

# Cricket Franchise Business... Just Like a Movie Story

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The thief Pushpa rebelled against the entire red sandalwood empire just because his share wasn't increased. For not putting the CM's photo for his wife... the same Pushpa changed the CM altogether. The same thing seems to be happening in the Andhra Premier League (APL) cricket franchise saga. Just as villainous as Pushpa's character is in fiction, in real life too, the character we are talking about here is being called the "Khal Nayak" by the victims. Earlier, during the YSRCP regime, the Andhra Cricket Association was under the control of Aurobindo Pharma's Sharath. That is to say, it was believed that Vijayasai Reddy had indirect influence. At that time, six franchises were finalized. One MLA sent a message to the franchise owners demanding a share: "My son-in-law is interested in cricket. So include us." The franchise owners didn't see much wrong with the request at first... but the catch was, neither the MLA nor his son-in-law were willing to invest any money — yet they wanted a share.



**When the owners refused, the son-in-law warned, "Our government will come to power soon. Then**

**I'll show you your place. Let's see in whose hands the franchise remains." That son-in-law's name is Prashanth. He is the son of Anjibabu, who won as an MLA from Bhimavaram on a Jana Sena ticket. Prashanth is also the son-in-law of Bhimili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao from Visakhapatnam. And it looks like his prediction came true. He is now the Vice President of the Andhra Cricket Association. He reportedly boasts that he will now decide the future of the very franchise that refused him earlier.**

Prashanth, along with Vijayawada MP Keshineni Chinni (currently the President of the Andhra Cricket Association) and another MP, Sana Satish, recently called for bids for new franchises. The previous franchise owners took this matter to the High Court, which imposed an interim stay for now.

**But this story is far from over...**

The original purpose of these franchises was to promote cricket and nurture players in the state. Over the past two to three years, the six franchises reportedly spent ₹25-30 crore each. Yet, without even consulting



them or sending a notice, the Andhra Cricket Association is now attempting to invite new franchise bids as if the previous ones never existed. With the new government coming to power, the new cricket body began operations in August, and since then, they've been working on this plan. But this matter is not limited to the Andhra Cricket Association — the BCCI is also involved. They monitor such activities closely, going as far as checking the phones of franchise owners to ensure there's no involvement in betting. The existing franchises were initially given permission for three years, which was extended to nine years, and finally agreed upon for 18 years. An official email was sent confirming the 18-year term. But now, the new Association says it will decide whether these franchises will continue. There are whispers that even government officials have backed this move, simply because the old franchises were linked to the YSRCP regime. The victims allege that they're being targeted for this reason and say this is nothing short of political revenge.

**Chandrababu, Remember What You Said, Sir**



**Ironically, in 2023, while he was the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reacted strongly to political interference in sports associations. He criticized the YSRCP government when it sidelined cricketer Hanuma Vihari. "What kind of politicians are in sports associations? This shouldn't be allowed. Is there politics even here?" he had asked.**

So, what is happening now? The Andhra Cricket Association is filled with political leaders... they're running the show entirely. Victims are questioning — is this not politics too? It's true that many in the business community were troubled during the YSRCP regime. Even TDP MP Galla Jayadev was reportedly harassed so much that he quit politics. Rumors now suggest Galla Jayadev is interested in owning a franchise. But if it was wrong then, should the coalition government do the same now? Shouldn't they ensure no one from the business community is harassed? The victims ask — or is harassment acceptable if it's done by the current regime? They clarify they have no political affiliations — they entered the franchise business purely out of love for cricket. Some partners even supported TDP and BJP in the past. Yet, the victims allege that Sana Satish, Keshineni Chinni, and Prashanth are targeting them under the guise of "cleansing the YSRCP influence" to serve their own business interests. Will the coalition government intervene? Will Chandrababu Naidu take action? If not him, will Pawan Kalyan look into this?

**Are the Andhra Cricket Association Elections a Sham?**



**After the new government took charge, the Andhra Cricket Association held elections. Keshineni Chinni, Sana Satish, and**

**Prashanth declared themselves elected. However, several individuals went to court, alleging the elections were not held according to rules. BJP MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju acted as the chairman for the Association's elections. He did so on behalf of the Visakhapatnam District Cricket Association — but that association's term had already expired and no new elec-**

tions were held. Hence, those who went to court argue that Raju was ineligible to act as chairman. If the election organizers themselves are ineligible, then the entire election is invalid, their lawyer argues.



**Another issue: MP Sana Satish filed nomination under the name "The Visakhapatnam Cricket Club" and was elected Secretary. But no such entity exists — only "Visakhapatnam Cricket Club" is registered. It is alleged that the name was manipulated to secure approval.**

Vijayawada MP Keshineni Chinni filed nomination from the Kurnool Cricket Association and was elected President — but he is reportedly not even a member of that association.



**Further, to close the Visakhapatnam District Cricket Association case, three petitioners were allegedly pressured to compromise. MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao is said to have intervened personally. The petitioners' lawyer alleges that he was never informed, and the case was dismissed through a memo without following due process. Without that case, Raju's disqualification wouldn't even come up, which in turn questions the entire election's validity.**

**Not Just Manipulation, But Corruption Too?**

Yes. Ramesh Babu from the Guntur Association alleged that out of Andhra Cricket Association's ₹140 crore funds, ₹48 crore was withdrawn and spent without members' consent. He questioned the lack of transparency in a formal letter to the Association, seeking an explanation. He said the ₹48 crore was reportedly used for repairs at the Visakhapatnam stadium. He questioned — what repairs were made, who authorized them, and whether all members approved the expenditure. He wrote this letter last week. As of now, he has not received any reply.



## Fulfilling People's Aspirations Every Day: CM Chandrababu

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of the people, stating that he is working every single day without hesitation to deliver on the promises made to the public. Marking the first anniversary of the coalition government, the Chief Minister addressed citizens through social media platform X on Thursday. Chandrababu recalled that despite facing financial constraints and administrative hurdles, the government had managed to successfully implement several welfare and development schemes over the past year. He expressed gratitude to all the people, officials, and leaders who contributed to the success of the government's efforts. "In the coalition government formed with the blessings of the people for the reconstruction of Andhra Pradesh, we have implemented several schemes such as the pension hike, Anna canteens, Deepam-2, Salute to Mother, and Fisheries Service," Chandrababu said. He also noted the government's initiative to generate employment through Mega DSC for teachers and private sector investments. The Chief Minister emphasized the support given to farmers, citing the procurement of 55 lakh metric tons of paddy and said the Annadata Sukhibhava financial aid will be released within June itself. "We have resumed Amaravati and Polavaram works, achieved the railway zone, and safeguarded the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. With the strength of your continued support, we will further intensify our welfare and development agenda," he stated. Chandrababu concluded by saying that the government's first year of good governance has restored public confidence, and he aspires for the coming year to yield even greater results for the people of the state.

# Journalist Kommineni Gets Relief from Supreme Court

- SC orders immediate release, warns against repeating such conduct
- Supreme Court grants bail to Kommineni Srinivasa Rao
- Trial court to oversee conditions of release
- Court cautions him against such actions in future



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Senior journalist Kommineni Srinivasa Rao has received significant relief from the Supreme Court in the case related to a controversial discussion aired on Sakshi Channel. The apex court on Friday ordered his immediate release and granted him bail, while also issuing a stern warning to refrain from such conduct in the future. Kommineni had approached the Supreme Court challenging his arrest over allega-

tions that he hosted a program in which inappropriate comments were made about women from Amaravati. A bench comprising Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice Manmohan heard the plea and ruled in his favour, instructing that all procedures concerning his release would be monitored by the relevant trial court. During the hearing, senior advocate Sidharth Dave, appearing for Kommineni,





# Journalist...

Continued from page 1

argued that the journalist himself did not make any derogatory remarks. He clarified that it was a panelist on the show who made the controversial comments, and Kommineni had no role in that. He further added that holding the host responsible for a panelist's statement was unjustified. However, counsel for the Andhra Pradesh government, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, countered that Kommineni encouraged the panelist during the discussion and laughed while the objectionable remarks were being made, indicating complicity. After considering arguments from both sides, the bench observed that it was improper to arrest the host for comments made by others during a live panel discussion. The court ruled in favour of Kommineni, granting him bail and ordering his immediate release. At the same time, the bench issued a clear caution to Kommineni, warning him not to allow or indulge in such objectionable content in the future.



## CPM Slams 10-Hour Workday, Calls It Exploitation of Workers

CPM State Secretary Baburao strongly condemned the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to increase daily working hours from 9 to 10 under the pretext of promoting industrial investment. Speaking to the media, he criticized the policy as a blatant violation of labor rights, particularly those of the working class and the poor. Baburao argued that while the government maintains that workers would only be on duty for 48 hours a week, the ground reality is far different. "In many private sectors, workers are already being forced to work for 12 hours a day using flimsy justifications," he said. "This policy will only intensify that exploitation." He warned that longer working hours would place an undue burden on workers, severely impacting their health and personal lives. He added that the government's strategy of stretching working hours is less about productivity and more about cutting costs by making fewer employees do more work. "Production will not increase simply by making people work more. On the contrary, quality will take a hit due to fatigue and stress," Baburao noted. He accused the government of tilting policies in favor of industrialists and corporates while ignoring the well-being of the labor force.

# Govt Cheated Mothers in the Name of 'Thalliki Vandanam'

## AISF warns of state-wide protests if full benefits not implemented

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

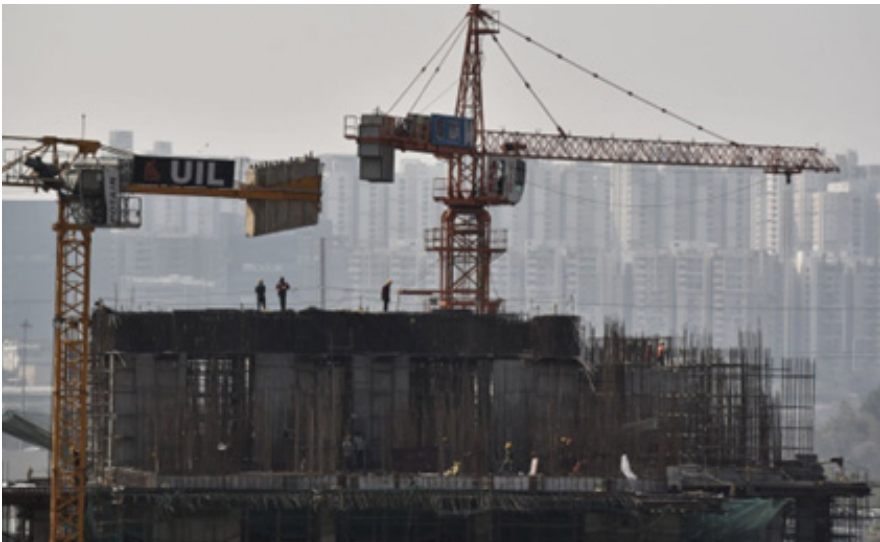
All India Students Federation (AISF) State Vice President M. Sai Kumar has strongly criticized the Andhra Pradesh coalition government, accusing it of betraying lakhs of mothers by not fulfilling the promises made under the 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme. He alleged that the government's failure to deposit the assured ₹15,000 per student into the mothers' accounts has deeply disappointed families across the state. Before coming to power, the coalition parties, particularly the TDP, had promised in their manifesto—under the "Super Six" guarantees—that ₹15,000 would be deposited per student, irrespective of how many children a mother had. However, Sai Kumar said that after forming the government, the promised ₹15,000 was not released in the first academic year, and for the second year, only ₹2,000 was deposited with a promise to release the remaining ₹13,000 later. Quoting official statistics, Sai Kumar pointed out that while there are 87,41,885 students studying from Class 1 to Intermediate 2nd year, the scheme has reportedly benefited only 67,12,164 students. "What happened to the remaining 29 lakh students?

