

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 35° C

L 21° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C



AR Head Constable Alleges SIT Pressure in Liquor Case

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a shocking revelation, AR Head Constable Madan Reddy has written a letter to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and Director General of Police, alleging that he was pressured and assaulted by Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials in connection with the ongoing liquor case. In the letter, Madan Reddy stated that he worked as a gunman for YSRCP leader and former MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy for ten years. He claimed that during his appearance before the SIT, officials coerced him into giving a statement implicating Chevireddy in the liquor case. According to him, the officials insisted he write and sign a statement dictated by them. Further, Madan Reddy alleged that SIT officials scolded him for attending the inquiry in uniform and demanded that he falsely testify that Chevireddy was involved in the case. “When I refused to comply with their instructions and said I wouldn’t give a false statement, ten SIT officials attacked me,” he claimed in the letter. He also mentioned that another individual named Giri, who was questioned before him, overheard the threats made by the officials.

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Plastic-Free Cities In AP By October 2 : CM

- Plastic ban to be enforced in 21 urban areas by Gandhi Jayanti
- RRR centers to be established in 87 urban areas
- ‘Swachhta’ awards from next year to promote waste management

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a significant step toward environmental sustainability, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has announced a statewide drive to eliminate single-use plastic by October 2 this year. During a review meeting on Circular Economy held at the Secretariat on Tuesday, the Chief Minister directed officials to enforce a complete ban on single-use plastic in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Rajahmundry, and 17 other municipal corporations. He emphasized the need to promote the use of cloth bags on a large scale and take strong measures to reduce plastic waste in urban areas. He ordered the immediate removal of accumulated garbage and instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive



recycling and waste segregation action plan within the next 90 days. Strong measures to eliminate plastic As part of this initiative, 157 Reduce-Reuse-Recycle (RRR) centers will be set up in 87 urban areas across the state. These centers will play a crucial role in managing plastic waste and encouraging sustainable practices. The CM stressed the urgency of implementing modern methods in waste collection, segregation, and recycling to ensure clean and livable cities.

Incentive with Swachhta Awards

To encourage participation from all sections of society, the Chief Minister proposed the institution of ‘Swachhta’ awards from October 2 next year. These awards will recognize the best-performing local bodies, self-help groups, anganwadis, educational institutions,

hospitals, bus stands, NGOs, and other organizations in waste management and sanitation efforts.

Circular Economy to be a big hit

Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to finalize a circular economy policy within two months to convert waste into valuable resources and attract green investments. As part of this, three circular economy parks will be established across the state within a year. The first of these parks, planned on 400 acres in Visakhapatnam, will be built to international standards. The Chief Minister suggested studying similar successful models in other countries. He reviewed proposals submitted by the Material Recycling Association of India and advised increasing the use of modern machinery in waste-to-energy plants.

Special focus on 11 key sectors, 3 departments

The state government will concentrate on 11 key sectors identified by the Central Government under the circular economy initiative—municipal, vehicle, lithium battery, gypsum, tire, rubber, electronics, agriculture, industrial, and aqua waste. Additionally, Chandrababu Naidu has directed the inclusion of the mining, handloom, and animal husbandry departments in the state’s circular economy action plan. He emphasized that efforts should be made to achieve a zero-waste goal in both municipal corporations and panchayats. This ambitious move is expected to transform Andhra Pradesh into a model state for environmental sustainability and circular economy development.



Telangana Phone Tapping Case...

- Sharmila's Phone Was Tapped??
- Calls allegedly monitored and information passed to Jagan
- Conversations recorded using code language, say reports

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The sensational phone tapping case in Telangana has taken yet another dramatic turn. In the latest development, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President YS Sharmila’s name has surfaced among the list of those whose phones were reportedly tapped. These revelations point to a deeply rooted surveillance network that existed during the YSR Congress Party’s (YSRCP) previous regime in Andhra Pradesh. According to sources close to the investigation, Sharmila’s phones were allegedly tapped using sophisticated surveillance techniques during her brother YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s tenure as Chief Minister. Reports indicate that not only were her voice calls secretly recorded, but her call data and contacts were closely monitored as well. Alarmingly, it is being alleged that this data was regularly passed on to Jagan himself.

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HM Anita Orders strict action, speaks to victim via video call



Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita reacted sharply to the shocking incident in Narayanapuram village of Kuppam mandal, Chittoor district, where a woman was allegedly tied to a tree over non-payment of a debt. Terming it an inhumane and condemnable act, the minister assured full support from the government to the victim. Home Minister Anita revealed that she immediately contacted Chittoor District SP V.N. Manikanta Chandolu and instructed him to submit a comprehensive report on the incident. She also directed the SP to ensure that the perpetrators are booked under relevant legal provisions and that the victim receives justice without delay. “This government will not tolerate attacks on the dignity and safety of women. We will ensure strict action is taken against those responsible. The victim will not be left alone—we will stand by her until justice is delivered,” said Minister Anita in a statement. The incident, which has sparked outrage across the state, has drawn attention to the ongoing issues of gender-based violence and local-level injustices in rural areas. The state government has reiterated its commitment to protecting women’s rights and taking swift action in such cases.

Shocking! In CM's own constituency

- Woman tied to tree and assaulted over husband’s debt
- Victim's son cries helplessly as mother is beaten

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

A disturbing incident of inhumanity has come to light in Narayanapuram under Kuppam municipality, Chittoor district, where a woman was tied to a tree and brutally assaulted over a debt incurred by her absconding husband. The heinous act has triggered widespread outrage across the region. According to the police, Thimmarayappa, a resident of Narayanapuram, had borrowed ₹80,000 from a local named Munikannappa. Unable to repay the debt, he reportedly fled the village some time ago. His wife, Sirisha, originally from Kenchanaballa in Shantipuram mandal, has been working as a daily wage laborer in Bengaluru to support herself and her young son. On Monday, Sirisha visited Narayanapuram to collect her son’s Transfer Certificate (TC) from school. On learning of her presence, Munikannappa, along with his wife Munemma, son Raja, and daughter-in-law Jagadeeswari, confronted her near the school. They demanded re-



payment of the money borrowed by her husband and, in a shocking act of brutality, forcibly dragged her to a nearby tree, tied her up, and began beating her. A video of the incident shows the woman’s young son crying helplessly as his mother was being assaulted. The sheer cruelty of the incident has sparked outrage, especially given that Sirisha had no role in the financial dealings of her husband and has been struggling to survive as a single parent. Locals who witnessed the incident promptly alerted the police. Officers reached the spot and rescued Sirisha from the perpetrators. Chittoor police confirmed that a case has been registered against all four accused — Munikannappa, Munemma, Raja, and Jagadeeswari — and an investigation is underway.



