit (25) of R.G Mobiles, Natharam Choudary (25) of Rajaram Mobiles, and Mohammad Sarfaraz (24) of Sapna Mobiles, operated their businesses in Jagadish Market under Abids police limits.

On May 25, based on credible information, police conducted simul-

taneous raids on their shops and seized a large quantity of fake Apple accessories including 156 EarPods, 16 Power Banks, 430 Apple logo stickers, 295 adapters with logo, 61 USB cables, 45 batteries, 95 back glass covers, and 1430 silicon back covers. Preliminary inquiries revealed that these fake products were procured from marketing agents based in Mumbai. The accused were arrested and handed over to the SHO of Abids Police Station for further legal action.

Inspector of Police, Central Zone Task Force, along with the Sub-Inspector and staff from the Task Force Central Zone and Abids PS, carried out the operation under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner of Police Y.V.S. Sudheendra.



ACB Issues Fresh Notice to KTR in Formula Race Case

Notice sparks political controversy ahead of KTR’s foreign trip

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has once again issued notices to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President and Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), directing him to appear before them on the 28th in connection with the Formula Race case. Along with KTR, senior leaders Kavitha and Harish Rao strongly reacted on X-Vedika (formerly Twitter), accusing the ACB of

acting on the orders of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to obstruct KTR’s scheduled foreign trip on the 27th. KTR was earlier questioned by the ACB in this case, but after that, the investigation had gone quiet despite speculation about his being called again. The sudden reissue of notices with only two days’ notice has become a hot topic of discussion, fueling speculation about a potential arrest.

There had even been preparations by police to mobilize supporters near KTR’s residence anticipating a possible arrest, but nothing materialized then. KTR had dismissed the case as a form of political extortion. However, the case has resurfaced following permission granted by the Governor to register the case and proceed with action. The case centers around allegations that before the elections,

₹50 crore was transferred by Formula Race Company without the required permissions. While KTR claims the funds were legitimately sent, the authorities contend that the transfer violated rules and constitutes a criminal offense. With the case regaining momentum after a period of inactivity, political observers are closely watching the ACB’s next steps following the issuance of these fresh notices to KTR.



Saraswati Pushkaram Ends Grandly

Sridhar Babu says 30 lakh devotees participated in the spiritual event

TPN Correspondent | Bhupalapalli
The Saraswati Pushkaram, held for the first time at the confluence of Godavari, Pranahita, and Antarahini Saraswati rivers, concluded on a grand note in Bhupalapalli district. Telangana State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, who participated as the chief guest at the closing ceremony on Monday evening, called it a “spiritual and administrative challenge” that was met successfully. Speaking at Saraswati Ghat, Minister Sridhar Babu revealed that approximately 30 lakh devotees took the holy dip over the 12-day festival. He congratulated the district administration for conducting the event smoothly, despite challenges posed by the election code and rain disruptions. “God gave me the opportunity to organize this Pushkaram. I am extremely happy to be part of it,” the minister said. He added that ₹40 crore was sanctioned and utilized to ensure all necessary arrangements were made for devotees. He lauded the leadership of District Collector Rahul Sharma and the support of voluntary organizations in providing fresh drinking water and food to pilgrims. A 17-foot idol of Goddess Saraswati was installed at the venue, and the Saraswati Navratna Mala program held daily became a spiritual highlight. “Such programs have never taken place in Telangana on this scale,” he remarked, adding that the experience has laid the foundation for an even more magnificent Godavari Pushkaram in the future. Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao praised the coordination between departments and the swift action led by Endowment Depart-



ment Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyar. “Despite a short planning window, all departments came together effectively. Their dedication is commendable,” he said, also noting that the light rainfall during the closing signified divine blessings. Shailaja Ramaiyar emphasized that the Sri Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy temple area, once just a small village, was transformed for the Maha Saraswati Pushkaram. She credited five months of planning and the timely release of funds for the successful execution. She noted that the first 12 days mark only the beginning, and devotees can continue to take holy dips throughout the year. Prominent attendees included Nagaphani Sharma, R&B Special Secretary Vikas Raj, Government Whip Adluri Laxman Kumar, MLAs Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, Madan Mohan, Makkan Singh, Trade Promotion Chairman Aita Prakash Reddy, District Collector Rahul Sharma, Endowment Department Director Venkat Rao, and SP Kiran Khare. The event concluded with the devotional Saraswati Navratna Mala Aarti, witnessed by all dignitaries and thousands of devotees.

Four Years of Drainage Woes Haunt Subhash Nagar Locals

TPN Correspondent | Medchal
The people of Subhash Nagar division in Qutubullapur GHMC area are fed up with the four-year-long nightmare caused by an overflowing drainage system near the Ram Leela Maidan Vegetable Market. Despite numerous complaints and even protests, GHMC authorities have failed to address the issue, leaving residents to suffer in silence. The drainage has been leaking consistently for years, creating unbearable conditions for pedestrians, motorists, students, traders, and residents alike. The stagnant water, foul smell, and unhygienic surroundings have turned this busy locality into a health hazard. Locals are forced to cover their noses while passing through, and those working or shopping in the vegetable market are left with no choice but to brave the dirty, sewage-filled roads. Adding to the seriousness, nearby food stalls and business complexes are also affected, raising concerns about public health and



safety. Market vendors complain that the drainage water flowing from various residential houses is damaging their livelihoods and scaring away customers. In the past, school students, vegetable vendors, and pedestrians staged a dharna demanding action, but residents say their pleas have fallen on deaf ears. “This is not a one-day issue. We want a permanent drainage system, not a temporary patchwork,” said a local vendor. The locals are now raising serious questions about the responsibility of GHMC of-



ficials and public representatives. “For four years, why hasn’t even one official taken serious steps to solve this? Why are our elected representatives silent?” asked an angry resident. The core issue, according to residents, is the inadequate drainage system that has failed to keep up with the rapidly increasing population of the area. Unless GHMC acts swiftly to overhaul the infrastructure and put in place a long-term solution, the situation may worsen further, risking the health and safety of thousands.

Revanth Seeks PM’s Nod for Metro Phase 2, RRR

CM urges Centre to approve ₹24,269 cr Metro Phase 2 project Requests parallel execution of both RRR corridors

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expedite approvals for a series of critical infrastructure and industrial projects, including Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase 2, the Regional Ring Road (RRR), and major semiconductor and defence initiatives. The appeals were made on the sidelines of the NITI Aayog meeting held in Delhi on Saturday. **Metro Phase 2 expansion**

The chief minister emphasised the urgent need to expand Hyderabad’s metro network, noting that no progress had been made over the last decade. While Phase 1 of the metro, covering 69 km, was completed at a cost of ₹22,000 crore, the proposed Phase 2 includes five new corridors spanning 76.4 km, with an estimated cost of ₹24,269 crore. The project, structured as a joint venture between the Centre and state, requires ₹4,320 crore from the central government, ₹7,313 crore from the state, and the remaining ₹11,693 crore to be raised through debt. Revanth highlighted that all clarifications sought by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had been submitted following the proposal’s submission on November 4, 2025, and called for immediate cabinet approval. He also pointed out that Chennai and Bengaluru had received support for their metro expansions and asserted that Hyderabad deserved similar consideration. **Regional Ring Road (RRR)** Revanth called for the parallel sanction and execution of both the Northern and Southern corridors of the proposed 340-km Regional Ring Road project encircling Hyderabad. While work on the Northern corridor from Sangareddy to Choutuppal is under-



way, the Southern corridor—from Choutuppal to Sangareddy via Amangal and Shadnagar—awaits clearance. The CM warned that further delay in the Southern section would escalate costs and reduce the utility of the RRR. He reiterated the state’s commitment to sharing 50% of land acquisition costs for both sections. He also proposed a 370-km Regional Ring Railway line to run parallel to the RRR, aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and fostering economic activity. **Support for industrial connectivity** To bolster Telangana’s manufacturing and export sectors, particularly its pharmaceutical industry which contributes 35% of national output, Revanth sought support for a greenfield highway and a dedicated railway line connecting the proposed dry port near Hyderabad to Bandar Port. These initiatives aim to improve freight movement and reduce logistics costs. **Semiconductor and electronics manufacturing** Highlighting Telangana’s readiness to support the India Semiconductor Mission, Revanth requested central approval for a semiconductor fabrication fa-

cility in Hyderabad. He cited the state’s strong ecosystem—comprising R&D hubs such as AMD, Qualcomm, and NVIDIA, and manufacturing by firms like Foxconn and Keynes—as a solid foundation. He stressed that such a project would not only attract global investment but also contribute significantly to India’s target of \$500 billion in electronics production by 2030. **Boosting defence manufacturing** The CM appealed for fast-track approvals for joint ventures and off-set projects in the defence sector and urged that Hyderabad-Bangalore be formally declared a Defence Corridor, placing it on par with corridors in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh. He also proposed Hyderabad as the host for the next DefExpo, India’s flagship defence exhibition. **Policy support for MSMEs** Revanth further sought production-linked incentives and dedicated policy support for defence-focused MSMEs in Telangana. He argued that due to the high capital needs and long gestation periods in defence manufacturing, such incentives are essential for sustaining growth and innovation in the sector.

