



Air India Flight AI171 Crashes After Takeoff in Ahmedabad

Over 240 onboard; PM Modi, global leaders express grief as emergency efforts continue

Air India Dreamliner crashes minutes after takeoff en route to London

242 people onboard, including ex-Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani

Aircraft airborne for only 32 seconds, crashed in residential zone

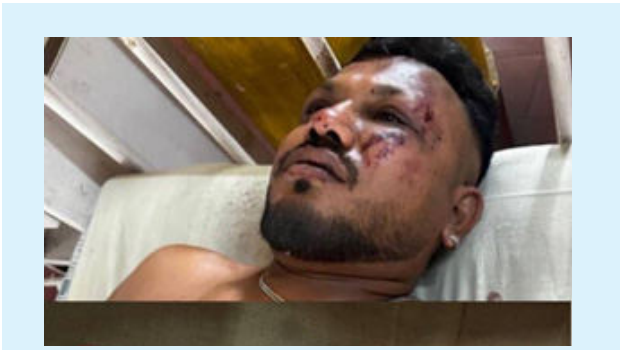
At least 5 students killed after impact at a hostel dining area

One passenger miraculously survived, walked out of wreckage



It Was Lunchtime at Ahmedabad Doctors' Hostel, Then A Plane Came Crashing

AI-171, which was flying to London, crashed minutes after taking off from Ahmedabad. Horrifying visuals from the hostel of Ahmedabad's BJ Medical College, into which an Air India flight with 242 people onboard crashed this afternoon, show plates of food left uneaten, suggesting that the aircraft hit the building when the young doctors were having their lunch.



One passenger miraculously survived, walked out of wreckage

Viswashkumar Ramesh, a 40-year-old from the U.K. is reported to be the only survivor from this morning's crash of Air India 171 in Ahmedabad. He was sitting in seat 11A at the time of the crash, amazingly suffering only minor injuries and waking up to search-and-rescuers. His brother, who was seated next to him is still missing, presumed dead by authorities in India.

TPN Correspondent | Ahmedabad

A major aviation tragedy struck India on Thursday afternoon after Air India's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, operating as Flight AI171 from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, crashed minutes after takeoff, killing multiple people and injuring dozens. The aircraft was carrying 232 passengers and 10 crew members when it lost altitude and crashed in a residential area close to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport around 1:38 pm. The crash site was chaotic, with dense smoke, flames, and debris spread across buildings and streets. Emergency services—including fire brigade teams, local police, the Indian Army medical corps, and more than two dozen ambulances—rushed to the scene for rescue and relief. Officials confirmed the aircraft struck a hostel building housing medical college students, tragically killing five students and injuring others. Harrowing visuals from the dining hall showed untouched food on tables moments before disaster struck. Flight data and eyewitness accounts suggest that the aircraft struggled to gain height after takeoff from runway 23. According to initial

assessments, the plane reached just 625 feet before losing altitude. A 59-second video circulating online shows the aircraft airborne for merely 32 seconds before it violently crashed, resulting in a massive fireball. A miracle amid the tragedy came in the form of a passenger seated on 11A who was seen walking away from the wreckage, surviving the crash with minor injuries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sorrow, calling the incident "heartbreaking beyond words". "The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it," he stated, confirming ongoing coordination with ministries and authorities. The Civil Aviation Ministry, under Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, is on high alert. "Shocked and devastated... Rescue teams have been mobilised and all efforts are being made to ensure medical aid and relief," he said. The Ministry is also working closely with Air India and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which has initiated a detailed investigation.

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Mangalagiri Court Sends Krishnam Raju to 14-Day Remand

- Journalist Krishnam Raju remanded till June 26 in derogatory remarks case
- Made controversial comments on Sakshi TV's 'KSR Live Show'
- Kommineni Srinivasa Rao already in remand as second accused



Mangalagiri: The Mangalagiri court has remanded journalist VVR Krishnam Raju to 14 days judicial custody till June 26 in connection with the controversial remarks made during a live TV debate that sparked massive protests across Andhra Pradesh. The court issued the remand order after hearing both sides this afternoon, following which Krishnam Raju was shifted to Guntur district jail.

The controversy stems from a live broadcast on Sakshi TV's KSR Live Show aired on June 6, where Krishnam Raju allegedly made highly offensive remarks about women participating in the Amaravati capital movement. He reportedly said, "Amaravati is the capital of prostitutes," a comment that led to widespread condemnation from all quarters,

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Talliki Vandanam Begins for 67.27 Lakh Students: CM

- 24.65 lakh more students to benefit than Amma Vodi
- Scheme benefits students from Class 1 to Intermediate
- Rs. 8,745 crore directly deposited into mothers' accounts
- Private and unaided school students also included



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has formally launched the 'Talliki Vandanam' scheme, fulfilling a key election promise made under the 'Super Six' guarantees. Marking one year of

the NDA coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu announced that the scheme will benefit 67.27 lakh students, with an allocation of Rs. 10,091 crore, including Rs. 1,346 crore earmarked for school infrastructure development. Speaking at the CM's Camp Office

in Undavalli on Thursday, he said, "This is the first step towards good governance. We are implementing the scheme for all students in a family, not just one, and without any restriction."

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Air India Flight...

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The flight carried nationals from various countries—169 Indians, 53 British, 1 Canadian, and 7 Portuguese citizens. Among the passengers was former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

Air India confirmed the crash in an official statement and activated a dedicated emergency helpline (1800 5691 444) for concerned family members. Chairman N Chandrasekaran said, “With profound sorrow, I confirm that Air India Flight 171 was involved in a tragic accident today. Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the families of all those affected.”

Gautam Adani, head of the Adani Group that manages the Ahmedabad Airport, also released a statement: “We are shocked and deeply saddened by the tragedy of Air India Flight 171. Our hearts go out to the families who have suffered an unimaginable loss.”

From the UK, Prime Minister Keir Starmer responded to the crash, stating, “The scenes emerging of a London-bound plane crashing in Ahmedabad are devastating. My thoughts are with the passengers and their families.”

London’s Gatwick Airport, the intended destination of the flight, confirmed it was expecting the aircraft to land at 18:25 UK time and said it was monitoring the developments.

Authorities have sealed off surrounding areas to facilitate uninterrupted emergency operations. Traffic diversions are in place, and a crisis centre has been activated to manage the aftermath. Further updates from Air India, DGCA, and international aviation safety bodies are expected as investigations progress.

Mangalagiri Court...

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particularly women’s organizations and Amaravati supporters.

In response, multiple complaints were filed across the state. Acting on one such complaint by Amaravati JAC Dalit leader Kambhampati Sirisha, the Tullur police registered a case, naming Krishnam Raju as the main accused (A1). He was arrested and produced before the court today.

Notably, senior journalist and Sakshi TV anchor Kommineni Srinivasa Rao, who hosted the show and is the second accused (A2) in the case, had already been arrested earlier and is currently in remand. With Krishnam Raju’s remand, both accused journalists are now in judicial custody.

This incident has created a storm in political and media circles, with many leaders demanding strict action. The Amaravati movement leaders said these remarks insult not just the women of Amaravati but the dignity of the broader movement for the capital. Legal experts and women’s rights activists have also weighed in, calling for media accountability and respectful discourse in public platforms.

Talliki Vandanam...

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Comparing it with the previous government’s Amma Vodi scheme, Chandrababu stated that his government is supporting 24.65 lakh more students, offering a significantly higher financial outlay. “The previous government covered 42.61 lakh students and spent Rs. 5,540 crore. We are supporting 67.27 lakh students and transferring Rs. 8,745 crore directly into the bank accounts of their mothers — that’s Rs. 3,205 crore more,” he added.

The scheme covers students from Class 1 to Intermediate First Year. For newly admitted students, the funds will be deposited after school admissions are finalized. The CM said that even 76,000 students studying in private and unaided schools have been included. He assured that transparency will be maintained by publishing beneficiary lists at village and ward secretariats. Those who face technical issues can apply until June 26, and the final list will be released on June 30. For motherless children, the amount will be transferred to fathers or guardians, while in the case of orphans, District Collectors will assign eligible recipients. Chandrababu emphasized that the weaker sections form a significant portion of the scheme’s beneficiaries, and he called this an important step in ensuring population balance and inclusive growth. He reaffirmed his government’s commitment to development and welfare, which he described as the “two eyes” of the coalition administration.

Pack your bags, students: Andhra Pradesh Schools Reopen Today

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Vijayawada, June 12: Schools across Andhra Pradesh reopened today, marking the start of the 2025-26 academic year, with over 61 lakh students returning to classrooms after their summer vacations. Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the state has introduced a new CBSE-aligned curriculum in 1,000 government schools, featuring NCERT-based social studies for 10th graders and Future Skills for 8th graders.

The TDP-led government’s Talliki Vandanam scheme, part of the Super Six promises, provides ₹15,000 annually to mothers for each school-going child, supporting education from classes I to XII. Over ₹8,745 crore was disbursed today under this initiative. Textbook distribution is underway, though minor delays are expected due to the recent government transition.



Deepam-2 Scheme: A Prestigious Promise Undermined by Persistent Flaws

TPN | Sumanth Jangam

Vijayawada, June 12: The Deepam-2-2 scheme, launched by the TDP-led NDA government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on November 1, 2024, promised three free LPG cylinders annually to women with white ration cards as part of the Super Six election guarantees. With a ₹2,684 crore budget, it targeted 1.55 crore gas connection holders to ease household expenses. Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar claimed 99.22 lakh beneficiaries received their first cylinder by April 2025, with ₹760 crore credited. Civil Supplies Commissioner Saurabh IAS stated, “The second phase has been successfully underway, with over 90% of subsidy disbursements completed.”

However, the rollout faces significant hurdles. CPM leader Babu Rao accused the TDP government of betraying Andhra Pradesh’s people by imposing undisclosed post-election conditions, like mandatory e-KYC and Aadhaar linkage, excluding many eligible women. Rao noted that numerous applicants are still awaiting cylinders, urging a single-window system to curb errors. Desperate beneficiaries are rushing to gas agencies for clarity on missing subsidies, only to face inadequate support and vague responses. The second phase, launched on April 1, 2025, has begun, but many report non-delivery of subsidies, with April bookings unrefunded due to technical glitches. The toll-free helpline (1967) is largely ineffective, with connectivity issues and unhelpful responses, fueling frustration. Deepam 2’s delays, exclusionary practices, and lack of accountability continue to dim its prestigious promise.

Vasamsetty Subhash Launches ‘Factories’ App to Boost Labour Safety

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash launched the ‘Factories’ App on Wednesday, aimed at strengthening labour safety monitoring across the state. Speaking at a state-level training program organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Vijayawada branch, the Minister stressed that labour safety is just as important as industrial development. The newly developed app, built in collaboration with the AP Centre for Financial Systems and Services (APCFSS) and the Factories Department, will initially focus on enabling third-party services for industrial inspection and equipment monitoring. Director of the Factories Department Y. Ushasri explained that this marks the first phase of app deployment.



During the inaugural session of the training program, titled Capacity Development Program and Rigorous Safety Audit Training (as per IS 14489:2018), Minister Subhash highlighted that recent accidents, including the tragic incident at Synergy company, had prompted the government to take immediate action. “In the first few months of the coalition government, we have already seen the consequences of weak safety compliance. That’s why CM Chandrababu Naidu appointed the Vasudha Mishra Committee to

review and recommend safety reforms,” he said. He praised the swift implementation of safety initiatives by department officials and emphasized the dual focus of the state government—on attracting industrial growth while also ensuring the protection, training, and wellbeing of its workforce. “We must not overlook worker safety in our pursuit of industrial expansion. These audits, training, and digital tools like the Factories App are crucial in our effort to ensure no life is lost due to negligence,” Minister Subhash stated. Labour Commissioner M.V. Sesthagiri Babu, BIS Vijayawada Director Prem Sajni Patnala, safety expert Bhavana Kasturia, and former Deputy Director General U.S.P. Yadav also participated in the event, which provided intensive training to labour department officials on safety audit standards and protocols.

Commissioner Orders Plans for Drain and CC Road Works

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Nellore Municipal Corporation Commissioner Y.O. Nandan has directed officials from the Engineering Department to immediately prepare comprehensive plans for the construction of cement concrete (CC) roads and drainage systems in areas where they are urgently required across the city.

During an inspection tour of Bhagat Singh Colony in the 54th Division on Thursday, the Commissioner personally interacted with local residents who raised concerns about the lack of proper roads and drainage. Responding promptly, he instructed the engineering officials to coordinate and begin planning for the nec-



essary civil works in the affected areas. As part of his continued inspection of sanitation works, Commissioner Nandan also visited Drivers Colony in the 26th Division, where he supervised ongoing desilting and silt removal operations in local drains. He emphasized the need for consistent monitoring of open waste disposal zones and urged sanitation staff to raise public awareness on the importance of main-

taining clean surroundings. He advised residents to cooperate by handing over household waste to door-to-door garbage collection vehicles instead of dumping it in open spaces. The Commissioner further inspected desilting works in the forest area of the city and gave clear instructions to the sanitation team to maintain proper oversight. He also emphasized that all building constructions must adhere to approvals granted by the Town Planning Department, warning against unauthorized developments. Later, Commissioner Nandan visited V.R. Educational Institutions and reviewed the ongoing construction work in the premises.