Telangana...

Continued from page 1

The surveillance operation reportedly used code language to hide the identities of those under watch. Investigators believe that this was an attempt to prevent the leaks of sensitive information. Adding to the severity of the matter, it is being claimed that a senior police official even summoned individuals close to Sharmila and warned them over their association with her. Sources say that Sharmila had already suspected that her phones were being tapped for quite some time and may possess evidence to support her claim. However, she has yet to make a formal public statement on this development. With the SIT probe gaining momentum and more high-profile names coming to light, this case is snowballing into one of the most controversial political scandals in recent times. The public and political circles alike are now keenly watching for further revelations in what appears to be a systematic violation of privacy.

AR Head Constable Alleges SIT Pressure in Liquor Case

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Expressing fear for his safety, Madan Reddy said he can no longer attend SIT hearings alone and requested immediate intervention and protection from the higher authorities. **SIT terms Madhan Reddy's allegations completely baseless**

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the high-profile Madhyam Kumbakonam liquor scam has refuted the allegations made by AR Head Constable Madhan Reddy, calling them "completely untrue and politically motivated." In an official press release issued from the SIT office in Vijayawada on June 17, the team clarified that no threats or physical coercion were used during the questioning of Madhan Reddy, who served as a gunman (PSO) to former Chandragiri MLA Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy for nearly ten years. The SIT stated that Madhan Reddy, who was summoned as part of the ongoing investigation into the liquor scam registered under multiple sections of IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act, refused to cooperate during questioning and even threatened investigating officers. The case, originally registered at Mangalagiri CID police station under Crime No. 21/2024, has led to several arrests including prime accused Kessireddy Rajasekhara Reddy alias Raj. According to the SIT, evidence has surfaced that large sums of bribe money collected by Raj were routed to Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy and allegedly distributed during elections. Based on this, the SIT called Madhan Reddy for questioning to gather further details, given his long-standing association with Chevireddy. In response to media reports and a petition filed by Madhan Reddy in the High Court alleging police harassment, the SIT has claimed that this is part of a broader conspiracy to hinder the probe. "These false narratives, including a recent habeas corpus petition regarding Balaji Kumar Yadav, seem to be orchestrated attempts to pressure the SIT and derail the investigation," the press note said. In a move to uphold public trust, the SIT has requested the DGP to order a high-level inquiry into the allegations made by Madhan Reddy, and called for strict departmental action if anyone is found guilty of misconduct.

Health Department Buried in ₹6,500 Cr Debt...

- **Jagan's misrule collapsed health sector says Health Minister**
- **₹2,500 crore pending under Aarogyasri, ₹1,000 crore dues to drug firms**
- **₹700 crore left unpaid for medical college constructions**
- **Reforms rolled out swiftly with infrastructure, staff, and 30 NHM schemes**



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satyakumar has revealed that the state's health system was left financially crippled by the previous YSRCP government, with pending dues amounting to ₹6,500 crore. Addressing the media, he said the collapse of the medical sector during Jagan Mohan Reddy's five-year rule is a glaring example of mismanagement and corruption, which the public recognised and decisively voted out in the recent elections. "People saw how the entire system was weakened under the previous regime," Satyakumar stated. "Not just financial mismanagement, but the whole health infrastructure

was thrown into chaos." Detailing the debts, he said ₹2,500 crore are pending under the Aarogyasri scheme and ₹1,000 crore is owed to pharmaceutical supply companies. In addition, the state owes ₹700 crore for medical college construction works and another ₹400 crore under the Nandu-Nedu program. "Even basic operations were run on credit, leaving suppliers unpaid and services hampered," he said. Despite the massive financial burden inherited from the YSRCP government, Satyakumar stated that the current administration has managed to turn the situation around within a year. "We began by addressing the most critical needs — recruiting staff and rebuilding infrastructure. We also focused

on primary healthcare and ensured implementation of nearly 30 welfare and health schemes under the National Health Mission," he added. He highlighted that due to these rapid improvements, the Central Government has released ₹100 crore as an incentive. "This appreciation is a reflection of the performance and dedication shown by our health teams across the state," the minister said. Satyakumar assured that the government is committed to completely revamping the health system and delivering quality medical services. "Our goal is to ensure that no citizen in Andhra Pradesh is denied access to healthcare due to financial constraints," he concluded.

Outsourced Tribal Gurukul Teachers Demand Justice

- **1143 posts unfairly merged into Mega DSC**
- **Teachers still paid only ₹14,000 despite court and PRC norms**
- **National ST Commission steps in after long delay**



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Outsourced teachers working in tribal Gurukul schools have raised serious concerns over the government's move to merge 1,143 tribal teacher posts into the General Mega DSC, which, as per Gurukul Bylaws, should be filled only through a special recruitment process. Teachers allege this action violates recruitment norms and has led to immense injustice to

those working under outsourcing contracts in tribal educational institutions. These tribal Gurukul teachers have been receiving just ₹14,000 per month despite having higher qualifications, and the minimum time scale, as prescribed under the 10th, 15th, and 22nd PRC recommendations, is yet to be implemented. They pointed out that the outsourcing system is meant only for fourth-class employees, and no such arrangement

exists for teachers in BC or SC welfare Gurukuls — only in tribal Gurukuls, highlighting discriminatory treatment. In a major protest last year, these teachers went on a 45-day legal struggle demanding fair treatment. At the time, the government had promised to exclude their posts from the Mega DSC and to implement salary reforms, urging them to call off their strike. However, none of the promises were fulfilled, and they were not even paid for the 45-day protest period. Feeling ignored by state officials and ministers despite repeated complaints, the teachers approached the National ST Commission under the leadership of State Vice President Vabayogi. Responding to their plea, the Commission issued instructions to the Commissioner and Principal Secretary of Tribal Gurukuls in Andhra Pradesh to take appropriate action.