Strict Action Against Fake Cotton Seeds

Task force teams to inspect dealers, legal action for violations

TPN | N Naveen
Nagarkurnool District Collector Badawat Santosh has directed strict measures against the sale and use of fake BT-3 cotton seeds in the district. Speaking at a coordination meeting with police and agriculture officials on Monday evening at the district integrated conference hall, the Collector emphasized the urgency due to early rainfall and the start of the cotton sowing season. According to Agriculture Department officials, cotton cultivation in Nagarkurnool will cover approximately 2.86 lakh acres this season, requiring 2,865 quintals of cotton seeds. So far, 573 quintals of seeds have been procured. The Collector warned that selling or sowing fake BT-3 cotton seeds



without government permission and selling them above the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) are serious legal offenses. He ordered stringent action against offenders, including im-

prisonment for up to 10 years, registration under the Prevention of Damage Act (PD Act), and filing of criminal cases. The Collector also highlighted the environmental and health risks posed by fake cotton seeds, stating they degrade soil quality, pollute air, and may cause skin cancer from cotton clothes produced using such seeds. On Tuesday, 24 task force teams were assigned to inspect 733 dealer outlets across the district. The teams were instructed to take immediate legal action against dealers selling expired or unauthorized seeds. The Collector advised farmers to purchase only government-approved BT-2 cotton seeds from licensed dealers and called for vigilant monitoring at check posts to prevent illegal seed trade.

The Mysore Sandal Soap Controversy

When Local Pride Clashes with the Pan-India Illusion



The recent controversy surrounding the appointment of Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador for Mysore Sandal Soap goes far beyond a typical celebrity endorsement gone wrong. It reveals a larger issue—a misguided marketing approach, a disconnect from deep-rooted local pride, and an ill-conceived “pan-India” strategy that misses the essence of the brand.

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) invested a hefty Rs 6.2 crore to bring Tamannaah onboard, aiming to revive Mysore Sandal Soap’s flagging popularity with hopes of creating a pan-India appeal and strengthening its digital presence. While the intent to revive the brand is understandable, the strategy seems out of touch with today’s consumers, who val-

ue authenticity over mere social media numbers or celebrity glitz.

This soap is not just any product—it’s a symbol of Karnataka’s rich heritage and identity. The backlash isn’t about Tamannaah herself; it’s about the fact that a government-owned company chose a celebrity from outside Karnataka rather than leveraging local Kannada talent, who would have embraced the role with genuine pride and passion. Many regional actors, including legends like the late Puneeth Rajkumar and others, have contributed pro bono to state campaigns, highlighting the depth of local commitment.

Moreover, this decision inadvertently touches on outdated and harmful beauty ideals. At a time when glob-

al brands like Dove focus on empowering real people and breaking unrealistic beauty standards, KSDL’s move to highlight a glamorous celebrity endorsing a mass-market, everyday product seems out of sync. Mysore Sandal Soap resonates with ordinary people—farmers, nurses, IT professionals—who see it as a part of their everyday lives. Introducing an aspirational figure risks alienating this core base by creating an image that feels unattainable and disconnected from their realities.

Financially, spending Rs 6 crore on a single ambassador seems questionable for a brand reportedly struggling to compete. Such a large investment demands massive sales just to break even, diverting funds that might be better spent on quality improvement or

grassroots marketing that taps into local loyalty.

Mysore Sandal Soap’s true strength lies in its heritage, quality, and the deep emotional connection with Kannadigas. Brands like Amul and Apple succeed because they build on inherent value and trust rather than chasing celebrity endorsements. Mysore Sandal Soap doesn’t need a pan-India face—it needs to leverage Karnataka’s own pride and culture. By strengthening its roots, the brand will naturally extend its reach.

In the end, KSDL’s approach seems to misunderstand what makes Mysore Sandal Soap special. It’s not about flashy endorsements but about authentic connection, consistency, and local pride—a lesson in branding that resonates beyond Karnataka.

Maoism’s Decline Among India’s Working Class: A Story of Lost Cause and Local Realities

The death of Basavaraju, also known as Nambala Keshava Rao, leader of the Communist Party of India-Maoist, marks the end of an era—but the relevance of Maoism to India’s working class had long since faded. Despite its violent history and brutal tactics, Maoism failed to capture the hearts and minds of the broader Indian populace beyond certain Adivasi pockets.

Maoist insurgency first gained ground in regions like Srikakulam during the late 1960s, when oppressed Adivasis rose against exploitative landlords and moneylenders. These early uprisings, inspired by promises of revolution and justice, saw bloodshed and retribution. However, as the movement evolved, it became clear that the Adivasis’ support was largely tactical—driven more by immediate grievances or retaliation against state violence than by ideological commitment to revolution.

The wider working class and peasantry of India remained largely indifferent or disconnected from Mao-

ist ideology. Following independence, communist parties struggled to ignite a nationwide revolution. Electoral defeats in strongholds like Telangana underscored their limited influence. Maoism splintered from mainstream communism and engaged in armed struggle, but it remained largely confined to isolated tribal regions.

While Maoists attempted social reforms such as literacy drives and land rights awareness among tribal communities, their rigid moral codes often clashed with local customs, generating mixed reactions. More crucially, government intervention—ranging from food aid to police crackdowns—gradually weakened the movement. Large-scale police operations, arrests, and killings of Maoist leaders pushed the insurgency into remote forest areas. Basavaraju’s own life mirrored the rise and fall of Maoism. From a rural upbringing to joining the Maoist cause underground in the 1980s, he witnessed the movement’s brief alliances with political parties, followed by violent conflicts with the state. The



Maoists’ reliance on extortion and brutal enforcement methods alienated many, including the communities they claimed to represent. Despite dramatic attacks on security forces, Maoism never evolved into a mass revolutionary force. The Adivasis often supported the Maoists for

survival or vengeance but remained uninterested in transforming society through revolution. The Indian state’s gradual but forceful capacity-building ultimately dismantled the insurgency. The story of Basavaraju and Maoism is a cautionary tale of how violent

ideologies, detached from the realities and aspirations of the people, can unleash immense suffering without delivering lasting change. As India moves forward, this chapter reminds us that genuine progress must come from addressing grassroots concerns rather than militant dogma.

Braveheart Banu Mushtaq’s Triumph at the International Booker Prize Inspires Regional Writers

At 77, multi-talented Kannada writer, lawyer, and social activist Banu Mushtaq has achieved a remarkable milestone by winning the prestigious International Booker Prize for her collection of twelve short stories titled Heart Lamp. This achievement, made possible in part by translator Deepa Bhasthi’s exceptional work in bringing the stories from Kannada to English, marks a historic moment not only for Banu but for regional language authors across India.

The International Booker Prize, hosted in the UK since 2004, is increasingly regarded as a major literary accolade, rivaling even the Nobel Prize in literature. For Banu Mushtaq, her journey to this global stage has been a courageous and inspiring one. Born and raised in Hassan, Karnataka, she describes herself as an anti-establish-

ment rebel who faced many hardships, including social boycotts and physical threats, because of her outspoken activism.

Writing primarily in Kannada, Banu has published six short story collections, a novel, essays, and poetry, with her work translated into multiple languages including Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, and Malayalam. She is fluent in Dakhni Urdu, Kannada, and English. More than just an author, Banu’s life reflects a spirit of resilience and defiance. She pursued higher education against societal expectations, chose her own marriage, and worked as a reporter for the Kannada newspaper Lankesh Patrike as well as for All India Radio.

Her activism in the 1980s against fundamentalism and social injus-



tice brought significant opposition. In 2000, she and her family endured a three-month social boycott after advocating for Muslim women’s right to

enter mosques. That same year, she vocally opposed attempts by Hindutva groups to bar Muslims from visiting the Baba Budan shrine. Banu has always stood firmly with Dalits, women, and minorities, themes that resonate powerfully in her writing. Notably, the acclaimed filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli’s national award-winning film Hasina is based on one of her stories highlighting the struggles of a Muslim woman.

After her Booker Prize win, Banu expressed hope and gratitude: “The hardships I faced inspired much of my work. I never imagined stories from my little corner of the world would reach so far. This is a victory for regional language authors and diversity.” She praised Deepa Bhasthi, who translated her stories and became the first Indian translator to share the

award.

Deepa Bhasthi, from Madikeri, Karnataka, started translating Banu’s stories in 2022. A journalism graduate with a passion for literature, Deepa is also a columnist and founding editor of The Forager magazine. Her contribution has been vital in giving Banu’s voice a global platform.

This inspiring success should spark ambition among writers in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Hyderabad. If Banu Mushtaq from Kannada literature can reach such heights, there is every reason for authors writing in Telugu, Urdu, and other regional languages to dream big and aim for global recognition. With determination and talent, the International Booker Prize could soon honor a writer from this region too.

India on Track to Become World's Fourth-Largest Economy by End of 2025: NITI Aayog

“Live A Peaceful Life, Else My Bullets Are There”: PM Modi’s Message To Pak

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is poised to become the world’s fourth-largest economy by the end of 2025, according to NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani. His comments come shortly after NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam stated that India has already overtaken Japan in terms of economic size, citing International Monetary Fund (IMF) data.