Four Days of Rain in AP



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Agency (APSDMA) has issued a weather alert, stating that scattered rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is likely across the state for the next four days. The warning comes in the wake of surface-level circulation and trough conditions that are currently influencing the state’s weather patterns.

According to the APSDMA, moderate rainfall along with thunder is expected on Friday in several districts, including Manyam, Alluri Sitaramaraju, Kakinada, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Pal-

nadu, Prakasam, Nandyal, and Anantapur. Officials have urged residents in these areas to remain vigilant, avoid open spaces during thunderstorms, and take shelter in safe structures to avoid exposure to lightning and heavy winds.

The Meteorological Department also indicated that light showers may occur in the remaining districts of the state, although these are not expected to be intense. However, it emphasized the importance of precaution, as sudden weather changes can cause localized hazards. Disaster management officials have advised people, especially those in

vulnerable areas, to stay updated with local weather bulletins and avoid unnecessary travel during periods of intense rain. Emergency services and response teams are on standby to handle any adverse situations that may arise due to the weather conditions. The public is encouraged to take preventive steps such as securing loose outdoor items, staying indoors during lightning, and avoiding contact with electrical appliances during thunderstorms. The APSDMA continues to monitor the situation and will issue updates as needed.

‘Konidela Pawan Kalyan ane nenu...’

Janasena marks Pawan’s first year as Deputy CM with special video

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

On the occasion of completing one year as Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Janasena Party Chief Konidela Pawan Kalyan received a grand tribute from his party in the form of a special video released on Thursday. Titled with the words “Konidela Pawan Kalyan ane nenu...”, the video became an instant talking point on social media, resonating strongly among party workers and the public alike.

The Janasena Party released the video to mark Pawan Kalyan’s completion of one year in governance as part of the coalition government. The video highlights the significant milestones achieved under his leadership during the past year and reflects his rising stature in Andhra Pradesh politics.

The video also emphasizes Pawan Kalyan’s first-ever electoral victory from Pithapuram, noting how it gave the party a 100% strike rate in the constituency and changed the political narrative in the state.

Highlights of Achievements

The video highlights several developmental initiatives undertaken under Pawan Kalyan’s guidance, particularly focusing on rural and tribal welfare. It showcases the supply of clean drinking water to every household as a major achievement, addressing a basic yet critical need. Additionally, the construction of 39 kilometers of roads in 55 tribal villages has improved connectivity and accessibility for remote communities. The video also points to the relocation of elephants from Karnataka to Andhra Pradesh, which reflects efforts in ecological balance and tourism development. Another notable initiative includes the distribution of safety kits to



private electricians, ensuring their protection while on the job. These measures, according to the Janasena Party, underline its commitment to enhancing infrastructure and ensuring the safety and well-being of marginalized communities. Pawan Kalyan’s Political Transformation

The video traces Pawan Kalyan’s journey from an emerging political figure to a “game changer” in Andhra Pradesh politics. It portrays him as a visionary leader who has led the party with patience, persistence, and strategic clarity. His efforts to maintain internal unity within the coalition and provide transparent governance are described as key factors behind his growing popularity. The party also pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several national figures have acknowledged Pawan’s leadership, especially his maturity in coalition politics. The video not only acts as a

morale booster for Janasena workers, but also sends a clear message to the people of the state about the party’s developmental focus. The governance model led by Pawan Kalyan is being presented as a combination of responsibility, transparency, and grassroots connect. It also reminds the public that the Janasena is fully committed to fulfilling the promises made during the election and working for the upliftment of all sections of society. More Programs in the Pipeline According to Janasena leadership, Pawan Kalyan has already prepared an action plan for the future. The focus will remain on implementing new welfare and development programs that benefit the common man while continuing to ensure accountability in administration. As the special video trends across social platforms, political analysts note that Pawan Kalyan’s image as a decisive and people-first leader is being steadily reinforced.



“They Went Without Responsibility and Created Chaos in Podili”: CM

TPN Correspondent | Undavalli

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, marking the completion of one year of the coalition government, delivered a powerful statement during a press conference held at the CM camp office in Undavalli on Thursday. He lashed out at the opposition YSRCP, accusing them of trying to sabotage the state’s peace and development through deliberate conspiracies and inciting unrest. “They’ve only seen my patience so far. I won’t ignore such behavior anymore,” Chandrababu said firmly, adding that the opposition’s growing frustration over the coalition government’s success was leading them to provoke disturbances and cause law and order issues. Referring to the recent incidents in Podili and Tenali, he said the opposition was acting recklessly and inciting attacks on women, all to distract from the backlash over their derogatory remarks about Amaravati. The Chief Minister condemned the offensive comments made by some YSRCP leaders during a live television debate. “How dare they call Amaravati—a place sanctified by gods—a city of prostitutes?” he asked, expressing fury. He alleged that the violent incidents in Podili were part of a deliber-

ate plan to shift focus from the uproar caused by these comments. “Did they go to Podili with any responsibility? No! They went there with a group of goons and caused chaos. Stones were pelted at women,” he said. Chandrababu also questioned YSRCP’s moral authority. “Even after being reduced to just 11 seats, they’ve not learned their lesson. Do they think rowdiness will bring them back to power?” he asked, criticizing the party’s attempts to instigate public anger and gain political mileage through provocation. He emphasized that his government is committed to maintaining public order and will not compromise when it comes to peace and safety. “If anyone thinks they can create trouble, attack citizens, or disturb peace, we will take strict action,” he declared. In contrast to the turmoil, the Chief Minister also highlighted key achievements of his government, stating that tobacco farmers are now receiving ₹12,000 per quintal as support—a clear indicator of the administration’s pro-farmer stance. Chandrababu’s remarks signal a shift in tone—moving from patience to stern warning—as the government aims to reinforce public safety and political accountability.

Sharmila Fires at Chandrababu’s One-Year Report Card

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (AP PCC) President YS Sharmila launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, questioning the achievements of the coalition government in its first year. Addressing the media during her visit to Kadapa on Thursday, Sharmila criticized Chandrababu for presenting what she called a “victory certificate” that resembled more of an election campaign manifesto than a report of accomplishments.

“What Has He Really Achieved?”

Sharmila alleged that instead of listing completed promises, the Chief Minister’s report reiterated what is yet to be done. “Chandrababu is boasting as if he’s already promoted, but what has he actually delivered? The public deserves answers,” she said. She pointed out that even after a year in power, the much-touted ‘Super Six’ promises remain unfulfilled. “Forget the Super Six, there are over 140 promises he made. How many of those have seen the light of day?” she asked. Broken Promises and Stalled Schemes Targeting specific schemes, the APCC



chief said that free bus travel for women remains a non-starter with repeated delays under the guise of festival rollouts. “There is no unemployment allowance, no sign of 20 lakh jobs, and the government has failed to support farmers,” she added. She also called the ‘Amma Odi’ promise misleading, saying that while the government claims to benefit 67 lakh students, it conveniently left out nearly 20 lakh. Sharmila termed the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme a partial rollout, accusing the government of excluding 45 lakh farmers out of the total 93 lakh from the beneficiary list. She also slammed the Mahila Shakti scheme, stating that it hasn’t even been initiated despite a year passing since its announcement. Sharmila further said that the state’s so-called progress under Chandrababu was being achieved by piling up debt. “In just one year, the

government has borrowed close to ₹1 lakh crore. First Jagan pushed AP into debt, now Chandrababu is following suit,” she remarked. She also questioned the financial strategy of mortgaging state lands and taking loans in the name of Amaravati, saying it puts the future of coming generations at stake.

“Why Support a Cheating BJP?”

The APCC chief also slammed the BJP, saying that the promise of special category status to Andhra Pradesh made in Tirupati still remains unfulfilled. She demanded that the TDP and Janasena withdraw their support to the BJP, which she accused of betraying the state. “What happened to the Kadapa Steel Plant promise? Why are Chandrababu and Pawan silent on these issues?” she asked.



YS Sharmila’s Meeting Set to Be a Grand Success

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati: Congress State President YS Sharmila Reddy will visit Tirupati district as part of her statewide tour and will address a key meeting in Srikalahasti constituency on Friday, June 13. The event, which will be held at the R G R Kalyana Mandapam, is expected to play a crucial role in energizing the Congress ranks and strengthening the party’s organizational structure in the region. District Congress Committee (DCC) President Balaguruvam Babu urged all Congress workers, leaders, party sympathizers, and the public to participate in large numbers and make the event a resounding success. Speaking to the media, he stressed that this meeting is a vital step in revitalizing the Congress party at the grassroots level. Balaguruvam Babu announced that around 300 Congress mandal-level leaders and activists are expected to

attend the meeting. He emphasized that Congress cadres must unite to rebuild and reinforce the party’s presence in the state under the leadership of YS Sharmila Reddy. Several senior Congress leaders and functionaries participated in the preparatory meeting, including coordinator Thalapa Damodaram Reddy, PCC Vice Presidents Dodda Reddy Rambhupal Reddy, PCC General Secretary Eeda Sudhakar Reddy, District Vice Presidents Gurumurthy, Sabari Rajan Reddy, Devadanam, District General Secretary Kalinder, and Srikalahasti Mandal President Surendra Reddy. Youth leaders including Naveen, Antony, Arun, Mahesh, Chandu, and Badri were also present. The local leadership expressed confidence that YS Sharmila’s visit would not only energize the party cadre in Tirupati district but also provide a clear direction to Congress workers as the party gears up for future electoral challenges.

CM Working to Fulfill People's Aspirations: Former MLA SCV Naidu

TPN | C Shekar

Srikalahasti, June 12: Former MLA of Srikalahasti, SCV Naidu, praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s leadership and said that the coalition government is moving ahead as per the aspirations of the people by strengthening the state economically and delivering the benefits of development and welfare to all sections.

On the occasion of the coalition government completing one year in office, celebrations were held under the leadership of SCV Naidu in Srikalahasti. Address-



ing the gathering, he said the efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to steer the alliance government comprising TDP, Janasena, and BJP deserve appreciation. He hailed the launch of the ‘Talliki Vandanam’ welfare scheme as a fulfillment of electoral promises

and stated that the free bus travel for women will be launched on August 15, followed by the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme for farmers on June 20. He emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is working relentlessly to rebuild Amaravati as the capital, which he said will emerge as a significant source of income for the state in the next decade. SCV Naidu opined that the younger generation will eventually understand the visionary efforts being made under Chandrababu’s leadership. Jagan and his followers are engaging in baseless criticism which is only leading

to increased public resentment. He advised YSRCP leaders to act responsibly and support the state’s development instead of resorting to negative politics. Reacting to the recent remarks made against Amaravati women protesters, SCV Naidu warned that insulting Amaravati women is equivalent to insulting all women of the state. He urged leaders to behave with dignity and give constructive support to societal progress. He also highlighted the leadership of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, calling him the future Chief Minister, and said the state will witness financial

strengthening and transparent implementation of welfare schemes under his guidance. The event was attended by several local leaders including Satravada Praveen Kumar, Prakash Naidu, former councilor Prasad Naidu, Irla Kishore, Bhaskar Naidu, former MPP Subramaniam, Sarpanch Gali Balaji Naidu, Hari Naidu, Delhi Pratap Sudarshan Naidu, Gogineni Suresh Naidu, and Chandu. They expressed solidarity with the coalition government’s development agenda and praised the leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu.



