

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C



Formula-E Race

ACB Issues Fresh Notice to KTR

KTR asked to appear before ACB on June 16 at 10 AM

Alleged misuse of ₹55 crore in race organisation under BRS regime

KTR named A1, IAS Arvind Kumar A2, BLN Reddy A3 in ACB FIR

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a significant development in the ongoing investigation into the alleged Formula-E race fund misuse, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has issued fresh notices to BRS working president and former minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), asking him to appear for questioning on June 16 (Monday) at 10 AM. This is the second time KTR has been summoned in connection with the case. He was earlier asked to appear before the ACB on May 28, but he could not attend due to his foreign tour in the United States. He had then informed the authorities of his unavailability, prompting the ACB to defer the questioning and issue a new notice. The case relates to the Formula-E race that was held in Hyderabad during the BRS government's tenure. Allegations surfaced that around ₹55 crore were misused in the name of race arrangements. The ACB, acting on these allegations, registered a case and filed an FIR naming KTR as Accused No. 1 (A1), former Municipal Ad-

ministration and Urban Development Secretary and senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar as A2, and former HMDA Chief Engineer BLN Reddy as A3. All three had been previously questioned in January this year, during which some preliminary information was collected. At that time, ACB sources had indicated that further questioning could be necessary depending on the progress of the investigation. Alongside the top officials, Greenco Ace NextGen MD Chalamalasetty Anilkumar was also questioned as part of the probe. With nearly three months of silence since the last round of questioning, the ACB has now decided to press ahead with the investigation. The fresh notice to KTR signals a renewed push to ascertain accountability in the case and clarify the flow and utilization of the public funds earmarked for the international event. KTR's appearance on Monday is expected to be a critical point in the ACB's probe, as investigators delve deeper into how the funds were allocated, spent, and possibly diverted.

571 New Government Schools This Year: CM Revanth Reddy

- Goal to improve standards in government schools
- Infrastructure, training, and facilities to be prioritized
- Skill development from high school level emphasized

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that 571 new government schools will be opened this academic year across villages and towns with more than 20 children. He emphasized that the primary goal of his government is to enhance educational standards in public schools, ensuring quality education for every student regardless of the cost involved. During a comprehensive review meeting with education department officials at the Command Control Office, the Chief Minister instructed authorities to take all necessary steps to improve teaching quality. "We will provide required infrastructure, teacher training, and student facilities without compromise," he asserted. Revanth Reddy highlighted the need to adapt the education system to foster both language proficiency and skill development among students from the high school level. He said this would help students achieve success in fields of their



choice in the future. Citing the state's rapid urbanization, he advised the education department to coordinate closely with the municipal administration. He directed that schools should be established in areas earmarked for public use in HMDA and municipal layouts. The Chief Minister also called for rationalization of educational institutions under SC, ST, BC, and minority categories up to the intermediate level. He stressed that each school must have a defined student strength for better resource allocation.

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Registration market values set to rise in Telangana

- Hike planned for properties between ORR and RRR
- Apartment rates may rise by 30%, open plots by 100%
- Government aligning prices with market trends



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The Telangana government is preparing to revise registration market

values, particularly in the high-demand zones between the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the

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DA Hike Announced for Telangana Government Employees

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana state government has brought cheer to its employees by announcing a hike in Dearness Allowance (DA). In the latest move, the government has increased the DA by 3.64 percent for all state government employees. According to the official orders released, the revised DA will be applicable retrospectively from January 1, 2023. This long-awaited decision is expected to provide significant financial relief and boost the morale of thousands of gov-



ernment staff across various departments. With this increase, the government has fulfilled a key expectation of its employees, who had been waiting for a DA revision for several months. Further details regarding the disbursement of arrears and the updated salary structure are expected to be shared soon by the Finance Department.

Phone Tapping Case



- SIT Summons Ex-DSP Praneeth Rao
- Rao allegedly destroyed key data related to surveillance on political leaders

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sensational phone tapping case in Telangana has summoned suspended Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Praneeth Rao for questioning on Friday, June 13. Rao, who previously served in the Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB), is accused of playing a pivotal role in the illegal surveillance operation. According to SIT officials, Pra-

neeth Rao was instrumental in intercepting the phones of several prominent individuals, including then Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief A Revanth Reddy, his family members, political leaders, judges, Tollywood celebrities, and journalists. The intercepted data was reportedly stored on hard disks, which he later destroyed. Sources say that just a day before the 2023 Assembly election results were announced, Rao destroyed the hard disks containing sensitive data and disposed of the evidence by throwing the materials

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BC leaders seek key portfolios, demand fair representation

- BC ministers should get top departments, say community representatives
- Demand raised for appointing BCs as Information Commissioners
- Munnur Kapu Sangam urges ministerial berth for Adi Srinivas

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Representatives from various Backward Class (BC) associations have urged the Congress leadership to allocate priority departments to BC ministers and ensure the appointment of BC individuals as State Information Commissioners. In a meeting held at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, they submitted their demands to PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud. Led by BC Welfare Association National President Jajula Srinivas



Goud, the delegation expressed their gratitude to the Congress party and government for recognizing Mahesh Kumar Goud with a key party post, stating it reflects

the administration's commitment to the poor. However, they expressed dissatisfaction over the recent Information Commissioners' appointments, alleging injus-

tice to the BC communities and calling for corrective measures. Among those who met Mahesh Kumar Goud were State Minister Development Corporation Chairman Eeravatri Anil Kumar, BC Associations JAC Chairman Kundaram Ganeshchhari, Conve-ner Balagani Balaraju Goud, Co-ordinator Uppari Sekhar, and BC Youth Association National President Kanakala Shyam Kuruma. Meanwhile, leaders of the Munnur Kapu Sangam from all 33 dis-

tricts also met the PCC chief and urged him to recommend a cabinet position for Vemulawada MLA and Government Whip Adi Srinivas. They submitted a formal petition highlighting Adi Srinivas's representation of the Munnur Kapu community and his active role in public service. Both groups emphasized the need for equitable representation and stronger voice for BCs in the Telangana government.