Speaking to PTI, Virmani noted that while India is clearly on the path to surpassing Japan, confirmation would require full-year GDP data for 2025. “I am personally confident that will happen by the end of 2025,” he said, adding that the final assertion will depend on data for all 12 months.

According to the IMF’s April 2025 World Economic Outlook report, India’s nominal GDP is projected to reach \$4.19 trillion, just ahead of Japan’s estimated \$4.186 trillion, putting India in fourth place globally. Only the United States, China, and Germany are expected to have larger economies.

Subrahmanyam had earlier stated that India is already a \$4 trillion economy, saying, “We are the fourth-largest economy as I speak.” However, Virmani clarified that annual GDP is typically used for such rankings, and final confirmation will only come with year-end data.

The IMF also reported that India’s per capita income has doubled over the past decade, rising from \$1,438 in 2013–14 to \$2,880 in 2025. Despite this progress, India still trails more developed economies on a per capita basis.

Looking ahead, the IMF projects India’s economy to grow at 6.2% in 2025–26, slightly below its previous forecast of 6.5%, citing global uncertainties and rising trade tensions. Nonetheless, the outlook remains robust, driven by strong domestic consumption, particularly in rural areas.

Globally, economic growth is expected to remain subdued at 2.8% in 2025, before picking up slightly to 3% in 2026. In this context, India’s continued momentum highlights its growing significance on the world economic stage.

Virmani emphasized that India’s rise is being measured in current US dollar terms, consistent with international standards for comparing national economies.

‘Undeclared Emergency @11’: Congress takes swipe at Modi govt as it completes 11 years

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks 11 years in office since taking oath on May 26, 2014, the Congress party launched a scathing critique, branding the tenure an “undeclared emergency” that has, in its view, plunged the country into economic and social distress.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge took to social media platform X to express his discontent, saying the last 11 years have turned Modi’s promise of “achche din” (good days) into a “darawne sapne” (nightmare). “Every section of the 140 crore population has been troubled,” he said.

Kharge listed several key areas where, according to the party, the government has failed:

Youth: Promised 2 crore jobs annually, but millions have disappeared.

Farmers: Income wasn’t doubled as promised, and they were met with rubber bullets during protests.

Women: Security remains fragile, and reservations come with caveats.

Weaker Sections: Atrocities against SCs, STs, OBCs, and minorities have worsened, with their share in opportunities diminishing.

On the economy, Kharge accused the government of failing on inflation, rising unemployment, stalled consumption, and a floundering “Make in India” initiative. He also

highlighted growing inequality.

Regarding foreign policy, he said the government’s vision of India as a “Vishwaguru” (world leader) has not materialized, claiming ties with global partners have frayed. On democracy, Kharge alleged systematic attacks on democratic institutions, misuse of central agencies like the ED and CBI, and erosion of institutional autonomy under the influence of the RSS.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh echoed the criticism, labeling the occasion “Undeclared Emergency @11”. He also accused PM Modi of hypocrisy on the issue of caste census, pointing to past statements where Modi criticized caste-based politics and labeled Congress’ demand as having an “urban naxal mindset.” Yet, Modi recently claimed credit for initiating a caste census.

As the political climate intensifies ahead of the next general election, the Congress party’s critique underscores a broader strategy to challenge the BJP’s narrative of governance and development over the past decade.

Jaishankar Credits Indian Military, Not US, for India-Pakistan Ceasefire

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has clarified that the ceasefire between India and Pakistan was a direct result of Indian military actions, not due to any intervention by the United States. Speaking in an interview with the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Dr. Jaishankar emphasized that the cessation of hostilities was agreed upon through direct communication between the military commanders of both countries.

When asked if the world should thank the US for the ceasefire, Dr.

Jaishankar replied, “The morning before the ceasefire, we effectively hit and incapacitated Pakistan’s main airbases and air defense system. So, who should I thank? I thank the Indian military because it was their action that made Pakistan say: ‘We are ready to stop.’”

The ceasefire was agreed upon on May 10 after three days of intense cross-border conflict. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, following a terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 innocent civilians. Pakistan retaliated by firing drones at

Indian military and civilian targets, which led India to respond with strikes on Pakistani military installations, causing significant damage. Shortly after, Pakistan reached out for a ceasefire.

Despite claims from the Trump administration and appreciation from Islamabad towards Washington, New Delhi has maintained that the US role was limited to expressing concern. Dr. Jaishankar mentioned that US officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD Vance, reached out, but India made it clear that any cessation of hostilities must come directly from



Pakistan’s military leadership.

When asked if the ceasefire restored the situation to pre-conflict status, Jaishankar said the message to terrorists was clear: there would be consequences for attacks like the

one in Kashmir. He dismissed fears of nuclear escalation, stating he was “astonished” by the suggestion, emphasizing that India’s military steps were measured and non-escalatory, and at no point did the situation approach a nuclear conflict.

COVID-19 Active Cases in India Surge to 1,009 Amid New Variant Detections

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has witnessed a significant rise in active COVID-19 cases, climbing to 1,009 on May 26, 2025, from 257 reported just a week earlier. The surge has been largely driven by increases in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



Kerala accounts for the highest number of active cases at 430, adding 335 new infections since May 19. Maharashtra follows with 209 active cases, including 153 new infections and four recent deaths. Delhi reported 99 new cases, bringing its total active count to 104. Overall, India recorded an increase of 752 cases and seven deaths over the past week, while 305 patients recovered and were discharged.

The Health Ministry highlighted the detection of two COVID-19 subvariants — NB.1.8.1 and LF.7 — recently found in India. Tamil Nadu reported one case of NB.1.8.1 in April, while four cases of LF.7 were identified in May. Both variants have been classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as Variants Under Monitoring (VUMs), rather than Variants of Concern or Interest. These subvariants have been linked to recent COVID-19 surges in China and other parts of Asia.

Despite the rise in cases, the Ministry noted that most infections remain mild and many patients are managing their symptoms through home care. It reaffirmed India’s strong surveillance systems through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and ICMR’s respiratory virus sentinel network, which closely monitor respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

Officials also acknowledged similar increases in cases in countries like Singapore and Hong Kong but stressed there is no evidence these new variants are more transmissible or cause more severe illness than previous strains.

The Union Health Ministry affirmed its vigilance and commitment to proactively monitor the evolving situation to safeguard public health across the country.

Shashi Tharoor-Led All-Party Delegation to Visit Panama to Strengthen India’s Anti-Terrorism Message

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

An all-party parliamentary delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor will visit Panama from May 27 to May 29, 2025, as part of India’s diplomatic outreach to reinforce its firm stance against terrorism. The delegation will arrive in Panama following its visit to Guyana.



During the three-day visit, the delegation will engage with Panamanian leaders, key media representatives, members of the strategic community, and the Indian diaspora, along with friends of India in Panama. The Embassy of India in Panama, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica highlighted on X that the visit aims to convey India’s strong message of unity, brotherhood, and collective determination to combat terrorism in all its forms.

Besides Shashi Tharoor, the delegation includes parliamentarians from multiple parties: Sarfaraz Ahmad (JMM), Gants Harish Madhur Balayogi (TDP), Shashank Mani Tripathi (BJP), Bhubaneswar Kalita (BJP), Milind Deora (Shiv Sena), Tejasvi Surya (BJP), and India’s former Ambassador to the U.S., Taranjit Sandhu.

This visit is part of a larger effort by India, which has dispatched seven multi-party delegations to 33 global capitals. The goal is to engage with the international community on Pakistan’s in-

volvement in terrorism and to highlight India’s response, particularly following the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 lives.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated earlier this month when India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Pakistan retaliated with attacks on Indian military bases on May 8, 9, and 10, which India responded to decisively. The hostilities ceased after the Directors General of Military Operations from both countries agreed to halt military actions during talks on May 10.

This delegation’s visit to Panama underscores India’s commitment to rallying international support against terrorism while promoting peace and security in the region.

Trump Slams Putin as ‘Absolutely Crazy’ Amid Intensifying Ukraine Conflict

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has unleashed some of his harshest criticism yet toward Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling him “absolutely CRAZY” as Moscow intensifies its aerial offensive on Ukraine. The comments came amid a devastating third consecutive night of Russian drone and missile strikes targeting Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities.

In a post on social media Sunday night, Trump, who has often highlighted his past cordial relationship with Putin,

expressed alarm over the scale and brutality of the ongoing assault.

“Something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY! Missiles and drones are being shot into cities in Ukraine for no reason whatsoever,” Trump wrote, condemning what he described as senseless violence. Ukrainian officials have called the latest attacks the largest aerial assault since Russia’s full-scale invasion in February 2022, with at least 12 civilians killed and dozens more injured.

Trump warned that if Putin is



attempting to conquer all of Ukraine, it could ultimately “lead to the downfall of Rus-

sia.” However, Trump did not spare

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy from criticism either. Expressing frustration with the Ukrainian leader’s public comments, Trump wrote: “He is doing his country no favours by talking the way he does. Everything out of his mouth causes problems. I don’t like it, and it better stop.”