Only 100 People Including Jagan Allowed: Palnadu SP Jagan to attend event in Rentapala village

TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

YCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is scheduled to attend the unveiling of YCP activist Naga Malleswara Rao's statue in Rentapala village of Sattenapalli Rural Mandal, Palnadu district on Tuesday. However, Palnadu District SP Kanchi Srinivasa Rao has announced that only 100 people, including Jagan, will be permitted to attend the program due to security and logistical constraints. Sattenapalli YCP in-charge Sudhir Bhargav Reddy had formally applied for police permission regarding Jagan's participation in the event. In response, SP Srinivasa Rao addressed the media, stating that while YCP leaders estimate a crowd of around 30,000 for the ceremony, the location does not support such a gathering. "The road leading to the statue unveiling site is only ten feet wide and is flanked by residential houses on both sides. Given this limitation, accommodating a large crowd is not feasible," the SP explained. He further added that the decision to restrict the number of attendees was based on security assessments and past incidents at similar events elsewhere in the state. To ensure smooth movement and avoid congestion, SP Srinivasa Rao mentioned that only three additional vehicles would be allowed to accompany Jagan's convoy. He also warned that permissions were granted after thorough technical assessments and reiterated that any violations of the prescribed rules would invite legal action. "Our focus is on maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of the leader and the public," he emphasized. With this announcement, the district police made it clear that crowd control measures will be strictly enforced during the event.

Chevireddy Detained at Bangalore Airport



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

YCP senior leader and former MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy has been detained by police at the Bengaluru International Airport in connection with the liquor scam case currently under investigation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). Sources said that a lookout notice had already been issued against Chevireddy as part of the probe. Acting on credible intelligence that he was arriving at the airport, police teams were deployed in advance and intercepted him upon arrival. Chevireddy, who is accused of playing a role in the alleged irregularities in the liquor syndicate, has been under the scanner for several weeks. His movements were being closely monitored by the authorities after he reportedly evaded multiple summons issued by the SIT. As per initial reports, the former MLA is likely to be shifted to the SIT office in Vijayawada for further questioning. Officials are yet to release an official statement, but more details are expected to emerge in the coming hours as the investigation progresses. The liquor scam has rocked political circles in Andhra Pradesh, and the detention of a prominent YCP leader like Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy marks a significant development in the case.

Dangerous APK Files Can Empty Bank Accounts, Warns DGP

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh DGP Shri Harish Kumar Gupta has warned citizens about the growing threat of cyber-crime through malicious APK (Android Package) files being circulated on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram. As smartphone usage and internet penetration increase, cybercriminals are exploiting unsuspecting users by sending fake app files that appear to be from trusted sources like PM Kisan Yojana, ICICI Bank, or SBI. The DGP explained that these APKs, when installed, activate hidden malware or spyware that gains access to personal data including banking information, OTPs, passwords, contact lists, messages, and even gallery files. With this infor-



mation, criminals are draining entire bank accounts in a single click and, in some cases, resorting to blackmail. Highlighting a recent case, the DGP shared that a farmer from Kana-

ganipally in Sathya Sai district received a fake APK file named after the PM Kisan Yojana via WhatsApp. Mistaking it for an official app, the farmer downloaded and installed it, leading to a theft of ₹94,000 from his SBI account by cybercriminals. The DGP outlined the method used by these fraudsters: first, the user unknowingly downloads the app. Once installed, the malware activates and immediately begins harvesting personal and financial data. This stolen information is then used for unauthorized transactions or to impersonate the victim for further fraud. To avoid falling victim, the DGP advised the public to strictly avoid downloading APK files from unknown sources, use only verified apps from the Google Play Store,

and carefully check app permissions. He recommended keeping "Play Protect" turned on in the Play Store settings and installing trusted antivirus apps such as Avast, Norton, or Bitdefender. He also urged people to remain vigilant while using banking apps and to conduct transactions only through official applications. Stressing that awareness is the first line of defense, the DGP said cyber-crimes can be prevented if citizens avoid suspicious links, ignore calls from unknown numbers, and never share sensitive information. Anyone who becomes a victim of such fraud is encouraged to report immediately by calling the cyber-crime helpline 1930 or lodging a complaint at www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Will Besiege Assembly If Needed: Jogi Ramesh



TPN Correspondent | Ibrahimpatnam

YSRCP leader and former minister Jogi Ramesh has issued a stern warning to the Chandrababu Naidu-led government, stating that if the promises made to the people are not fulfilled, he will not only protest at the Chief Minister's residence but also lay siege to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly if necessary.

Speaking to the media from his residence in Ibrahimpatnam, Jogi Ramesh said that there is growing dissatisfaction among the public over the new government's performance. He emphasized that the "Super Six" promises made by the TDP during the elections must be implemented without delay. "We will fight on behalf of the people. If needed, we will take the battle directly to the Assembly," he declared.

Ramesh also came down heavily on the TDP over the recently held Kondapalli Municipality elections. He alleged that the TDP had won by "murdering democracy" and "obstructing power transfer." Referring to the sealed cover that has yet to be opened, he said, "Why hasn't it been unsealed even after a week? If you are confident about public support, conduct elections again and the people will show you the result."

He further targeted Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad, calling him "a fool" and questioning his political integrity. "Why did he lose in Nandigama? Was it not the YSRCP and Jaganmohan Reddy who gave him political alms?" Jogi Ramesh asked.

The former minister reiterated that the YSRCP will continue to highlight the failures of the government and fight for people's issues. "This is just the beginning. Our struggle will continue, and we will expose every injustice done by this government," he said, ending the press conference with a firm warning of intensified protests.

CM Assures Support to Kuppam Victim Sirisha

- Announces ₹5 lakh aid and education support for her three children
- Strict action ordered against those involved



TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu personally spoke with Sirisha, the wom-

an who was tied to a tree and subjected to inhumane treatment over an unpaid loan in Narayanapuram village of Kuppam mandal, Chittoor district. During the phone call, the CM expressed deep concern over the incident and assured Sirisha of the government's full support. Terming the incident as "unfortunate and unacceptable," Chandrababu inquired about the harassment faced by Sirisha and asked whether such abuse had occurred in the past. Sirisha informed the Chief Minister that she had been subjected to frequent harassment and expressed fear for her life and her children's safety. Moved by her plight, the Chief Minister announced a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh and assured that the government would

take full responsibility for the education of her three children. He advised Sirisha to remain strong and not lose courage, emphasizing that such injustices will not be tolerated under his government. Chandrababu also stated that he had already directed officials to take strict legal action against those involved in the incident. He further instructed the concerned authorities to submit a detailed report on the incident and ensure that the victim's family receives all the necessary support and rehabilitation. The Chief Minister reiterated that no woman in the state should suffer indignity or violence and that the government stands committed to protecting their rights and dignity.