# AP Cabinet Approves 10-Hour Workday to Boost Investments

- **Government amends labor laws to attract industries**
- **TCS gets land in Vizag at ₹1 per acre**
- **Trade unions oppose move citing worker health risks**

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh cabinet, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has approved a major amendment in the state's labor laws, increasing the daily working hours for employees from 9 to 10 hours. The decision, made during the recent cabinet meeting, is aimed at creating an investor-friendly environment and boosting industrial growth in the state. As part of the state's "ease



of doing business" initiative, the cabinet has also decided to amend the Andhra Pradesh Factories Act. Previously, the legal workday was limited to 8 hours, later revised to 9 hours a decade ago. Now, the daily cap has officially been raised to 10 hours for all private sector companies and factories. State Information Minister K. Parthasarathy explained that this change is being introduced under Section 54 of the Act, and the provisions related to work breaks are being revised under Section 55. After five hours of continuous work,

employees are now entitled to a mandatory 30-minute break. Additionally, the monthly overtime cap has been increased from 75 hours to 144 hours. The government maintains that these changes are crucial to making Andhra Pradesh more competitive and attractive for industrial investments. As part of this industrial push, the government recently allotted land in Visakhapatnam to TCS at just ₹1 per acre, showcasing its commitment to providing high-value incentives to major corporations.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, known for branding himself as the "CEO of Andhra Pradesh" since his first term in 1995, is once again placing strong emphasis on economic development through corporate engagement. He claims credit for bringing global IT giants like Microsoft and TCS to Hyderabad during the united Andhra Pradesh era, and now aims to replicate that success in the truncated state. However, the decision to extend working hours has sparked backlash from trade unions across the state. Worker organizations argue that increasing daily work hours without improving wages or working conditions is unfair and hazardous to employee health. They fear employers might misuse the revised limits, forcing workers into extended shifts exceeding 12 hours. The unions are demanding that the decision be rolled back immediately. With the new law set to impact all private-sector employees in Andhra Pradesh, a showdown between the government and labor unions appears imminent, raising questions about balancing industrial growth with worker welfare.

# Foundations Are Strong, Move Forward...

- **Iconic towers and permanent High Court structures are intact, say experts**
- **Minimal damage observed; cleaning and tests recommended**
- **No need to delay further, construction work can resume immediately**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a major boost to the capital development in Amaravati, a team of structural engineering experts from IIT Madras has confirmed that the foundations and concrete structures of the iconic towers and the permanent High Court are strong and intact. The expert team has advised the government to proceed with the construction works without delay. A three-member team led by Professor Meher Prasad from IIT Madras visited Amaravati on Thursday to assess the condition of key structures that were halted during the previous regime. The team carried out a thorough inspection of the



iconic towers and the foundations laid for the permanent High Court buildings. They were accompanied by CRDA engineers and officials during the visit. After the inspection, the team declared that the

concrete structures do not require reconstruction or major repairs. "There is no need for any concrete reconstruction. The structures are in good condition. The damage is minimal. Just clean the rusted iron

rods. Get the necessary tests done and record the results. There is no need to wait for the reports. You can start the work immediately," the IIT experts reportedly advised the engineers. The experts also reviewed and guided the technical team on-site about the minor maintenance and test procedures needed. A detailed discussion followed at the L&T site office, where the IIT team explained the safety measures to be adopted going forward. The positive technical review by IIT Madras is expected to expedite the stalled works of Amaravati capital city development, especially the core infrastructure and public buildings like the High Court and Assembly.

# Medical aspirants to lose 900 Govt. medical

## seats as PPP model raises alarms

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The coalition government's decision to convert ten proposed government medical colleges into Public-Private Partnership (PPP) institutions has drawn sharp criticism from parents' associations, student unions, and opposition leaders. Critics allege that this move could cost medical aspirants over 900 government MBBS seats and undermine public healthcare. Under a centrally sponsored scheme, 17 government medical colleges were sanctioned for the state, expected to add around 2,250 MBBS seats, 2,213 for Andhra Pradesh students and 375 for the national pool. Of these, five were made operational by the previous YSRCP government, and work began on two others. Construction of the remaining ten stalled, and the NDA coalition government now plans to revive them through the PPP route. Under the PPP model, only 50% of seats will fall under the government's Convenor quota (Category A), while 35% will be allocated to



management quota and 15% to the NRI quota. This structure drastically reduces affordable access. If 12 colleges are built this way, the expected 1,800 government quota seats would be halved to just 900. "This decision is deeply troubling and a betrayal of public trust," said Dr. M.V. Ramanaiah, State President, Praja Arogya Vedika. "It compromises the Right to Health, prioritizes corporate interests over people's welfare, and weakens public healthcare. Education and healthcare must remain with the government to ensure affordability and equity. We urge the government to revoke this plan and honour its election promises." Health and Medical Education Minister Satya Kumar Yadav defended the decision, stating, "Under the PPP model, four medical colleges will start in 2025-26 and

six more in the following year. This is the fastest route to expand medical seats. Fifty percent of seats will still go to state students as per NMC guidelines." But the opposition remains unconvinced. Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav of the YSRCP's NTR District Doctors Wing called the decision a betrayal of the poor and middle class. "The 12 pending colleges could have added 1,800 seats. Instead, the government is placing a massive financial burden on families. It's disappointing that neither the minister nor officials clarified the fate of the remaining two colleges," he said. Parents, too, voiced concern. "The government is playing with the future of lakhs of students," said S. Narahari, President of the Andhra Pradesh Parents Association. "Investing in public medical education is about giving our children hope. Privatising it snatches that away." He pointed to G.O. 197, under which fees are ₹15,000 for general seats, ₹12 lakh for self-financed seats, and ₹20 lakh for NRI quota, amounts unaffordable for most students.



# High Command Headache Over Sharmila's Moves

Sharmila is still targeting Jagan  
High command receives multiple complaints

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
Politics in Andhra Pradesh is once again heating up with internal tensions brewing inside the Congress party. While the coalition government has completed its first year in power and the BJP is sharpening its focus on the state, the Congress finds itself dealing with internal discord, especially concerning the actions of its AP unit president YS Sharmila. Appointed by the Congress high command with the hope of reviving the party in Andhra Pradesh, Sharmila has instead drawn criticism from within her own party. Several Con-



gress leaders are reportedly unhappy with her constant targeting of her brother and YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy. They allege that even after the elections, Sharmila has continued to make Jagan the primary focus of her attacks, sidelining

Dissatisfaction growing within Congress ranks  
Buzz about possible change in AP Congress leadership

criticism of the ruling coalition government. There is widespread discontent among state leaders who argue that Sharmila's strategy is weakening the Congress further instead of consolidating its base. Party insiders claim her leadership has failed to deliver results and that her personal vendetta against Jagan is taking precedence over the party's agenda. Some leaders fear that this behavior is indirectly aiding the NDA alliance in the state. Adding fuel to the fire, AICC member Sunkara Padmasree has launched a district-level campaign against Sharmila, gathering signatures from party workers and openly questioning her motives. Padmasree has accused Sharmila of enacting the alliance's script by only targeting Jagan and staying silent on the failures of the current ruling government. Reports suggest that Congress leaders from both Bengaluru and Delhi have submitted formal complaints to the party's high command. They argue that her approach is damaging the already weak vote bank of Congress in Andhra Pradesh and that her continued aggression towards Jagan is turning public sentiment further away from the party.

In a fresh twist, it is said that a senior Congress leader recently sent a letter to the AICC requesting a change in leadership. The high command has reportedly acknowledged the concerns and is said to be seriously evaluating the situation. This has sparked speculation within party circles that Sharmila may soon be replaced. With Delhi likely to intervene, the big question remains: will the Congress high command stand by Sharmila or show her the door? Her next move could determine not only her political future but also the path forward for the Congress party in Andhra Pradesh.

## Krishnam Raju Admits Bias Against Chandrababu, TDP During Police Interrogation

**TPN Correspondent | Guntur**  
Senior journalist VVR Krishnam Raju, recently arrested over inappropriate comments on women in Amaravati, has reportedly admitted during police interrogation that his remarks were influenced by his personal opposition to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He is also said to have confessed that the recognition he receives from Sakshi TV motivated his statements. Sources close to the investigation revealed that Krishnam Raju was interrogated at length throughout the night at Nallapadu Police Station following his arrest on Wednesday. During questioning, he reportedly stated, "I am getting proper recognition only on Sakshi TV. That's why I participate in discussions on that channel the most." Krishnam Raju is also said to have told the police that Sakshi's senior journalist Kommineni Srinivasa Rao invites him frequently to panel discussions due to his critical stance against the TDP and the Amaravati movement. He admitted that this encouragement pushed him to make aggressive and controversial remarks. When police questioned whether his comments were part of a deliberate campaign or conspiracy, Krishnam Raju allegedly evaded direct answers. He did, however, acknowledge that his family members and close friends had previously cautioned him against making provocative statements, especially during televised debates. Despite their warnings, he admitted to ignoring their concerns out of stubbornness. "I made the comments with the intention of expressing my views more strongly, even though I did not have enough factual basis," Krishnam



Raju reportedly said, adding that his remarks about women from Amaravati were based on limited information and newspaper clippings. When asked about his decision to release a video defending his comments, Krishnam Raju allegedly claimed he was merely echoing what he had read in the media. However, when officers asked him whether a single news item justifies branding an entire area or community, he reportedly struggled to respond. The interrogation has raised serious questions about media accountability and the role of partisan platforms in encouraging irresponsible commentary. The police are expected to continue their investigation to determine whether any broader conspiracy is involved.

## This Verdict Is Like a Thunderbolt for Honest Journalists

*YSRCP's Roja calls verdict a win for press freedom*



**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
Andhra Pradesh Press Academy Chairman Kommineni Srinivasa Rao received major relief from the Supreme Court on Friday, which declared his arrest illegal and ordered his immediate release. The apex court also clarified that Kommineni had no direct role in the objectionable remarks made by a panelist during a debate on Sakshi Channel. The judgment has triggered strong political reactions, with YSRCP leader and former minister R.K. Roja hailing it as a landmark verdict in defense of press freedom.

Reacting to the Supreme Court order, Roja posted on social media: "The Supreme Court has ruled that the arrest of AP Press Academy Chairman Kommineni garu is illegal. It has issued clear instructions for his immediate release. The court clarified that Kommineni has no connection with the analyst's comments. This is a strong message about the protection of freedom of speech and democracy." Roja further used the occasion to lash out at media houses she called biased. "This verdict is like a thunderbolt for honest journalists. It is a slap in the face to the green media that spread venom against Sakshi TV. Red Book politics has been dealt a severe blow in the Supreme Court. This is a diamond-like verdict for those who uphold media integrity." The ruling came after Kommineni challenged his arrest in the Supreme Court, stating that he did not personally make any inappropriate remarks and that arresting a show host for comments made by a panelist violated his fundamental rights. The bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan agreed, and stated that the trial court would oversee the conditions of his release. The judgment is being viewed as a significant precedent in debates over accountability in media discussions and is expected to influence future legal interpretations of responsibility in televised debates.