This marks a shift in tone for Trump, who during his campaign to return to the White House frequently promised to bring an end to the conflict quickly and had previously portrayed Russia as more willing to negotiate than Ukraine.

While Trump has called on Putin to “STOP!” the bombardments, and mentioned an effort to initiate ceasefire talks, concrete steps remain limited. He claimed that following a phone conversation with Putin last week, both Russia and Ukraine would “immediately” begin negotiations — though the Kremlin later denied that any direct talks were planned.

As European Union sanctions against Russia intensify, Trump has floated the possibility of escalating tariffs and penalties but has yet to take formal action.

“Era of Western Interference Over”: US Envoy Signals New Chapter in Syria Policy

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a bold declaration signaling a significant shift in American foreign policy, US Ambassador to Türkiye and Special Envoy to Syria, Tom Barrack, announced that the era of Western interference in the Middle East is over. Speaking after his May 24 meeting with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa in Istanbul, Barrack emphasized that the future of the region now lies in regional cooperation and dignity-based diplomacy.

“The future belongs to regional solutions, not foreign mandates,” Barrack said, echoing US President Donald Trump’s remarks from his May 13 address in Riyadh. “Gone are the days when Western interventionists would fly to the Middle East to give lectures on how to live and how to govern.”

Barrack sharply criticized the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement, calling it a “historic mistake” that divided Syria and the region for imperial interests. “A century ago, the West imposed maps, mandates, penciled borders, and foreign rule. That mistake cost generations. We will not make it again,” he wrote on X.

The envoy’s comments come amid a dramatic shift in US policy toward Syria. Following the historic meeting between President Trump and President al-Sharaa—marking the first direct US-Syrian presidential encounter in 25 years—the US lifted longstanding economic sanctions on Syria. In parallel, the European Union has also removed its sanctions to support recon-



struction efforts.

Barrack described Syria’s civil war as a tragedy born from external division, but stressed that its future must be built through unity, regional engagement, and investment in its people. “Rebirth must come through dignity, unity, and working with the region, not around it,” he said.

Underscoring the policy pivot, Barrack stated that the US will support Syria not with “troops and lectures” but by standing “shoulder-to-shoulder with the Syrian people.”

He concluded that the fall of the Assad regime and the lifting of sanctions mark the beginning of a new era. “By eliminating sanctions, we are enabling the Syrian people to finally open the door to peace, prosperity, and security,” Barrack said.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized continued American support for Syria’s new government, warning that its failure could destabilize the entire region.

Pakistan, Türkiye Vow to Deepen Strategic Ties During Sharif-Erdogan Meeting

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

In a significant diplomatic engagement, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul on Sunday, reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening the strategic partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The meeting, part of Sharif’s broader four-nation diplomatic tour which includes Iran, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan, saw the two leaders conduct a comprehensive review of bilateral ties during a high-level delegation meeting.

According to Pakistan’s state broadcaster PTV News, both sides expressed a strong desire to deepen cooperation across a wide range of sectors. Sharif emphasized the need to boost bilateral investment and proposed joint ventures in key areas such as renewable energy, information technology, defence production, infrastructure development, and agriculture.

The leaders also reiterated their commitment to achieving the previously agreed annual bilateral trade target of USD 5 billion. In a message on social media platform X, Sharif wrote: “We also reviewed the ongoing progress of our multifaceted bilateral engagements, particularly in trade and investment, and reaffirmed our resolve to continue working closely to strengthen these unshakable bonds of brotherhood and cooperation.”

Highlighting the warmth of the discussions, Pakistani officials described the meeting as “warm and most cordial,” underscoring the deep-rooted, historic, and brotherly relationship between the two nations, grounded in shared values and mutual respect.



Sharif also extended gratitude to President Erdogan for Türkiye’s support during Pakistan’s brief military confrontation with India earlier this month. The recent escalation followed the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which resulted in 26 casualties. In response, India launched precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor.

The tensions escalated as Pakistan attempted retaliatory strikes on May 8, 9, and 10. The conflict subsided after directors general of military operations from both sides agreed on a ceasefire on May 10.

Sharif was accompanied by a high-powered delegation, including Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Minister of Information Attaullah Tarar.

The meeting reinforced both nations’ vision for regional peace, economic cooperation, and stronger bilateral relations.

Russia Denies Involvement in Arson Attacks Targeting UK PM Keir Starmer

TPN Correspondent | Russia

The Kremlin has firmly denied any involvement in a series of arson attacks on properties linked to British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, dismissing allegations of Russian interference as baseless and absurd. The denial comes amid growing speculation within British media and security circles that the incidents may have had foreign backing.



Earlier in May, UK police responded to three separate fires: one at Starmer’s current residence in north London, another at a nearby property where he previously lived, and a third involving a car that was once registered in his name. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in the incidents.

Authorities have since charged three men in connection with the arson attacks—two Ukrainian nationals and one Romanian. However, none of them face charges under terrorism legislation or the recently enacted National Security Act, which targets hostile state actions, including

foreign interference.

Despite the absence of formal charges suggesting espionage or state involvement, British media outlets such as The Financial Times and The Mail on Sunday reported that security services are investigating potential links between the suspects and Russian intelligence networks.

When asked about the reports, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov categorically rejected any connection to the crimes. “London is inclined to suspect Russia of involvement in all the bad things that happen in Britain,” Peskov said on Monday. “As

a rule, all these suspicions are false, unsubstantiated, and often ridiculous.”

Peskov’s remarks reflect Russia’s consistent stance in denying allegations of interference in foreign domestic affairs, especially in the UK, where tensions have remained high since the 2018 Salisbury poisoning and other cyber-related accusations.

British law enforcement agencies have not publicly linked Russia to the recent arson attacks and have declined to comment on the press reports suggesting a deeper investigation is underway. The UK government has also not issued any official statement addressing possible foreign involvement in the matter.

As investigations continue, the incidents have sparked concern over the safety of public officials and the possibility of external threats targeting British political figures. The attacks have also reignited debate over the effectiveness of current security laws in addressing foreign influence and sabotage.

Macron Kicks Off Southeast Asia Tour with Strategic Deals in Vietnam

French President Emmanuel Macron began his strategic Southeast Asia tour with a landmark visit to Vietnam on Monday, marking the first official visit by a French head of state to the country in nearly ten years. The trip underscores France’s intent to strengthen ties in a region that has become central to global trade, innovation, and geopolitics.

Macron’s arrival in Hanoi was highlighted by the signing of several key bilateral agreements aimed at deepening economic and strategic cooperation between France and Vietnam. Notable among these were deals for the supply of Airbus aircraft, expanded defence collaboration, and a new partnership on satellite development and technology transfer.

“These are decisive partnerships for the future,” Macron said during a joint press briefing with Vietnamese President Luong Cuong at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi. “The major challenges of the century—climate change, economic development, and geopolitical stability—can only be addressed through deep cooperation, particularly with partners in this region of the world.”

The agreements come amid rising global trade tensions, particularly following the United States’ announcement of new tariffs targeting key sectors, which have left several nations reassessing their strategic alliances and trade dependencies. France appears to



be leveraging the opportunity to increase its presence in the Indo-Pacific, a region Macron has previously described as vital for European and global stability.

Vietnam, for its part, has emerged as a pivotal player in Southeast Asia, offering a stable and growing economy, a young and tech-savvy population, and a strategic geographic location. By reinforcing its ties with Vietnam, France aims to not only boost its commercial footprint but also enhance its influence in a region that is increasingly becoming a focal point of US-China rivalry.

Macron’s next stop will be Jakarta, Indonesia, where he is expected to engage in further diplomatic and economic discussions. He will conclude his tour with a visit to Singapore later this week. Before departing Vietnam, Macron is scheduled to visit a leading university in Hanoi on Tuesday, underlining the importance of educational and cultural cooperation in France’s Indo-Pacific strategy.

Markets Rebound Sharply; Sensex Gains 455 Points, Nifty Holds Above 25,000 Amid Broad-Based Buying

Domestic stock markets performed well on Monday. Benchmark indices closed in the red. The indices touched daily highs early on positive signals from international markets. Soon after, they reached daily lows as investors took profit. Later, they recovered with support from defense, auto, IT and FMCG stocks. They remained stable till the end of the session. Overall, the Sensex rose by 455 points and the Nifty by 148 points. It is noteworthy that the Nifty maintained the crucial 25000 level.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,721 in the previous session, opened at 81,928 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 81,867. It reached an intraday high of 82,492. Finally, it closed at 82,176 with a gain of 455 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,919, touched a low of 24,900 and a high of 25,079. It closed at 25,001, up 148 points. The Nifty Bank rose 173 points to settle at 55,572.

In the Nifty50, 40 companies gained while 10 lost. Bajaj Auto, JSW Steel, M&M, Trent, Hindalco were the top gainers. Eternal, Ultratech Sem, Kotak Bank, Power Grid, NTPC were the biggest losers. Auto, IT, FMCG, metal, realty, consumer durables, oil, media, pharma, and PSU bank indices were mixed. Midcap healthcare shares rose marginally.