Arrest Warrant Issued Against Perni Nani

Machilipatnam court issues warrant for repeated absence in 2019 case

TPN Correspondent | Krishna

An arrest warrant has been issued against senior YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Perni Venkataramaiah, popularly known as Perni Nani. The Machilipatnam court has taken serious note of his repeated absence from court proceedings and issued a bailable arrest warrant. The warrant stems from a 2019 case involving TDP activists Chandu and Sriharsha. Perni Nani is listed as a witness in the case. Despite multiple summons by the court to appear for hearings, Nani reportedly failed to comply with the orders. The repeated adjournments without his presence led the presiding judge to express strong displeasure. Taking the matter seriously, the court directed the police to produce Perni Nani before it for the next hearing. Accordingly, a bailable arrest warrant has been issued to



ensure his appearance.

The court has now adjourned the next hearing to September 19, instructing the police to act on the warrant before that date. This development has drawn attention in political circles, given Nani's prominence in the YSRCP and his past role as a cabinet minister.

Kanna lashes out at Jagan's Sattenapalli visit

TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

TDP MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana has reacted sharply to former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's proposed visit to Sattenapalli in Palnadu district on Wednesday. The visit, intended for unveiling the statue of YSRCP leader Nagamalleswara Rao who died by suicide last year, has stirred political heat in the region.

Kanna launched a scathing attack, stating, "If you trust Jagan, all that remains is destruction. He has not only betrayed his party workers but also ruined the lives of people who believed in him, including their families." He questioned the morality of unveiling a statue for a leader who allegedly took his own life due to losses in election betting.

Kanna highlighted that Nagamalleswara Rao ended his life after reportedly losing Rs. 10 crore in election-related betting based on fake surveys propagated by Jagan's team. "Unable to bear the harassment from lenders, he died by suicide on June 9, 2024. Now Jagan has come to unveil his statue—this is shameful," Kanna said.

The political drama intensified with four YSRCP municipal councilors from Sattenapalli joining the Telugu Desam Party just a day ahead of Jagan's visit. Kanna emphasized that the shift is a clear indication of dissatisfaction within the YSRCP's ranks. "Even his own party men have lost faith. If anarchic leaders like Jagan continue to mislead, his party will struggle to retain even 11 seats in the future," he said.

Kanna also reiterated that the people of Andhra Pradesh have already rejected the YSRCP's rule due to what he termed as its "anarchy and misrule," and that the 2024 general election result was a verdict against Jagan's leadership. The timing of Jagan's visit and the councilors' defection is expected to further intensify political developments in the region.



Vidadala Rajini slams govt for farmer suicides

TPN Correspondent | Chilakaluripeta

Former minister Vidadala Rajini expressed deep concern over the suicides of two farmers in Nadendla mandal of Palnadu district. She said the deaths occurred due to the lack of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for crops and rising debt burdens. After consoling the bereaved families at Chilakaluri Government Hospital, she addressed the media and squarely blamed the ruling coalition government for these deaths, calling them "government murders." Rajini stated that the two farmers, Gopal Rao and Adinarayana, cultivated chilli, cotton, and tobacco but couldn't get fair prices for their produce. As a result, they fell into severe debt and ended their lives. She criticized the government for its year-long failure to provide MSP for any crop, despite repeated protests by farmers. She reminded that YS Jagan had recently visited Guntur Mirchi Yard and Podili Tobacco Auction Centers, demanding fair prices for farmers and warning of mass protests. She demanded immediate ex-gratia for the victims' families and reminded that during YS Jagan's tenure, support was extended through Rythu Bharosa Kendras and price stabilization funds. Rajini also condemned the incident in Kuppam where a woman was tied to a tree by a TDP worker, questioning the state's law and order.

Women are not safe under TDP rule: MLC Varudu Kalyani



TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

YSRCP MLC and State Women's Wing President Varudu Kalyani condemned the shocking incident in Narayanapuram village of Kuppam, where a woman named Sirisha was tied to a tree and beaten by a TDP worker over a loan dispute. Speaking to the media at the party city office, she said such incidents bring shame to civil society and show that women in Andhra Pradesh are living without even basic protection under the current government.

Kalyani questioned Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's silence, stating that the atrocity occurred in his own constituency. She demanded the immediate arrest and strict punishment of the culprits. She said the government didn't even find time to visit or console the victim's family. She criticised Home Minister Anitha for making only a video call instead of visiting the victim personally.

She said women in the state are facing repeated assaults while the government watches silently. Kalyani pointed out that the coalition government itself admitted in the Legislative Council that three crimes against women occur every hour in Andhra Pradesh. She said CM Chandrababu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan make promises, but fail to take any action when such incidents occur. Kalyani demanded that the government provide financial help to the victim's family and conduct a serious review on women's safety. She warned that if the government fails to act, YSRCP will launch statewide protests demanding justice.

Modi's Rule Is A Golden Chapter For India



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

BJP MLA Nallimilli Ramakrishna Reddy hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as a "golden chapter" in the country's political and economic history. Speaking at a media interaction organized at the BJP state office in Vijayawada, the MLA stated that India is entering an era of prosperity and development un-

der the leadership of Modi.

He said that under Modi's guidance, India rose to the fourth place in the global economic rankings and will soon reach third. Highlighting key schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission and Ayushman Bharat, he noted that Modi's government has focused heavily on the welfare of the poor and farmers.

"Operation Sindhur has shown our

strength in the defense sector, and our Make in India initiative has given us modern capabilities," he said. He also highlighted the construction of a technological marvel bridge across the Chenab River as another example of Modi's visionary leadership. "Minority women and women from various sections have been given appropriate place and recognition," he said.

Slamming the Congress for what he termed "baseless allegations," Nallimilli said the party lacks national leadership and is failing to grasp the scale of transformation India is undergoing. "Modi made India a global guru. The world now looks at India with respect, especially after our Yoga Day initiatives," he said. Highlighting the benefits of a double-engine government, he stated that the people of Andhra Pradesh have given a clear mandate for development. He assured that the central government will extend full support to major state projects including Polavaram, the Visakhapatnam steel plant, the new railway zone, and Amaravati capital development.

BJP Minority Morcha State President Sheikh Baji, Kisan Morcha State President Chigurupati Kumar Swamy, NTR District BJP President Adduri Sri Ram, and other party leaders and workers also attended the meeting.