## Lokesh Faces Heat Over 'Thalliki Vandanam' Implementation

₹15,000 promised for every student, but ₹2,000 cut triggers backlash  
Critics say Lokesh is repeating Jagan's Amma Vodi mistakes  
Parents, YCP leaders slam conditional aid, demand full amount

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's announcement that the 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme has been implemented successfully is now under scrutiny. While the government has indeed released funds under the scheme, the method of its implementation is sparking controversy and comparisons to the very approach the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) once opposed. Before the 2024 elections, TDP leaders, including Minister Nara Lokesh, promised that every student in a household would receive ₹15,000 unconditionally. However, the actual implementation on June 12 saw only ₹13,000 deposited, with ₹2,000 being withheld for school maintenance — a move now drawing sharp criticism from opposition leaders and public alike. This ₹2,000 cut is eerily reminiscent of the deductions made by the previous YSRCP government under the Amma Vodi scheme — a point Lokesh himself used as a strong election weapon. Now, with the same logic being applied under a different name, accusations of hypocrisy and betrayal are being hurled by YSRCP leaders and aggrieved parents. "Lokesh called Jagan a psycho for de-



ducting ₹2,000. What does it make Lokesh now?" questioned YCP sympathizers, pointing out that the exact strategy once condemned is being implemented again. During YSRCP's tenure, the Amma Vodi scheme, which promised ₹15,000 to every school-going child's mother, was later revised to a mother-per-family basis. Over time, deductions were introduced — ₹1,000 for toilets, ₹1,000 for aayas — leading to only ₹55,000 being disbursed out of the promised ₹60,000 across five years. This rollback had cost the YSRCP heavily in public perception and was a significant talking point for the TDP in its campaign. Now, with TDP in power, the very first installment of the new academic year is under fire for falling short. Parents, particu-

larly from poor and middle-income groups, are demanding clarity and full disbursement. "If you wanted to give ₹13,000, why promise ₹15,000?" they ask. Many are also criticizing the eligibility restrictions and technical issues that have left out a significant number of beneficiaries. Meanwhile, opposition parties and public discourse suggest that the TDP-led coalition is at risk of repeating the missteps of its predecessor if immediate corrective actions aren't taken. With rising public dissatisfaction and sharp political reactions, the government may be forced to re-examine the scheme's design and delivery, or risk having the very promises that brought it to power become its Achilles' heel.

## Perni Nani has no escape now: Minister Kollu Ravindra

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna**  
Andhra Pradesh Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra launched a scathing attack on YSRCP leader and former minister Perni Nani, alleging deep-rooted corruption and misgovernance during the previous regime. Speaking to media in Vijayawada, Kollu Ravindra declared that "Perni Nani's sin has ripened... there is no more to be left," suggesting that Nani will now have to face the consequences of his actions. Accusing Nani of fooling the people of Machilipatnam for five years, Ravindra questioned how a Tahsildar, transferred in 2023, issued pattas in 2024. He challenged the credibility of the former minister's recent statements and asked why 6,400 TIDCO houses were not distributed to the poor during YSRCP's tenure if their government truly cared for the underprivileged. He also pointed out that the courts had ruled against the issuance of pattas on Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) lands, exposing the illegality in the previous administration's actions.

Ravindra also reminded the public that Perni Nani had tried to sell the Bandar port back in 2006 and accused him of orchestrating scams under the guise of sympathy politics. "The biggest Saturn that has hit the electorate is Nani himself. Sympathy politics is over. The law will not spare anyone who has done wrong," he asserted. Further, he alleged that Nani and his aides sold 8,000 bags of rice meant for public welfare and cheated the people. He slammed the YSRCP for buying lands at inflated rates in the name of house plots and collecting commissions. "The CAG report has clearly pointed to irregularities worth ₹8 crore in the land purchases made for the medical college," he said. Kollu Ravindra stated that the coalition government is committed to developing Machilipatnam. "We achieved the Bandar port through public struggle. Why was it not completed during the past five years?" he asked. He assured that the port would be completed by 2026 and promised to transform Bandara into a major tourism and sports hub.





# Fake Documents Used to Grab ₹60 Cr Assets of Covid Victim, FIR Filed

Complaint filed against Venkatesh, Subhani, and Moulali at Nagarapalem Police Station

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

A major land-grabbing case involving fraudulent documents has come to light in Guntur, where assets worth over ₹60 crore belonging to a deceased textile trader were allegedly registered using fake Aadhaar and forged wills.

A complaint has been officially lodged at the Nagarapalem Police Station against Tham-misetty Venkatesh, Sheikh Subhani, and Sheikh Moulali, who reportedly forged docu-mentation and falsely regis-tered properties in the Guntur



Sub-Registrar Office. The ac-cused allegedly took advantage of the death of Chakka Ganesh Gupta, a textile businessman from Krishna Lanka in Vijay-awada, who succumbed to the second wave of Covid along with his family. According to the complaint filed by Registrar Cyril Babu, the

accused, along with Prabhakar from Nainavaram and others, created fake Aadhaar cards and bogus will documents to transfer ownership of Ganesh Gupta's assets to their names. These illegal registrations were reportedly carried out at the Guntur Sub-Registrar Office, and the issue was brought to



Name  
**Shaik Subhani**

Address  
**DOOR NO 5-53-55 BR  
Guntur**



Name  
**Tham-misetty Venkatesh**

Aadhaar Name  
**Tham-misetty Venkatesh**

Relation Name  
**S/O Nageswara Rao**

the attention of the District Registrar and Vijayawada Rural MRO. Alarming allegations have also emerged about attempts to pressure officials into en-abling the fraudulent registra-tions. Sources claim that local MLAs and certain Rayalasee-ma-based groups are conspir-ing against Srinivas Raju, a

resident of Satyanarayanapur-am in Vijayawada, in a bid to seize Ganesh Gupta's prop-erties. There are further claims that the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) has been making direct calls to the District Sub-Regis-trar, allegedly pushing for the registration of the disputed as-sets. Adding to the complexity of

the case, Ganesh Gupta's own brother is reportedly attempt-ing to produce a fake will to gain control over the property. This new dimension has inten-sified concerns about the mis-use of power and manipulation of official processes to illegally transfer assets of a deceased individual. Authorities are expected to take further action as investigations continue. The issue is likely to expand as sources hint at more revelations in the coming days regarding questionable reg-istrations at the Vijayawada West Sub-Registrar Office.

## YSRCP Must Apologize or Face Legal Action: Minister Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Education Minister Nara Lokesh has issued a stern warning to the YSRCP leaders, stating that legal ac-tion will be initiated if they fail to withdraw and apologize for their alleged false claims regarding government schemes. He condemned the oppo-sition's statements that Rs. 13,000 was given as a gift to mothers and Rs. 2,000 deposited in their ac-counts, calling them baseless and misleading. Speaking to the media in Vijayawada, Lokesh de-manded that YSRCP leaders prove their allegations with bank transaction evidence or retract the claims publicly. "If you can't prove Rs. 2,000 was deposited, apologize and take your words back. If not, we will initiate legal proceedings. This gov-ernment won't tolerate false allegations like be-fore," he stated firmly.

Highlighting the government's efforts in the ed-ucation sector, the minister said that school kits have already been distributed to 80% of students, with the remaining 20% set to receive them by the 20th of this month. He assured that all elig-ible mothers under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme would receive their entitlements once inactive bank accounts are resolved.

"We are requesting mothers to activate their bank accounts. As soon as that is done, the cash under the 'Thalliki Vandanam' initiative will be deposit-ed," Lokesh said.

He further explained the state's significant im-provements in the education sector: Premium rice is now being provided in midday meals.

The One Class–One Teacher model has been im-plemented in 9,600 schools. Free electricity is being supplied to all government schools.



Teacher transfers will be completed by Monday. The Mega DSC recruitment process is currently underway. Lokesh added that the state government is focused on raising student enrollment in government schools and improving the overall quality of ed-ucation. He clarified that the 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme does not apply to Anganwadi children, and reiterated that the education system was ru-ined under the previous YSRCP regime. "We don't even know what the former education minister did. It took 100 days just to determine how many students were studying in government schools," Lokesh said, criticizing the previous ad-ministration's negligence. He concluded by assuring that a new AP model of education would be showcased within a year, driven by reforms and commitment to quality learning.

## Hospital on Wheels: A Healthcare Revolution in West Constituency

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Under the leadership of MLA Srujana Chow-dary, the Srujana Foundation has launched an innovative project called "Hospital on Wheels" to bring healthcare services directly to the peo-ple of West Constituency. This mobile hospi-tal, led by Health Coordinator Venkata Rama-na Kumar and Kiran Veeramanchineni of the Srujana Foundation, aims to make medical care accessible to everyone, especially in un-der-served areas.

MLA Srujana Chowdary has always priori-tized health and education in his consti-tuen-cy. Since taking charge as MLA, he has worked tirelessly to improve these sectors. To un-der-stand the healthcare needs of the people, the Srujana Foundation conducted free medical camps across the West Constituency for 45 days. During these camps, they treated 2,924 patients and performed lab tests for 1,182 in-dividuals. The overwhelming success of these camps inspired the team to think bigger and create a lasting solution.

With an investment of 1.3 crores, the Sruja-na Foundation built the "Hospital on Wheels," a fully equipped mobile medical unit staffed by a team of 11, including doctors and medical professionals. This hospital can treat approxi-mately 100 patients daily, providing essential healthcare services like check-ups, diagnos-tics, and treatments.

The project collects data from urban health-care centers in the West Constituency to con-duct medical camps effectively. The mobile hospital will set up camps every Saturday and Sunday, ensuring that people have easy access to medical care over the weekend. By using this data, the team plans to make the service even more impactful.

MLA Srujana Chowdary's vision and the Sruja-na Foundation's efforts have brought hope to thousands. The "Hospital on Wheels" is not just a project—it's a movement to ensure that no one in West Constituency is left without qual-ity healthcare.



## APAHOA Urges Promotions for 62 Veterinary Officers

TPN Correspondent | AP

The Andhra Pradesh Animal Hus-bandry Officers' Service Association (APAHOA) has called for the promo-tion of 62 veterinary assistant sur-geons to assistant director posts in the Animal Husbandry Department. In a letter dated January 14, 2025, to the Director of Animal Husbandry, APAHOA highlighted that these of-ficers, recruited between 2008 and 2018, have served 5-15 years and are eligible under G.O. Ms. No. 410 (1989). Of them, 15 officers have over 15 years of service, while 47 have 5-10 years. The association expressed concern over delays in promotions, causing financial and professional hardships. They urged the depart-ment to convene a Departmental Promotion Committee meeting to fill vacant assistant director posts. APA-HOA President Dr. K. Satyanaraya-na emphasized the need for timely promotions to ensure career growth and better service delivery in the de-partment.

## AP Lorry Owners Slam IRDAI Over Proposed Insurance Premium Hike

TPN Correspondent | AP

The Andhra Pradesh Lorry Owners' Association (APLOA) has strongly objected to the proposed 20-25% hike in third-party motor insurance premiums by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). In a letter to the IRDAI Chairman, APLOA highlighted the financial strain on small and medium transport operators, who form over 85% of the sector, already burdened by high costs and corruption. They noted that modern expressways have lowered heavy vehicle accident rates, questioning the need for the hike. APLOA demanded transpar-ency through data on claims, premiums, and accidents, along-side removing the 12% GST on premiums. General Secretary Y.V. Eswara Rao urged IRDAI to consult stakeholders, including the All-India Motor Transport Congress, before proceeding. The as-sociation warned that the hike could severely impact the trans-port sector if implemented without thorough discussions.



## Police confirm Yesubabu's death was planned revenge, not an accident

TPN Correspondent | Ibrahimpatnam

The Ibrahimpatnam police have uncovered a shocking twist in what was initially believed to be a fatal road ac-cident in Kachavaram village. The suspicious death of a man named Yesubabu on the night of June 5 has now been offi-cially confirmed as a premed-itated murder, carried out as an act of revenge.

Addressing the media, Ibra-himpatnam Circle Inspector Chandra Shekhar stated that a thorough investigation into the case registered on June 6 led police to conclude that the incident was not accidental. The victim, Yesubabu, was intentionally run over and killed using a car by the sons of Saikham Prabhakar, iden-tified as Kumaraswamy and Naveen.

According to police, the mo-tive behind the murder was revenge. A few days prior to the incident, Yesubabu had allegedly attacked Saikham Prabhakar. In retaliation, his sons plotted and executed the murder to avenge the assault



on their father. On the night of June 5, the accused used a car to fatally strike Yesubabu. Police inves-tigations, supported by tech-nical evidence and witness statements, ruled out the pos-sibility of a mere accident. The police have arrested Ku-maraswamy, Naveen, and a third person who reportedly assisted in the crime. CI Chandra Shekhar con-firmed that all three are in custody and are being booked under murder charges. Fur-

ther investigation is under-way to determine the full se-quence of events and whether more individuals were in-volved. The revelation has shocked residents of Kachavaram and surrounding areas, high-lighting the growing concern of vigilante justice and violent retaliation. Police have as-sured that strict legal action will be taken and that law and order will be maintained without compromise.