Today, the market breadth in NSE turned in favor of buyers. Out of a total of 2982 shares traded, 1735 gained and 1173 lost. 53 shares touched the 52-week high and 25 shares touched the 52-week low. The upper circuit was 127 and the lower circuit was 68.

Today, shares of automobile companies including Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Auto showed strength. Gillette India shares rose by 10% on the back of earnings. Edelweiss is reportedly in talks with other companies including Fidelity to sell its AMC stake. Centrum Broking has given a buy rating to Rainbow shares with a target price of Rs 1610. 25 lakh shares changed hands in a block deal. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Power-Grid. Landmark Cars shares rose 4% after



BYD cut prices of its cars globally by 35%. GE Vernova shares jumped 10% to touch the upper circuit after Q4 profit tripled. Nomura has given a buy rating with a target price of Rs 2600.

Bajaj Auto

Bajaj Auto continued to trade strong, supported by robust quarterly earnings and improved export outlook. The company recently announced a dividend payout and strong growth in premium motorcycle and EV segments. Analysts remain bullish on long-term prospects due to product innovation and strong balance sheet. Margins remain stable despite input cost fluctuations.



Nestle India

Nestle India traded mildly positive amid overall FMCG sector weakness. The company posted healthy Q1 results driven by strong rural demand and product diversification in health foods and beverages. Nestle's focus on nutrition, innovation, and digital distribution is expected to support steady growth. However, valuations remain high.



ITC Ltd

ITC saw marginal pressure as FMCG and cigarette business lacked momentum. ITC's hotel and FMCG other segments are showing strong traction. Cigarette

volume growth remains stable. The company remains fundamentally strong, with diversified revenue streams. A demerger of the hotel business is a potential re-rating trigger.



HUDCO (Housing & Urban Development Corporation)

HUDCO has been performing steadily, supported by government spending in housing and urban infrastructure. The company saw renewed buying interest on expectations of strong loan growth and infra project funding. Positive in the medium term due to tailwinds from affordable housing schemes and urban development focus in the upcoming budget.



Astral Ltd

Astral has remained range-bound with slight upward bias amid renewed interest in building material stocks. The company is benefiting from higher demand in pipe, adhesive, and infrastructure segments. Astral's expansion into paints and water tanks, along with strong branding, could drive growth. Margins may remain under watch due to raw material price movements.



Nestle India Shares Rise as LIC Raises Stake Above 5%



Shares of Nestle India gained over 2% on Monday, May 26, after the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) increased its stake in the packaged foods major, sparking renewed investor interest. LIC's holding in the company now exceeds 5%, a key regulatory threshold, which prompted a formal disclosure under SEBI's Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers (SAST) Regulations.

According to a regulatory filing, LIC acquired an additional 1,49,000 shares of Nestle India via market transactions on May 23, 2025. This raised LIC's total holding to 4,82,24,710 shares, representing 5.001% of Nestle India's total equity capital. Prior to this transaction, LIC held 4.986% of the company's shares.

Following the announcement, Nestle India's share price rose as much as 2.1% during intra-day trade, hitting ₹2,464.50. However, the stock still trades approximately 11% below its 52-week high of ₹2,777, recorded in September 2024. It had hit a 52-week low of ₹2,115 in March 2025.

Despite recent volatility, the stock has shown signs of recovery. After declining 5.3% in February 2025, it rebounded with a 6.6% gain in January, followed by 2.8% in March and 6% in April. In May, it has already added 2.6%, although it remains about 2% lower on a one-year basis.

In a related development, Nestle SA, the parent company of Nestle India, has made its first foray into India's fast-growing pet care market by acquiring a minority stake in Drools Pet Food Private Limited. While financial terms were not disclosed, the investment follows a \$60 million funding round for Drools in 2023, supported by L Catterton, a private equity firm backed by IVMH. Drools will continue to operate independently despite Nestle's involvement.

On the financial front, Nestle India posted a standalone net profit of ₹885 crore for the quarter ending March 2025—a 5.2% year-on-year decline—amid margin pressures. However, revenue rose 4.5% to ₹5,504 crore, slightly ahead of analyst expectations, reflecting stable demand across key product segments.

Commercial Credit to MSMEs Grows 13% YoY; Maharashtra, Gujarat Lead Lending, Says Report

The commercial credit portfolio for India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector witnessed a robust 13% year-over-year (YoY) growth, reaching ₹35.2 lakh crore as of March 31, 2025. This growth is highlighted in the latest MSME Pulse Report jointly released by TransUnion CIBIL and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).



The report attributes the increase primarily to higher credit supply extended to existing MSME borrowers. While overall delinquency rates have improved, there are mixed trends within different borrower segments. The average delinquency rate for MSMEs declined to 1.8% in March 2025, down 35 basis points from 2.1% a year earlier, reflecting healthier credit behavior among borrowers with exposures between ₹50 lakh and ₹50 crore. However, smaller borrowers with exposure up to ₹10 lakh experienced a slight deterioration in delinquency, rising to 5.8% from 5.1%. Similarly, borrowers with exposure between ₹10 lakh and ₹50 lakh saw a marginal increase in delinquencies to 2.9% from 2.8%.

New-to-Credit (NTC) MSME borrowers continued to make up a significant portion of fresh loan originations at 47%, though this was slightly lower than the 51% share recorded in March 2024. The trade sec-

tor remains the largest contributor to NTC borrowers, representing 53%, while the manufacturing sector recorded the highest YoY growth (70%) in new commercial loan originations.

Regionally, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi dominate commercial lending, collectively accounting for 48% of new loan originations in the quarter ending March 2025. Manufacturing leads loan originations in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi, whereas Uttar Pradesh has the highest share in the trade sector.

SIDBI Chairman Manoj Mittal acknowledged progress in MSME credit flows but noted the existence of an "addressable credit gap." Bhavesh Jain, MD & CEO of TransUnion CIBIL, emphasized the need for MSMEs to gain better access to formal credit and improved debt management support to ensure sustainable growth.

Tata AIA Declares Record ₹1,842 Crore Bonus for FY25: What It Means for Policyholders

Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced a record-breaking bonus payout of ₹1,842 crore for the financial year 2024-25 under its participating insurance plans, benefiting over 8.15 lakh policyholders. This marks a significant 26% increase from last year's bonus of ₹1,465 crore, making it the highest payout in the company's history.

Participating insurance plans, also known as "Par" policies, are life insurance products where policyholders share in the profits of the insurer's participating (or with-profits) fund. These profits are distributed as annual bonuses or dividends, which are not guaranteed and depend on the fund's performance.

This year, Tata AIA has declared bonuses on several key plans including the Diamond Savings Plan, Smart Value Income Plan, Value Income Plan, and Shubh Flexi Income Plan. The substantial bonus allocation reflects the insurer's strong financial performance and commitment to delivering value to long-term policyholders.

Impact on Policyholders

According to Kshitij Sharma, Executive Vice President and Appointed Actuary at Tata AIA, the bonus payout reflects the company's commitment to honoring the trust of its policyholders. He emphasized that the bonus will help customers achieve their financial goals while ensuring protection for their families.

For policyholders, the bonus means an increase in the value of their policies. Depending on the type of plan and payout structure, these bonuses may be added to the sum assured, paid out as income, or used to enhance the maturity value. It provides a cushion during volatile market conditions and



helps create a reliable source of income over time.

Why Participating Plans Matter

Tata AIA's participating plans strike a balance between life cover and investment returns. They are especially attractive in current market conditions due to their:

Low volatility, offering stable returns through bonus declarations.
Equity upside, providing growth through managed investments.
Guaranteed life cover, ensuring financial protection for families.

Whether saving for a child's future, building a retirement corpus, or creating steady income, these plans are structured to support long-term financial security and peace of mind.

As Tata AIA continues to grow, this record payout reinforces its standing as a reliable insurer offering both protection and performance to Indian households.

Five Years After Daring Heist, Four Convicted in Rs 55-Crore Golden Toilet Theft

Nearly five years after one of the most bizarre and bold art thefts in recent history, British authorities have finally secured convictions in the 2019 theft of an 18-carat gold toilet, valued at Rs 55 crore (approximately £4.8 million). The toilet, a fully functional artwork by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, was stolen from Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire — the birthplace of Winston Churchill — in a heist that lasted just five minutes.

The theft occurred in the early hours of September 14, 2019. At around 4 am, a loud crash startled Eleanor Pace, an employee at the historic palace. She initially thought something had fallen, but moments later, the security alarms began sounding. When she rushed to the exhibit room, she discovered the toilet was gone — ripped out of the floor, plumbing and all.

Installed as part of a contemporary art exhibition, the golden toilet titled America was both a provocative statement and a practical object — open to the public for use. Its high-profile display, combined with relatively lax security, made it a tempting and vulnerable target.

According to investigators, five individuals coordinated the daring break-in. The gang quickly bypassed security and made their escape before police could arrive. For years, the case remained unsolved, baffling law



enforcement and art experts alike.

Now, after a prolonged investigation, four men have been convicted in connection with the theft. One of the accused, Frederick Do, was found guilty of assisting in selling the melted-down gold but was not directly involved in the robbery itself. He received a 21-month suspended sentence. Three other individuals were handed prison terms for their roles, while a fifth suspect was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

Unfortunately, the iconic golden toilet is believed to have been destroyed and melted down for its metal value shortly after the theft, making recovery impossible.