Devotees Being Robbed in The Name of Parking

No action from officials despite repeated complaints
Parking contractors illegally collect money on public roads
Authorities remain silent despite videos going viral

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Devotees visiting the famous Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada are being openly looted under the guise of parking charges, with little to no response from the authorities. Those who have taken contracts for parking management have not only occupied the allotted spaces but have also encroached upon public roads, including the road near the Ratham Center. Vehicles are being parked on both sides of the road, and exorbitant fees are being collected without any regulation. Thousands of devotees visit temple every day, and the number surges during weekends. While parking facilities were officially allocated at

Rajagopuram Road and Omkaram on Ghat Road, private individuals managing these contracts have extended their control beyond the permitted zones. Shockingly, the road leading from the barrage to the bus stand — a key route for visitors — has also been turned into an illegal parking zone. Those who question the charges or practices are being threatened and, in some cases, physically attacked. The situation has worsened for locals and traders in One Town, the city's wholesale hub, who are being charged double the parking fee. Even those who stop briefly to pick up elderly family members or children are being forced to pay. If they refuse, they are threat-

ened that their vehicles will not be allowed to move unless the demanded amount is paid. People capturing these incidents on their phones and sharing them on social media are also being threatened by the parking staff. Despite repeated complaints to Durgagudi officials, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, and the police, no corrective action has been taken. It is alleged that both temple and municipal parking contractors are colluding in this unchecked exploitation. These unlawful activities are not only causing immense inconvenience to devotees and traders but also damaging the public image of the newly



formed coalition government. The silence of the concerned departments is raising serious questions. It is imperative that the Endowments Department, Corporation authorities, and police officials act immediately to put an end to this public exploitation.

Strict action is needed against those who are illegally collecting parking fees and intimidating devotees. Only then can the sanctity of the revered temple and the trust of the public be restored.

Yoga Is India’s Gift to the World: Governor Abdul Nazeer

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer has called upon the people of the state to take part enthusiastically in the upcoming ‘Yogandhra’ celebrations on June 21, marking the 11th International Day of Yoga. The Governor described yoga as India’s ancient gift to the world, emphasizing its power to bring harmony between mind, body, and nature. In a message issued from Raj Bhavan, the Governor said the month-long Yogandhra campaign, which began on May 21, is culminating in a grand event at Visakhapatnam on June 21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the yoga celebrations, which are expected to witness a historic turnout of over five lakh participants in Visakhapatnam alone, with lakhs more joining from across the state, making it one of the largest synchronized yoga events ever. “Yoga was developed over 5000 years ago and it is a path to unite individual consciousness with universal consciousness,” the Governor stated. Citing the Bhagavad Gita, he said, “Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self, to the self.” He added that yoga is not just a physical practice but a science — a science of well-being, youthfulness, and the integration of the body, mind, and soul. The Governor expressed confidence that this grand celebration will ignite and enrich the spirit of yoga among the public and spread awareness about its significance in achieving a healthier lifestyle. He concluded with a heartfelt appeal to all citizens of Andhra Pradesh to join the 11th International Day of Yoga in large numbers and contribute to making the ‘Yogandhra’ initiative a phenomenal success.



Muslim leaders thank YS Jagan for opposing Waqf Bill

TPN Correspondent | Tadepalli
Several Muslim leaders and former Waqf members met YSRCP President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli.



Former Haj Committee Chairman B.S. Ghouse Lajam and MLC Isaak Basha thanked YS Jagan for voting against the Waqf Bill in both Houses of Parliament. YS Jagan assured that the YSR Con-

gress Party will always stand by Muslims and minority communities. The Muslim leaders who met him included Rizwan (Kagaz Ghar, Anantapur), Madina Dastagir (YSR Kadapa), Meeran (Nellore), Ghouse Moyud-

din (NTR district), Abdul Khader (Amalapuram), D.A. Jama (Eluru), Rehman Khan (Kakinada), Imran (former Haj Committee member), and Nizam (former MFC Director).

Locals Demand Streetlights to Curb Crimes Near New Ambapuram

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Residents of New Ambapuram in NTR District have raised serious concerns over increasing anti-social activities near the Vikram Publishers junction on Pipe Road. With no functional streetlights in the area, the stretch has turned into a haven for miscreants—ranging from blade-wielding groups to ganja addicts and petty thieves—who have been harassing locals and creating an unsafe environment, especially after dusk. Locals report that the area becomes a hub for activities such as public drinking, extortion, theft, and even harassment of women under the influence of substances. “There’s no proper lighting. Men come drunk, threaten workers returning home, steal belongings and behave vulgarly with women,” said a distressed resident. “We’ve approached the local Sarpanch Seethaiah several times, but he has only given us false assurances,” another added. Adding to the issue, residents say that heavy lorries frequently halt on this stretch at night, where some drivers reportedly indulge in immoral activities with women, taking advantage of the darkness and lack of surveillance. The combination of criminal behavior and infrastructure neglect has created a climate of fear among women who commute through this road for work or daily needs. The residents have appealed to officials including the local Electricity Department’s AE and AD, the Police Department Commissioner, Circle Inspector, and the village Sarpanch Seethaiah, to urgently install streetlights and repair the pothole-ridden road. They believe that better lighting and a drivable road surface will discourage these unlawful activities and restore safety to their locality.

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha emphasized the need for innovative and collective efforts to prevent Vijayawada from becoming a victim of increasing air pollution. He called on all departments and stakeholders to actively contribute to improving the city’s air quality under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Speaking at the City Implementation Committee meeting held at the Collectorate on Tuesday, the Collector said clean air is essential for a healthy Andhra Pradesh and a pollution-free society. He reviewed the ongoing activities of the Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, Transport, and Industries departments and issued specific directions to intensify pollution control measures. Dr. Lakshmi Sha noted that PM10 fine dust levels in the city had reached 64 µg/m³ in 2024–25 and called for strict implementation of action plans to reduce these levels further. Measures such as road development, pavement construction, mechanical street sweeping, green landscaping along canals, solid waste management, and expansion of green



spaces were recommended to enable pollution-free commuting. The Collector stressed the importance of encouraging clean energy transport, especially electric and solar vehicles and e-rickshaws, while also urging the development of more vertical gardens and Oxygen Parks in city areas. In addition, she directed officials to act against vehicles emitting pollutants and asked VTPS and Genco officials to adopt modern technology to curb ash emissions and other pollutants. Dr. Lakshmi Sha also issued a strict order to curb the use of single-use plastics, particularly in

shopping areas, complexes, and farmers’ markets. The Collector announced that a major workshop involving all NCAP partner departments will be held on July 4 to further strengthen the action plan and collaborative efforts. The meeting was attended by PCB Environmental Engineer P. Srinivas, DCP M. Krishnamurthy Naidu, VMC SE (Projects) P. Sathyakumari, APIIC JM K. Babji, VTPS SE Umamaheswar Rao, RTO R. Praveen, District Industries Officer B. Sambayya, DSO A. Papa Rao, DAO DMF Vijayakumari, and others.