Ensure Transparency in CGF Use: Minister Konda Surekha

- Rs. 72.47 crore approved for 297 temple development projects
- Focus on developing temple tourism circuits across districts
- Minister urges transparency, strict field-level evaluation of proposals

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Endowments, Forests, and Environment Minister Konda Surekha has emphasized that temple tourism should be widely promoted across the state, while ensuring complete transparency in the use of the Common Good Fund (CGF) for temple development. She made these remarks during the CGF Committee meeting held on Friday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat.

The minister expressed the government's commitment to promoting cultural and religious traditions in Telangana. She announced that this year's Ashada Bonalu celebrations will be held grandly at the Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal. "Our goal is to bring every festival and cultural practice closer to the people and inspire a sense of religious harmony," she said. During the review, officials informed the minister about the CGF allocations being planned for small temples across the state. The meeting approved 297 development projects worth ₹72.47 crore under CGF. Minister Surekha directed Endowment Officers (EOs) to strictly adhere to government norms and emphasized that duplicate proposals for the same project should not be sent. She also warned against bulk submission of estimates from local leaders or public representatives without proper field-level assess-

ment. "All CGF proposals must be verified thoroughly on the ground before being sent to the department," the minister instructed. She added that negligence at the field level would not be tolerated. The minister stressed that the department should also focus on infrastructure and amenities for devotees and explore new ways to boost income sources for temples. A key initiative discussed was the development of Temple Tourism Circuits. Officials explained that three major temples in each district will be linked into a circuit to promote religious tourism. The plan will be implemented in three phases, and will also include stopovers at nearby tourist attractions. Principal Secretary of the Endowment Department Shailaja Ramaiyar, Director Venkat Rao, Additional Commissioner Krishnaveni, senior officers, EOs, and committee members participated in the meeting. Minister Konda Surekha reiterated that the government's goal is to strengthen the spiritual and cultural roots of Telangana while ensuring that every rupee allocated for temple development is used efficiently and transparently.



Join Us in Shaping Progress...

— Sridhar Babu at Global Leaders' Summit

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu delivered a powerful message of transformation and partnership at the Global Leaders' Summit 2025 held at Taj Deccan, Banjara Hills. In a rousing address, he invited international delegates and industry leaders to join hands with Telangana — "a state that doesn't follow trends but creates them."

"Many doubted whether Telangana could be formed — today, it is not just a reality, it is unstoppable," the Minister said, underscoring the state's emergence as a model of inclusive growth and innovation.

Backing his statement with data, Sridhar Babu said Telangana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has reached ₹16.12 lakh crore, growing at 10.1% — surpassing the national average of 9.9%. The per capita income has climbed to ₹3.79 lakh, nearly 1.8 times more than the Indian average. In just the past 18 months, Telangana attracted investments exceeding ₹3 lakh crore, with the life sciences sector alone receiving ₹40,000 crore and generating over 2 lakh jobs. "The services sector now contributes 66.3% to the state's GDP, compared to the national average of 55%. These are not just numbers — they reflect the rise of a new Telangana: progressive, inclusive, and future-ready," the Minister noted.

He emphasized that the Telangana government is not seeking transactional investors but visionary partners. "Every partnership is not a transaction — it is a transformation," he stated. "That's why we are inviting collaborations in Agro-Innovation, AI-driven Governance, Smart Healthcare Systems, Digital Farming, Future-Ready Education, Sustainable Manufacturing, and Clean Energy."

Minister Sridhar Babu's call to action was clear: "Don't just



come here to invest. Come to co-create. Be a part of a transformative journey."

The summit witnessed a rich convergence of ideas and cultures, with delegates from 25 countries including Brazil, Germany, Russia, Cameroon, Malta, the UK, Bulgaria, Belgium, the UAE, and Dubai. Among the key attendees were Mr. Lillo Marra, Governor, International Organization for Diplomatic Relations (Malta); Mr. Marcello Patti, Secretary, IODR; Mr. Ivan Petrov, MP, Belgium; Mr. Daniel Gerbin, German Diplomat; Mr. Claudio Singoloni, MP, Argentina; Mr. Salman Gattu, Chairman, IBC; and Ms. Gloria Suhasini, Director, IBC.

The Minister urged foreign representatives to share Telangana's business-friendly climate and innovation-driven policies with their respective industries back home. He expressed hope that the Global Leaders' Summit would become a foundation for long-term, meaningful collaboration between Telangana and the world.

University of Hyderabad Ranks 5th in IIRF 2025

UoH climbs one spot in prestigious Central University Rankings

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has secured the 5th position in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) Central University Rankings for 2025, marking a notable rise from its 6th rank last year. The IIRF, which evaluates more than 2,500 institutions across India, placed UoH among the top-performing central universities based on a comprehensive set of academic and institutional indicators. UoH achieved an impressive Overall Index Score (OIS) of 988.93. The top position was secured by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, with a score of 994.89. Following JNU were the University of Delhi (OIS 993.86), Banaras Hindu University (992.35), and Jamia Millia Islamia (990.48). Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), which ranked fifth last year, moved to the sixth position this year with a score of 987.82.



The IIRF evaluates institutions based on key performance parameters, including placement success, research productivity, teaching-learning quality, industry collaboration, global outlook, and institutional reputation. UoH's strong showing reflects its on-

going commitment to academic excellence and research-led development. This ranking is particularly significant given that UoH is also one of India's select Institutes of Eminence (IoE). It has consistently maintained its stature in various national assessments. However, in contrast, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of the Ministry of Education placed UoH at 17th in its 2024 list, which includes both central and private institutions. The university's steady rise in the IIRF rankings underscores the dedication of its faculty, the impact of its research output, and the effective support from government funding. In a time when public spending on education faces increasing challenges, UoH's performance is a testament to the enduring value of well-supported central universities.

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571 New Government Schools This Year: CM Revanth Reddy

Acknowledging the growing popularity of Gurukuls due to quality meals, uniforms, and free textbooks, CM Revanth suggested exploring ways to extend similar benefits to day scholars in government schools. "A study should be conducted on this to ensure

equity and attract more students to regular schools," he added. State government advisors Vem Narendar Reddy and K. Kesava Rao, officials from the CMO, and top education department officers took part in the meeting.