Illegal Land Grab Exposed in Andhra Pradesh

Fake Identity Used to Claim ₹60 Cr Property
Guntur Sub-Registrar allegedly involved in fraudulent registration
Fraudster used fake identity to claim land of deceased textile merchant
Land worth crores registered illegally with forged fingerprints
Sub-Registrar, middlemen reportedly took shares from seized land

TPN Correspondent | Guntur
A major land scam has surfaced in Andhra Pradesh, exposing the vulnerability of citizens' land records and the apparent complicity of government officials. A textile merchant's property—worth nearly ₹60 crore—was fraudulently transferred after the family perished during the Covid pandemic. The scam, involving impersonation and forged biometric data, has raised serious questions about the safety of public property and the role of sub-registrars in facilitating illegal transactions. According to reports, Chakka Ganesh Gupta, a textile merchant from Krishna district, died during the Covid outbreak along with his immediate family. Sensing an opportunity, a man named Tammiseti Venkatesh allegedly moved to claim Ganesh Gupta's land us-

ing fraudulent means. Venkatesh reportedly arranged for a Muslim man to impersonate Chekka Ganesh Gupta—a false identity that closely mimicked the deceased—and used the Guntur Sub-Registrar Office to register the property under document number 577/2025. This fraudulent registration included 1.02 acres of land located in Vijayawada rural (Nunna), originally registered under deed number 3335/2011 in the Nunna sub-registrar office by the real owners, including Kukkala Veeramma. It is alleged that the Guntur Sub-Registrar colluded with the fraudster, sharing the land's value among three parties: 25% to the sub-registrar, 25% to the person who facilitated the registration, and 50 cents (half an acre) to another party who owned adjacent land. However, the fraud unraveled

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Registration and Stamps Department

STATEMENT OF ENCUMBRANCE ON PROPERTY

Date: 01-06-2025 09:41:11	App No: 2506/10229032	Statement No: 113158409	Village: PHARYADI NARAYANAPUR	Ward - Block: 0 - 0	Survey No: 2617C
House No:	Plot No./SI No:	Extent: 1.02 A	Built up:	Flat No:	Apartment:
Recorded by No: B	South: LAND OF THOTA RANGA A RAO	East: LAND OF SOMSETTI JAYA B ARAMAH	West: LAND OF CHAKKA GANESH A BEE	Sd/Seal:	Vassu having searched for a statement giving particulars of registered acts and encumbrances if any, in respect of the mentioned property.
Sl. No.	Description of property	Reg Date File Date Post Date	Value & Net Value Gross Value	Name of Parties (Encumbees & Chargeholders)	Mapping No CR No Dist Ref New (if Encumbered)
01	VILLAGE, PHARYADI NARAYANAPUR PHARYADI NARAYANAPUR M R R: 0-0 SURVEY: 26-11, LP No: 407 EXTENT: 45 BUILT UP: 00 P. Boundaries: [S] Encumbered land [S] Thota Ranga Rao [E] Somsetti Jayaramiah land [S] Chakka Ganesh land LAND DOW: 3335/2011 of SRD 624	01-01-2025 01-01-2025 01-01-2025	5101 MR Value Rs. 4 40000 Gross Value Rs. 400000	Sd/Seal 1. CHAKKA GANESH (Ganesh/Bee) 2. CHAKKA GANESH (Ganesh/Bee)	619 577/2025 (S) of SRD 624 R-0-0 (271C)
02	VILLAGE, PHARYADI NARAYANAPUR PHARYADI NARAYANAPUR M R R: 0-0 SURVEY: 2617C EXTENT: 1.02 Gross Boundaries: [S] CH LAND [S] LAND OF THOTA RANGA RAO [S] LAND OF SOMSETTI JAYA RANGA [S] LAND OF SHAK RANGA RAO LAND DOW: 1946/1996 of SRD 627	01-08-11-2011 01-08-11-2011 01-08-11-2011	Sd/Seal MR Value Rs. 1 22000 Gross Value Rs. 1220000	1. CHAKKALA VEERAMMA 2. CHAKKALA GANESH GUPTA	619 CR: 1946/122 3335/2011 (E) of SRD 624 ARAO

when the biometric fingerprint verification linked to Aadhaar exposed the impersonator's real identity—a Muslim man, not Chekka Ganesh Gupta. Despite this, the registration was processed, indicating deliberate complicity. This incident has sparked outrage among local residents and

activists, who are demanding immediate action against the sub-registrar and a high-level inquiry into similar fraudulent registrations across Andhra Pradesh. Full details of those involved in this property seizure—including names and their roles—will be published in tomorrow's edition.

MP Mahesh Kumar Orders Removal of Iron Bars on Railway Track

Assures farmers of action for railway overbridge in Vatlur village



TPN Correspondent | Eluru
Farmers from Vatlur village in Pedapadu mandal received swift assurance from MP Putta Mahesh Kumar after they complained about iron bars

installed across a local railway track, causing major inconvenience to their daily commute and transport. On Thursday, the farmers met the MP at his local camp of-

fice and explained that due to the presence of these iron bars, they were being forced to take a two-kilometre detour, which was affecting their time and transportation. Responding promptly, MP Mahesh Kumar contacted railway officials and directed them to remove the iron bars immediately. Railway officials explained that the bars had been installed as a safety precaution since there had been several incidents of cattle straying onto the tracks, causing accidents. Acknowledging the concern, the MP suggested that farmers be advised to take steps to prevent cattle from crossing the tracks

and emphasized that the iron barriers be removed to relieve public inconvenience. Following his conversation with officials, the MP personally spoke with the farmers and assured them that he would raise the issue of constructing a railway overbridge at the location in the upcoming Parliament session. He added that efforts would be made to secure necessary funds from the central government for the project. Grateful for the immediate response, the farmers of Vatlur village thanked MP Putta Mahesh Kumar for addressing their concerns and acting without delay.

Minister Kolusu Distributes Textbooks to Students

Govt committed to strengthening school education, says Parthasarathy

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy emphasized the coalition government's commitment to strengthening the education sector, highlighting new initiatives aimed at improving government schools across Andhra Pradesh. Participating in a textbook distribution program at Zilla Parishad High School in Edara village, Agiripalli mandal of Eluru district on Thursday, the minister handed over textbooks to students and praised the reforms introduced by the state government in the education system. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Parthasarathy said that the education department has made all necessary arrangements to distribute a comprehensive kit called the Sarvepalli

Radhakrishna Vidyarthimithra on the very first day of school reopening. The kit includes nine essential items for students. Additionally, he said, fortified rice-based midday meals will be served to ensure better nutrition for children. The minister informed that 1,17,598 students from 1,768 government schools and 19,993 students from 132 welfare hostels in the district would benefit from these programs. The government has readied 6,73,000 textbooks and 7,62,338 notebooks for distribution among students in the district. Stressing the government's focus on education, Kolusu Parthasarathy also revealed that 1,035 teacher posts in the district are being filled through the District Selection Process (DSP), further enhancing the quality of teaching.



The event witnessed participation from senior education department officials, local representatives, and leaders from the coalition parties. The min-

ister assured that more reforms and support will follow to ensure that government schools in the state set a benchmark in quality education.

Journey From Destruction to Development Has Begun in a Year

Investments worth ₹9.5 lakh crore attracted within a year
Unmatched welfare schemes rolled out across the state



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh stated that Andhra Pradesh has transitioned from a phase of destruction to a path of development within just one year under the coalition government. Speaking at a press conference held at his residence in Undavalli, Lokesh emphasized that the coalition, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre, represents a true double engine government focused on welfare and growth. He noted that the government is fulfilling its mandate with concrete results. "We have brought in investments that the state could not attract in the past decade," he said, adding that agreements amounting to ₹9.5 lakh crore have been signed, potentially generating 8.5 lakh jobs. He further revealed that Andhra Pradesh now leads the country in domestic investments, with a 16% national share. Companies like TCS, LG, NTPC Green, Arce-lorMittal, BPCL, and Reliance Renew Power have committed to investing in the state. Highlighting the welfare initiatives, Lokesh said that the coalition government is providing pensions in a manner unmatched by any other state in India. Senior citizens receive ₹1,000 to ₹4,000, disabled individuals receive ₹3,000 to ₹6,000, and bed-ridden patients are given ₹15,000 per month. Additionally, 203 Anna Canteens have been reopened, and a free bus travel scheme is set to launch on August 15. Two crore gas cylinders have also been distributed under the Deepam scheme, and the government plans to directly transfer the benefit amount to women's bank accounts going forward. Lokesh proudly stated that the coalition government fulfilled another of its "Babu Super Six" election promises — "Thaliki Vandanam". "As promised, we are depositing ₹13,000 per child into the bank accounts of mothers. Those with two children will receive ₹26,000 and those with three will get ₹39,000," he explained. Furthermore, ₹2,000 per student will be allocated to school maintenance under this initiative. Defending the government's actions against opposition interference, he mentioned that the Mega DSC recruitment process has faced 24 legal challenges, all of which were dismissed, including the latest one in the Supreme Court. "Despite all obstacles, we are going ahead with the recruitment of 16,347 posts," Lokesh confirmed. In his closing remarks, Lokesh stressed that welfare and development are like the two oxen pulling the cart of the coalition government. "We have taken the first step towards good governance. We will fulfill the aspirations of the people who gave us a massive mandate with 94% of the seats," he said.

Ethiopia delegates studies APAIMS 2.0

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A high-level delegation from Ethiopia's Agriculture Transformation Institute (ATI) visited the state to study the advanced digital initiatives being undertaken by the State Agriculture Department, particularly the implementation of Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Information Management System (APAIMS) 2.0. The Ethiopian team visited the State RTGS Centre, where they were briefed on the end-to-end digital service delivery model covering all aspects from input distribution to e-marketplace integration, leveraging advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). The team interacted with Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary for Agriculture & Cooperation B. Rajasekhar, at the Secretariat. During the meeting, Dilli Rao explained how APAIMS 2.0 will bring transparency, operational efficiency, and seamless service delivery to farmers. He explained that from Kharif 2025, all department activities will be routed exclusively through the APAIMS 2.0 platform developed by Vassar Labs IT Solutions, Hyderabad, with no manual or offline processes being entertained henceforth. A field visit to APCNF PMDS fields in Eluru was also organized, where the Ethiopian delegates interacted directly with farmers and witnessed PMDS natural farming methods of agriculture in action. The Ethiopian team expressed great satisfaction with the state's digitization efforts. The team leader Mr. Girmu appreciated the robust and inclusive digital agriculture system and mentioned that Ethiopia will explore implementing a similar framework.

Ramachandrapuram Gets ₹125 Crore Boost in One Year: Minister Subhash

TPN | K Govinda Raju
Ramachandrapuram: State Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash announced that a total of ₹125 crore has been spent on development works in Ramachandrapuram constituency during the coalition government's first year in power. Celebrations were held in Ramachandrapuram to mark the successful completion of one year of the NDA-led coalition, with Minister Subhash addressing media representatives and outlining the government's achievements. The Minister said the coalition's governance has been dedicated to welfare and inclusive growth. "We have delivered a people's government that functions for all sections of society. Ramachandrapuram is being developed as a model constituency, and our goal is

to make it unemployment-free and prosperous," he said. Subhash thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for their support in sanctioning funds. Outlining the constituency-level development works, Minister Vasamsetty Subhash stated that a total of ₹125 crore has been spent in Ramachandrapuram over the past year. He detailed that ₹11.5 crore has been allocated for the construction of an industrial park at Draksharamam, while ₹3.3 crore is being used for establishing a new substation in Vella village. An amount of ₹5 crore has been sanctioned for the development of Ramachandrapuram Degree College. For infrastructure improvement, ₹9 crore has been utilized through NABARD for major connecting roads and



₹8 crore has been allocated for pothole-free road construction under the R&B department. Further, ₹32 crore has been dedicated to the Gollapalem-Kuyyuru road, and ₹16.19 crore has been earmarked for various works under the Ramachandrapuram Municipal Corporation. Additional funds

include ₹60 lakh through MP LADS and ₹19.35 crore through RWS for drinking water and sanitation projects. To improve road and drainage facilities, ₹17.22 crore has been used for constructing CC roads and drains. Welfare-focused allocations include ₹3 crore under PM-KISAN, ₹4 crore for

Anganwadi development, and ₹8 crore for irrigation projects. Moreover, ₹90 lakh has been disbursed through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for public support and ₹2.5 crore has been set aside for initiatives in animal husbandry. Beyond government projects, the Minister highlighted his personal efforts through the Satyam Vasamsetty Foundation, which has held 30 job fairs and helped provide jobs with stipends up to ₹2,000. Plans are also underway to build a hospital in Ramachandrapuram under CSR funds, offering full-scale medical services. In addition, four freezer boxes and two water tanks have been distributed to support public needs. Subhash also lashed out at the previous administration, accusing it of derailing workers' welfare and discouraging in-

dustrial investment through corrupt practices. He said the coalition government has revived several welfare schemes that were stalled under the previous rule and is now working to implement new initiatives, including seven new ESI hospitals sanctioned by the central government. He accused the opposition of spreading false narratives due to their inability to digest the coalition's development success. "We aim to bring ₹8 lakh crore in investments to Andhra Pradesh and create job opportunities for five lakh people," he declared. Minister Subhash concluded by reaffirming the coalition government's commitment to public welfare and added that more schemes aligned with the people's aspirations will be rolled out in the coming days.

51-Foot Anjaneya Swamy Statue Inaugurated Near Rajahmundry

Devotee installs statue in memory of father and son without public donations

TPN Correspondent | East Godavari

In a heartfelt gesture of devotion and remembrance, a 51-foot Abhayanjaneya Swamy statue was unveiled at the sacred village of Punya Kshetra near Rajahmundry. The towering idol was built by devotee Vepakayala Saibabu and his son Venkataramana, entirely with personal funds amounting to ₹50 lakh, without accepting a single rupee in public donations. The statue, dedicated in memory of Saibabu's late father and his eldest son, now stands as a symbol of unwavering faith and personal sacrifice. The grand inauguration ceremony was graced by Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna, who not only participated in the event but also felicitated the de-

voted couple for their exemplary service. Former MLA Jaggampudi Raja also attended and extended his heartfelt congratulations to the family, acknowledging the spiritual and cultural significance of the statue. Mangga Bharat was among other notable attendees present at the ceremony. The Abhayanjaneya Swamy statue has already drawn admiration from villagers and visitors alike for its magnificent structure and the noble intent behind its construction. Devotees expressed their gratitude and were moved by the devotion and generosity shown by Saibabu and his family. The newly installed statue is expected to become a spiritual center in the region, drawing pilgrims and visitors to Punya Kshetra in the days to come.