Tractor driver found murdered in Gudivada

TPN Correspondent | Krishna
A shocking murder case has come to light in Pashubotlavani Palem village of Gudlavalleru mandal in Krishna district, where a 45-year-old tractor driver was found dead under suspicious circumstances. The deceased, Remalli Venkat Rao, was discovered lying on the roadside early Tuesday morning, with visible injuries on several parts of his body. Locals alerted the police after spotting the body. According to initial reports, Venkat Rao had an altercation with the owner of the tractor he was working for on Monday night. The quarrel reportedly occurred while both men were under the influence of alcohol.

Venkat Rao’s family members strongly suspect that the argument with the tractor owner led to his murder. They have demanded a thorough investigation and strict action against those responsible. Gudlavalleru police, who reached the spot shortly after receiving information, have launched a detailed probe. A clues team has been deployed to gather forensic evidence from the scene, while Gudlavalleru DSP Dheeraj Vinil personally inspected the site and monitored the progress of the investigation. The tractor owner has been taken into custody for questioning. Police are examining multiple angles, including possible motives and past disputes. They have not ruled out the involvement of others in the

incident and are waiting for post-mortem and forensic reports for further clarity.



Coalition’s Push Gets ₹2,787 Crore Sanctioned for Amaravati Projects

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
In a major boost to Amaravati’s development, Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar announced that the Central Government has sanctioned ₹2,787 crore for key infrastructure projects in the capital region. The sanctioned funds include ₹1,329 crore for the construction of Central Government employees’ quarters and ₹1,458 crore for the Common Central Secretariat (CCS). Dr. Pemmasani said this was the result of the coalition government’s collective efforts, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh. He emphasized that persistent

follow-ups, strategic meetings, and interdepartmental coordination paved the way for the revival and clearance of these long-stalled proposals. He also noted that the original proposals for these projects were initiated back in 2018, but the change in government led to their neglect. “For the past five years, the previous YSRCP government failed to follow up or prioritize these projects. Due to their indifference, the capital’s development suffered greatly,” said Pemmasani. The Union Finance Ministry issued the approval on Tuesday, forwarding it to the Union Housing and Urban Development Department. CPWD will take up the construction responsibilities. Highlighting the significance of this move, Pemmasani said, “This

sanction is not just about infrastructure. It symbolizes the Central Government’s trust in Amaravati and the state’s leadership. Consolidating central departments through the CCS will enhance administrative efficiency and help Amaravati evolve as the true capital.” He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Housing Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their unwavering support. “This is the beginning of a new chapter in Amaravati’s growth,” he added. This funding marks one of the biggest pushes yet to revive Amaravati’s stalled development and is being seen as a direct consequence of the coalition government’s proactive and focused approach.



Women’s Commission Committed to Protection and Empowerment of Women: Dr. Archana Majumdar

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Member of the National Women’s Commission, Dr. Archana Majumdar, has assured that the Commission is dedicated to ensuring the safety, rights, and empowerment of women and girls across the country. On the first day of her three-day state visit, she inspected Siddhartha Government Medical College and the Old Government Hospital in Vijayawada on Tuesday. Addressing the media, Dr. Majumdar stated, “Punishment is inevitable in all incidents involving attacks or harassment of women. Women facing such issues must file complaints with the Women’s Commission immediately. We are available 24 hours a day and will take prompt action.” She emphasized that every office, institution, or organization with more than ten employees must establish an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). “This committee should be led by a senior woman employee and act on grievances



raised by staff or students. This is mandatory for the protection of women at workplaces,” she said. During her visit to Siddhartha Medical College, she inquired whether an ICC had been constituted and directed the management to set one up within a week. She also recommended that display boards with women safety measures and helpline numbers be installed across the college premises. Helpline Boards and Awareness Urged

Dr. Archana stressed that problems faced by students, faculty, and employees should be addressed through the ICC first. “The Commission is focused not only on action but also on awareness and prevention. Women should feel safe, empowered, and heard at all levels,” she stated. State Women’s Commission Chairperson Dr. Rayapati Sailaja, who accompanied her, said that if women do not receive justice from the ICC, they should escalate the issue to the State or National Women’s Commission. “We are committed to ensuring that every woman works in a peaceful and harassment-free environment. Any form of sexual or dowry harassment will face strict consequences,” she said. The visit included interactions with college principal Dr. A. Edukondala Rao, ICDS officials, faculty members, and staff, where they discussed the steps to be taken to improve women’s safety and institutional accountability.

Minister Sandhyarani Launches Tribal Development Drive



TPN Correspondent | Parvathypuram

Tribal Welfare, Women and Child Development Minister Gummidi Sandhyarani on Tuesday inaugurated a major awareness conference on the Dharti Aabha Jan – National Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) at the Tribal Girls’ Home School in Kothavalasa village. The campaign is part of a five-year national initiative launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, on October 2, 2024, to bring holistic development to tribal villages across the country. Speaking at the event, Minister Sandhyarani explained that the DA-JGUA scheme aims to transform 63,843 tribal-inhabited villages by improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, livelihoods, connectivity, and overall economic empowerment between 2024–25 and 2028–29. Highlighting the commitment in Andhra Pradesh, she said 165 tribal villages have been selected in Parvathypuram Manyam district for the first phase of development. Plans are being prepared to implement the scheme at saturation level in all selected villages. Key focus areas of development include:

- Housing and infrastructure (roads, water supply, gas connections)
- Health and nutrition (medical units, Ayushman Bharat, Anganwadis, nutrition forests)
- Education (hostels, ashram schools, and skill training centers)
- Electrification (including so-

lar-powered solutions)- Economic empowerment through agriculture, animal husbandry, and vocational programs
- Digital and mobile connectivity (4G, digital centers)

To ensure that every tribal family benefits from the Dharti Aabha Jan – National Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), awareness and benefit conferences are being organized across the district from June 15 to 30. As part of these programs, detailed surveys will be conducted in each village to assess the socio-economic conditions and welfare needs of tribal communities. During these outreach events, 14 essential government services will be provided directly to the people. These include the issuance of Aadhaar cards, ration cards, Ayushman Bharat health cards, caste and residence certificates, and Kisan credit cards. Additionally, eligible beneficiaries will be enrolled under schemes such as PM Kisan, Jan Dhan bank accounts, gas connection provision, and various insurance schemes. Social welfare benefits like old age, widow, and disability pensions will be disbursed, along with support under employment schemes like MGNREGS, Mudra Loan, and Vishwakarma. Maternity benefits through the Matruthva Vandana Yojana, immunization services, and welfare programs under ICDS will also be made available. This comprehensive effort aims to bring all critical services to the doorstep of tribal households in a single-window format.