Phone Tapping Case

into the Musi River in an attempt to erase all traces. The SIT's move to summon Rao comes after key inputs were provided by former SIB chief T Prabhakar Rao, who is the prime accused in the case. Prabhakar Rao reportedly gave evasive answers when questioned about the surveillance operations and the creation of political profiles.

Praneeth Rao, who was promoted from inspector to DSP during his tenure at the SIB, is now under scrutiny for his alleged role in one of the most controversial surveillance scandals in the state's political history. The SIT is expected to intensify its probe in the coming days, with more officials likely to be called in for questioning.

Registration market values set to rise in Telangana

proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR). This move is expected to significantly impact real estate transactions in these fast-developing areas. According to government sources, apartment registration prices may go up by around 30%, while open plot rates could see a steep hike of up to 100% or more. The revisions are aimed at aligning official land values with prevailing market rates, which have seen substantial growth in recent months.

Officials indicate that the revisions will be implemented based on updated market value guidelines. The move comes as part of the government's strategy to boost revenue through registrations while bringing greater transparency and consistency to land transactions. Real estate developers and buyers are closely watching the situation, as the proposed hike may impact the cost of property acquisition and stamp duty expenses.

Flipkart Trains Over 800 MeeSeva Representatives in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a joint initiative aimed at expanding digital market access for small businesses, Flipkart in collaboration with the Telangana government conducted a comprehensive workshop for MeeSeva representatives on Thursday, June 12. The training, held in Hyderabad, was attended by over 800 MeeSeva officials from across the state. The workshop covered key aspects of online retail such as product listing, cataloguing, order processing, and customer engagement. The focus was on equipping MeeSeva representatives with the skills and knowledge to support local entrepreneurs in onboarding their products to Flipkart's e-commerce platform.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to integrate digital commerce within Telangana's grassroots economy and promote inclusive economic participation.

Commissioner of MeeSeva, Ra-

vikiran Tirumala, hailed the initiative as a major leap in digital empowerment. "Integrating e-commerce into MeeSeva's framework is a transformative step toward enhancing digital market access for small businesses and entrepreneurs across Telangana. This workshop provides crucial insights and training, enabling our representatives to guide and support local businesses in their e-commerce journey," he said.

MeeSeva, Telangana's integrated citizen services portal, offers a range of government-to-citizen and business-to-citizen services. The latest collaboration with Flipkart is seen as a strategic move to boost digital inclusion, allowing small-scale enterprises to leverage the growing online marketplace.

The workshop also marked Flipkart's commitment to enabling and empowering micro-entrepreneurs through capacity building and digital access in rural and semi-urban areas.

Rains Lash Telangana, Roads Flooded, Traffic Hit in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

With the southwest monsoon actively spreading across Telangana, heavy rains are lashing various parts of the state, including the capital city of Hyderabad. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast moderate to heavy rainfall across the state for the next five days, prompting warnings and advisories from weather officials.

According to the IMD, heavy rains are particularly likely in southern and western districts, including the erstwhile Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, and Nalgonda, as well as Vikarabad district. Officials also cautioned about gusty winds blowing at speeds of 40 to 50 kilometers per hour during this period and urged residents in vulnerable areas to remain alert.

In Hyderabad, rains that began on Friday led to waterlogging and traffic chaos in several parts of the city. Areas like Begambazar, Kothi, Sultan Bazaar, Abids, Basheerbagh, Nampally, Liberty, Himayatnagar, Narayanguda, Lakdikapool, Khairatabad, and Tank Bund experienced heavy water accumulation on roads, severely affecting vehicular movement. Traffic jams were reported at multiple junctions, and motorists faced considerable hardship navigating through the submerged stretches. Officials have urged the public to avoid non-essential travel during periods of heavy rainfall and to follow updates from local authorities for real-time alerts and guidance. With the monsoon season intensifying, the state is likely to continue experiencing intermittent heavy downpours in the coming days.

KTR Dares CM Revanth for Lie Detector Test Over Formula-E Case

CM using notices to cover up failures, alleges KTR
Says ₹44 crore still with Formula company
Accuses govt of political vendetta

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of orchestrating a political drama using repeated ACB notices over the Formula-E race case to divert attention from his government's failures. He also challenged Revanth to undergo a live lie detector test before a judge to determine who is truly guilty. Speaking to the media in response to the ACB's latest notice issued to him on Friday, KTR said, "This joker Chief Minister, who came to power with lies, has failed to run the government and is now playing diversionary dramas in the name of notices." He accused Revanth Reddy of being a failed administrator and claimed that the Congress government's actions were a conspiracy to mislead the people of Telangana.

KTR stated that the ₹44 crore sent by the previous BRS government from HMDA's official account to the Formula-E company still remains with the company, and the current government has made no effort to retrieve the money. Instead, he alleged, Revanth has used this issue as a political tool. "This Formula race brought international recognition to Hyderabad. But the Revanth-led government cancelled the event and is now using it to send me repeated ACB notices. Despite full transparency in the financial transactions, I am being targeted," KTR said. Reaffirming his commitment to cooperate with the investigation, KTR said he will attend the ACB inquiry at 10 am on Monday, as summoned. Taking the attack a step further, KTR referred to the decade-old vote-for-note scam, in which Revanth Reddy was allegedly caught with a bag of cash. "That case is also under the ACB's juris-



diction. If Revanth really believes in justice, let him face a lie detector test on live television in front of a judge. I am ready. Are you, Revanth?" KTR challenged. He concluded by saying, "At a time when this bankrupt government is crying about an empty treasury, it is shamelessly wasting public money on political

witch-hunts. Let the people of Telangana decide who is speaking the truth — through a lie detector test." KTR reiterated that no matter how many notices are served, the BRS will continue fighting for the people of Telangana and not be intimidated by "dramas and distractions."

Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy Over ACB Notices to KTR

Calls it political vendetta for questioning Congress failures

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Senior BRS leader and former minister Harish Rao has come down heavily on the Congress government following the Anti-Corruption Bureau's (ACB) fresh notices to BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) in connection with the Formula-E racing affair. Terming it a "complete political vendetta", Harish Rao alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is misusing investigative agencies to target opposition leaders who are questioning his government's unfulfilled promises. Taking to social media on Friday, Harish Rao accused the Congress government of attempting to divert public attention from its governance failures. "KTR is asking uncomfortable questions about the Congress party's unimplemented six guarantees and



420 promises made during the elections. To suppress that criticism, Revanth Reddy is resorting to such tactics," he said. Harish Rao stated that the Formula-E race brought global recognition and investment to Telangana, and that the ruling Congress is unable to tolerate this success. "Telangana's prestige grew with the organization of the Formu-

la-E race. Investments started coming in. Revanth Reddy cannot digest this. Chandrababu Naidu tried and failed to bring Formula One to India in 2000. But KTR succeeded in bringing a prestigious event like Formula-E to Hyderabad, boosting EV manufacturing initiatives in the state," he explained. He also pointed out that compa-

nies such as Amara Raja came forward to invest in Telangana as a direct result of the Formula-E initiative. "The Congress government is now resorting to defamation by holding beauty pageants that damage the state's image rather than bring any real benefit," Harish Rao added. Referring to the ACB's actions as "diversionary politics", he asserted, "No matter how many notices are sent, Revanth's political anarchy will not succeed. The people of Telangana have seen through this drama. KTR is being targeted for simply exposing the government's failures. The BRS will not back down." Harish Rao concluded by warning that such harassment will only strengthen the resolve of the BRS party to hold the Congress accountable in the public domain.

I Am the Only One in Our Community... Give Me a Ministerial Post: Beerla Ilayya

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya has made a strong appeal for cabinet and party representation for the Golla and Kurma communities in Telangana. Stressing that he is the lone representative of these communities in the state assembly, Ilayya urged the Congress leadership to provide appropriate recognition and ministerial opportunities for these socially significant groups.

Ilayya met Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud and submitted a detailed petition outlining the demands of the Golla and Kurma communities. "There are around 28 lakh Golla and Kurma people in Telangana—6 lakh Gollas and 22 lakh Kurmas. Some people tried to divide them in the past, but we are one. I am the only MLA representing both groups in the assembly," Ilayya stated. The Aleru MLA demanded a comprehensive share for the Golla and Kurma communities in both governance and party structures. His key demands include one ministerial post, one government advisor post, one MLC, five corporation chairman posts, five commission member posts, one working president, three vice president posts, eight general secretary posts, and five District Congress Committee (DCC) president posts.

Ilayya emphasized that in Telangana's political history, no cabinet had ever been formed without representation from the Golla-Kurma community and insisted that the current cabinet should also uphold that tradition. "We are confident that CM Revanth Reddy will ensure justice to backward classes (BCs), including Gollas and Kurmas," Ilayya said. He added that senior Congress leaders, including AICC State In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, and Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Sridhar Babu, have responded positively and assured to look into the demands. Ilayya also praised Revanth Reddy's leadership, especially his commitment to 42% reservations for BCs in education, employment, and politics, calling Telangana a model state under his governance. He plans to personally meet CM Revanth Reddy soon to press for these demands.



Frequent IAS, IPS transfers reflect lack of administrative vision

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BJP State Spokesperson Dr. Solanki Srinivas launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at a press conference held at the party's state office, questioning his administrative grip and alleging a dangerous drift towards promoting urban Naxalite ideology through key government decisions. He said, "The frequent transfers of IAS and IPS officers reflect not just poor planning, but also trigger public doubt over governance. Are these transfers a smokescreen for encouraging corruption?" Citing Prime Minister Modi's approach after taking office, Srinivas highlighted how even UPA-era officials were retained to maintain continuity and deliver results. In contrast, he said, the Congress government in Telangana has created confusion among officials and opened doors to uncertainty. "From Education Commission to Vice Chancellors, the government is clearly appeasing a specific ideology. Giving awards in the name of Gaddar is part of the same pattern," he said. Taking it further, Srinivas provocatively questioned, "If Rahul Gandhi wants it, will awards be given in the names of Yakub Memon or Ajmal Kasab tomorrow?" He urged film celebrities to reconsider accepting such awards, warning that the legacy and message behind such honors would be questioned by future generations. He also lashed out at Congress leaders for opposing "Operation Kagar" and recalled that it was the same Congress party which, during its UPA rule, had declared Naxals as terrorists under the UAPA in 2010 and launched Operation Green Hunt in 2009. "The same party which opened fire on tribals in Indravelli in 1981 is now claiming to fight for tribal welfare. This is sheer hypocrisy," If the budget is in trouble, stop this wasteful spending. Instead of running around Rahul Gandhi, focus on serving Telangana. Revanth Reddy is betraying the people who voted for him," he charged. Dr. Srinivas concluded by reminding the CM that his first duty is to fulfill the promises made to the people during the 2023 assembly elections—not to appease party high command or ideologically driven interest groups.

Tributes Paid to Ahmedabad Plane Crash Victims by TPCC Leader V Jagadeeshwar Goud

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

TPCC State General Secretary and Serilingampally Constituency Congress Party Incharge Shri V. Jagadeeshwar Goud paid floral tributes to the victims of the tragic flight crash that occurred yesterday in Ahmedabad. Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives, he stood in silence along with local leaders, GHMC representatives, and private school correspondents as a mark of respect for the departed souls. "The plane crash in Ahmedabad is deeply saddening. Our thoughts and prayers are with the passengers and their families during this difficult time," he stated. Goud extended his heartfelt condolences and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the crash. He also prayed for strength and courage for the families of the victims to cope with the immense loss. The tribute gathering reflected a united expression of grief and solidarity from the Serilingampally Congress team and local stakeholders.



BRS Leader Alleges Congress-Broker Nexus in Seed Cotton Scam

TPN Correspondent | Jogulamba Gadwal

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader Kuruva Vijay Kumar has strongly condemned the alleged illegal arrests of seed cotton farmers and accused the Congress government of siding with seed companies and middlemen rather than protecting the interests of farmers in Jogulamba Gadwal district.