The case has reignited debates about security at major cultural institutions and the vulnerability of even the most seemingly absurd pieces of art. What began as a satirical artwork has now become part of one of the most infamous thefts in modern art history.

The New And Dangerous Viral Stunt: Taping Your Mouth Shut While Sleeping

A new sleep trend going viral on platforms like TikTok and Instagram is raising serious health concerns among medical professionals. The practice, known as mouth taping, involves sealing the mouth shut with tape before going to sleep — a method promoted by influencers as a way to encourage nasal breathing, improve sleep quality, and even deliver supposed anti-aging benefits.

However, sleep experts are sounding the alarm. Dr. Brian Rotenberg, an otolaryngologist and sleep surgeon at Western University in Canada, has spoken out strongly against the trend, warning that it can be not only ineffective but also dangerous.

“The idea is that taping the mouth encourages breathing through the nose,” Dr. Rotenberg explained. “But for many



people — especially those who don't realize they have obstructive sleep apnea — this can seriously worsen their condition.” Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a disorder where breathing repeatedly stops and starts during sleep. Blocking the mouth without ensuring the nose is fully clear can limit oxygen intake, potentially leading to severe consequences like heart problems or even suffocation.

In a recently published study in the journal PLOS One, Dr. Rotenberg and his team analyzed data from 213 patients across both original and previously published research. The conclusion? Mouth taping offers few benefits and poses significant risks. While a couple of studies noted minor improvements in mild cases, the vast majority found no evidence supporting its effectiveness —

and in many cases, it worsened existing conditions. The core danger lies in obstructed nasal passages. If the nose is partially blocked and the mouth is sealed, airflow becomes restricted. This can place excessive strain on the respiratory system and increase the risk of asphyxiation during sleep.

Despite these warnings, the trend continues to spread rapidly online, with some videos amassing hundreds of thousands of views. Health experts are urging people to be cautious and consult professionals before attempting any sleep hacks that interfere with breathing.

The bottom line? What may seem like a harmless DIY fix for snoring or sleep issues could be putting your health at serious risk.

New Zealand Paraglider Soars 200 Km Across Himalayas in Breathtaking Adventure

Paragliding above the majestic Himalayas is a bucket-list experience for many, but for one New Zealand pilot, it became an extraordinary 200-kilometre journey captured entirely on camera. Benjamin Kellett, a professional paraglider, recently stunned social media users with a breathtaking video of his flight over the Indian Himalayas — a feat that combined adventure, precision, and a deep appreciation for nature's grandeur.

The journey began at Bir Billing, located in Himachal Pradesh, India — a world-renowned paragliding destination. Equipped with a GoPro camera mounted on his helmet, Kellett documented his entire flight, offering viewers a stunning aerial perspective of the mountain ranges, lush valleys, and the vibrant green forests below.

Throughout the six-and-a-half-hour flight, Kellett kept his followers updated



by sharing real-time data on his altitude and speed. He frequently pointed out landmarks, and at one point, the scenic city of Dharamshala could be seen in the distance. His commentary reflected not only technical insights into the flight but also a genuine awe at the beauty surrounding him.

One memorable moment in the video was when Kellett spotted a familiar tea shop — a small roadside stop he had visited

before beginning his flight. His excitement and connection to the region brought a human touch to the daring journey.

Describing the entire experience as part of his “Earth Premium Tour,” Kellett's video has since gone viral, garnering admiration from thrill-seekers and nature lovers alike. His journey showcases the unique blend of adventure sport and storytelling, highlighting how modern technology can bring remote and extreme experiences to global audiences.

Kellett's flight not only celebrated the sport of paragliding but also shone a spotlight on the natural beauty of Himachal Pradesh and its growing popularity as a destination for adventure tourism. For many viewers, the video is more than just a travelogue — it's an inspiring glimpse into the possibilities of human flight and exploration.

From Kirana to Couture: Indian Jute Grocery Bags Sell for Rs 4,100 in the US

What once carried lentils, rice, and biscuits from neighborhood kirana stores in India is now making a splash on the shelves of upscale American retailers. The humble jute grocery bag, once given out for free or sold for a few rupees by local Indian shopkeepers, is being rebranded and sold abroad as a trendy fashion item — and for a hefty price.

In a surprising twist of global fashion trends, these traditional jute bags are now being sold for \$48 (approximately Rs 4,100) at luxury retail stores like Nordstrom in the United States. The bags have been rebranded by Japanese label Pubco as “Indian Souvenir Bags” and redesigned to appeal to Western tastes. While their shape and texture remain recognizably Indian, they are now positioned as chic, minimalist accessories.

This cultural repackaging has sparked a wave of nostalgia and commentary online, especially among Indian users. A screenshot of the Nordstrom listing recently went viral on X (formerly Twitter), prompting reactions ranging from amusement to disbelief. One user quipped, “That's the same snack shop bag from my hometown, now for \$48!” Another recalled how their mother would haggle with the grocer over even a one-rupee charge for the bag.



For many Indians, the bag is more than just a utilitarian item — it holds memories of market visits, bustling local stores, and everyday life. Its rise to luxury status in Western markets has fueled debates about cultural appropriation versus appreciation, with some calling it a creative reinvention and others pointing to the irony of pricing an everyday Indian item at such a premium.

The trend also raises broader questions about how traditional, functional items from developing countries are rebranded and resold in global markets — often with little recognition of their origins or cultural significance.

While some see the viral bag as a fashion statement, for many Indians, it remains a powerful symbol of their upbringing — and now, a reminder of how global fashion often finds inspiration in the most unexpected places.

From ‘Pak’ to ‘Shree’: Jaipur Sweet Shop Renames Iconic Indian Sweets Amid Nationalist Sentiment

In a move that has sparked both support and debate, a well-known Jaipur sweet shop has rebranded several traditional Indian confections by replacing the suffix ‘Pak’ with ‘Shree’, citing a wave of patriotic sentiment among its customers. Tyohaar Sweets, a premium confectionery known for its elaborate and festive offerings, has renamed beloved classics such as Mysore Pak, Aam Pak, Moti Pak, and Gond Pak to Mysore Shree, Aam Shree, Moti Shree, and Gond Shree, respectively.

This symbolic renaming is led by the shop's owner, Anjali Jain, who explained that the idea emerged in response to customers expressing discomfort with the term “Pak,” particularly in light of recent geopolitical tensions including the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor. “The spirit of patriotism should be in our everyday choices. When customers started raising concerns, we decided to act,” said Jain.

Even the shop's most luxurious items — Swarn Bhasm Pak and Chandi Bhasm Pak, known for being adorned with gold and silver leaf — have been rebranded as Swarn Shree and Chandi Shree. According to Jain, the new names not only sound more rooted in Indian identity but also evoke a sense of cultural pride. “When we say ‘Shree’ or ‘Bharat’, it feels like home,” she added.



While the word “Pak” originates from the Sanskrit word “pak,” meaning “to cook” or “prepared,” the decision to drop it is more about modern perception than linguistic accuracy. For many, the term has become uncomfortable due to its phonetic resemblance to “Pakistan,” a country often associated with strained relations and recent tragic events.

Tyohaar's decision has stirred conversation online and off, with several sweet shops in Jaipur reportedly considering similar changes. While some applaud the shift as a patriotic gesture, others — including descendants of the inventor of Mysore Pak — have criticized it, calling the change unnecessary and historically inaccurate.

Regardless of opinion, the move underscores how even centuries-old culinary traditions can be reshaped by evolving national sentiments and public emotions.

Rafael Nadal Honoured with Emotional Tribute on Opening Day of 2025 French Open

Rafael Nadal, the undisputed “King of Clay,” was given an emotional and unforgettable send-off at Roland Garros on Sunday, May 25, 2025, as the French Open paid tribute to his extraordinary career. The 38-year-old, who retired from professional tennis last November, returned to Court Philippe Chatrier for one final moment in the spotlight, surrounded by thousands of fans and some of the sport’s biggest legends.



As part of the celebration, spectators donned colour-coordinated shirts forming the message “14 RG, Rafa,” a powerful nod to Nadal’s record-breaking 14 French Open titles. A special on-court ceremony featured highlights from his remarkable journey at Roland Garros, where he holds an unmatched 112-4 win-loss record.

“I don’t know how to start... I’ve been playing on this court for 20 years. I suffered, I won, I lost. I lived many emotions here,” Nadal said, visibly moved. His voice trembled as he thanked his family, friends, coaches—especially his uncle Toni—and the fans who supported him throughout.

In a particularly touching moment, Nadal’s biggest rivals—Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, and Andy Murray—joined him on court, drawing a thunderous ovation. Their presence symbolised not only the golden era of tennis but also the mutual respect among the ‘Big Four’. Nadal reflected, “To have my three biggest rivals there on

the court with me meant a lot... It’s a great message that you don’t need to hate your opponent to compete fiercely.”

Nadal also appeared on court with his young son, Rafael Nadal Jr., making the tribute even more poignant. He was honoured with a special commemorative trophy and a plaque featuring his footprint embedded in the clay—an everlasting symbol of his legacy at Roland Garros.