NUJ (India) Felicitates Industrialist Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao, founder and chairman of the Bondada Group, was felicitated by the National Union of Journalists (India) for his exceptional contributions to industry, employment generation, and social service. The event took place during a social service program held at the Bondada Group’s office in Hyderabad. Bade Prabhakar, National Vice President of NUI (India), presented Dr. Bondada with a shawl and a memento, praising his inspirational journey from the remote village of Parrachivara in Nagayalanka mandal to becoming a globally recognized industrialist. “His perseverance, hard work,



and commitment to service have become a model for the youth of the country,” Prabhakar said in a statement. Speaking at the event, former Chief Secretary KN Kumar,

IAS, lauded Dr. Bondada’s spirit of service. He emphasized that Bondada’s efforts extend beyond personal success, noting that he has consistently provided employ-

ment opportunities to people from his native Vedala region and beyond. “It is admirable that he dedicates a portion of his earnings to social causes,” Kumar remarked. Dr. Bondada was also praised for his long-term vision and contribution to national development. His company has been instrumental in providing livelihoods to lakhs and has been involved in numerous philanthropic initiatives. Several dignitaries, including New Delhi Railway Department senior officer Mendu Chakrapani, Management Professor Dr. Andal Ammisetty, and Rangababu, participated in the program and echoed the sentiments of appreciation for Dr. Bondada’s service-oriented leadership.

Modi's Yoga Day Visit... Minister Narayana Reviews Arrangements



TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam
Andhra Pradesh Minister for Health and Sports Authority, Dr. Narayana, is personally overseeing the arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s upcoming visit to Visakhapatnam on June 21. The Prime Minister will be participating in the International Yoga Day celebrations being hosted in the city. The state government is expecting a massive turnout of around 5 lakh

participants for the event. In light of the large-scale gathering, Minister Narayana, along with senior police officials, conducted an on-ground inspection of the parking zones and logistical arrangements. Speaking to media after the inspection, Minister Narayana said that the government is making extensive preparations to ensure that the program proceeds smoothly and that the public can return without any traffic inconvenience. He emphasized the need for well-organized parking and traffic control measures. He issued clear directions to the concerned departments on the movement of vehicles and crowd management. The government aims to make this event a grand success while maintaining public safety and convenience throughout.

Drowsy Driving Claims Life of Woman in Car Crash

TPN Correspondent | Prakasam

A tragic car accident caused by drowsy driving claimed the life of a woman and left four others seriously injured near Tanguturu in the early hours of Tuesday. The incident occurred around 4:15 am near the Jharkhand Bihar Dhaba opposite K. Bitragunta village on the highway heading towards Singarayakonda, under the jurisdiction of Jarugumalli police station. A car bearing the registration number TN 19 AF 5344, travelling from Machilipatnam to Chennai, veered off course and crashed into a culvert slope after the driver reportedly dozed off while driving. Out of the five people travelling in the vehicle, one woman died on the spot. The deceased has been



identified as Kancharlapalli Krishnakumari (65), wife of Yesubabu, from Chinnayadara village in Machilipatnam mandal. The four injured passengers have been identified as Kancharlapalli Pichayya (38), son of Yesubabu; his wife Kancharlapalli Pujitha (33); and their two sons, Kancharlapalli Karthikeya (10) and Kancharlapalli Sai Abhilash (7).

Police and emergency personnel arrived promptly at the scene. The injured were rushed to RIMS Hospital using the Highway 108 ambulance. Officials including the District Night Monitoring Officer, General Checking Officer, PCR unit, and Jarugumalli SI were informed immediately. Jarugumalli police and the Circle Night Rounds Officer ensured there was no traffic disruption. With assistance from the highway patrol team, the wrecked car was moved off the road. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

China’s Military Aggression: White Paper Reveals Underlying Pressures

Recent sightings of China’s air-craft carriers—Liaoning and Shandong—operating near Japan’s southern islands have triggered alarm across the Indo-Pacific. Simultaneously, an uptick in Chinese Coast Guard patrols near disputed Japanese territories has raised fears, especially after new Chinese guidelines permitted use of lethal force to enforce maritime claims.

A deeper look into China’s newly released national security white paper offers insight into Beijing’s growing belligerence. The document outlines a mix of internal vulnerabilities and external threats that Beijing believes endanger national stability. Central to this are economic concerns, geopolitical rivalries—especially with the US—and internal discontent.

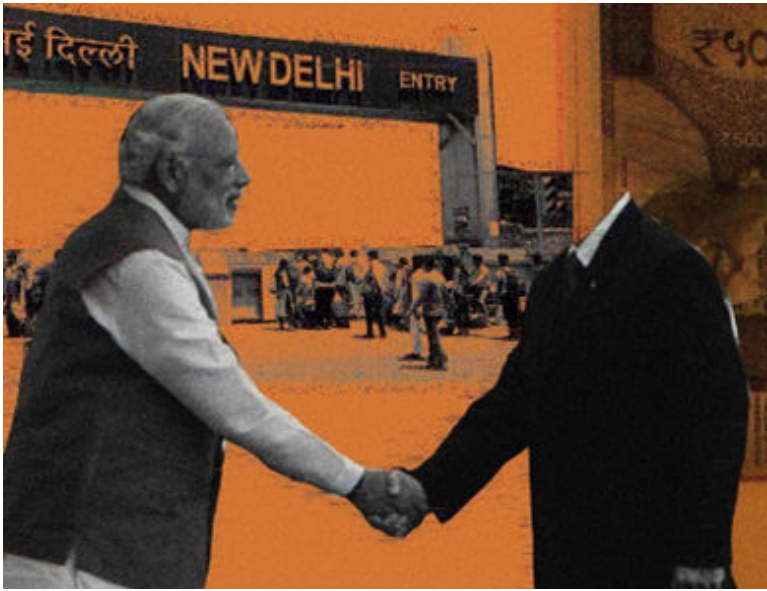
Former US President Donald Trump’s trade policies and continued economic decoupling have destabilized China’s export-led growth model. This economic strain threatens the informal social contract where the Chinese middle class trades political freedoms for economic prosperity. Though the government projects around 5% GDP growth, economists like Gao Shanw-



en question the credibility of these figures, citing signs of deeper malaise. Domestically, China fears color revolutions, religious and ethnic unrest, and growing dissent. These anxieties are compounded by turbulence within the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), with high-level suspensions, disappearances of key military figures, and allegations of corruption. Defence Minister Dong Jun’s absence at the Shangri-La Dialogue further signals instability within the PLA’s leadership.