## Belum Caves Find Place in GSI Heritage List

GSI grants heritage recognition to Belum Caves in Nandyal  
Minister Durgesh says move will boost tourism potential  
Caves hailed as the longest in India, second-longest in the world

**TPN Correspondent | Nandyal**  
Andhra Pradesh Tourism and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh has expressed his delight over the inclusion of the famous Belum Caves in the Geographical Heritage List by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).  
In a statement on Thursday, the Minister said it is a matter of pride for the state that the world-renowned Belum Caves, located in Kolimigundla of Nandyal district, have received such prestigious recognition. “The Belum Caves are a symbol of ancient civilization and natural wonder. This recognition from GSI will enhance their importance globally,” he said.  
Durgesh added that the caves — already popular for being India’s longest cave system and the second-longest interior caves in the world — will now gain further attention as a prominent tourist destination. He emphasized that



with this recognition, the region is poised to attract not just domestic but also international tourists in greater numbers.  
“The Tourism Department will step

up promotional activities to highlight the Belum Caves and ensure their place among India’s top tourism spots,” the Minister stated. He also assured that developmental works will be taken up in and around the caves to improve tourist amenities and preserve the geological marvel.  
Minister Durgesh credited the recognition and the ongoing growth in tourism to the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, stating that the government is committed to showcasing Andhra Pradesh’s natural and cultural heritage to the world.  
The Belum Caves, known for their stalactite and stalagmite formations, underground streams, and historical relevance, have long been a point of attraction. With this GSI recognition, their prominence is expected to rise further on the global map of geological and cultural heritage sites.

## Pawan Kalyan Visits Patancheru for Son’s School Admission??

**TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy**  
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party Chief Pawan Kalyan visited Patancheru in Sangareddy district on Friday, drawing public and media attention. His visit to the International School of Hyderabad (ISH) located on the Ikrishtat campus sparked speculation and interest, especially in political and educational circles.  
According to reliable sources, Pawan Kalyan’s visit was related to the admission of his son, Mark Shankar, at the prestigious international school. He was seen inspecting the school’s infrastructure and facilities during his visit. He is also said to have held discussions with school management and sought detailed information regarding academics, security, and student support systems.  
This visit comes in the backdrop of a recent fire incident involving his son at a school in Singapore, which reportedly prompted the family to explore safer and quality educational alternatives in Hyderabad. As part of this exercise, ISH in Patancheru was considered, leading to Friday’s visit.



The news has gained traction on social media and among local residents, with many noting the Deputy CM’s personal involvement in selecting the right academic environment for his son, despite his busy political schedule.  
Though there has been no official confirmation from Pawan Kalyan’s office, sources close to the family say the safety, academic excellence, and overall environment of the school were key factors behind the visit.

## Chirala ‘Silk Saree’ Earns National Recognition



**TPN Correspondent | Bapatla**  
The renowned Chirala Silk Saree, especially the traditional Kuppada

dam Saree, has received national recognition under the One District–One Product (ODOP) 2024

initiative. This honor marks a significant achievement for the handloom artisans of Bapatla district, who have preserved and promoted this intricate weaving tradition for generations. District Collector J. Venkata Murali has been officially informed that the Chirala Kuppadam Sarees have been selected for the national award. He is scheduled to receive the award at a ceremony to be held in New Delhi on the 18th of this month. A central team visited the Chirala region in January this year to inspect and study the Kuppadam Sarees, which are exclusively woven in the looms of Chirala. Their detailed inspection and evaluation led to the selection of the product for national honor. “This award has given

great recognition to our district’s handloom weavers. It is a proud moment for all those involved in preserving the rich tradition of Chirala Kuppadam Sarees,” said Collector Venkata Murali. The Kuppadam Sarees are known for their unique blend of silk and cotton, exquisite design borders, and their deep cultural connection with the local community. This recognition is expected to boost market visibility, open new commercial avenues, and encourage next-generation artisans to continue this legacy. The ODOP initiative by the Government of India aims to identify, promote, and brand one signature product from each district, giving local specialties a national and global platform.

## House Sites for the Deserving a Priority, Says MLA Prashanti Reddy

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy has emphasized that the primary aim of the coalition government is to turn the dream of owning a home into a reality for the poor. She directed officials to identify the truly deserving beneficiaries and ensure that house plots are allotted to them without any delay.  
Speaking at a review meeting with housing and revenue officials held at her residence in Magunta Layout, Nellore, the MLA revealed that around 1,600 people had applied for house sites in the Kovur constituency. She stressed the need for proper coordination between revenue and housing departments to identify the eligible applicants and ensure fair distribution of land.  
Prashanti Reddy also instructed officials to explore not just available government lands but also locate unallotted or surplus plots within the Jagananna colonies that were established during the previous government’s tenure. These leftover plots, she said, must be used to benefit the needy.  
Highlighting past irregularities, the MLA warned against repeating mistakes committed during the last regime in the name of house site distribution. “If required, I will take this issue to the notice of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and get additional land sanctioned to serve the poor,” she said. She further assured that after the completion of beneficiary selection, houses would be constructed free of cost under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana 2.0 scheme, reinforcing the government’s commitment to housing for all. District Housing Project Director Venugopal, Housing DE Venkateswar Reddy, and Tehsildars from five mandals in the Kovur constituency attended the meeting and discussed action plans for identifying land and eligible families.



## Minors Held for Burning TDP Flags in Pulivendula, Parents Protest Outside Police Station

**TPN Correspondent | Kadapa**  
Tension prevailed in Pulivendula on Friday after a group of parents staged a protest in front of the Pulivendula police station, demanding the release of their minor children who were detained for allegedly burning Telugu Desam Party (TDP) flags during the recent Mahanadu events.  
According to local sources, the Pulivendula town police arrested four minors on Thursday night after a case was registered against them for setting TDP flags ablaze on the Vellamvaripalli ring road. The incident stirred political and public attention, given the sensitive backdrop of post-election party rivalries.  
The arrested youths include Balaji Nayak from Prashanti Nagar, seventh-class student Sheka, tenth-class student Trinath, and another local youth, Vedant — all residents of the same locality. Their parents, shocked by



the arrests, rushed to the town police station and launched a sit-in protest, urging authorities to release the boys, citing their young age and innocence.  
Speaking to the media, the parents alleged that the police picked up their children late at night without prior information or explanation. “Our sons are minors and students. They should be in school, not police custody.

They were not aware of the consequences of their actions,” the parents said in unison. Responding to the protest, DSP Murali Nayak addressed the gathering and clarified that a comprehensive investigation is underway. “No child should be involved in burning or handling political flags. It’s not only illegal but also dangerous. We are probing who encouraged these minors to do this. Action will not only be taken against those who carried it out but also those behind it,” he stated. The DSP also emphasized that political leaders or adults using minors for party-related acts will face strict legal consequences. “We are committed to protecting children and also the law. No one will be spared, however influential they may be,” he added.  
Circle Inspector Chand Bhasha and Sub-Inspector Narasimhu were present during the incident and are reportedly supervising the ongoing investigation.

## Six AP Residents Killed in Karnataka Road Accident

*Chittoor to Bengaluru RTC bus crashes in Hoskote*

**TPN Correspondent | Karnataka**  
A devastating road accident occurred at Hoskote in Karnataka on Saturday involving an APSRTC bus traveling from Chittoor to Bengaluru. The bus reportedly collided head-on with a lorry, resulting in the death of six passengers, including a three-month-old baby. All the victims were identified as residents of the Gangadhara Nellore constituency in Andhra Pradesh’s Chittoor district.  
The tragic incident has caused deep sorrow among the families of the victims and the local community. Andhra Pradesh Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad expressed shock over the news and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Speaking on the matter, he stated, “It is deeply saddening that lives from Chittoor district were lost in

this accident. My thoughts and prayers are with their families during this difficult time.”  
Minister Mandipalli assured that the state government will extend all possible support to those affected by the tragedy. He has instructed officials to gather detailed information about the incident and ensure that the families of the deceased receive appropriate financial assistance. He also directed the concerned authorities to ensure the injured are provided with the best possible medical treatment.  
Local officials and emergency services rushed to the spot immediately after the collision. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals, and rescue operations were carried out promptly. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

## Nitya Yoga, Nitya Arogya: Students Shine with Yoga Mudra Aarti

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
The spirit of yoga came alive in Eluru as students from various schools performed a captivating Yoga Mudra Aarti at Sir C.R. Reddy College. The program, organized as part of the district-wide Yoga Andhra initiative, drew enthusiastic participation and appreciation from officials, leaders, and the public alike.  
District Collector K. Vetrivel, MLAs Badeti Radhakrishna (Chanti) and Chintamaneni Prabhakar, Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, Vijayawada RTC Regional Chairman Reddy Appalanaidu, Market Yard Chairmen Mamillapalli Parthasarathy and Garapati Ramasitha, Corporation Co-option Member S.M.R. Pedababu, and others joined the gathering, where students performed various yoga asanas under the thematic focus on health and

wellness.  
Speaking on the occasion, Collector Vetrivel emphasized the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life. “Yoga is part of our Indian heritage, and now, it is practiced worldwide. It not only brings health but also discipline and balance to life,” she said.  
She highlighted the district’s active participation, revealing that 8,43,302 individuals have already registered for the yoga programs in the lead-up to International Yoga Day on June 21 in Visakhapatnam. The Collector also congratulated students for their enthusiastic participation in the theme-based yoga activities and announced a mass demonstration titled Yoga Andhra across all villages, wards, and secretariats on June 14.  
Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishna

(Chanti) praised the state leadership, stating, “Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan have shown great initiative in promoting yoga to the public. Yoga Andhra will spread awareness about yoga’s immense benefits.”  
“Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar shared his personal journey, stating that while he previously had no exposure to yoga, the Yoga Andhra movement inspired him to learn and adopt yoga asanas for better health.  
Representatives from various voluntary organizations, departmental officials, a large number of students, and the general public actively participated in the event, turning it into a vibrant celebration of wellness and cultural pride.



# India's Remarkable Poverty Decline: A Data-Driven Transformation



In a development that has stunned global observers, India has drastically reduced its extreme poverty levels. According to the World Bank, the proportion of Indians living in extreme poverty has fallen from 27% in 2011-12 to just 5.3% today. This remarkable shift is not just a social milestone—it's also a powerful economic catalyst, adding new vitality to the Indian growth story.

The data is clear and compelling. Over the past decade, India has lifted approximately 171 million people out of extreme poverty, even after the World Bank adjusted the poverty line to \$3 per day to reflect inflation and purchasing power parity. That number is larger than the entire population of Russia.

One of the most impressive aspects of

this transformation is how equitably it has occurred. Rural poverty has plummeted from 18.4% to 2.8%, while urban poverty now stands at just 1.1%, down from 10.7%. The gap between rural and urban poverty has narrowed significantly, indicating that development is reaching the remotest corners of the country—not just urban hubs.

This progress stems from a deliberate policy strategy that combines economic empowerment with robust welfare support. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, schemes like the free food grain program for 800 million people, Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), and financial inclusion initiatives have ensured that assistance reaches those who need it most. The government's push for toilets, homes, electricity, healthcare,

and clean cooking fuel has transformed basic living conditions.

India's achievements stand in stark contrast to regional peers. For instance, in Pakistan, nearly 45% of the population remains in poverty, and the number is rising.

As India eyes its goal of becoming a fully developed nation by 2047, the newly uplifted population represents not just beneficiaries of social schemes but active participants in economic growth. They are tomorrow's workforce, entrepreneurs, and consumers—forming the backbone of a confident and resurgent India. This transformation is more than statistical; it is a profound shift toward dignity, self-reliance, and shared prosperity.