Nadal’s final match in Paris was in 2024, where he was defeated by Alexander Zverev in the first round, making this tribute his true farewell to the fans in Paris. With 14 titles at a single Grand Slam, a feat unmatched in tennis history, Nadal leaves behind a legacy defined by resilience, humility, and greatness.

“I didn’t know anything about the ceremony,” Nadal said afterward, smiling. “I suffered with the emotions, but I enjoyed it a lot.”

Suresh Raina as CSK Batting Coach? Franchise Responds to Buzz After Hint on Live TV

Speculation is swirling around former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) star Suresh Raina potentially joining the franchise as a batting coach ahead of IPL 2026. The rumour gained traction after Raina dropped a cryptic hint during commentary in CSK’s final IPL 2025 match against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad.



While speaking in the commentary box, Raina mentioned that CSK were in search of a new batting coach. Fellow commentator Aakash Chopra quickly followed up with a cheeky question: “Does the name start with S?” Raina smiled and responded with an even more revealing clue — the candidate had scored the fastest IPL half-century for CSK. This particular stat directly points to Raina himself, who famously smashed a 16-ball fifty for the franchise.

The statement sent social media into a frenzy, sparking curiosity among CSK fans about the potential of Raina taking over from current batting coach Michael Hussey, the Australian great who has been associated with the team for years.

Asked about the speculation, CSK bowling

coach Sridharan Sriram addressed the topic in the post-match press conference. “I don’t know. I have to ask him if he said that,” Sriram said with a smile, leaving the door open for further intrigue.

While no official confirmation has been made by the franchise, Raina’s statement has led many to believe that the transition could be underway, especially as CSK enters a new phase of rebuilding after a disappointing IPL 2025 season.

Reflecting on the team’s future, Sriram noted that key figures within the CSK setup — including MS Dhoni, head coach Stephen Fleming, and captain Ruturaj Gaikwad — have a clear understanding of what needs to be addressed going forward.

“Fleming, MS, and Ruturaj, they’ve got a clear idea of what went wrong and what needs to be done. That’s the real positive,” Sriram said.

As CSK look to the future, the possible return of Raina in a coaching role could serve as a morale boost for the fans and players alike, bringing back one of the franchise’s most beloved icons in a new avatar.

Satwik-Chirag Return to Lead India’s Hopes at Singapore Open 2025

India’s top badminton duo, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, are set to make a highly anticipated return to elite competition as they lead the Indian contingent at the Singapore Open Super 750 tournament, starting Tuesday. The pair, who were once world number one, last played at the All England Championships in March but were forced to withdraw in the second round due to Chirag’s back injury. Satwik’s own health concerns further delayed their return, causing them to miss the Sudirman Cup.



Now fully fit, Satwik and Chirag will open their campaign against Malaysia’s Choong Hon Jian and Muhammad Haikal, as they look to recapture their form from earlier this year, which saw them reach the semifinals at both the Malaysia Open and India Open.

In men’s singles, Kidambi Srikanth’s recent run to the Malaysia Masters final has brought a much-needed morale boost to Indian badminton, despite his absence from the Singapore Open. Inspired by Srikanth’s resurgence, HS Prannoy will look to build momentum when he takes on Denmark’s Rasmus Gemke. Still recovering from the after-effects of chikungunya, Prannoy has shown glimpses of his best but needs consistency.

Lakshya Sen, another key player, faces a crucial test of form and fitness against Lin Chun-Yi. The 23-year-old, once touted as a fu-

ture leader of Indian badminton, has suffered four first-round exits this season. Similarly, Priyanshu Rajawat and Kiran George are under pressure to deliver after inconsistent performances.

In women’s singles, PV Sindhu spearheads the Indian challenge. Still searching for her rhythm post-injury and amid coaching changes, Sindhu will begin against Canada’s Wen Yu Zhang. Youngsters Anmol Kharb, Aakarshi Kashyap, Malvika Bansod, Rakshita Ramraj, Anupama Upadhaya, and Unnati Hooda face tough first-round draws, including Olympic and top-seeded opponents.

India’s top women’s doubles pair Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, seeded eighth, will face Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun of Chinese Taipei.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila/Tanisha Crasto and Rohan Kapoor/Ruthvika Shivani Gadde will aim to make an impact at the \$1,000,000 event.

With fitness and form aligning, Indian shuttlers will look to bounce back and make their mark in Singapore.

Juventus Clinch Champions League Spot with Thrilling Win Over Relegated Venezia

Juventus secured their place in next season’s UEFA Champions League with a tense 3-2 victory over already-relegated Venezia on the final day of the Serie A 2024–25 season. The win ensured that Juve finished fourth in the league standings, just one point ahead of Roma, who beat Torino 2-0 but missed out on Champions League qualification.

It was a dramatic evening at the Venice Lagoon as Juventus overcame a second-minute setback when Daniel Fila stunned the visitors by putting Venezia ahead. However, Juventus responded quickly with goals from Kenan Yildiz and Randal Kolo Muani within minutes of each other around the half-hour mark, turning the match in their favor.

Venezia, desperate to end their top-flight stint on a high note, struck back early in the second half through Ridgiciano Haps, momentarily boosting their slim hopes of survival and pushing Roma, who were leading Torino 2-0, into the final Champions League spot. Roma fans began to dream



as Claudio Ranieri’s side, powered by Leandro Paredes’ penalty and a header from Alexis Saelemaekers, did their part in Turin. But the celebration was cut short when Juventus were awarded

a penalty in the 73rd minute after Francisco Conceicao was fouled by Hans Nicolussi Caviglia. Manuel Locatelli calmly converted from the spot, sealing the win for Juventus and breaking Roman hearts.

Despite missing out on a Champions League berth, Ranieri’s impact at Roma has been widely praised. The veteran manager, in what is expected to be his final match as a coach, guided the team from the brink of relegation to a Europa League finish. Lazio, meanwhile, saw their hopes of European football vanish after a 1-0 home defeat to Lecce. That result, combined with Fiorentina’s 3-2 win over Udinese, allowed Fiorentina to leapfrog into the UEFA Conference League spot.

Venezia’s loss confirmed their relegation alongside Monza and Empoli, the latter falling 2-1 to fellow relegation battlers Verona. Juventus fans, after a turbulent season, can now look forward to their return to Europe’s premier competition next season.

PBKS Clinch Top-Two Finish with Commanding Win Over MI

Punjab Kings (PBKS) stormed into the top two of the IPL 2025 standings and secured a berth in Qualifier 1 with a clinical seven-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians (MI) in a high-stakes clash. In a virtual knockout game, PBKS rose to the occasion, chasing down a challenging target of 185 with nine balls to spare, thanks to outstanding performances from Josh Inglis and Priyansh Arya.

Needing a win to cement their spot in the top two, PBKS delivered under pressure. Their run chase was anchored brilliantly by Inglis, who struck a fluent 73 off 47 balls. The Australian wicketkeeper-batter showed his class with an array of confident strokes, ensuring the required rate remained within reach. Partnering him at the top was the young and dynamic Priyansh Arya, who played a fearless knock of 62 off just 35 deliveries. His aggressive intent in the Powerplay gave PBKS the early momentum, and his partnership



with Inglis laid the perfect platform.

Earlier in the evening, Mumbai Indians, after being put in to bat, posted 184/7 in their 20 overs. Suryakumar Yadav once again led the charge

with a stylish 57, while Tilak Varma and Tim David chipped in with useful cameos. However, MI struggled to accelerate in the death overs, with PBKS bowlers keeping things tight. Harshal Patel and Arshdeep Singh bowled crucial overs at the back end, preventing MI from crossing the 190-run mark.

With this commanding win, PBKS leapfrogged into the top spot on the points table, guaranteeing themselves not only a place in the top two but also home advantage for Qualifier 1, which will be played at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur.

For MI, the loss ends their playoff hopes, capping a disappointing season. PBKS, on the other hand, are peaking at the right time and will now look to carry this momentum into the playoffs as they eye their maiden IPL title.



Sesh Ignites the Screen in Explosive ‘Dacoit Fire’ Teaser

The teaser for Dacoit Fire, the first glimpse of Adivi Sesh’s much-awaited Pan-India film Dacoit, is out — and it’s nothing short of explosive. With a gripping mix of emotional tension, deception, and intense action, the teaser sets the tone for a gritty revenge saga that is already generating massive buzz ahead of its Christmas release.

From the opening scene, it’s clear that Sesh’s character is more than meets the eye. Initially appearing empathetic toward Mrunal Thakur’s character, he quickly reveals a darker, more menacing side, hinting at betrayal and heart-break. This emotional pivot showcases Sesh’s range as an actor, and the teaser suggests he’s taken on one of his most layered roles yet.



Sesh’s rugged transformation is striking. Clad in rustic attire and speaking in authentic Madanapalle slang, he delivers a performance that feels rooted and real. Mrunal Thakur complements

him perfectly, portraying vulnerability and suppressed pain with quiet intensity. The presence of filmmaker-actor Anurag Kashyap adds further intrigue, hinting at a powerful supporting role.