In a press release issued on Saturday, Vijay Kumar alleged that district Congress leaders have colluded with seed companies and organizers, selling out farmers' interests for personal gain. He said that instead of addressing the rampant frauds in the seed cotton trade, the government is harassing protesting farmers and suppressing their voices through illegal means. "Congress leaders are supporting brokers who are looting the farmers. Farmers who wanted to present their grievances to the Farmers' Commission were stopped, illegally detained by the police, and false cases were foisted on them," he said. "Seed companies and organizers are acting like a mafia. They're cheating farmers even after the failure of their seed cotton crop. On June 10, we lodged a formal complaint in Hyderabad with the Farmers' Commission demanding

justice. Today, when Chairman Kodanda Reddy visited Jogulamba Gadwal district in response to that complaint, Congress leaders turned it into a Congress party rally, using party flags and campaign vehicles to mislead farmers and the Commission," he added. "This is a clear attack on democracy



and farmers' rights. The Congress government has insulted and suppressed the very farmers who are demanding justice against the exploitation by seed companies. Not allowing farmers to speak up and arresting them instead is proof of the government's anti-farmer attitude," Vijay Kumar asserted. "We will go to any extent to ensure justice for seed cotton farmers and expose this unholy nexus between Congress leaders, seed organizers, and complicit officials." He demanded the immediate withdrawal of false cases filed against farmers and a transparent inquiry into the role of Congress leaders in the seed cotton scam.

Trees Saved Amid Encroachment Clearance in Begumpet

HYDRA team relocates three trees with help of VATA Foundation and officials

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant move combining law enforcement with environmental responsibility, the HYDRA Team under the jurisdiction of Begumpet Police Station successfully dismantled illegal encroachments near Patny Complex, close to the Nala near Begumpet TTI, on Friday. During the operation, it was identified that three trees — two Neem trees and one Peepal tree (*Ficus religiosa*) — were at risk due to the ongoing clearance activity. Rather than allowing the trees to be damaged or felled, officials ensured their safe relocation. With the necessary approvals from relevant authorities, all three trees were carefully uprooted and re-planted at the Bison Polo Ground. The operation was carried out with the support of the VATA Foundation, known for its environmental initiatives. The effort involved close coordi-



nation among multiple stakeholders. Sri Surrender from the Cantonment Board, Sri Mohit from the VATA Foundation, Sri A. Ashok Reddy, RSI of Traffic Police Station Begumpet, and Sri P. Sri-dhar, RSI of Traffic Police Station Marredpally, played key roles in the successful execution of the relocation process. Officials stated that they would continue to monitor the growth

of the transplanted trees to ensure they adapt well to their new location. The initiative reflects a broader commitment to green conservation and sustainable urban living in Hyderabad. ACP Traffic-I, North Zone, G. Shankar Raju, appreciated the team's dedication and reaffirmed the department's commitment to balancing enforcement with ecological sensitivity.

MIM MLA Faces Public Wrath Over Nala Neglect in Yakutpura

Angry locals confront Nampally MLA Zafar Hussain over inaction

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Tensions flared in the Yakutpura area of Hyderabad as Nampally MIM MLA Zafar Hussain faced public outrage over his alleged negligence in resolving a long-pending Nala (drainage) issue. Locals, fed up with repeated appeals and a lack of action, staged a spontaneous protest and confronted the MLA during his visit to the area. Eyewitnesses reported that the situation escalated when some of Zafar Hussain's followers attempted to calm the protesters and were assaulted by agitated residents. The locals accused the MLA of stalling the Nala development work despite several promises made before the onset of the monsoon. "The monsoon has arrived, but the Nala is still

in a pathetic state. Streets are flooding, and diseases are spreading. We demanded action many times, but nothing has been done," said a local resident. They also criticized the MLA for only appearing during elections and ignoring civic issues the rest of the time. The incident highlights growing frustration among the public regarding lack of infrastructure development and poor monsoon preparedness in older parts of Hyderabad. Several residents demanded immediate government intervention and action to resolve the Nala issue before the situation worsens. No official police complaint has been registered as of now, but the local law enforcement is reportedly monitoring the situation closely to prevent any further flare-ups.



Four Women Arrested in Sandalwood Theft Case

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major breakthrough, the Jubilee Hills Police have arrested four women belonging to the Pardhi community of Madhya Pradesh for their involvement in organized sandalwood thefts in Jubilee Hills and Madhuranagar areas of Hyderabad. The accused—Palan Bai Pardhi, Shahnaj Bai, Nimat Bai, and Madhuri Adivasi—were taken into custody late on Wednesday night for stealing sandalwood from locations including the ni-msme campus in Yousufguda. According to police, these women were part of a larger gang of 23 individuals who had migrated to Hyderabad nearly 20 days ago with the specific intent of stealing and smuggling sandalwood. The gang is reported to have included men, women, and even children to pose as regular families and avoid suspicion from locals and law enforcement. The arrested women, all from various districts of Madhya Pradesh, were allegedly operating under the guise of selling brass items in public areas. Each of them had children with them during their operations, making their movement appear harmless. The four arrested are Palan Bai Pardhi (26), from Katni District, Shahnaj Bai (35), from Hardua, Katni District, Nimat Bai (43), from Hardua, Katni District, Madhuri Adivasi (25), from Panna District. Their male accomplices and several other gang members—identified as A5 to A23—are currently absconding, and police have launched a manhunt to apprehend them. The absconding suspects hail from various locations in Katni, Jabalpur, and Panna districts in Madhya Pradesh.

Modus Operandi

The police explained that the Pardhi gang operated in a highly coordinated manner, deploying entire family units to conduct thefts and then transport the stolen sandalwood discreetly. Target locations were carefully chosen, and thefts were carried out during late hours or in secluded public areas. Officials believe the stolen wood was being sold to known local smugglers. The gang's use of children and traditional attire helped them avoid scrutiny, misleading both the public and the authorities. The operation came to light after multiple complaints of sandalwood theft surfaced from the Jubilee Hills and Yousufguda areas. Following surveillance and investigation, police were able to identify the suspects and make the first wave of arrests. The investigation is being led by Sri R. Madhusudhan, Addl. Inspector of Jubilee Hills Police Station, with his crime team, under the supervision of Sri K. Venkateshwara Reddy, SHO, and the close guidance of Sri S M Vijay Kumar, Dy. Commissioner of Police, West Zone, Hyderabad. Authorities are continuing the probe and are optimistic about apprehending the remaining members of the gang.