School Children Begin Midday Meals with Fortified Rice

Joint Collector Dhatri Reddy inspects quality and distribution process in Eluru schools

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

In a significant step towards enhancing student nutrition, Eluru Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy stated that the Andhra Pradesh government has commenced serving fortified rice to school and college students under the Dokkaseethamma midday meal scheme. The initiative aims to ensure food quality and improve health outcomes for students studying in government educational institutions.



On Thursday, the Joint Collector visited KPDT High School and Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation High School in Eluru, where she shared a meal with the students as part of her inspection. Speaking

during the visit, Dhatri Reddy said that fortified, traceable fine-quality rice packed in 25 kg bags is being supplied to schools across the district. She revealed that 17,404 rice bags—equivalent to 435,100

metric tons—have been prepared for distribution to 1,768 schools and 145 welfare hostels in the district. Of these, movement orders have already been issued for 16,261 bags (406,525 metric tons) for the month of June. The rice distribution is being closely monitored to ensure traceability and quality. As part of the inspection, Dhatri Reddy personally tasted the food served to students and interacted with them to gather feedback. She also inspected the quality of fortified rice supplied to the schools and used a dedicated mobile application to verify crucial details such as the farmer who cultivated the rice, the warehouse where

it was stored, and the technical assistant who approved its quality. In addition to the food inspection, textbooks supplied by the government were distributed free of cost to the students during the visit. District Civil Supplies Officer P. Sivaramamurthy, Special Deputy Collector Devakidevi, and school principals accompanied the Joint Collector during the inspections. This initiative underlines the government's commitment to student welfare, ensuring that not only are nutritious meals provided but also that they are of the highest quality with full traceability from farm to plate.

TDP Targeting Municipal Bodies: Kadapa Mayor Suresh Babu



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa
Kadapa Mayor Suresh Babu launched a strong attack on the coalition government, accusing it of failing the people during its first year in power. Addressing a press conference at the Kadapa Municipal Corporation office on Thursday, he alleged that the government has shown utter disregard for local bodies and is indulging in political conspiracies to take control of urban governance across the state. Mayor Suresh Babu accused the Telugu Desam Party of forcibly taking control of several municipalities and corporations across Andhra Pradesh. He claimed that TDP is now trying to repeat the same pattern in Kadapa by spreading false allegations and manipulating administrative procedures. "They are propagating baseless rumors about a multi-crore scam and are attempting to paralyze the functioning of the Kadapa Corporation," he said. Highlighting the ongoing administrative obstruction, Suresh Babu revealed that the meeting hall of the municipal corporation has been locked without proper explanation. "Even when

I, as the Mayor, asked for the keys, the Commissioner did not respond. No one is clearly saying who locked it or why," he said. He added that such behavior by officials is fueling public suspicion about what is being hidden inside the hall. "If the locks are not removed in two days, either the officials should do it themselves or we will be forced to do it. People have every right to know what's behind these doors," he asserted. Mayor to Attend CS Inquiry Suresh Babu also mentioned that he has received a notice from the Municipal Administration Department to appear before a Chief Secretary-level inquiry on the 16th of this month. "I will definitely attend the inquiry and present the facts," he stated, reiterating his commitment to transparency and cooperation with lawful procedures. The Mayor concluded by condemning the coalition government for its silence on the functioning of local bodies, stating that their negligence has started affecting civic administration and governance in urban areas like Kadapa.

₹26 Lakh Corruption Unearthed in Tuni Municipality

Junior Assistant Sunitha suspended;
RD Office launches inquiry

TPN | NV SURYA

Tuni: A major financial scam has come to light in Tuni Municipality, where Junior Assistant M. Sunitha is alleged to have embezzled over ₹26 lakh by diverting funds collected from various sources. The incident has raised serious questions about oversight and possible complicity of higher officials. According to Tuni Municipal Commissioner A. Venkata Rao, the municipality collects revenue through taxes and rents, which is typically deposited into a PD (Personal Deposit) account at the bank. However, during recent inspections, it was discovered that M. Sunitha, who was serving as the Sharaf (cash custodian), failed to deposit ₹26,20,705 into the account and instead allegedly misappropriated the funds. Shockingly, the irregularities came to light as early as February, but officials did not act un-

til recently, sparking concerns about whether the delay was due to negligence or deliberate concealment. The delay has led to widespread suspicion that the scam may have been conducted with the knowledge or support of senior municipal personnel. In response to the revelations, higher authorities initiated a probe on Thursday. A special team from the Municipal Regional Director's Office, including Superintendent Radhakrishna, Senior Assistant Sudhir, Junior Assistant Venkat, and CPO Prasad, arrived at the Tuni Municipal office to investigate. The team conducted a thorough examination of financial records and digital data stored in the municipal systems. Despite multiple inquiries from the media, the investigation team declined to comment on the findings, stating that their full report



would be submitted directly to the Regional Director for further action. As a preliminary measure, Junior Assistant M. Sunitha has been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation. The incident has triggered public concern over transparency in municipal financial management and the urgent need for stricter checks and balances in local governance.

Tesla Turmoil: Musk’s Apology to Trump Fails to Reassure Investors Amid Ongoing Challenges



- *In the early hours of Wednesday, Elon Musk offered a rare moment of reflection, tweeting:*
- *“I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far.”*

This came after a week of high-stakes on-line provocation, in which Musk claimed credit for Trump’s 2016 win, amplified calls for his impeachment, and referenced ties to a deceased sex offender. The backlash not only triggered political waves but coincided with a slump in Tesla’s stock, hinting at investor discomfort with Musk’s volatile behavior. Since then, shares have recovered, aided in part by a short video of Tesla’s self-driving Model Y maneuvering a turn in Austin—a PR distraction that couldn’t have come at a better time.

Still, Musk’s about-face does little to address deeper concerns. That he, as CEO of a company with a near-\$1 trillion market cap, would engage in such a feud with a former—and possibly future—U.S. president raises red flags. Tesla remains vul-

nerable to federal scrutiny, especially on regulatory issues critical to its self-driving ambitions and manufacturing operations. A vengeful administration could complicate matters considerably.

While the apology might ease immediate tensions, the broader issue is Musk’s pattern of impulsive behavior, which has previously wiped billions from Tesla’s market value. The board’s continued silence only magnifies governance concerns.

Tesla is also grappling with more tangible problems. Sales in China dropped 30% year-over-year in May, challenging the company’s narrative that Q1 weakness was due to factory retooling. Promised new affordable models remain absent, and with less than three weeks left in Q2, time is running out.

Musk has now “tentatively” set June 22 for the robotaxi reveal—delayed from earlier expectations. But without major progress on core EV sales and regulatory traction, no apology or autonomous demo will be enough to steer Tesla clear of turbulence.

The Urgent Need to Address Bioterrorism as a Growing Global Threat

Recent incidents involving the attempted smuggling of biological materials into the United States highlight a worrying gap in global biosecurity. In June 2025, a Chinese student was arrested for sending packages containing roundworm materials to the University of Michigan. Just days earlier, two other Chinese nationals were charged with attempting to smuggle a crop-damaging fungus, *Fusarium graminearum*, to the same university. While roundworm itself is not a biological weapon, the fungus could potentially be used as an agricultural bioterrorism agent, underscoring the serious risks of insufficient oversight in international biological research collaborations.



Biological weapons—bacteria, viruses, toxins, or other biological agents—can cause widespread harm to humans, animals, or crops. State use is termed biowarfare, whereas non-state actors such as terrorist groups engage in bioterrorism. Smuggling of hazardous biological materials represents only one facet of biosecurity concerns.

Three years ago, the discovery of an illegal biotech lab in California, owned by a Chinese company, revealed genetically engineered mice and viruses hidden under the guise of COVID-19 testing. This raises questions about how many other clandestine labs and undetected smuggling incidents exist worldwide. Bioweapons are often called “the poor man’s nuclear weapon” because they are far easier and cheaper to develop, making the threat accessible to rogue states and terrorists alike.

Technological advances have outpaced regulation. Gene synthesis costs have plummeted over the past decade, enabling the recreation or enhancement of deadly viruses. For example, scientists recreated a virus closely related to smallpox in 2017, revealing how easily extinct pathogens could be revived or engineered in rogue labs. The rise of DIY biology and readily available lab equipment online means terrorist groups might soon produce biological weapons with minimal oversight.

The insider threat further complicates biosecurity—highly skilled individuals within labs might collude with hostile actors. However, current legislation and monitoring systems, including the Biological Weapons Convention and international health regulations, are insufficient. These frameworks focus primarily on nation-states, lack enforceability, and are ill-equipped to address terrorism or rapid response needs.

To combat bioterrorism effectively, the world must strengthen global governance with robust surveillance, comprehensive screening, AI-driven early warning systems, and urgent regulatory reforms to keep pace with emerging biological risks.



Telangana: Rice Bowl Of India

Telangana has achieved a major success in agriculture by becoming the top rice-producing state in India. In the year 2024-25, the state produced 183.57 lakh tonnes of paddy, breaking its own previous record of 168.75 lakh tonnes in 2023-24. This remarkable growth has been made possible due to good weather, timely support from the Congress government, and uninterrupted free electricity to farmers.

State had aimed to produce 269.37 lakh tonnes of crops during the rainy and summer seasons, but it went beyond the target by producing 297.79 lakh tonnes. This means Telangana produced 28.42 lakh tonnes more than expected. Among the major crops, paddy production stood at 274.99 lakh tonnes, maize at 35.05 lakh tonnes, and sorghum at 3.32 lakh tonnes, all of which exceeded their targets.

Earlier, leaders from the BRS party claimed that farmers were struggling under the Congress government due to lack of electricity and water. They also said that agriculture had flourished only under BRS rule and that farmers had stopped farming after the Congress came to power. However, the record harvest this year clearly proves these claims wrong.

Currently, farmers in Telangana are cultivating around 29 lakh acres using borewells. The government has been supplying free and continuous electricity to these borewells, which has played a big role in increas-



ing crop production. On March 20, 2025, Telangana recorded its highest-ever electricity demand of 17,162 megawatts, which the government managed without any power cuts. This shows that farmers had the support they needed for farming.

Back in 2014, the number of agricultural borewells in the state was only 18 lakh, but that number has now grown to 29 lakh. Along with this, good rainfall helped fill the irrigation projects. While the BRS party earlier credited the Kaleshwaram project for farming success, the recent results show that even without its full use, the state has achieved record yields. This proves that the project was not the only reason behind agricultural growth.

With such a large rice production, Telangana has started exporting rice to other countries. In the first phase, 12,500 metric tonnes of rice were exported to the Philippines. The Philippines

has now agreed to import 8 lakh metric tonnes of rice from Telangana every year.

The Congress government has also encouraged farmers by offering a bonus of ₹500 per quintal for fine paddy. Because of this, many farmers have chosen to grow more rice. In the last rainy season, the government paid ₹1206.44 crore as bonus to farmers. This gave them extra income of more than ₹20,000 per acre for two crop seasons. Along with this, the government provided fertilizers and seeds on time. By delivering seeds directly to farmers’ homes at low prices, it helped them sow crops without delay.

The state also saw a big jump in paddy procurement. While the BRS government bought only 36.63 lakh tonnes of paddy during the 2022-23 rabi season, the Congress government purchased 60.61 lakh tonnes in the same season this year. That is nearly 20 lakh tonnes more. Despite this, BRS leaders are still spreading false claims that the government is not buying paddy.

For many years, Punjab held the top spot in rice production in India. But now Telangana has overtaken Punjab and has become the new leader in paddy output. Following Telangana are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Punjab. The Telangana government has also given the highest share of its budget to agriculture. This is helping not just the farming sector, but also the development of villages and rural communities.

India’s Economic Growth: A Story of Wealth Concentration, Not Inclusivity

India proudly stands as the world’s fourth-largest economy with a nominal GDP nearing \$3.9 trillion. Prime Minister Modi and his government tout this as a historic economic miracle, amplified by national and international media. However, beneath this celebratory narrative lies a stark and unsettling reality: the benefits of growth are concentrated among a tiny elite, while the vast majority of Indians grapple with hunger, unemployment, and poverty.

Official GDP figures paint an incomplete picture. India’s per capita income is approximately \$2,800 (Rs 2.33 lakh), far behind countries like Vietnam (\$4,300) and China (\$12,500). Yet, even this figure is misleading. The richest 1% of Indians control over 40% of the nation’s wealth, dominated by powerful business families like the Adanis and Ambanis. Excluding this elite’s wealth, the remaining 1.4 billion people share far less — reducing actual per capita income to around Rs 85,000 annually, or Rs 7,000 monthly. Narrowing it down further to exclude the top 5% leaves the majority with just Rs 67,000 per year,



roughly Rs 5,600 a month — an income most Indians survive on.