## Vijay Mallya and the Business of Spin: A Closer Look at His Latest Interview

Last week, after years of silence, former industrialist Vijay Mallya gave his first extensive interview since fleeing India in 2016. Speaking to social media influencer Raj Shamani, Mallya shared his version of the rise and fall of his aviation empire, Kingsher Airlines. The four-hour conversation was polished and confident but largely retread familiar ground, focusing on grievance and personal vindication rather than revealing new facts. Mallya once again positioned himself as a victim, echoing a narrative he has maintained for over a decade through social media. His criticism was notably directed at the legacy media, which he accused of presenting only one side of the story—a claim that rings hollow given how he previously used the media to build his public image. He also briefly referenced some political leaders who he felt failed him, though these figures are no longer influential, leaving Mallya's account largely unchecked.

One of his repeated assertions was that Kingsher Airlines, not he personally, was responsible for the airline's debts. Legally, this may hold, but as the founder and chief strategist, it is disingenuous to distance himself

from decisions such as the risky acquisition of Air Deccan. This move occurred while Kingsher was already losing around Rs 1,000 crore annually and was justified as a way to access international flying rights—something Mallya now denies, though the airline launched international flights soon after. Mallya blamed economic conditions like soaring fuel prices and policy hurdles, but other airlines faced these too. He also faulted advice from former finance minister Pranab Mukherjee for not scaling back operations during the 2008 crisis—yet he later deferred delivery of 32 aircraft, benefiting the airline.

The interview notably skirted the airline's treatment of unpaid employees, even as Mallya enjoyed a lavish lifestyle. He claimed enforcement actions against him were excessive, ignoring that repayments to lenders were forced through the sale of pledged shares. Mallya's reluctance to return to India remains puzzling, raising questions about his commitment to resolving the legal issues. The interview, conducted in London where he resides, appears more strategic than cathartic—possibly a calculated move to influence political and public opinion.

# 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.

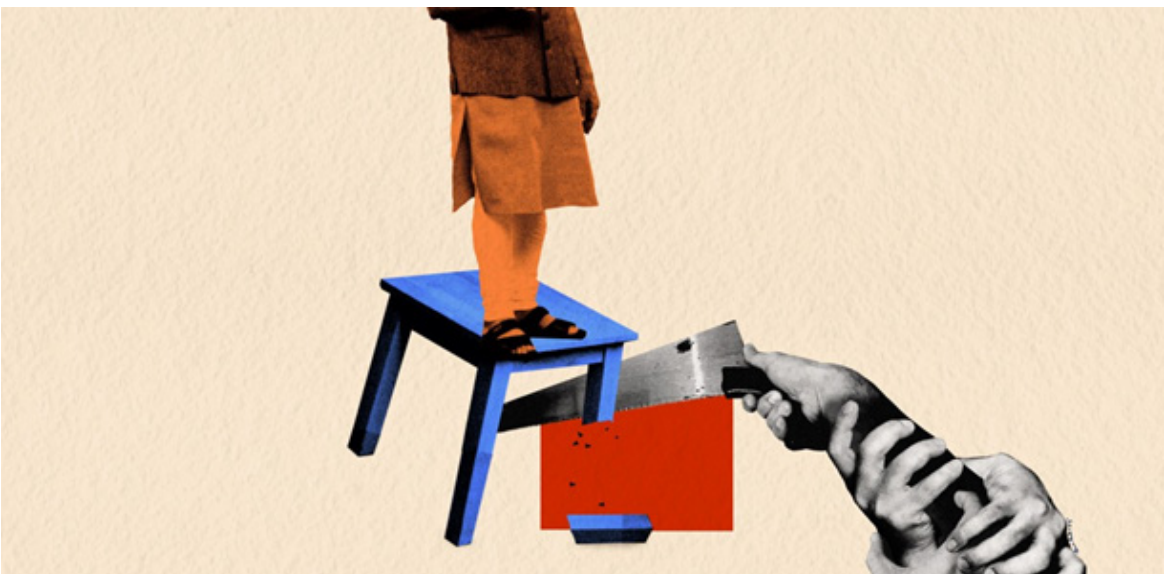
Technological advances have outpaced regula-



tion. 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.



## Modi 3.0: The Prime Minister's Shift from Intransigence to Caste Realpolitik

The first year of Narendra Modi's third term has revealed a significant shift in his political strategy. Once known for his unwavering focus on Hindutva and muscular nationalism, Modi has now publicly acknowledged the crucial role of caste politics, a domain he had previously dismissed. This change marks a departure from the intransigent leadership style that defined his earlier terms.

For years, Modi and the BJP derided the demand for a caste census, labeling it divisive and regressive. Modi himself famously reduced India's diverse social fabric to just four groups: the poor, women, youth, and farmers, dismissing caste enumeration as an “urban Naxal” agenda. Yet, the 2024 Lok Sabha elections altered the political landscape. Faced with the electoral importance of allies like Nitish Kumar and N. Chandrababu Naidu—who insisted on caste enumeration—the Modi government conceded, agreeing to conduct a caste census alongside the decennial population survey.

This concession is more than symbolic. It reflects the recognition that the BJP's Hindutva-centric politics, especially the heavy emphasis on the Ayodhya Ram Temple celebrations, may have alienated key segments of

the OBC and Dalit voter base. The 2024 election results, where the BJP fell short of expectations, underscored the waning returns of identity politics rooted solely in religious nationalism.

Modi 3.0 has also rolled back the controversial lateral entry recruitment drive for bureaucratic posts, acknowledging concerns about undermining reservations and social justice—a move signaling responsiveness to caste-based demands.

Historically, while socialist parties like the Samajwadi Party and Congress openly embraced caste as a basis for social justice and welfare, the BJP had pursued a different approach. It sought to empower marginalized castes through political appointments while promoting market-driven growth and weakening state institutions. This strategy fostered divisions among OBC and Dalit groups, weakening their collective political strength.

Modi's third term reveals a pragmatic recalibration. The era of dismissing caste politics is over. To maintain power, Modi 3.0 must now integrate caste dynamics into its political calculus, balancing Hindutva with the demands of India's complex social realities.



# PM Modi Holds Review Meeting Following Air India Plane Crash in Ahmedabad

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, June 13, 2025, held a crucial review meeting with senior Gujarat officials after visiting the site of the tragic Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad. The meeting took place at the GujSail building near the city airport, where the Prime Minister was briefed on the series of events following the crash that claimed 265 lives on Thursday.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi visited the crash site and the city civil hospital, expressing deep sorrow over the disaster. Addressing the nation through a post on X, he said, “We are all devastated by the air tragedy in Ahmedabad. The loss of so many lives in such a sudden and heart-breaking manner is beyond words. Condolences to all the bereaved families. We understand their pain and also know that the void left behind will be felt for years to come. Om Shanti.”

The ill-fated Boeing 787 Dreamliner (flight AI 171), carrying 242 passengers—including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani—



crashed into a medical college complex in Meghaninagar moments after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Thursday afternoon. The crash shocked the nation and triggered extensive rescue and relief operations.

Present at the review meeting with PM Modi were Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Union Jal Shakti Minister and Gujarat BJP

Chief C R Paatil, and other key officials. During the meeting, Modi was updated in detail on the rescue efforts, relief work, and the ongoing investigation into the cause of the crash.

PM Modi gave clear instructions to the officials to ensure swift assistance to the victims' families and to conduct a thorough probe to uncover the reasons behind the tragedy. The government pledged full support to the affected families during this difficult time.

# PM Modi Calls for Peace Amid Israel-Iran Escalation in Talks with Netanyahu

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a crucial phone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu amid escalating tensions in West Asia, following Israel's large-scale military strikes on Iran's nuclear and missile facilities.

The strikes, which reportedly killed several top Iranian military commanders and targeted key infrastructure, have raised fears of a broader regional conflict between the two long-standing adversaries.

Following the call, PM Modi shared an update via X (formerly Twitter), stating, “Received a phone call from PM @netanyahu of Israel. He briefed me on the evolving situation. I shared India's concerns and emphasised the need for early restoration of peace and stability in the region.”

This marks India's first direct high-level response to the rapidly intensifying Israel-Iran conflict. The Ministry of External Affairs



(MEA) earlier in the day said that India is “deeply concerned” over the situation and is “closely monitoring” the developments. It urged both nations to avoid any steps that could further escalate tensions.

In addition, the MEA advised Indian nationals in the region to remain cautious, stay safe, and follow local security advisories. It reaffirmed India's neutral diplomatic position, noting, “India enjoys close and friendly relations with both countries and stands ready to extend all possible sup-

port.” The Israeli strikes have drawn global attention, with this being one of the most significant attacks on Iran since the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. The region remains on high alert, with fears of retaliation and potential ripple effects on global energy markets and geopolitical alliances.

India's call for restraint and dialogue underscores its longstanding approach of diplomacy-first in international conflicts, especially those involving key strategic partners.

# Southwest Monsoon Gains Pace, Set to Reach Delhi by June 22: IMD

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The southwest monsoon, which had stalled in early June, has regained strength and is expected to cover most parts of northwest India, including Delhi, by June 25—well ahead of the typical schedule. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the monsoon may reach Delhi by June 22 or 23, surpassing its usual onset date of June 27.



The monsoon made its earliest onset since 2009, arriving in Kerala on May 24. Supported by strong low-pressure systems over both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, it advanced rapidly across central Maharashtra, including Mumbai, and the entire northeast by May 29. However, the monsoon entered a stagnant phase between May 28 and June 10, which led to prolonged dry conditions. As a result, large parts of central and northwest India experienced intense heatwaves

starting June 8-9.

The IMD's extended forecast now predicts the monsoon will cover the remaining parts of central and eastern India, along with some areas in the northwest, by June 18. Full coverage of northwest India is expected between June 19 and June 25. Meteorologists caution that the onset date does not necessarily predict seasonal rainfall totals. Regional progress of the monsoon can vary significantly due to a combination of global, regional,

and local factors.

In its seasonal outlook, the IMD forecasted 106% of the long-period average (LPA) rainfall of 87 cm for the June–September period. Rainfall between 96% and 104% of LPA is considered “normal.”

Above-normal rainfall is expected in most regions, though below-normal levels are likely in parts of Ladakh, northeast India, Bihar, Jharkhand, and coastal states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

# 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.



# BJP-RSS afraid of Keezhadi's archaeological truth: Stalin on Centre's remark

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Centre and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Friday, accusing them of deliberately undermining the significance of the Keezhadi archaeological excavations. His remarks came in response to Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat's statement alleging that the DMK was politicising the findings from the site.

Stalin, in a post on X, defended the scientific credibility of the Keezhadi discoveries, which have shed light on an advanced ancient Tamil civilisation. He highlighted carbon-dated artefacts and Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) reports from international laboratories as irrefutable proof of the antiquity of Tamil culture. “Even with solid scientific evidence, they demand more proof,” Stalin said, calling out the Centre for rejecting verified history while promoting unproven concepts like the Sarasvati Civilisation.

He alleged that the BJP and RSS were uncomfortable with Tamil history because it did not align with their ideological narrative. “The BJP-RSS ecosystem recoils from the truth of Keezhadi — not because evidence is lacking, but because the truth doesn't serve their script,” Stalin said. He further added, “We fought for centuries to unearth our history. They fight every day to erase it.”

Union Minister Shekhawat, in a June 11 post, argued that the DMK was refusing to cooperate with the Centre on further archaeological research and insisted on more scientific backing before recognising the findings. He emphasized the need for collaborative research rather than political narratives. DMK Minister Thangam Thennarasu also slammed the Centre, accusing it of trying to suppress Tamil history and treat Tamils as “second-class citizens.” He listed past incidents, such as the Centre halting funding, transferring researchers, and delaying reports, as attempts to obstruct the recognition of Keezhadi's historical value.