Kala Jatarra Conducted at Gandhi Maisamma

Artists raise awareness on waste management and plastic ban



TPN Correspondent | Medchal

As part of the Telangana State Government's ambitious 100-

day action plan, a Kala Jatarra awareness program was held on Friday at Gandhi Maisamma

Chowrasta under the leadership of Dundigal Municipal Commissioner N. Venkateswar Nayak. The event was conducted with the theme "A Change for Development in Gandhi Maisamma". A troupe of district artists took part in the program and created awareness among the public about crucial issues such as wet and dry waste segregation, environmental hygiene, and the harmful impact of plastic usage. Through engaging street plays

and songs, the artists explained the importance of maintaining cleanliness and adhering to the plastic ban in daily life. Municipal Engineer Surrender Nayak, Environmental Engineer P. Satwik, ward officers, members of MEPMA women groups, municipal staff, and several local residents actively participated in the event. The program aimed to encourage public co-operation in keeping the environment clean and promoting sustainable living habits.

Drug Bust in Golconda

Five Peddlers, Including Two Nigerians, Arrested

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major crackdown, the Telangana Anti-Narcotic Bureau (TGANB) in coordination with Golconda Police arrested five drug peddlers, including two Nigerian nationals, during a joint raid on June 13. The operation led to the seizure of 20 grams of cocaine, 45 grams of MDMA, 20 grams of ecstasy pills, Rs. 40,000 in cash, and six mobile phones from a residence in Vinayak Nagar, Shaikpet, Hyderabad. The arrested accused have been identified as Okoro Cosmos Ramsey, also known as Andy or Bishop, a 38-year-old Nigerian national residing in Shaikpet, and Chimezie Boniface Adikea, also known as Roland Diby, Robert, or Uche, a 44-year-old Nigerian who lives with Cosmos in Shaikpet. The third accused is Veerapalli Lakshmipathi, also known as Lucky, a 29-year-old from Nalgonda currently residing in Bhongir. The fourth individual is Romi Bharat Kalyani, a 40-year-old real estate businessman with connections to both Goa and Mumbai. The fifth accused is Abdul Jafar Khan, also known as Sharukh, a 26-year-old originally

from Chikkamagaluru and presently residing in Meerpet, Hyderabad. All five had previously served jail terms in Chanchalguda and reportedly formed a drug network while lodged in the same barrack. Post-release, they resumed their illegal operations, procuring narcotics from suppliers across Mumbai, Goa, and Bangalore. According to officials, Nigerian national Cosmos acted as the key distributor, procuring drugs from one James in Mumbai. Lakshmipathi, who has connections with various suppliers in Goa and Bangalore, coordinated with Cosmos and other members to acquire and sell drugs across Hyderabad. His associates, including Romi and Jafar, were instrumental in sourcing and delivering drugs. On June 13, a coordinated raid was carried out at Cosmos's residence when multiple peddlers gathered to exchange and collect drugs. At the time of arrest, Cosmos handed over 20 grams of cocaine and 15 grams of MDMA to Lakshmipathi, while Romi brought 20 grams of ecstasy pills. Jafar arrived with an additional 15 grams of MDMA



for the same purpose. The gang had been supplying drugs to over 25 regular clients in the city. All accused have a criminal history, with multiple NDPS cases filed against them across Hyderabad, Goa, and Karnataka. The items seized from the accused include 20 grams of cocaine, 45 grams of MDMA, 20 grams of ecstasy pills, Rs. 40,000 in cash, and six cellphones. Officials have confirmed that further investigations are underway to trace the drug supply chain and apprehend additional contacts, including interstate suppliers.

Gold Prices Hit All-Time High in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Gold prices in Hyderabad reached a historic high on Friday, June 13, as global uncertainties and currency depreciation pushed the precious metal past the ₹1 lakh mark. The sharp surge is attributed to the weakening Indian rupee and escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold soared to ₹1,01,400, while 22-carat gold stood at ₹92,950. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), August delivery contracts of gold zoomed by ₹2,011 (2.04%) to an unprecedented ₹1,00,403 per 10 grams during morning

trade. Analysts pointed to Israel's reported attack on Iran's nuclear sites and the corresponding volatility in the oil markets as the main triggers behind the rise. As a result, the rupee fell by 56 paise to 86.08 against the US dollar during early trade. "Gold prices rallied sharply amid escalating Israel-Iran tensions, boosting safe-haven demand. In the morning session, the precious metal breached the USD 3,420 per ounce mark and hit six-week highs," said Rahul Kalantari, Vice-President of Commodities at Mehta Equities.

On the global front, gold futures jumped by USD 41.62 or 1.22%, trading at USD 3,444.02 per ounce. The international surge is also fueling domestic market sentiments, pushing investors to seek safety in gold. Compared to January 1, when gold was priced at ₹78,000 (24-carat) and ₹71,500 (22-carat), this reflects an increase of over 41% in 2025 so far. With uncertainty dominating financial markets and tensions persisting in the Middle East, market experts believe gold may continue to see upward momentum as investors shift their portfolios to safer assets.



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 Pa-

tancheru 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.