In a nation where nearly 80 crore people rely on free ration schemes to survive, celebrating GDP growth rings hollow. How can a country be “shining” when millions line up daily for food aid? Such contradictions are often dismissed with accusations of being anti-national, but they reveal a painful truth.

Social indicators further expose India’s crisis: ranked 134th on the Human Development Index and 111th on the Global Hunger Index, with 35% of children stunted and female labor participation alarm-

ingly low. Inflation and rural distress worsen these inequalities.

Additionally, India’s GDP is measured in nominal US dollars, making it vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations. With the rupee weakening—now around Rs 83 to a dollar—India’s economy appears larger only on paper, not in real wealth. This growth is not inclusive; it’s a system of concentrated wealth accumulation that neglects the vast majority. Farmers suffer, workers endure hardship, and women disappear from the workforce, while a select few grow richer. This is not development; it is organized neglect.



India, EU Focus on Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers for Free Trade Agreement

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted the importance of addressing non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in the ongoing negotiations for the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union (EU). Speaking from Stockholm on June 12, 2025, Goyal emphasized that both sides are "pretty" close to finalizing the deal, with over half of the chapters already completed.

"Significant progress has been made. More than half the chapters are ready, and we are almost 90% ready in terms of market access. The key issue to tackle now is non-tariff barriers and finding ways to ease business exchanges between India and the EU," Goyal stated.

Non-tariff barriers, such as excessive regulations, arbitrary standards, and technical measures, often create obstacles for trade. For example, Indian exports like chillies, tea, Basmati rice, and milk face stringent EU regulations that impede smoother trade. Goyal stressed that both India and the EU are actively discussing ways to reduce these regulatory hurdles to facilitate a freer flow of goods and services.

Goyal also criticized the EU's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a carbon tax aimed at products imported into the EU. He argued that such measures would unfairly target Indian industries and could be seen as another form of a non-tariff barrier. However, he expressed hope that both parties would find a solution to this issue in the ongoing FTA talks.

India's bilateral trade with the EU reached \$136.4 billion in 2024-25, making the EU India's largest trading partner. With the FTA negotiations progressing, both sides are optimistic about enhancing trade relations and reducing trade barriers. EU Commissioner for Trade, Maros Sefcovic, is scheduled to visit New Delhi later this month to further discuss the pact.

Kamal Haasan and P. Wilson Among Six Elected Unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

In a significant political development, actor-politician Kamal Haasan and incumbent MP P. Wilson were among six candidates elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu in the biennial elections held on Thursday (June 12, 2025). These six MPs will serve until July 2031, with their term beginning in July 2025.

The other four candidates elected unopposed include S. R. Sivalingam, Rajathi alias Salma (a Tamil poet), I.S. Inbadurai, and M.Dhanapal from the AIADMK, the principal Opposition party. The election results were confirmed after 13 nominations were received, with only six being found eligible following the scrutiny process.

B. Subramaniam, Returning Officer and Additional Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, confirmed that the six elected candidates—three from the DMK, one from MNM, and two from AIADMK—would fill the vacancies of six retiring Rajya Sabha members.

Kamal Haasan's election marks a significant milestone in his political journey. After a history of vocal criticism against the DMK, he joined forces with the party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and was promised a Rajya Sabha seat as part of a broader alliance deal. Despite electoral setbacks, Kamal's political stature has been revived through his alliance with M.K. Stalin's DMK. Kamal, 70, has played a crucial role in campaigning for the DMK in the state and will likely play a pivotal role in the upcoming Assembly elections as well.

P. Wilson, another notable figure, is recognized for his legal acumen, especially in the case against Governor R.N. Ravi over his delay in signing bills into law. Wilson's efforts were instrumental in securing a favorable verdict for the Tamil Nadu government, strengthening his position in the political sphere. The DMK's Rajya Sabha strength will remain unchanged at 10 seats, while the AIADMK will now have five members, up from four.

"In Touch With Ministers And Authorities": PM Modi On Air India Plane Crash

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sorrow over the tragic Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday, calling it "heartbreaking beyond words." In a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), he said he is closely monitoring the situation and remains in constant touch with ministers and authorities involved in the rescue and relief operations.

"The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heart-breaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," PM Modi wrote.

The Air India Flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, crashed just moments after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai



Patel International Airport at 1:38 PM IST. The aircraft, bound for London's Gatwick Airport, was carrying 242 people — including 230 passengers (169 Indians, 53 British nationals, one Canadian, and seven Portuguese) and 12 crew members, including the two pilots.

Aviation expert Sanjay Lazar told NDTV that the aircraft appeared to experience a failure to gain sufficient lift, stalling at an altitude of just 825 feet. Pilot Captain Sumeet Sabharwal had issued a "Mayday" distress call to Air Traffic Control shortly before the aircraft lost contact and crashed in a residential area near the airport.

Air India confirmed the crash in a public statement and announced the activation of a dedicated passenger helpline — 1800 5691 444 — for families and concerned individuals. Injured passengers and local residents have been taken to nearby hospitals, with emergency responders continuing rescue efforts on-site.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched an investigation into the incident to determine the cause of the crash.

Modi govt democratised use of technology in 11-year rule: Amit Shah

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday (June 12, 2025) hailed the Modi government for its transformative impact on India's digital economy, celebrating the government's achievements over the past 11 years. Marking the completion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, Shah emphasized how the government's vision has positioned Bharat as a global leader in the digital space.

In a post on X, Shah stated, "The Modi government democratised the use of technology and harnessed its power for the business sector, making Bharat a leading digital economy in the world in the #11YearsOfDigitalIndia." He underscored how technological advancements have reshaped various sectors of the economy, ranging from healthcare and education to trade and commerce.

The Union Home Minister praised PM Modi's leadership for initiating policies



that facilitated the rapid digitization of India's economy. Shah pointed out that technology has not only revolutionized business practices but has also improved public services, making them more accessible and efficient.

Since coming into power in 2014, PM Modi's government has launched sev-

eral ambitious digital initiatives, such as Digital India, Make in India, and Jan Dhan Yojana, to empower citizens through technology. Under this transformative agenda, digital infrastructure and internet connectivity have expanded, benefiting millions of Indians, particularly in rural areas. The government's efforts have made India one of the fastest-growing digital economies globally.

Shah also noted that Modi's vision has empowered businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens by ensuring widespread access to digital tools and platforms. As a result, India has become a global force in the digital arena, with rapid adoption of e-commerce, online education, telemedicine, and digital payments.

The Home Minister's remarks reflect the significant strides India has made in its digital transformation, further solidifying PM Modi's legacy as a catalyst for technological change in the country.

Consulate Closely Monitoring Situation: India On US Immigration Crackdown

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In response to an ongoing immigration crackdown in California's Los Angeles region by the Trump administration, India has expressed concern over the situation, emphasizing the safety and welfare of its nationals. On Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that the Indian Consulate in San Francisco is closely monitoring the developments, as the U.S. government has deployed National Guard troops and Marines in the area.

During his weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal assured the public that the safety and security of Indian citizens abroad are a top priority for the government. He acknowledged the significance of California, particularly Los Angeles, where a substantial Indian community resides, and reassured citizens that the consulate remains in "close touch" with Indian nationals in the region to provide assistance as needed.

"We are aware of the developments. As you are aware, we take the safety, security, and welfare of our citizens abroad with utmost seriousness. The LA region, and California in general, is home to a large community of Indians," Jaiswal said, responding to questions about India's position on the situation. He urged Indian nationals in the area to take appropriate safety precautions, given the heightened tension and security presence on the ground.



Immigration Crackdown and Security Measures in California

Reports have indicated that the U.S. administration's intensified immigration enforcement has caused concern among immigrant communities in California, particularly in Los Angeles, which is home to one of the largest Indian diaspora populations in the United States. The operation, which involves the deployment of U.S. National Guard troops and Marines, has led to increased anxiety within local immigrant populations, with many uncertain about potential consequences for undocumented individuals.

In addition to the security measures, the crackdown has led to growing scrutiny over immigration policies under the Trump administration. The administration has been pushing for stricter immigration controls and enforcement,

which has sparked protests and calls for reform, particularly from advocacy groups defending immigrant rights.

The Indian government's response comes amid these developments, with the Consulate General in San Francisco taking proactive measures to stay connected with the Indian community in California.

India's Advisory for Nationals in the U.S.

While emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the welfare of Indian nationals, Jaiswal highlighted that the consulate remains in regular communication with the community members, ensuring that any urgent issues are addressed. He reiterated India's long-standing position of prioritizing the safety of its citizens abroad.

The advisory also urges Indian nationals in the region to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to avoid any potential risks during the ongoing crackdown. The Consulate has also made arrangements for assisting citizens in case of emergencies, including providing necessary legal or consular support for individuals facing challenges related to the immigration measures.

In the wake of the heightened security operations, India has reassured its citizens that it will continue to monitor the situation closely, maintain open communication with its community, and extend the necessary support as required.

Trump Launches Website for \$5 Million U.S. Residency Visa Amid Immigration Crackdown

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump announced the launch of a new website, TrumpCard.gov, on Wednesday for his proposed \$5 million U.S. residency visa, sparking interest as the country faces intensified immigration enforcement and protests.

This “golden visa” program, first revealed by Trump aboard Air Force One in April, is designed as a premium version of the traditional green card, targeting wealthy investors and job creators. Trump promised that the visa would be available “in less than two weeks” at the time, but it has yet to be officially launched. The newly unveiled website allows potential applicants to register their name, desired visa type, and email address under the tagline “The Trump Card is Coming.”

In a social media post, Trump highlighted the growing demand for the visa, stating, “Thousands have been calling and asking how they can sign up to ride a beautiful road in gaining access to the Greatest Country and Market anywhere in the World.”

The president has emphasized that this visa program is aimed at attracting high-net-worth individuals who can contribute



to the U.S. economy, potentially helping reduce the national deficit. Earlier statements suggested that the administration hoped to sell as many as a million of these cards, and Trump did not exclude the possibility of Russian oligarchs qualifying for the program.

The announcement comes at a time when the U.S. government has intensified deportation raids nationwide, leading to widespread protests and criticism. Trump’s administration continues to face lawsuits and

allegations of rights violations related to its aggressive anti-immigration policies.

Trump has framed the \$5 million visa as a fast-track route to coveted U.S. citizenship, promising a new avenue for wealthy immigrants seeking to live and work in the United States. However, details regarding the visa’s implementation and legal framework remain scarce, and questions persist about its impact amid the ongoing immigration controversies.

Urges India to Curb Exiled Sheikh Hasina’s Online Speeches

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh’s interim leader and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has publicly criticized former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s continued online speeches from India, urging Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and stop her from addressing Bangladeshis via social media.

Speaking at Chatham House in London, Yunus described the political climate in Bangladesh as volatile following Hasina’s ousting last August amid a student-led uprising. He expressed frustration with India’s perceived inaction, saying, “The whole anger and everything is now transferred to India, because she went there. Not only is she living there, but... she continues to speak to Bangladeshi people, provoking public anger and risking unrest.”

Yunus recounted a conversation with Modi where he requested that India prevent Hasina’s broadcasts, but Modi responded, “It’s



the social media, we cannot control it.” Yunus emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating, “It’s an explosive situation. You can’t just walk away by saying it’s social media.”

Diplomatic tensions have risen as Bangladesh formally submitted an informal extradition request for Hasina, which India acknowledged but has yet to act upon. Yunus stressed the desire for a “legal, proper” process to maintain strong bilateral relations

but expressed concern over misinformation allegedly spread by some Indian media, which he said fuels public anger in Bangladesh.

Yunus also revealed that Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal has begun legal proceedings against Hasina for alleged crimes against humanity during her final months in office. Notices have been served, and Interpol involvement is possible.

The interim government, formed after Hasina’s removal on August 5, 2024, following violent crackdowns and mass protests, has been prosecuting former Awami League leaders implicated in abuses. Yunus, who returned to Dhaka from Paris shortly after the uprising to lead the transitional administration, affirmed he and his advisers have no plans to join the future elected government.

Meanwhile, student leaders backed by the interim government have established the National Citizen Party, further shaping Bangladesh’s new political landscape.

Baloch Activist Mahrang Baloch Exposes Pakistani State Repression from Prison

TPN Correspondent | Balochistan

Baloch rights activist Mahrang Baloch has revealed severe state repression against peaceful dissenters in Pakistan, writing from her prison cell in Quetta’s Hudda Jail, according to The Balochistan Post. Arrested over two and a half months ago, Mahrang draws attention to the systematic targeting of activists, journalists, and ordinary citizens in Balochistan.

In her article, Mahrang recounts how Pakistan’s security agencies have tried various tactics to silence her, including offering deals to stay quiet in exchange for freedom. She firmly refused these offers, emphasizing that no evidence has been presented linking her to any violence or crime. The only “proof” cited by the authorities was a press conference she held before her March 22 arrest, where she clarified her stance against violence, distinguishing peaceful activists from armed militants in Balochistan.