# "Make Deal Before...": Trump's Big Warning To Iran After Israel's Attack

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has firmly stated that Iran cannot be allowed to possess a nuclear bomb, emphasizing hopes to return to diplomatic talks despite recent escalating tensions. Speaking to Fox News, Trump declared, “Iran cannot have a nuclear bomb and we are hoping to get back to the negotiating table. We will see. There are several people in leadership that will not be coming back,” referring to Iranian leaders killed in the Israeli airstrikes on June 13.

In a post on Truth Social following the attacks, Trump said, “I gave Iran chance after chance to make a deal. I told them, in the strongest of words, to ‘just do it,’ but no matter how hard they tried, no matter how close they got, they just couldn’t get it done.” He further warned that the US “makes the best and most lethal military equipment anywhere in the world,” adding that Israel “has a lot of it... And they know how to use it.”

Trump also noted, “Iranian hardliners spoke bravely, but they didn’t know what was about to happen. They are all DEAD now, and it will only get worse!” Urging Iran to negotiate, he advised, “JUST DO IT,



BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.”

Hours before the airstrikes, Trump hinted at possible Israeli action during a White House briefing. “I don’t want to say it’s imminent, but it looks like something that could very well happen,” he said, underscoring, “Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon.” He expressed preference for a diplomatic agreement, cautioning that military action could either help or ruin those ef-

forts. Israel’s strikes targeted around 100 Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing two top commanders and several nuclear scientists. In retaliation, Iran launched 100 drones toward Israel, which Israeli defenses intercepted. Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Israel of a “bitter and painful” response to the attacks, signaling ongoing heightened tensions in the region.

## Iran’s Supreme Leader Khamenei Vows Harsh Retaliation After Israeli Strikes



TPN Correspondent | Dubai

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is alive and remains fully briefed on the unfolding situation following Israeli attacks on Iran early Friday, a security source confirmed to Reuters.

In a strong statement responding to the strikes, Khamenei condemned Israel, describing it as the “Zionist regime” that had unleashed its “wicked and bloody hand” in

a criminal act against Iran. He warned that Israel has “prepared a bitter fate for itself,” which it will undoubtedly face.

The Israeli attacks targeted Iran’s nuclear program and resulted in the deaths of several key military commanders, intensifying already high tensions in the region. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the strikes were part of a larger operation to dismantle Iran’s nuclear and missile capabilities, which he called an ex-

istential threat to Israel.

Khamenei’s message highlighted Iran’s resolve to respond strongly to what he described as a blatant act of aggression. The Supreme Leader’s statement emphasized that the attack revealed the “vile nature” of Israel’s intentions and foreshadowed severe consequences for the country.

The strikes have further escalated the volatile situation in the Middle East, with concerns growing about the possibility of a prolonged conflict. Iran’s leadership remains closely engaged with military and security officials as they assess the damage and plan their next moves.

This development follows a series of targeted Israeli actions against Iranian-backed forces and nuclear sites, underscoring the ongoing proxy conflicts and tensions between Tehran and Jerusalem. Both sides have been exchanging threats and retaliatory strikes for years, but this latest attack marks a significant escalation. As the situation unfolds, the international community watches closely, wary of a broader confrontation that could destabilize the region further.

## Netanyahu Declares Operation Rising Lion, Warns of Prolonged Conflict with Iran

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the launch of a large-scale military campaign—Operation Rising Lion—targeting Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Speaking at a press conference on Friday, Netanyahu described the opening strikes as “very successful,” confirming that senior Iranian officials, nuclear scientists, and key facilities had been hit.

“We struck the heart of Iran’s nuclear enrichment programme, its weaponization efforts, and critical ballistic missile infrastructure,” Netanyahu stated. He warned citizens to prepare for an extended conflict, emphasizing, “There are no free wars.”

The Israeli leader framed the offensive as a preemptive move to stop an existential threat, accusing Iran of accumulating enough enriched uranium for nine nuclear bombs. “Iran is gearing up to produce 10,000 ballistic missiles. Imagine the devastation if even a fraction of those carried nuclear warheads,” he warned.

Netanyahu linked today’s threat to past

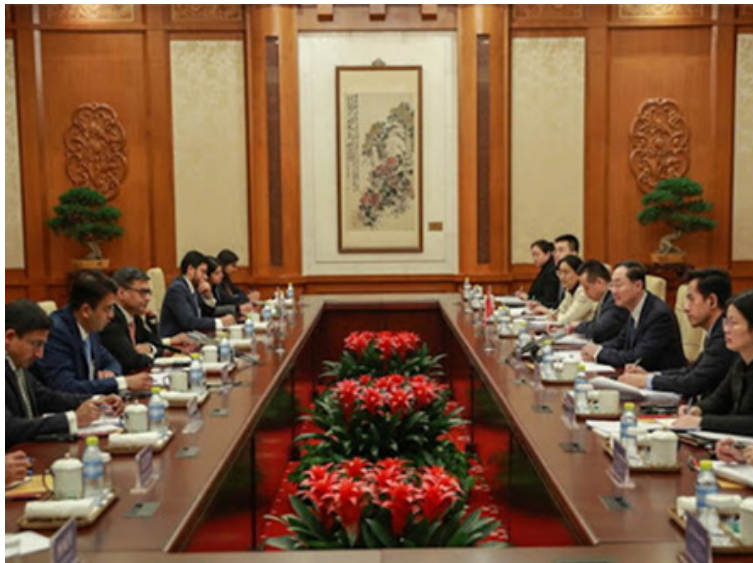


global tragedies, referencing the Holocaust and warning the world against repeating the mistakes of appeasement. “Never again is now,” he declared. “When someone comes to kill you, rise and act first.”

He also addressed the Iranian people directly, stating the conflict was not with them, but with the regime that has “oppressed them for 46 years.” He expressed hope for a future of renewed friendship between Israel and Iran once the current

leadership is replaced.

The Prime Minister thanked former U.S. President Donald Trump for his strong stance against Iran’s nuclear ambitions, and emphasized that Israel’s military actions serve not only its own security but also that of the broader world. “By defending ourselves, we defend many others,” he said, concluding with a rallying call: “May God bless Israel. May God bless the forces of civilisation everywhere.”



## India and China Commit to Rebuilding Ties with People-Centric Focus Amid Rare Earth Supply Talks

TPN Correspondent | Balochistan

India and China have agreed to strengthen and stabilize their bilateral relations with an emphasis on people-centric engagements, following a meeting between India’s Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong in New Delhi on June 12.

During the two-day visit by Sun Weidong, both sides reviewed the progress since their last meeting in Beijing in January 2025. The discussions highlighted cooperation on several fronts, including the resumption of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, which Foreign Secretary Misri appreciated.

The two officials also touched upon the April 2025 meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism concerning transboundary rivers, expressing hopes for renewed hydrological data sharing and other collaborative efforts. Additionally, both countries agreed to accelerate steps toward resuming direct air services and finalizing an updated Air Services Agreement. Visa facilitation, media exchanges, and think tank collaborations were also identified as key areas for practical progress.

Marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and China, the two sides expressed support for planned activities celebrating this milestone and agreed to facilitate such efforts. On the trade front, India continues talks with China to ensure predictability in the supply of rare earth metals, crucial for industries like automobile manufacturing. This comes after China imposed export controls on certain rare earth items in April, which has caused concern in India’s supply chain.



## Sweden Commits to Meeting NATO’s New 5% GDP Defence Spending Target

TPN Correspondent | STOCKHOLM

Sweden will align with NATO’s proposed defence spending target of 5% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson announced on Friday during a joint press conference with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in Stockholm. This marks a significant commitment by NATO’s newest member amid rising security concerns across Europe.

The new NATO spending goal—expected to be formally discussed at the upcoming NATO summit in The Hague—includes allocating 3.5% of GDP for core military expenditures and an additional 1.5% for broader defence and security-related investments.

“I’d like to confirm that Sweden will reach a new NATO spending target of 5% of GDP,” Kristersson stated. “At least 3.5% of GDP will be allocated towards core defence requirements to fulfil NATO’s new capability target.”

Currently, Sweden spends approximately 2.7% of its GDP on defence. Earlier this year, it announced plans to raise this to 3.5% by 2030. With Friday’s announcement, Sweden is committing to a significantly more ambitious timeline and scope of investment.

Kristersson clarified that the remaining 1.5% of the targeted spending will be directed toward civil defence, cybersecurity, and other critical areas that support national and alliance security frameworks. “An additional 1.5% will go towards defence-related matters, civil defence, cyber security, and other things that are also important,” he said. This development comes as NATO continues to push for increased defence spending among member states to counter emerging threats and enhance collective preparedness.



## Markets Slip Amid Geopolitical Tensions; Crude Surge and Israel-Iran Conflict Trigger Sharp Selloff.

Domestic stock markets closed in losses on Friday. Benchmark and sectoral indices fell sharply. Israel's surprise attack on Iran led to a sudden negative sentiment. Crude oil prices rose by 10% as tensions flared up again in West Asia. As a result, the indices started with a huge gap down. They gradually recovered half of their losses by buying valuable shares immediately. It is noteworthy that Nifty initially fell by 350 points and Sensex by 1000 points. After the recovery, Nifty settled with a loss of 169 points and Sensex by 573 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,691 in the previous session, opened at 82,427 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 80,354. It reached an intraday high of 81,238. It ended at 81,118, down 573 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,473, touched a low of 24,473 and a high of 24,754. It closed at 24,718, down 169 points. The Nifty Bank fell 555 points to settle at 55,527.

In the Nifty50, 9 companies gained while 41 lost. BEL, ONGC, Tech Mahindra, TCS and Wipro were the top gainers. Adani Ports, ITC, SBI, Hindalco and Adani Enterprises were the biggest losers. Today, PSU Bank, FMCG, Bank, Metal, Finance, Private Bank, Commodities, Oil, Infra, Consumer Durables, Energy, Auto indices were mixed. CPSE, Media, Realty rose marginally.



Market breadth turned in favor of sellers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2964 stocks traded, 1059 gained and 1824 lost. 43 stocks reached their 52-week high and 33 stocks reached their 52-week low. The upper circuit was touched by 54 and the lower circuit by 80.

The rupee weakened by 49 paise to settle at 86.09 against the dollar. Diamond Power Company received an order worth Rs. 117 crore. Former HPCL CMD Surana said that under normal circumstances, there is no possibility of a rise in crude oil prices. He attributed the rise in prices to the rising tensions in West Asia. The impact of the rise in crude oil prices and tensions will be more on oil-based companies including Indian Oil, Asian Paints and Indigo. Boeing shares started in the red on Friday. Karnex Microsystems received an order worth Rs 311 crore from Southern Railway. RPP Infra project received an order worth Rs 283 crore. Compared to the rest, Nifty Defense beat all sectoral indices today. PhonePe reduced its stake in CE Info Systems. LIC reduced its stake in Marico. Gold reached a lifetime high today due to Israel-Iran tensions.



## India's Retail Inflation May Fall Below 2% by July: SBI Research

India's retail inflation is expected to dip further and could fall to 2% or even lower by July 2025, according to a recent report by SBI Research. This comes on the heels of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation easing to a six-year low of 2.82% in May, significantly below market expectations.

The dramatic decline in inflation has been largely attributed to the falling prices of key food items, especially vegetables and pulses, which saw year-on-year deflation of 13.7% and 8.2% respectively. Price moderation in spices, meat, and fish also contributed to the overall softening, although elevated costs in fruits and personal care products offered some resistance.

However, the report cautioned that core inflation—excluding food and fuel—remains somewhat sticky, rising to 4.2%, its second-highest level in 19 months. Despite this, the overall inflation trend remains positive, offering the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased flexibility in policy-making.

SBI Research forecasts that CPI inflation will average between 3.3% and 3.5% in 2025–26, comfortably within the RBI's 2–6% target range. This environment is seen as favorable for

the central bank to continue supporting capital formation and economic growth, especially after its 50-basis-point repo rate cut earlier this year—the first in nearly five years.