Stop Fee Extortion in Private Schools: BJP Petitions Balapur MEO

TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy
BJP leaders in Badangpet have raised serious allegations against several private schools in the region, accusing them of extortion through exorbitant fees and demanding immediate government intervention. BJP Badangpet Corporation President Ralla Gudem Ramakrishna Reddy submitted a petition to Balapur Mandal Education Officer (MEO) Krishna, urging strict measures against such schools. He pointed out that schools such as Akshara International School, Lord’s Group of Schools, Sri Chaitanya School, and Gayatri School, operating under the Badangpet Municipal Corporation, have been charging high fees in violation of norms. “These schools are looting poor families without any regulation, and the authorities are turning a blind eye,” he said. Ramakrishna Reddy expressed concern that mushroom private schools continue to emerge



unchecked due to the government’s failure to act against them. He alleged that a private school had been set up adjacent to Vines, clearly flouting government rules, yet no concrete steps had been taken even after repeated complaints. “They are dragging the issue under the guise of serving notices and not taking firm action,” he criticized. In a more serious allegation, he claimed that in Balapur mandal, people belonging to a specific community were harassing a Hindu

girl in schools. The BJP delegation demanded immediate and strict action to ensure the safety of the girl and hold the perpetrators accountable. Ramakrishna Reddy appealed to the education department to regulate private school fees, crack down on unauthorized institutions, and protect students from any kind of harassment. He emphasized that the BJP will continue to fight until justice is served and accountability is established among school managements and authorities.

Nallamala Farmers to Lead Telangana’s Green Revolution: Collector Santosh

TPN | N Naveen

Nagarkurnool: The Telangana government’s flagship Indira Saura Giri Jal Vikasam scheme has taken a major step forward with the announcement of state-level horticulture training for tribal farmers in the Nallamala region. Nagarkurnool District Collector Badawat Santosh said that tribal farmers will be groomed as master trainers to guide and inspire beneficiaries across the state. Addressing the media and beneficiaries at the District Collectorate, Collector Santosh announced that three progressive farmers from Nallamala — K. Rajkumar, U. Lakshmi, and U. Alivela — who are already cultivating horticultural fruit plants under the scheme, will undergo intensive training at renowned horticultural research and training centers. These include KVK Palem (Nagarkurnool), Mallepally (Nalgonda), and Sangareddy. “The goal is to make Nallamala a model for the entire state,” he said, adding that this effort will not only improve livelihoods but also establish a sustainable, environmentally conscious farming model. The Collector emphasized that the trained farmers will serve as state-level master trainers to mentor other beneficiaries of the Indira Saura Giri Vikasam scheme across Telangana. The Collector detailed the training curriculum, which includes cultivation methods for mango,



avocado, sweet potato, cashew, coconut, guava, custard apple, lemon, orange, plum, tunga, rose, jasmine, and aromatic and Ayurvedic plants. In addition, market strategies and sustainable agricultural practices will also be covered. “Your efforts, guided by horticulture scientists, will turn the Nallamala region into a national model. Using solar energy to meet the power needs of the Nallamala forest region ensures no harm to forest wealth while promoting sustainable farming. This scheme will stand as a new ray of hope for Nallamala’s farmers and contribute to the region’s special recognition at the national level,” concluded the Collector. District Horticulture Officer Venkatesham was also present during the program.

13 Lost Phones Recovered and Returned in Khammam

Over 2,276 phones traced so far in Commissionerate through CEIR portal

TPN Correspondent | Khammam
In a commendable effort by the Khammam Police, 13 lost mobile phones have been successfully traced and handed over to their owners through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. Additional DCP (Law & Order) Prasad Rao revealed the details at the Khammam Police Commissioner’s Office on Thursday. The phones, which were collectively worth nearly ₹4 lakh, were tracked and returned by the IT Cell team following the directives of Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt. Victims who had reported the loss of their mobile phones on the CEIR portal were invited to the Commissioner’s office, where their devices were formally returned. Each recovered phone was estimated to cost between ₹10,000 and ₹50,000. The recovery operation was carried out as part of the ongoing efforts of the Khammam Commissionerate to resolve complaints of lost and stolen phones using technological tools. According to officials, a total of 4,483 complaints of lost mobile phones have been registered so far within the Khammam Commissionerate limits. Of these, 2,276 mobile phones have already been recovered and handed back to the complainants — a significant success rate attributed to efficient digital tracking methods. Additional DCP Prasad Rao emphasized the importance of mobile phones in today’s lifestyle, noting that they have become essential for accessing information and performing digital transactions. He said losing a phone can cause considerable disruption, and thus, police have adopted various technical mechanisms to trace and return such devices swiftly. On this occasion, the Additional DCP specially appreciated SI Satyanarayana and the IT Cell technical team for their dedicated role in recovering the phones and ensuring timely service to the public.



Mikkilineni Manu Chowdhury Takes Charge as Medchal-Malkajgiri Collector

TPN Correspondent | Medchal-Malkajgiri
Mikkilineni Manu Chowdhury has officially assumed charge as the new District Collector of Medchal-Malkajgiri. The appointment was formally made through orders issued by Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao. The newly appointed Collector took charge on Friday at the District Collectorate Chamber. Prior to assuming office, he was accorded a traditional welcome by priests from the Keesaragutta Sri Ra-



malingeswara Swamy Devasthanam with Vedic chants and rituals. Following the formal ceremony, a warm recep-

tion was held in the chamber by district officials. District Additional Collectors Radhika Gupta and Vijayender Reddy, District Revenue Officer Haripriya, RDOs, MROs, and other district-level officers greeted Collector Manu Chowdhury with bouquets and extended their congratulations. The officials expressed confidence that under his leadership, administrative efficiency and developmental activities in Medchal-Malkajgiri would see further improvement.

Doctors in PHCs Must Take Full Responsibility: ITDA PO B. Rahul

TPN Correspondent | Bhadrachalam
ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul has directed all doctors and medical staff working in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in remote tribal villages of the agency area to act with utmost responsibility in safeguarding the health of tribal families. Addressing a special review meeting on Friday with medical officers from 29 PHCs, Rahul emphasized the urgent need for proactive medical service and community health awareness. Speaking at the ITDA Conference Hall, the Project Officer said that it is the duty of doctors to not only provide proper treatment to the patients but also to ensure effective coordination among their staff. He directed that seasonal diseases must be prevented through door-to-door awareness campaigns in tribal hamlets under PHC jurisdiction. He urged medical officers to take special care of pregnant women, ensuring regular tests in collaboration with ASHA workers and ANMs and conducting normal deliveries



at PHCs instead of referring them to private hospitals. “All records must be properly maintained and updated on the boards at PHCs,” he instructed, adding that doctors and staff should remain on 24-hour alert for the next three months, with sufficient stocks of medicines ready to handle all types of illnesses. Rahul noted that mosquito-borne diseases, especially dengue, pose a serious threat in many villages during the rainy season, particularly in Charla, Dummagudem, Singareni, and Karepalli mandals. He called on ANMs, ASHA workers,