Mahrang’s activism gained international attention after her visit to Norway in May 2024, where she spoke at events organized by PEN Norway. Her visit caused outrage



among Pakistani officials, and she was harassed even on Norwegian soil by individuals linked to Pakistan’s embassy, prompting intervention from Norway’s domestic security agency. Upon returning to Pakistan, she was immediately charged with sedition.

Highlighting the plight of Balochistan, Mah-

70% of its population living below the poverty line, while locals see little benefit from the wealth extracted.

Mahrang concluded passionately: “Speaking up for justice is not a crime... demanding rights is not terrorism; it is humanity. One day, this struggle will succeed.”

rang described the province as an “information black hole,” where journalists face enforced disappearances, killings, or exile for reporting on human rights abuses. More than 40 journalists have been killed since 2000, and foreign media is routinely denied access.

She stressed that Balochistan, rich in natural resources like the Saindak Copper-Gold Project and the Reko Diq mine, remains impoverished with



Food Aid Remains Vital Lifeline for Millions in Crisis-Hit Afghanistan: WFP

The World Food Programme (WFP) has highlighted that food assistance continues to be the only lifeline for millions of Afghans struggling with severe hunger amid ongoing crises, according to a report by Khaama Press. In a statement posted on June 10 on social media platform X, WFP emphasized the urgent need for sustained support to vulnerable communities across Afghanistan.

Despite challenging conditions, including difficult terrain and remote mountainous regions, WFP teams persist in delivering life-saving food supplies to those most in need. “For many Afghans facing hunger, this food is their only hope of survival,” the agency stressed.

However, a significant drop in funding has drastically impacted WFP’s operations in the country. The organization, which has played a crucial role in preventing famine over recent years, has been forced to scale back its services substantially, raising fears over the worsening humanitarian situation.

Currently, more than 23 million people in Afghanistan face acute food insecurity due to prolonged conflict, economic collapse, and climate-related disasters. The country continues to grapple with economic hardships under the Taliban regime, including high unemployment, soaring food prices, and reduced international aid.

Millions of families, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas, remain heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance to survive. WFP and other aid organizations have consistently called on the international community to increase financial contributions to sustain relief efforts.

WFP has issued a stark warning that without immediate and increased funding, the lives of many more Afghans could be at risk in the coming months. Humanitarian groups urge global donors not to abandon Afghanistan’s most vulnerable populations, stressing that even a single truckload of food can be a matter of life and death for many families.

Sixth round of Iran-U.S. Nuclear talks scheduled for June 15 in Oman

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Iran and the United States are set to hold the sixth round of negotiations over Tehran’s rapidly advancing nuclear program on Sunday, June 15, 2025, in Oman, the sultanate’s Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi confirmed on June 12. Oman, serving as the mediator in these talks, had remained silent on the timing until now, despite Iran’s earlier indications that discussions would take place.



The announcement comes amid heightened regional tensions and precautionary measures by the U.S., including the drawdown of non-essential staff and their families from the Middle East due to fears of escalating unrest. Additionally, warnings have been issued about potential threats to ships navigating nearby waters amid the growing strain. Busaidi shared the news on the social media platform X, stating, “I am pleased to confirm the 6th round of Iran US talks will be held in Muscat this Sunday the 15th.” The U.S. has not issued an immediate response to this update.

These talks remain a critical diplomatic priority for U.S. President Donald Trump and his Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff. The goal is to reach an agreement that could lead to the lifting of some severe economic sanctions on Iran, in return for Tehran drastically curbing or halting uranium enrichment activities. Failure to secure a deal risks exacerbating tensions in a Middle East already strained by the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza. Iran’s fragile economy could spiral further downward, fueling domestic unrest. There are also concerns that the U.S. or Israel might launch airstrikes against Iranian nuclear sites, while Iran could cease cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog and accelerate its nuclear weapons ambitions.

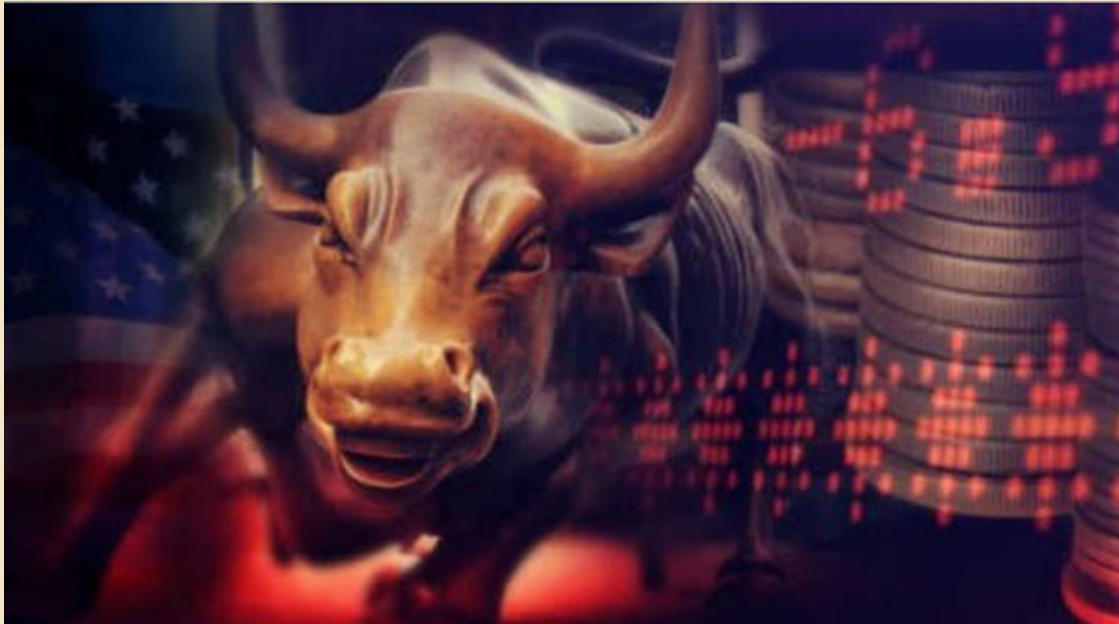
Previous rounds of talks between Iran and the U.S. have been held in Muscat and Rome, with hopes that this latest session will advance toward a diplomatic resolution.

Stock Market Declines Amid Geopolitical Tensions, Trade Tariffs, and Rising Oil Prices

On Thursday, domestic stock markets experienced a sharp decline, with both benchmark and sectoral indices tumbling due to a combination of geopolitical developments and trade uncertainties. Tensions escalated in West Asia after Israel announced plans to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, a move that increased concerns over regional instability and its impact on global markets. Additionally, a rise in crude oil prices added to the market's woes, triggering sell-offs in energy and oil stocks.

Further compounding the negative sentiment were U.S. President Donald Trump's recent tariff announcements, which raised fears of an impending trade war. Investors were left uneasy by the lack of clarity surrounding potential tariffs on China and other trade partners, adding uncertainty to the already volatile market conditions. As a result, shares in sectors such as real estate, energy, oil, and automobiles faced heavy losses, dragging the broader market down.

Market Performance:
The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 82,515 points in the previous session, opened at 82,571 points on Thursday. The index then touched an intraday low of 82,523 points before reaching a high of 82,661 points. It eventually closed at 81,691 points, down 823 points, or a 1% drop. The NSE Nifty also saw a similar trend, opening at 25,164 points, touching a low of 24,825, and a high of 25,196 before closing at 24,888, down 253 points. The Nifty Bank index dropped 377 points, settling at 56,082.



Among the 50 stocks in the Nifty50 index, only seven managed to gain, while 43 ended in the red. Key gainers included Apollo Hospitals, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, and Tech Mahindra. On the other hand, Tata Motors, Titan, Trent, Shriram Finance, and Coal India were among the biggest losers, with their stocks facing significant declines.

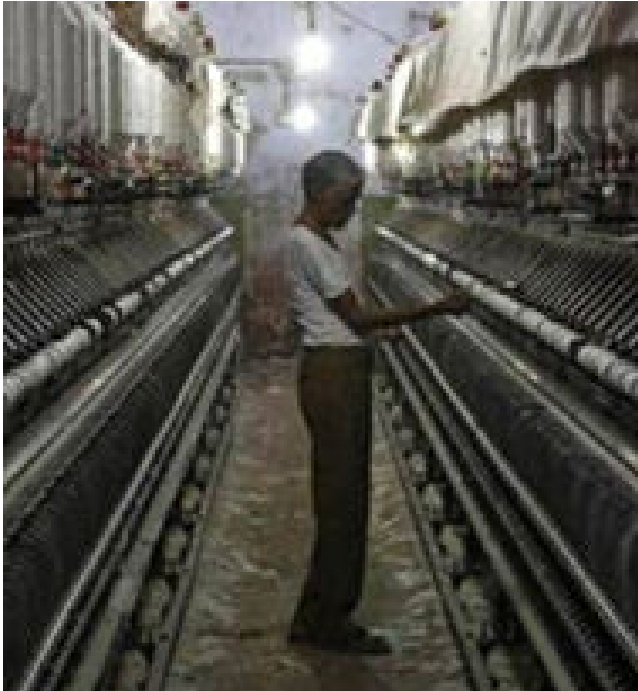
Sector-wise Performance:
The market breadth on the NSE was overwhelmingly negative, with 2,112 stocks declining compared to just 783 that gained. The sectors that experienced the most significant declines were PSE (Public Sector Enterprises), realty, energy, oil, auto, commodities, metals, and infrastructure. The consumption and MNC indices also showed mixed performance, while the healthcare sector posted a slight gain.

Other Key Developments:

The Indian Rupee closed at 85.60 against the U.S. Dollar, further adding pressure on domestic equities. In specific stock news, shares of Air India experienced a 7% drop following the crash of an Air India Boeing 787 at Ahmedabad airport, resulting in casualties. On a positive note, Goldman Sachs issued a 'Buy' rating on HDFC Life with a target price of Rs 830, and Nomura also gave a 'Buy' recommendation for Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, setting a target of Rs 1,575.

Outlook:
The market continues to react to a combination of external geopolitical tensions and domestic trade uncertainties. With profit-taking continuing in defense shares and major sectors struggling to maintain gains, the market outlook remains cautious. Investors will need to monitor developments in international trade relations, particularly between the U.S. and China, and the potential impact of rising crude oil prices.

Government Forms Task Force to Boost Textile Exports Amid FTA Negotiations



In a significant move to strengthen India's textile sector amid ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, the government has formed a new inter-ministerial task force. The primary goal of this body is to create a unified platform that addresses the wide range of challenges faced by the textile industry — from skilling and labor issues to logistics and sustainability.

The first meeting of the task force took place on June 10, chaired by Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal. During the session, officials from multiple departments discussed strategies to enhance India's textile exports and increase its share in the global market, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Commerce Secretary Barthwal emphasized that the task force aims to bring all relevant stakeholders together to tackle critical issues affecting the textile sector comprehensively. "The objective is to create a cohesive framework that resolves bottlenecks across the entire textile value chain," he said.

Rajesh Agrawal, Special Secretary of the Department of Commerce, highlighted the importance of innovation and alignment with global trends. "To secure a higher share of the export market, Indian textiles must evolve continuously, embracing new technologies and sustainable practices," he noted.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) welcomed the formation of the task force. Its Secretary General, Chandrima Chatterjee, remarked, "The inclusion of all relevant ministries acknowledges the multifaceted nature of the textile sector. Inter-ministerial collaboration is crucial because many procedural delays arise from fragmented responsibilities. This task force is a positive step toward identifying and resolving these issues effectively."

With Indian textile exports being a key demand in the ongoing FTA talks, this task force represents the government's commitment to strengthening the sector's global competitiveness. By addressing challenges holistically, it hopes to boost export growth, create jobs, and reinforce India's position in international textile markets. The coming months will reveal how these coordinated efforts translate into tangible gains for the industry.

SEBI to Launch '@valid' UPI IDs and 'SEBI Check' to Safeguard Investors from Payment Frauds

In a major step to enhance investor protection and curb unauthorized money collection, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced the introduction of a structured and validated Unified Payment Interface (UPI) address mechanism exclusively for its registered intermediaries.

The new UPI addresses will carry a unique "@valid" handle, specially allocated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This handle will be reserved solely for SEBI-registered investor-facing intermediaries, ensuring that investors can confidently transfer funds directly to verified bank accounts.

Under this system, each intermediary's UPI ID will combine their name with the "@valid" tag and the syndicate bank's identifier. For instance, if a broker named ABC Ltd has an account with XYZ



bank, the UPI ID would be formatted as abc.brk@validXYZ. SEBI has made it mandatory for all intermediaries to obtain and provide this validated UPI ID to their investors, thereby streamlining and securing payment channels within the securities market.