State-level inflation analysis shows a significant improvement as well. In May 2025, only six states and Union Territories recorded inflation above 4%, compared to 32 in October 2024. Most notably, India's all-India inflation dropped by 3.38% during this period, with Goa being the exception, where inflation rose by 2.09%.

SBI expects inflation to remain under 4% through Q3 of FY26, with a slight uptick anticipated in the final quarter of the fiscal year. While the RBI is expected to hold interest rates steady in the near term, further decisions will depend on evolving economic data.

India's effective inflation management has stood out globally, even as many advanced economies continue to struggle with price volatility.



## Sensex, Nifty Tumble Nearly 1% Amid Soaring Crude Prices, Geopolitical Tensions

Mumbai, June 13, 2025 — Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp decline on Friday as escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and a spike in global crude oil prices rattled investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex plummeted 573.38 points, or 0.70%, to close at 81,118.60, while the NSE Nifty slipped 169.60 points, or 0.68%, ending the day at 24,718.60.

Markets opened deep in the red, with the Sensex falling as much as 1,337 points in early trade, before paring some losses in the second half as global cues improved slightly.

Investor sentiment turned sour following reports that Israel had launched a military strike on Iran's capital, sharply raising fears of a wider regional conflict. The development sent global oil benchmark Brent crude soaring 7.44% to \$74.52 per barrel—its highest level this year—raising inflationary concerns and threatening to derail global recovery efforts.

The uncertainty triggered a risk-off mode, prompting foreign institutional investors (FIIs) to pull out ₹3,831.42 crore from Indian equities on Thursday. Market experts noted that while India's retail inflation dropped below the RBI's upper tolerance band in May, macroeconomic positives were overshadowed by external shocks.

Among the biggest losers on the Sensex were Adani Ports, ITC, State Bank of India, IndusInd



Bank, HDFC Bank, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and UltraTech Cement. In contrast, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Sun Pharma, and Maruti Suzuki were among the few gainers, reflecting selective buying in defensive and IT stocks.

Global markets mirrored the volatility, with key Asian indices like Japan's Nikkei, South Korea's Kospi, Hong Kong's Hang Seng, and China's SSE Composite closing in the red. European stocks also traded lower.

The tragic crash of an Air India flight shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad added further gloom. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, en route to London, crashed with 242 people onboard, leaving 241 dead.

With geopolitical uncertainties clouding the outlook and crude prices climbing, analysts anticipate continued market volatility in the near term.

## 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.



# Robot Dog Startles Shoppers at Texas Mall, Sparks Awe and Unease Online



Shoppers at San Antonio's Rivercenter Mall were recently stunned by an unexpected visitor—a robotic dog that looked uncannily lifelike. Captured on video and shared by the San Antonio Lifestyle TikTok page, the mechanical pet has since gone viral, generating a mix of fascination, curiosity, and discomfort online.

The robot, believed to be a Unitree Go2, was spotted around 9 p.m. being led on a leash like a real dog. In the video, mall-goers can be seen stopping in their tracks, surprised by the machine's fluid, dog-like movements. At one point, the robot appears to “stomp” or hesitate before moving again, adding to the eerie effect. The

TikToker behind the camera is audibly shocked, noting that the robot even made dog-like noises, likely part of its AI programming to mimic lifelike behavior.

According to a report by MySA, the robot and its handler have reportedly been seen at the mall more than once. The person who filmed the encounter said they had never seen anything like it and described the experience as surreal. “It's scary to know the future is here,” they commented.

Online reactions have been divided. Some viewers were awed by the cutting-edge technology, while others found the robot unnerving and even suggested they

would flee if they saw one in person.

Though the model hasn't been officially confirmed, it strongly resembles the Unitree Go2—an advanced quadruped robot equipped with 12 knee-joint motors, a headlamp, and a front-facing camera. Priced at around \$2,800 (excluding extras), the Go2 can perform a range of canine behaviors such as sitting, jumping, and even shaking paws.

As robotic companions become more sophisticated, public encounters like this raise important questions about how society interacts with intelligent machines in everyday settings.

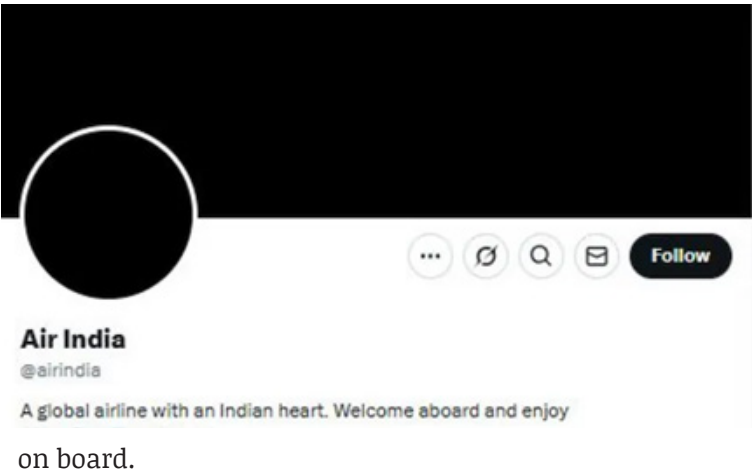
## Air India Turns Profile Black After Devastating Ahmedabad Plane Crash Kills 241

In the wake of the tragic Air India flight AI-171 crash near Ahmedabad, the airline has turned its social media profile pictures black as a symbol of mourning and solidarity. The devastating accident, which occurred just moments after takeoff on Thursday, June 12, has left the nation and the aviation world in deep shock.

The ill-fated Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, carrying 232 passengers and 10 crew members, was en route to London's Gatwick Airport. It crashed near BJ Medical College's UG hostel mess in the Meghani Nagar area, erupting into a fireball shortly after reaching an altitude of 625 feet. The aircraft failed to sustain lift, prompting pilot Captain Sumet Sabharwal to issue a “Mayday” distress call before the aircraft lost contact with air traffic control.

According to official figures, 241 of the 242 on board perished. The lone survivor, Ramesh Vishwas Kumar, was rushed to a hospital and is currently being treated for severe injuries. The tragedy also affected people on the ground, with at least 23 confirmed casualties in the crash zone.

Air India released a statement confirming the crash and detailing its response efforts. Firefighters, emergency responders, and airline officials swiftly reached the site to manage the blaze and begin rescue operations. A dedicated hotline (1800 5691 444) has been set up for families of those



In a public show of grief and respect, Air India changed its display picture across platforms like X and Instagram to a plain black image.

Low-cost carrier IndiGo also expressed its condolences, stating, “We stand united in spirit with Air India in this very difficult time.”

The nation now awaits answers as investigations by aviation authorities move forward.

## 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 sum-



mary 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.”

## ‘Italians Are Crying’: Japan’s Pizza Vending Machine Stuns the Internet

Japan has once again amazed the world with its futuristic innovations—this time in the culinary space. A video showcasing a 24/7 pizza vending machine has gone viral, leaving netizens stunned and amused. Shared by a Japanese-American content creator on Instagram, the clip has already crossed over 1 million views, and reactions range from admiration to playful disbelief.

In the now-viral video, the creator expresses shock and excitement after discovering the vending machine. “I gotta try it,” he says, inserting cash into the sleek retail kiosk. Moments later, the machine begins baking the pizza,



which is then dispensed hot and fresh on a tray. The pizza—a classic Margherita topped with

goosey cheese and basil leaves—looks impressively artisanal for a machine-made product.

But the surprises don't stop there. The vending machine includes a separate flap that dispenses utensils, napkins, a bag, and even a pizza cutter. “No freaking way. That is insane,” the content creator exclaims, as he prepares to taste his unexpected culinary find. After taking a bite, he admits, “It's actually pretty good. Pretty cheesy too.”

The video has sparked a range of reactions online. While many praised Japan's

cutting-edge convenience, others joked that traditional Italian chefs might be horrified. Comments like “Italians are crying right now” and “Even the vending machines in Japan are gourmet chefs” flooded the post.

Despite the humor, the review was genuinely positive: “Hot, crispy, and ready in minutes. Japan never fails to surprise me,” the content creator noted in the caption.

As Japan continues to push the boundaries of innovation—even with something as beloved and traditional as pizza—it's clear that the future of food might just be as automated as it is delicious.

## iPhone 17 Pro Geekbench Scores Leak: A19 Pro Chip Outpaces Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC

Apple's upcoming iPhone 17 Pro series is generating major buzz ahead of its expected September launch. The latest leak, coming from tipster Digital Chat Station on Weibo, reveals alleged Geekbench scores for the iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max—and they appear to outperform both Apple's current A18 Pro and Qualcomm's flagship Snapdragon 8 Elite chipsets.

According to the leak, the A19 Pro SoC—expected to power the iPhone 17 Pro series—will retain the 3nm fabrication process seen in its predecessor but deliver significantly better performance. The benchmark scores suggest a single-core score exceeding 4,000 and a multi-core score surpassing 10,000, representing a notable leap over the iPhone 16 Pro Max's Geekbench scores of 3,203 (single-core) and 7,846 (multi-core).

In comparison, the Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra, equipped with the latest Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC, scored 3,054 (single-core) and 9,832 (multi-core). While Qualcomm's chip remains highly

competitive, Apple's A19 Pro appears to take a slight lead in raw processing power, according to these early results.

Beyond performance, design leaks suggest the iPhone 17 Pro models may feature a thicker chassis—possibly to accommodate a larger battery or a VC (vapor chamber) cooling system, which would be a first for Apple. Rumors also hint at a redesigned camera module and enhancements to display technology across the lineup, including the new iPhone 17 Air, a lightweight model poised to rival Samsung's Galaxy S25 Edge.

These upgrades are expected to complement Apple's recently announced Liquid Glass UI, a visually immersive interface that increases processing demands with transparency effects and transitions.

If the leaks hold true, Apple's iPhone 17 Pro series is shaping up to deliver both style and substance in its next-generation flagship smartphones.





# Sift Kaur Samra Clinches Bronze at Munich World Cup After Late Surge in 50m Rifle 3P

Asian Games champion Sift Kaur Samra delivered a thrilling performance to win bronze in the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) final at the ISSF World Cup in Munich on Thursday, showcasing nerves of steel in the standing series after a shaky start in the kneeling and prone rounds.

Samra, 23, trailed throughout the early part of the final, finishing the kneeling position behind Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad, Switzerland's Emely Jaeggi, and USA's Sagen Maddalena. Despite this, she remained focused. "I knew the medal was within reach. I didn't even know Maddalena was the Paris Olympic silver medalist," said Samra, who admitted missing the Paris final made her indifferent to past rankings.

She scored 152.9 in kneeling—an improvement from previous events—and 153.1 in prone, which placed her fourth, 2.6 points behind Maddalena. But in the standing posi-



tion, Samra came alive. With scores of 50.8 and 51.3, she tied Maddalena at 411.6 and then pulled ahead with a series of high 10s in the elimination shots.

While Maddalena faltered with shots under 10, Samra maintained her composure with 10.7, 10.2, and 10.0, sealing her spot on the podium. Though she couldn't catch Jaeggi for silver, a final 10.6 ensured a solid bronze finish.

"Today I shot better in kneeling than Argentina. I've worked on that position and I'm happy it paid off," she said.

National coach Deepali Deshpande praised her adaptability and improvement. With kneeling and prone being removed from finals in 2026, Samra's growing command over standing position bodes well for her Olympic ambitions.

This marks Samra's third World Cup medal, reaffirming her place among India's elite shooters.

# Nepal and West Indies to Play Historic First Bilateral T20I Series in Sharjah This September

In a landmark moment for international cricket, Nepal and the West Indies are set to clash in their first-ever bilateral T20I series, scheduled to take place this September in Sharjah, UAE. The three-match series, hosted by Nepal, will be played on September 27, 28, and 30, all at the same venue.

Despite the neutral location, Nepal will serve as the official host of the series. Cricket West Indies (CWI) hailed the tour as a significant step toward strengthening the sport globally, particularly in emerging cricket nations like Nepal.