and sanitation supervisors to ensure mosquito repellent spraying, drainage cleaning, and the removal of stagnant water. If cooperation from gram panchayat workers is lacking, the matter must be immediately brought to the attention of MPDOs or Deputy DMHO. “In the event of a dengue outbreak in any village, complete sanitation, immediate blood testing, and supply of adequate medicines should be ensured. If needed, special medical camps must be conducted,” he said. He also stressed that ASHA workers and ANMs must seek the medical officer’s permission before bringing pregnant women to area hospitals for scanning, and arrangements must be made for their care during and after delivery. The meeting was attended by Deputy DMHO Dr. Chaitanya, Area Hospital Supervisor Ramakrishna, and doctors Jayalakshmi, Madhuvaran, Pullareddy, Tejasri, and various medical officers and PHC staff.

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.

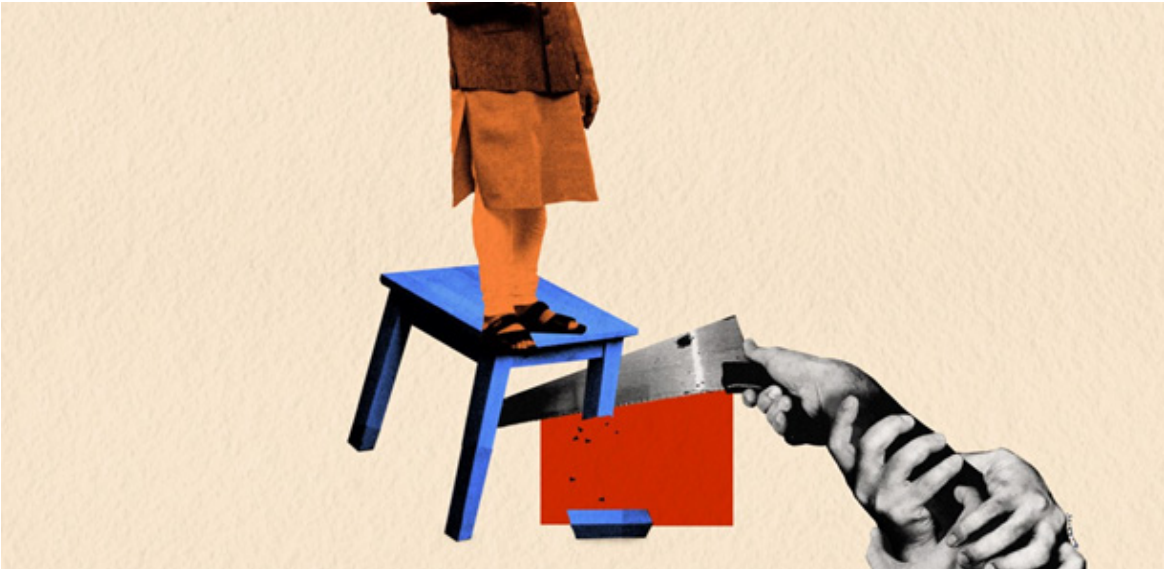
Technological advances have outpaced regula-



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

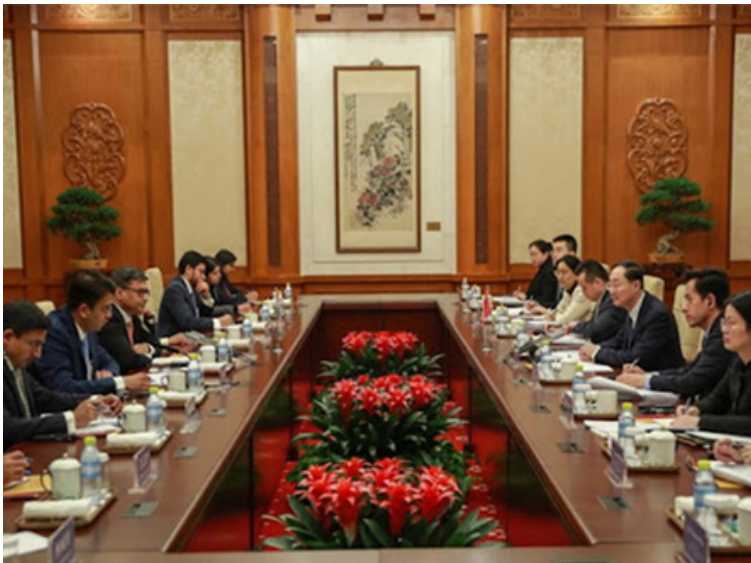


global tragedies, referencing the Holocaust and warning the world against repeating the mistakes of appeasement. “Never again is now,” he declared. “When someone comes to kill you, rise and act first.”

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.

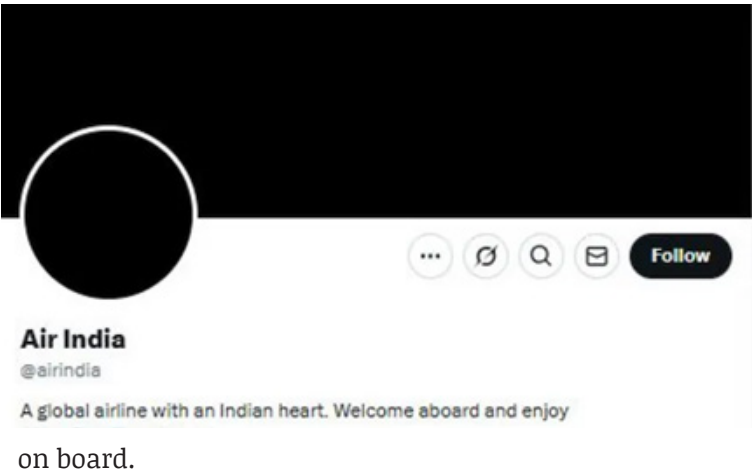
Air India Turns Profile Black After Devastating Ahmedabad Plane Crash Kills 241

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.