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey emphasized the benefits of this initiative, stating, "This innovative mechanism will significantly boost the safety and accessibility of financial transactions by offering a verified and secure

payment platform for investors."

In addition to the '@valid' UPI IDs, SEBI is developing a complementary feature called 'SEBI Check'. This tool will allow investors to authenticate UPI IDs before making any payments. By scanning a QR code or manually entering the UPI ID, investors can verify critical bank details such as the bank account number and Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) of the intermediary. This verification step adds an important layer of security, helping investors confirm the legitimacy of entities involved in financial transactions.

Together, the '@valid' UPI IDs and 'SEBI Check' mechanism are set to provide stronger safeguards against payment fraud, increase transparency, and restore investor confidence in the digital payment ecosystem associated with India's securities markets.

Government Cuts Duty on Crude Edible Oils to 10% to Boost Domestic Refining and Ease Prices

In a significant move to address rising edible oil prices, the Government of India has slashed the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude edible oils—including crude sunflower, soybean, and palm oils—from 20% to 10%. This reduction increases the import duty differential between crude and refined edible oils from 8.75% to 19.25%, a strategic adjustment aimed at encouraging domestic refining and stabilizing market prices.

The duty cut comes in response to the surge in edible oil prices following a duty hike in September 2024 combined with rising international market rates. Officials say this step will help reduce the landed cost of edible oils, translating into lower retail prices and easing inflationary pressure on consumers.



"A 19.25% duty differential between crude and refined oils incentivizes domestic refining capacity utilization and reduces reliance on imports of refined oils," the government said in a statement. This differential is expected to discourage imports of refined palmolein and shift demand towards crude edible oils, particularly crude palm oil, thus bolstering the domestic refining sector.

The government held a meeting with leading edible oil industry associations under the leadership of the Secretary of the Department of Food and Public Distribution. Industry stakeholders were advised to pass on the full benefits of the duty reduction to consumers, ensuring relief reaches retail markets promptly.

This policy adjustment not only supports domestic refiners by leveling the playing field against imports but also helps maintain fair compensation for farmers involved in oilseed production. By promoting domestic refining, the government aims to strengthen the sector's competitiveness and stabilize edible oil prices in India.

The decision follows a comprehensive review of the sharp price rise that impacted food inflation last year, with soaring edible oil prices burdening consumers. This proactive intervention signals the government's commitment to balancing consumer interests, supporting domestic industry, and controlling inflation in essential commodities.

Smaller Eggs, Higher Prices: Reddit Post Criticizes Swiggy Over Egg Quality and Cost



A Reddit post recently went viral after a user highlighted the stark difference in egg size and pricing between Swiggy Instamart and local kirana stores. The post, which quickly gained over 2,500 upvotes, featured a side-by-side comparison of two eggs: one bought locally and the other via Swiggy.

According to the user, the local egg, purchased for Rs 6.1 from a neighborhood store, weighed 60 grams. In contrast, the Swiggy-bought egg cost Rs 10 and weighed only 40 grams despite its fancy packaging and tiered pricing scheme. “What a man must do to eat 6 eggs a day in today’s world,” the caption read, sparking a lively debate in the comments.

While many criticized Swiggy for inflated prices and misleading product weights, others came to its defense, citing better hygiene, taste, and consistency. Some users noted that branded eggs from Swiggy often had richer yolks and better flavor, possibly due to improved diets or sourcing standards. Others claimed local eggs, though cheaper, were sometimes unclean or less palatable.

This isn’t the first time Swiggy Instamart has faced scrutiny. In another viral post, a user discovered vegetables that were significantly underweight compared to the listed measurements on the app—prompting further questions about transparency and value.

The debate ultimately highlights a broader issue with convenience-driven shopping: Are consumers truly getting what they pay for? While online platforms offer unmatched ease, the trade-off in price and quality remains a growing concern for many.

Parle-G: The ‘G’ Stands for More Than Just Glucose — It’s ‘Genius’

Parle-G, one of India’s most iconic and beloved biscuits, holds a special place in the hearts of millions. Recognizable by its classic yellow-and-white packaging and the face of a little girl, the biscuit has been a staple in Indian households for generations. But few know the real meaning behind the letter ‘G’ in its name.

While many assume ‘G’ stands for ‘Glucose’ — given that it was marketed as an energy biscuit — the brand originally intended it to stand for ‘Genius’. The name was chosen to reflect the innovation and thoughtful creation of a biscuit designed to be both nutritious and affordable. Parle Products, the company behind Parle-G, was founded in 1929 by Mohanlal Dayal during British rule. During World War



II, when food shortages and rationing were widespread, Parle developed a simple yet impactful solution: a biscuit made from

wheat flour, sugar, and vegetable oil. This no-frills recipe provided an energy-rich snack at a time when many struggled to

afford proper meals. Originally introduced as the “Genius Biscuit,” the name gradually shortened to Parle-G. It quickly became a household favourite, not just for its taste and price, but also for the emotional comfort it brought. In the 1960s, artist Maganlal Dahiya created the iconic illustration of the Parle-G girl — not based on a real child, as many believe, but an imaginative figure that came to symbolize trust and quality. Despite changing times, Parle-G has stayed true to its roots. Its price remains incredibly low — often just Rs 5 — especially in rural areas, making it accessible to all. In 2011, it even earned the title of the world’s best-selling biscuit, proving that genius really does lie in simplicity.

Ex-OpenAI Scientist Calls Brain a ‘Biological Computer’, Astrobiologist Strongly Disagrees

A recent statement by former OpenAI co-founder Ilya Sutskever has stirred a new wave of debate in the world of artificial intelligence. During a keynote speech at the University of Toronto, Sutskever claimed that the human brain is essentially a “biological computer,” suggesting that if it can perform complex cognitive tasks, so can a “digital brain.”

Sutskever, who also co-invented the groundbreaking neural network AlexNet, stated, “Anything I can learn, anything you can learn — AI can learn too.” He argued that since the brain is a biological computing system, there’s no reason why artificial systems couldn’t eventually replicate all human capabilities. “This is the one-sentence summary of why AI will be able to do all those things,” he concluded.

However, this bold assertion did not sit



well with Stuart Hameroff, an astrobiologist and Director of the Centre for Consciousness Studies. Responding via X (formerly Twitter), Hameroff criticized the comparison between the human brain and digital machines. “The brain is not a digital computer and not a computer at all — more like a quantum orchestra,” he wrote.

Hameroff emphasized that the brain’s

complexity lies in its organic structure, particularly in microtubules composed of tubulin proteins, which may support quantum-level processes. He pointed out that digital computers, while capable of learning, lack consciousness, intrinsic motivation, and the ability to feel — all essential elements of human intelligence.

He also shared his paper titled Consciousness, Cognition and the Neuronal Cytoskeleton, where he

argues that current neuroscience paradigms fall short in explaining consciousness by merely comparing the brain to machines.

Despite the disagreement, Sutskever remains optimistic, predicting that true AI superintelligence could emerge within the next three to ten years — a timeline he described as both exciting and “evocative.”

Winged Terror: Lone Buzzard Sparks Panic in Essex Village

In a bizarre turn of events, residents of Havering-at-Bower, a quiet village in Essex, are under siege — not by burglars or vandals, but by a rogue buzzard. Dubbed the “Dive-Bombing Buzzard”, the bird has become a daily threat to locals, reportedly attacking both people and property with increasing aggression.



Since late March, the buzzard’s erratic and violent behaviour has left villagers anxious and afraid to step outdoors. Unlike the usual flock-based avian aggression seen in nature, this case involves a lone bird of prey, likely a buzzard-eagle hybrid, launching unprovoked attacks from the sky. It swoops down with startling speed and force, diving at unsuspecting passersby, including children.

The situation has grown so serious that local primary school students are being kept indoors for extended periods to avoid injury. Teachers and parents remain on high alert, as the bird has shown no signs of backing down. In one alarming incident, captured on May 20 by local resident Nick Woodgate, the buzzard is seen repeatedly smashing into a closed window, apparently trying to break through. The footage, now viral, underscores the bird’s relentless nature and has left viewers stunned.

Reports suggest that the buzzard has even at-

tempted to claw at residents, targeting their heads or shoulders during low-flying ambushes. Some villagers have resorted to using umbrellas or hats as makeshift protection when venturing outside.

Local wildlife experts speculate that the bird may be defending a nest nearby, mistaking human activity as a threat. Buzzards are known for their territorial nature, especially during the breeding season, but such persistent and widespread attacks from a single bird remain highly unusual.

Despite calls for action, wildlife authorities are treading carefully, as buzzards are protected under UK law. A humane solution is being sought, but until then, villagers are left to navigate daily life under the looming shadow of the buzzard’s wings.

For now, Havering-at-Bower remains on high alert — a village held hostage by one very angry bird.

Apple’s ‘Liquid Glass’ Reveal Goes Viral After Thumbnail Blunder Sparks Meme Fest

Apple’s highly anticipated design revamp, Liquid Glass, was meant to showcase a sleek new interface — but instead, it accidentally kicked off a meme storm online. Unveiled at WWDC 2025, Liquid Glass is the tech giant’s most significant design overhaul since iOS 7, aimed at making the user experience more “expressive and delightful.” However, it wasn’t the design details that grabbed attention — it was a YouTube thumbnail gone hilariously wrong.

A YouTube video promoting the new UI featured Apple’s usual polished branding, but the placement of YouTube’s red play button unintentionally turned the title “Liquid Glass” into “Liquid A**.” Social media users immediately latched onto the awkward visual, turning the blunder into meme gold.

One viral post on X (formerly Twitter) showing the screenshot joked, “Very unfortunate play button,” and has since racked up over 1.5 million views. Another user chimed in, “It’s absolutely wild that Apple’s social media intern didn’t proofread the Liquid Glass YouTube thumbnail on all devices.”



After widespread mockery, Apple quietly updated the thumbnail to avoid further embarrassment. “Oh my god, I can’t believe they actually changed it,” said one user in a follow-up tweet, confirming the correction.

Despite the thumbnail gaffe, Liquid Glass itself marks a major UI leap. It introduces dynamic, translucent elements that shift between light and dark modes based on surroundings. Rolled out in the iOS 26 developer beta, the new design language extends across iPadOS, macOS Tahoe, watchOS, and tvOS.

While still in beta and prone to bugs, Liquid Glass represents Apple’s continued push toward visually immersive experiences. But if the internet’s reaction proves anything, even cutting-edge UI can’t compete with an unfortunate play button placement.

TN Dy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin Felicitates Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa & Chithambaram for Global Chess Triumphs



Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister, Udhayanidhi Stalin, honored three of the state's top chess prodigies—D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, and Aravindh Chithambaram—for their outstanding performances in recent international chess tournaments held in Norway and Armenia.

According to an official press release from the Tamil Nadu government, Udhayanidhi extended his heartfelt congratulations to D. Gukesh, who recently secured third place at the prestigious Norway Chess Tournament. Gukesh, also the reigning World Junior Champion and recipient of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, continues to be a rising star on the global stage.

Aravindh Chithambaram was applauded for his first-place victory at the Stepan Avagyan Memorial Chess Tournament in Armenia. This win propelled him into the top 10 of the FIDE world rankings. Notably, Chithambaram also clinched the top spot in the Masters section of the Chennai Grandmasters Tournament last year.

R. Praggnanandhaa earned praise for his second-place finish in the same Stepan Avagyan Memorial tournament, further solidifying his status among the world's elite young players.

All three players are recipients of the Tamil Nadu Government's Elite Scheme, managed by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT). This initiative grants top-performing athletes an annual sum of ₹30 lakh to support training with international coaches, purchase advanced equipment, and participate in global competitions.

The achievements of these players, three of whom are now among the top 10 in the world, underscore Tamil Nadu's growing influence in global chess, driven by the state's strategic investment in sports development.

The felicitation event was also attended by Atulya Misra, IAS, and J. Meghanath Reddy, IAS, key officials from the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department and SDAT.



FIFA World Cup 2026: Mexico City's Iconic Azteca Stadium Gets Major Makeover with Hybrid Field and Modern Features

Ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Mexico City's legendary Azteca Stadium is undergoing a major renovation to enhance the fan and player experience. The upgrades come as the stadium prepares to host five matches, including the tournament's much-anticipated opening game. The venue, which previously hosted World Cup matches in 1970 and 1986, is being modernized to meet current international standards.

Ollamani, the sports entertainment firm affiliated with Grupo Televisa and owner of the stadium, announced that Azteca will reopen on March 26, 2026—just 75 days before the World Cup kicks off. “The centerpiece of the stadium's renovation is

the people who visit it,” said stadium director Felix Aguirre, emphasizing a fan-first approach.

Key features of the renovation include the reintroduction of a hybrid grass pitch, supported by a new ventilation and suction system to enhance durability and stability. The stadium had previously experimented with hybrid turf in 2018, but poor conditions led to a return to natural grass.

Other upgrades include modern locker rooms located beneath the luxury boxes, a more efficient tunnel system for player entry, enhanced hospitality zones, LED screens, improved restrooms, a new press box, a 200-unit CCTV surveillance sys-

tem, and an upgraded sound system. The addition of elevators is also planned to replace the outdated ramp system, although details remain limited.