"This series is more than just a set of international matches—it's a celebration of the game's expanding global footprint and a testament to what cricket represents: pride, purpose,



and the power of unity," said CWI CEO Chris Dehring in an official statement. He emphasized the importance of supporting Nepal at a crucial time in their cricketing journey, saying, "We are proud to stand with Nepal at this moment in their history."

The West Indies, a full-member nation, brings a wealth of experience

and talent, while Nepal continues to make strides as a rising cricketing force in Asia. The Sharjah series will not only offer Nepal valuable experience against a top-tier side but also help foster stronger cricketing ties between the two nations.

CWI also expressed its gratitude to the Cricket Association of Nepal and the Emirates Cricket Board for their collaboration in organizing the historic series. This partnership highlights a shared vision of promoting cricket's global development and expanding its accessibility across borders.

Fans can expect an exciting and competitive series, as both teams look to make the most of this unique and meaningful opportunity on the international stage.

# Kevin De Bruyne Joins Napoli After a Decade at Manchester City

In a major transfer move, Kevin De Bruyne has signed with Serie A champions Napoli as a free agent following the expiration of his contract with Manchester City. The announcement was made on Thursday, with Napoli celebrating the arrival of the Belgian playmaker with the message: "KING KEV IS HERE" across its social media platforms.

De Bruyne, 33, ended a glittering 10-year spell at Manchester City, where he won six Premier League titles, two FA Cups, and the UEFA Champions League. Widely regarded as one of the most complete midfielders in modern football, he was also named Premier League Player of the Season twice—in 2019–20 and 2021–22.

The length of De Bruyne's contract with Napoli was not disclosed, but his sign-



ing marks a major coup for the Italian club. The Belgian was welcomed by around 150 enthusiastic fans at a clinic in Rome, where he underwent his medical examination. Supporters gathered to chant his name and celebrate Napoli's continued ambition following their recent domestic success.

De Bruyne will reunite with Belgian na-

tional teammate Romelu Lukaku at Napoli and follow in the footsteps of Belgian club legend Dries Mertens. He will also share midfield duties with Serie A Player of the Year Scott McTominay, who has flourished since his move from Manchester United.

The high-profile signing could also be a key reason why Napoli head coach Antonio Conte has reportedly decided to remain with the club for another season, despite earlier links with a return to Juventus.

With De Bruyne's experience, vision, and leadership, Napoli aim to solidify their domestic dominance and make a deeper run in European competitions in the upcoming season.

# Jugraj Misses Crucial Penalty Stroke as India Slump to Fourth Straight Defeat in Pro League



The Indian men's hockey team suffered their fourth consecutive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League, losing 1-2 to Argentina in a dramatic and chaotic finish in Amstelveen on Thursday. Despite dominating stretches of the game, India once again let a promising position slip through their fingers.

In the dying minutes, India were awarded a penalty stroke after Abhishek's brilliant run into the circle drew a foul from a rattled Argentine defence. Jugraj Singh, stepping in for injured skipper Harmanpreet Singh, initially converted. However, Argentina challenged the goal, citing Jugraj's foot being ahead of the ball — a review that was upheld. India then pushed for another review, successfully arguing that Argentina's goalkeeper Tomas Santiago had stepped off his line early. A retake was granted, but Jugraj's second attempt was saved spectacularly by Santiago, who sealed his Player of the

Match award with the stop.

Earlier, India had taken the lead in the 4th minute through a penalty corner conversion by Jugraj Singh. But Argentina responded through Tomas Domene, who struck twice from penalty corners — both high flicks that beat Indian goalkeeper Krishan Pathak over the shoulder.

Despite flashes of brilliance — including a superb save from Santiago to deny Abhishek's reverse-hit shot and some stellar goalkeeping by Pathak — India were left to rue missed chances and lapses in game management.

With captain Harmanpreet sidelined, Hardik Singh led the side and urged his teammates to play with composure and tactical clarity. Yet again, India's inability to convert pressure into points and moments of confusion underlined a growing trend — one of being their own worst enemies at key moments.

# 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 daunt-

ing 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. Rowman Powell top-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.





## Rana Naidu Season 2 Now Streaming: Darker, Deadlier, and Deeper on Netflix

The much-anticipated second season of Rana Naidu has officially dropped on Netflix, bringing back the gritty intensity that made the first season a hit. Starring real-life uncle-nephew duo Rana Daggubati and Venkatesh Daggubati, the new season promises even higher stakes, darker secrets, and deeper emotional conflicts.

Season 2 picks up from the explosive cliffhanger of the first installment, diving headfirst into the fractured dynamics between Rana Naidu, the powerful celebrity fixer, and his estranged father, Naga Naidu. What begins as a personal vendetta unfolds into a web of violence, manipulation, and raw emotion as buried truths come to light.

Directed by Karan Anshuman and Suparn S Varma, this Indian adaptation of the American series Ray Donovan expands its universe with 8 gripping new episodes. The storytelling remains unapologetically bold, with a narrative that moves between seedy underworld dealings and the psychological torment

of a family on the brink of collapse. Venkatesh continues to surprise fans with his rugged, morally complex portrayal of Naga, while Rana delivers a brooding and intense performance that cements his place as a formidable lead in the OTT space. The father-son chemistry is volatile, and the emotional undercurrents hit harder this time around.

The series is now available to stream in six languages—Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and English—ensuring it reaches audiences across India and beyond. With slick production, brutal action, and an emotionally charged script, Rana Naidu Season 2 doesn't just continue the story—it elevates it.

Whether you're a returning fan or just discovering the series, this season promises a thrilling binge-watch with surprises lurking around every corner. Rana Naidu is back, and it's more unfiltered than ever.

## Trance of Kuberaa: Nagarjuna Praises DSP and Young Editor Behind Striking Teaser

The recently released teaser of Kuberaa, titled Trance of Kuberaa, has captivated audiences with its unconventional and impactful presentation. Featuring Dhanush in the lead and helmed by acclaimed director Sekhar Kammula, the teaser sets a powerful tone for the film, enhanced by a thought-provoking musical score from Devi Sri Prasad (DSP).

Veteran actor Nagarjuna, who plays a pivotal role in the film, shared his admiration for the teaser in a recent interview with Galatta Plus. Expressing deep appreciation, he said, “It was a brilliant teaser. There are two people I really want to congratulate. First, DSP — I’ve known him since before his rise in the industry. He gave the music for my film Manmadhudu, and that was his first major hit. The song in Kuberaa’s teaser completely transported me. In Telugu, we call that feeling ‘Poonakaalu’ — it’s like a wave of hysteria.”

Nagarjuna then revealed a surprising detail about the teaser’s editing. He further lauded the effort it takes to



“I was curious to know who cut the teaser and was told it was a boy from Annapurna College of Film & Media. His name is Sushrith, and I felt immense pride. I immediately told Amala about him. I had met him before, and seeing his work now felt truly rewarding — like something I did right by starting the film school.”

convey the essence of a story through a short teaser, especially using just a song, stating, “Even for someone like Sekhar Kammula, it’s a challenge to present the full narrative in such a unique format.”

With Kuberaa already generating buzz, Nagarjuna’s heartfelt praise adds to the anticipation surrounding the film’s release.

## Hindi TV Premiere of Naga Chaitanya’s Blockbuster Thandel Set for June 15 on Sony Max

Naga Chaitanya’s career-defining hit Thandel is all set to reach a wider audience with its upcoming Hindi television premiere. The patriotic romantic drama, which turned out to be the biggest commercial success of Chaitanya’s career, will premiere this Sunday, June 15, exclusively on Sony Max.

Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, Thandel stars Sai Pallavi in the female lead and is inspired by a real-life incident involving Indian fishermen. Set in a coastal village near Vizag, the story revolves around a group of fishermen who unintentionally cross into Pakistani waters while fishing off the Gujarat coast. Their lives take a tragic turn when they are apprehended by the Pakistani navy and imprisoned in Karachi for nearly two years.

The film struck a chord with audiences across languages, blending emotion, patriotism, and romance seamlessly. Naga Chaitanya’s powerful performance, paired with Sai Pallavi’s grace and intensity, earned widespread acclaim. Adding fur-



ther depth to the film was Devi Sri Prasad’s moving soundtrack, which played a major role in connecting with the audience emotionally.

Thandel was produced by Bunny Vas and presented by Allu Aravind under the renowned Geetha Arts banner. The supporting cast includes notable performances from Aadukalam Naren, Jabardasth Mahesh, Prakash Belwadi, Karunakaran, and Divya Pillai.

Having grossed over ₹100 crore at the box office, Thandel not only revived Naga Chaitanya’s box office fortunes but also showcased the potential of meaningful storytelling in mainstream cinema. The Hindi premiere is expected to draw significant viewership, especially among audiences who missed the film during its theatrical run.

Mark your calendars for June 15 and catch the emotionally charged journey of Thandel only on Sony Max.

## Vijay Sethupathi’s Ace Now Streaming on Amazon Prime Video in Tamil and Telugu

Makkal Selvan Vijay Sethupathi’s latest film Ace has officially arrived on OTT. After a lukewarm performance at the box office, the film is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video in both Tamil and Telugu, giving audiences a second chance to catch the actor in action from the comfort of their homes.

Directed and produced by Arumuga Kumar, Ace is a blend of drama, comedy, and action. It also marks the Tamil debut of rising Kannada actress Rukmini Vasanth, who takes on a key role opposite Vijay Sethupathi. Though the film didn’t make a strong impression in theatres, the move to digital could allow it to reach a wider and more receptive audience.

Ace features a strong supporting cast including Yogi Babu, Babloo Prithveeraj, B. S. Avinash, and Divya Pillai, each bringing their unique energy to the screen. The film attempts to explore a quirky storyline infused with humour, social commentary, and the trademark unpredictability associated with Vijay Sethupathi’s film choices.

The music and background score play a significant role in setting the tone of the film, with Justin Prabhakaran composing the songs and Sam CS delivering the background score. Together, their work enhances the film’s emotional and narra-



tive beats.

With Ace now available on a major streaming platform, viewers who missed its theatrical run can finally decide for themselves whether the film deserves a second look. Given Sethupathi’s pan-Indian popularity and the growing demand for regional content on OTT platforms, Ace could still find its audience in the digital space.

For fans of Vijay Sethupathi and those curious about Rukmini Vasanth’s Tamil debut, Ace is now just a click away on Amazon Prime Video.

## Prabhas’ film in trouble? ‘The Raja Saab’ teaser leaked online Ahead of Official Release

Just days before the highly anticipated teaser launch of The Raja Saab, Prabhas’ upcoming horror-comedy, parts of the teaser have been leaked online, taking fans and the film’s team by surprise. Directed by Maruthi and produced by People Media Factory, the film marks Prabhas’ foray into the horror-comedy genre and is slated for theatrical release on December 5, 2025.

The teaser was originally scheduled to premiere officially on June 16, 2025, at 10:52 AM. However, short clips of the teaser surfaced across social media platforms earlier this week, sparking widespread sharing among users. This unexpected leak has upset the film’s makers, who swiftly issued a warning that legal action would be taken against individuals circulating the unauthorized footage. They urged fans to refrain from watching or sharing the leaked content and to support the film by waiting for the official release.

Despite the setback, the teaser launch event is moving ahead as planned. It will be held on a specially constructed indoor set in Azinagar, Hyderabad — one of the film’s primary shooting locations. The event promises to be “spooky” and is expected to attract



national media coverage. The teaser will also be screened in select theatres, with further details on locations expected soon.

The Raja Saab boasts a stellar cast, including Malavika Mohanan, Nidhi Agerwal, and Riddhi Kumar. Veteran actor Sanjay Dutt will be seen playing Prabhas’ grandfather, and rumors suggest that Prabhas might be seen in a dual role. Music is composed by Thaman S, adding to the buzz with expectations of a chartbuster soundtrack.

With the teaser leak sparking controversy, all eyes are now on the official release and how the team bounces back.