Directed by Shaneil Deo, the visuals in Dacoit Fire are a standout. The teaser balances raw grit with poetic imagery, capturing the dusty landscapes and intense drama with finesse. One particular sequence — a massive train crash — hints at the film’s scale and ambition, promising cinematic spectacle alongside emotional depth.

The film is produced by Supriya Yarlagadda in association with Suniel Narang under the Annapurna Studios banner. Known for backing quality

cinema, the production house seems to be pulling out all the stops for this high-stakes drama.

Adding to the teaser’s impact is the music by Bheems Ceciroleo. Known for his earthy and folk-inspired tunes, Bheems surprises fans with fresh, energetic beats that perfectly complement the film’s tone.

Dacoit is scheduled for a grand release on December 25, 2025, marking Adivi Sesh’s first-ever holiday season release. With powerful visuals, intense performances, and a compelling story of love and revenge, Dacoit is shaping up to be one of the year’s most anticipated films.



Teja Sajja’s ‘Mirai’ Teaser to Drop on May 28 – Fantasy Action Spectacle Gears Up for Release

After the massive success of Hanu-Man, rising star Teja Sajja is back in action with his upcoming fantasy adventure film Mirai, directed by Karthik Ghattamaneni. The project, which has been in production for several months, is now grabbing headlines with a major update — the official teaser will be unveiled on May 28, 2025.

Along with this exciting announcement, the makers released a powerful new poster showing Teja Sajja standing heroically atop a moving train — a dramatic visual that has already captured fans’ imagination and heightened anticipation for the film. The striking design hints at high-octane action and a larger-than-life cinematic experience.

Interestingly, the teaser poster does not mention the film’s release date, which was earlier announced as August 1, 2025. This has led to speculation among fans about a possible shift in the release schedule. However, the buzz surrounding the teaser drop has momentarily eclipsed those concerns, as fans eagerly await their first full glimpse of the film’s world.

Mirai is being touted as a fan-

tasy action adventure with cutting-edge visuals and a multi-dimensional storyline. Adding to the excitement is the casting of Manchu Manoj as the film’s antagonist — a role that’s expected to be intense and impactful. Ritika Nayak plays the female lead, marking another key element in this star-studded production.

The film is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Vivek Kuchibhotla under the prestigious People Media Factory banner, known for backing ambitious projects. Music is composed by Gowra Hari, who promises to deliver a powerful soundtrack to complement the film’s epic scale.

What makes Mirai even more special is its plan for a Pan-India and international release in seven languages, and in both 2D and 3D formats, ensuring a wide reach across diverse audiences.

As the teaser release approaches, expectations are sky-high for Mirai, which is poised to be one of the biggest fantasy action entertainers of the year. Stay tuned for more updates as the countdown to May 28 begins!

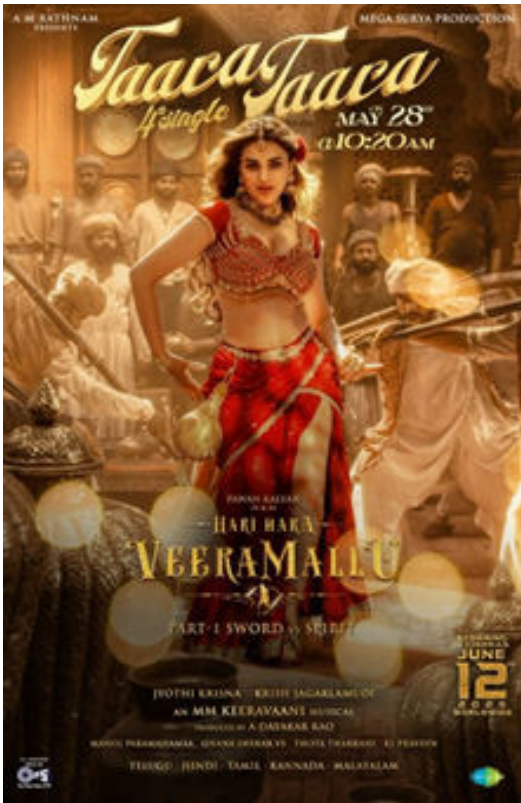
‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’ Promotions in Full Swing : New Song Update Out!

With the release of ‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’ just weeks away, the makers have shifted their promotional efforts into high gear. Starring Power Star Pawan Kalyan in a larger-than-life role, the film is set for a grand theatrical release on June 12 in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, and Malayalam languages.

Fans have been eagerly waiting for updates, and the team has delivered. Several posters and teaser videos have already been released, each receiving a strong and enthusiastic response from audiences across the country. Songs like ‘Maata Vinali’, ‘Kollagottinadiro’, and the powerful ‘Asura Hananam’ have gone viral, adding to the film’s ever-growing hype.

Now, the makers have announced another exciting update — the release of the much-anticipated sizzling song ‘Tara Tara’, featuring Nidhhi Agerwal, will take place on May 28 at 10:20 AM. The announcement, made on social media, described it as the “hottest track of the year.”

Nidhhi Agerwal plays the female lead op-



posite Pawan Kalyan, and fans are eagerly awaiting to see the onscreen chemistry between the duo. Adding further star

power to the film is Bollywood actor Bobby Deol, who plays the menacing Aurangzeb. This marks Bobby’s Telugu debut, following his impressive return to form in Animal. His powerful presence is expected to be a major highlight.

Directed by Krish Jagarlamudi, Hari Hara Veera Mallu is Pawan Kalyan’s first true pan-India film, where he portrays a Robin Hood-like hero who fights injustice by looting the rich and helping the poor. The film combines historical drama with high-octane action and is expected to appeal to audiences across demographics.

Music for the film is composed by Oscar-winner MM Keeravani, further elevating expectations. Reports suggest that a massive pre-release event is being planned both in the South and in Mumbai, with Salman Khan and Pawan Kalyan expected to appear together, adding to the nationwide buzz.

As the countdown to June 12 begins, Hari Hara Veera Mallu promises to be a cinematic spectacle that fans won’t want to miss.

Pawan Kalyan’s ‘OG’ Set for Dussehra Release

Power Star Pawan Kalyan, now serving as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, has been dedicating most of his time to public service, focusing on addressing people’s concerns and actively participating in governance. However, despite his political commitments, Pawan is making sure to wrap up his pending film projects at a rapid pace, much to the delight of his fans.

One of his most awaited projects, ‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’, is now fully complete and is set for a grand worldwide release on June 12, 2025. Directed by Krish Jagarlamudi, the film showcases Pawan Kalyan in a Robin Hood-style role, standing up for the poor by taking on the rich and corrupt. With the music composed by Oscar-winner



MM Keeravani and a pan-India release planned, expectations are sky-high.

Hot on the heels of this release, Pawan has shifted focus to completing ‘OG’ (Original Gangster). The film, directed by Sujeeth and produced by DVV Entertainment, has resumed its

shoot recently and is progressing at a brisk pace. In a major update, the makers officially announced that ‘OG’ will hit theaters on September 25, 2025, just in time for the Dussehra festivities — a move that has thrilled fans and industry insiders alike.

The teaser of OG, already released, gave fans a glimpse of a fierce and stylish Pawan Kalyan in an action-packed avatar. The high-octane visuals and intense sequences have significantly raised anticipation around the film. Starring Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi as the antagonist, OG also features a strong supporting cast including Arjun Das, Shriya Reddy, Prakash Raj, Harish Uthaman, Abhimanyu Singh, and Ajay Ghosh.

With Thaman scoring the music, OG promises to be a thrilling cinematic experience. As Pawan Kalyan juggles politics and cinema, fans are excited to see him light up the silver screen once again with two major releases in the same year.

Ahead of HIT 3 OTT Release, Karthi’s Stylish Look from HIT 4 Unveiled

The HIT franchise continues to captivate audiences as HIT 3 gears up for its digital debut on Netflix, scheduled for May 29, 2025. The third installment has been a smashing success at the box office, though some viewers missed the theatrical experience due to its A certificate rating. Now, excitement is building for fans to stream the thriller from the comfort of their homes. Adding to the buzz, the makers have recently revealed the first look of Karthi from the upcoming HIT 4, the next chapter in the popular crime saga. Karthi takes on the role of ACP Veer-

appan, promising a fresh and intense presence that fans are eager to see. The stylish birthday poster showcasing Karthi in his new avatar has already generated positive reactions on social media. Known for his versatile acting skills, Karthi is expected to bring a compelling energy to the franchise, elevating the suspense and emotional depth the series is known for. With HIT 4, audiences can look forward to a gripping storyline packed with thrilling action sequences and complex characters. The film is directed by Sailesh



Kolanu, who has successfully helmed previous entries in the HIT series, maintaining the

perfect blend of mystery and excitement. Produced by Nani on a grand scale, HIT 4 aims to raise the bar with bigger production values and a wider scope, ensuring fans are in for an exhilarating cinematic experience. As anticipation mounts for both the OTT release of HIT 3 and the upcoming HIT 4, fans are urged to stay tuned for more updates, teasers, and announcements from the team. With Karthi’s electrifying introduction as ACP Veerappan, the HIT franchise is set to continue its winning streak and keep audiences hooked.