While the stadium's 83,000-seat capacity is expected to increase slightly, no specific numbers have been released. Plans for a hotel and shopping complex were dropped due to community opposition.

Azteca's facade and roof will also be refreshed, preserving its iconic status while modernizing its appearance. However, unresolved disputes over luxury boxes—some of which remain under private ownership—may complicate FIFA's full control during the tournament.

FIH Pro League: Sloppy India Fall 3-4 to Argentina Amid Costly Defensive Errors

India suffered their third consecutive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League, going down 3-4 to Argentina in a match marked by unforced errors and sluggish starts to each quarter. The loss in Amstelveen exposed ongoing defensive lapses and raised concerns about consistency under pressure.

Argentina capitalized early, scoring within the first three minutes after a misjudged aerial clearance by Amit Rohidas gifted the ball to Matias Rey, who fired past goalkeeper Krishan Pathak. Despite India equalizing through a trademark Harmanpreet Singh penalty corner, Argentina regained the lead just after the start of the second quarter through a soft goal by Lucas Martinez. The goal highlighted India's defensive disorganization, with multiple players failing to intercept or block the attempt.

Coach Craig Fulton's “defend to win” philosophy has come under scrutiny, especially after similar lapses cost India in their previous two matches

against the Netherlands. In this game, the pattern repeated—India's goals were consistently followed by immediate breakdowns in concentration. After Harmanpreet converted a penalty stroke to make it 2-2, Argentina scored right from the next play, catching the defense off guard once again.

Although Abhishek brought India level at 3-3 in the third quarter, Lucio Mendez netted Argentina's fourth within seconds of the fourth quarter's start—another blow to India's hopes. Harmanpreet had left the field earlier with an injury, further weakening the defense.

Vice-captain Hardik Singh acknowledged the issue, stating, “We shouldn't switch off and concede goals in like just 20 seconds.” The comment echoed the same frustration voiced after the last two losses, hinting at a worrying trend that India must urgently address if they hope to regain form in the Pro League.



European Football Revenues Hit €38 Billion in 2023–24, Premier League Leads the Pack

European football saw robust financial growth in the 2023–24 season, with total market revenues rising by 8% to €38 billion, according to Deloitte's Annual Review of Football Finance. The top five leagues—England's Premier League, Germany's Bundesliga, Spain's LaLiga, Italy's Serie A, and France's Ligue 1—generated €20.4 billion of that total, a 4% year-on-year increase.

The Premier League remained the financial powerhouse of European football, with clubs raking in €6.3 billion (€7.4 billion). Notably, the league's “big six” clubs recorded a modest 3% growth in revenue, while the rest of the league saw an average rise of 11%. Much of this expansion was attributed to enhanced commercial strategies, with Premier League clubs collectively surpassing €2 billion in commercial revenue for the first time.



“Stadium development and diversification of commercial income streams have helped drive this growth,” said Tim Bridge, lead partner at Deloitte's Sports Business Group. However, he also cautioned that the industry faces challenges such as rising costs, tighter regulations, and shifting fan engagement patterns. “The pressure is on clubs to boost revenues while staying financially sustainable,” he added.

The overall operating profit across Europe's top leagues stood at €0.6 billion for the second consecutive year, and the wage-to-revenue ratio improved slightly, dropping from 66% to 64%.

Meanwhile, England's Women's Super League (WSL) achieved record-breaking financial milestones, generating €65 million in revenue—a 34% increase from the previous season. Every WSL club reported revenues exceeding €1 million, with an average of €5.4 million per club. “Strong fan engagement, strategic commercial partnerships, and centralized funding have propelled WSL into a new era of growth,” noted Deloitte's Jennifer Haskel.

The findings underscore football's resilience and evolving commercial potential, even amid economic and regulatory headwinds.

England Completes 3-0 T20I Sweep Over West Indies with Duckett's Stellar 84

England sealed a commanding 3-0 victory in the T20I series against the West Indies after a dominant 37-run win in the third and final match at Southampton's Utilita Bowl on June 10, 2025. The clean sweep follows England's earlier 3-0 triumph in the ODI series, marking a perfect start to Harry Brook's white-ball captaincy.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, England posted a formidable total of 248-3 — their second-highest T20 international score. Opening batsman Ben Duckett led the charge with an explosive 84 off just 46 balls. Duckett's patient yet powerful innings, combined with an aggressive 60 from Jamie Smith (26 balls, including five sixes), laid a strong foundation with a 120-run opening



partnership. England's innings was further bolstered by captain Harry Brook and Jacob Bethell, who shared an unbeaten 70-run stand off just 31 balls to push the total to a daunting 249. England's record-breaking 135-1 after 10 overs set the tone for the innings, ensuring the West Indies faced a steep chase.

In reply, the Windies struggled to keep up with the required run rate on a flat batting track but still managed a respectable 211-8. They slipped to 70-4 early in the innings, hampering their chase. Rovman Powell topped scored for the visitors with a resilient 79 not out from 45 balls, while captain Shai Hope contributed a brisk 45 off 27 deliveries.

England's comprehensive white-ball dominance reflects their well-rounded performance under Brook's captaincy, who now shifts focus to an upcoming five-match Test series against India starting June 20. With both the ODI and T20I series wins, England has sent a strong message ahead of the Test battles, showcasing depth in batting and bowling across formats.



Teaser for Fun-Filled Telugu Film ‘Mithra Mandali’ Released



The much-anticipated teaser for the upcoming Telugu film *Mithra Mandali* has been released, creating a buzz with its unique blend of fun and mystery. Directed by Vijayendar S, the teaser sets an intriguing tone without revealing much about the core plot, keeping the audience curious for more.

Mithra Mandali features a fresh ensemble cast, headlined by Priyadarshi, Vishnu Oi, Rag Mayur, Prasad Behara, and Niharika NM, who marks her Telugu film debut with this project. The teaser cleverly incorporates cricket-themed parallels, adding a distinctive flavor that hints at the film's creative storytelling style.

Alongside the leads, the teaser also introduces key supporting actors such as Vennela Kishore, VTV Ganesh, and Satya, each bring-

ing their unique charm to the film. The mix of well-known faces and newcomers is expected to provide a fresh dynamic on screen.

The film is presented by Bunny Vas under the banner BV Works and produced by Kalyan Manthina, Bhanu Pratapa, and Dr. Vijender Reddy Teegala through Sapta Aswa Media Works and Vyra Entertainments. Music for the film is composed by RR Dhruvan, adding to the overall promising vibe of the project.

While the teaser has successfully piqued interest with its playful yet cryptic narrative, the official release date for *Mithra Mandali* has not yet been announced. Fans of Telugu cinema and cricket-themed storytelling alike will be eagerly waiting for further updates on this intriguing new film.

Gopichand 33: First Look and Glimpse from Sankalp Reddy’s 7th-Century Epic Released

On the occasion of Macho Star Gopichand's birthday, the makers of his eagerly awaited film *Gopichand 33* unveiled a first glimpse and his striking character look, setting high expectations among fans and cinephiles alike.

Directed by Sankalp Reddy, renowned for his critically acclaimed *The Ghazi Attack*, *Gopichand 33* is a historical epic based on a lesser-known event from the 7th century. The teaser reveals Gopichand in a commanding avatar, sporting a full beard and donning samurai-inspired attire that adds a unique and powerful dimension to his screen presence. His intense look promises an intriguing blend of history and action, creating excitement for what's to come.

Reports confirm that the film's first shooting schedule has been successfully completed, and the production team is now deep into the second schedule. This phase is being filmed on an elaborate set constructed in Hyderabad, reflecting the grand scale and ambition of the project.

Produced by Srinivasaa Chitturi under the Srinivasaa Silver Screen banner and presented by Pavan Kumar, *Gopichand 33* boasts a formidable technical crew. Cinematographer Manikandan S, known for his work in hits like *HIT 1*, *HIT 2*, *Geetha Govindam*, and *Saindhav*, is handling the visuals. Production design-



er Chinna and action choreographer Prudhvi Master also bring their expertise, promising a visually impressive and action-packed experience.

As anticipation builds around *Gopichand 33*, fans are eagerly waiting for more updates on the storyline, release date, and other exciting details from this grand historical drama.

Thug Life Box Office Day 7: Kamal Haasan’s Film Struggles, Earns Rs 42 Crore in First Week

Kamal Haasan's *Thug Life*, directed by Mani Ratnam, is facing a tough time at the Indian box office. On day 7, June 11, the film earned just Rs 1.25 crore, bringing its total collection to Rs 42.25 crore in its first week, according to Sacnilk reports.

Released on June 5, *Thug Life* has had to contend with strong competition from Akshay Kumar's *Housefull 5*, which has dominated the box office during the same period. The Tamil occupancy rate for *Thug Life* stood at an overall 15.57%, highlighting its struggle to attract audiences in a crowded marketplace.

Produced by Raaj Kamal Films International and Madras Talkies, the film boasts a stellar cast including Trisha Krishnan, T.R. Silambarasan, Abhirami, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Ashok Selvan, Joju George, Nassar, Ali Fazal, and Mahesh Manjrekar.

This film marks a significant reunion for Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam, who collaborated after 38 years — their last



project together was the iconic *Nayakan* in 1987. Kamal Haasan shared insights into their creative process in an interview with *Hollywood Reporter India*, explaining how they co-wrote the film. “I finished a script called *Amar Hai* — a pun meaning a man believed to be dead but isn't. Mani then took this idea and elaborated on it to craft the final film,” he said.

Despite high expectations, *Thug Life* has received mixed reviews. Film critic Saibal Chatterjee from *NDTV* rated the film 2 stars, noting, “*Thug Life* isn't the kind of film you expect to be a huge disappointment. Mani Ratnam's movies usually generate anticipation and excitement, but this one falls short of blockbuster status.”

As the film continues its run, industry watchers and fans await to see if *Thug Life* can bounce back in the coming days.

The Raja Saab Teaser to Premiere in Select Theaters on June 16

Prabhas fans have a thrilling reason to rejoice as the highly anticipated teaser of *The Raja Saab* is scheduled for release on June 16, 2025. Directed by Maruthi, this horror-comedy promises to be a unique blend of scares and laughter, featuring Malavika Mohanan and Nidhhi Agerwal as the lead female protagonists.

Adding to the excitement, the film's makers have announced that the teaser will be screened exclusively in select theaters. Although the exact list of locations and show timings remains under wraps, social media is already buzzing with speculation and enthusiasm among fans eager to catch an early glimpse.

Rumors are also swirling about a grand teaser launch event to be held at the Aziznagar set, which could turn into a star-studded celebration. However, the production team is yet to confirm these details officially.

Apart from Prabhas, the film boasts a strong supporting cast that includes Riddhi Kumar and veteran actor Sanjay Dutt, both playing pivotal roles. Produced by People Media Factory, *The Raja Saab* is being positioned as a pan-India entertainer, aiming to captivate audiences across linguistic and regional boundaries.



The musical score for the film is composed by the acclaimed Thaman, whose tracks are expected to add to the film's vibrant and engaging atmosphere.

Fans should mark their calendars for the theatrical release of *The Raja Saab*, slated for December 5, 2025. With the teaser's impending launch and the film's intriguing premise, anticipation continues to build, promising an exciting journey ahead for Prabhas and his audience.

Stay tuned for more updates on the teaser screenings and the official launch event as the countdown begins!

Nagarjuna’s Ragada to Get Grand 4K Re-Release on His Birthday

The charismatic Akkineni superstar Nagarjuna is gearing up to charm audiences once again with his upcoming film *Kubera*, starring alongside Dhanush, set to hit theaters on June 20, 2025. But fans have another exciting reason to celebrate — one of Nagarjuna's underrated hits, *Ragada*, is making a spectacular comeback in stunning 4K quality.

Originally released in 2010 and directed by Veeru Potla, *Ragada* is being re-released as a special birthday treat for Nagarjuna. While the film received mixed reviews upon its initial release, it garnered appreciation for its gripping plot twists, high-octane action sequences, and a pulsating soundtrack. The movie also featured Anushka Shetty and Priyamani in the lead female roles, whose performances added depth, glamour, and appeal to the dynamic entertainer.



The re-release is scheduled for August 29, 2025, coinciding perfectly with Nagarjuna's birthday celebrations. This fresh 4K restoration promises to deliver an enhanced visual and audio experience, bringing the film's stylish presentation and energetic soundtrack, composed by Thaman, back to life for longtime fans and new viewers alike.

The decision to bring *Ragada* back to the big screen highlights Nagarjuna's enduring popularity and the timeless appeal of his films. This re-release offers a chance for audiences to rediscover one of his memorable action entertainers in crystal-clear quality, celebrating his legacy in Tollywood.

Fans are encouraged to mark their calendars for this special cinematic event. Stay tuned for more updates and details about *Ragada*'s grand re-release as Nagarjuna's birthday approaches!