Externally, Beijing perceives containment by the US and its allies. Xi Jinping has openly accused Washington of encirclement, and Beijing’s military actions—whether near Taiwan, Japan, or Australia—appear to be calculated responses. Reports of China supporting Pakistan diplomatically and militarily following the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack illustrate Beijing’s use of proxy partnerships to challenge India. This aggressive posturing mirrors previous patterns—

during Trump’s first term in 2020, China clashed with Japan over the Senkaku Islands and with India at Galwan. The 2025 resurgence of similar tensions, amid renewed US-China hostilities, indicates a deliberate strategy. As Xi grapples with economic and institutional challenges, external aggression might be used to consolidate domestic support. For India, the message is clear: it must remain alert and adapt its China strategy to navigate this increasingly complex regional landscape.



Who Truly Stands by India in Times of Crisis?

In the evolving global power game, recent events have laid bare an uncomfortable reality for Indian diplomacy: while Pakistan can count on China as a steadfast “all-weather friend,” India finds itself increasingly isolated during moments of crisis. The May 2025 conflict with Pakistan, sparked by the Pahalgam terror attack, underscored this stark imbalance.

China’s support for Pakistan was not only vocal but strategic. Beijing offered diplomatic backing and reportedly aided Islamabad with air defense and satellite intelligence. It even hinted at using the Brahmaputra waters as leverage after India threatened to revise the Indus Waters Treaty. China’s motivations are clear: Pakistan is a key customer for its arms industry, a central node in its \$68 billion Belt and Road Initiative via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and a means to counter India’s regional influence and its deepening ties with the United States.

Meanwhile, India struggled to find strong allies. The U.S. under President Trump intervened during the conflict not in India’s favor but with a neutral posture, promoting itself as a peace broker and even reviving the idea of international mediation on Kashmir—something India has long opposed. The result: India’s diplomatic messaging was undercut, and the conflict was perceived internationally as a draw, not a deterrent success.

Even Russia, once a reliable partner, showed ambivalence. It remained silent on the terror attack and bolstered ties with Pakistan, launching infrastructure projects and train routes linking Lahore to Moscow. At the UN, India failed to gather support to raise concerns over Pakistan’s use of international aid, while Pakistan secured influential UN posts.

Ironically, while India faces military threats from China and diplomatic undercutting by the West, it is also economically dependent on China. Bilateral trade favors China heavily, especially in intermediate goods vital for India’s industries. Only Israel and, briefly, Afghanistan, voiced clear support for India. But relying solely on transactional diplomacy and avoiding formal alliances may have weakened India’s strategic leverage. As the China-Pakistan axis grows stronger, New Delhi may need to reconsider its approach to partnerships—because in a world of shifting alliances, transactional friendships may not be enough.

Beyond Utopia: Is India Addressing Inequality Effectively?

India’s rise to become the world’s fourth-largest economy in 2025, with a GDP of \$4.19 trillion, marks a major milestone. Yet, amid this economic success, questions persist: Is the growth inclusive? And is India doing enough to tackle inequality? The Gini coefficient, a key measure of inequality, suggests some progress. According to the 2024-25 Economic Survey, rural inequality dropped from 0.266 in 2022-23 to 0.237 in 2023-24, while urban inequality fell from 0.314 to 0.284 in the same period. However, critics argue that consumption-based metrics understate long-term wealth inequality, especially as lower-income groups tend to spend more than they earn. Reports offer mixed perspectives. Bhal-la and colleagues (2022) observed that inequality in India had returned to levels seen in the early 1990s. Yet, the World Inequality Lab estimates that the top 1% earn 22.6% of the income and hold over 40% of the nation’s wealth, while the bottom 50%



control just 6.4%. These disparities raise concerns about concentrated wealth and opportunity. Despite this, India’s inequality isn’t unusual globally. Nations like South Africa and Brazil exhibit even higher disparities. The OECD also notes widening inequality across advanced economies, reflecting a structural challenge in free-market systems. Rather than aiming for an unattainable utopia, India must focus on practical solutions. The philosophy of Antyodaya—uplifting the

poorest—provides a roadmap. Government schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Poshan have helped reduce healthcare-related poverty risks. Between FY15 and FY22, public health spending rose significantly, while out-of-pocket costs dropped from 62.6% to 39.4%. Additionally, India’s success in reducing multidimensional poverty and supporting first-generation entrepreneurs through initiatives like Start-up India reflects a pragmatic approach to inclusion. Sustainable economic growth, paired with investments in education, health, nutrition, and skill-building, can bridge social and economic gaps. In essence, while inequality may persist to some degree in any economy, India’s challenge lies in ensuring upward mobility and equitable access to opportunity—not by hindering growth, but by empowering those at the bottom to become active participants in the nation’s progress.

A Birthday Bash Amid Unrest: Trump’s Parade Overshadowed by Protests

June 15, 2025, marked a turbulent turning point in American politics, coinciding with President Donald Trump’s 79th birthday and a grand military parade in Washington, D.C., celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army. The \$45-million spectacle, replete with tanks and troops, was intended as a display of national pride. Instead, it served to deepen political divides, as protests against recent immigration crackdowns escalated across California and beyond. The demonstrations, sparked by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids that began on June 6, quickly grew in scale and intensity. Protesters decried what they see as a militarised campaign targeting undocumented migrants. The situation worsened after 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines were deployed to Los Angeles to suppress the largely peaceful protests—a move widely viewed as excessive and provocative. California Governor Gavin New-



som and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass both voiced strong opposition to the federal crackdown, calling it an abuse of power. Their objec-

tions, however, were brushed aside by President Trump, who appears to be using federal muscle to assert his authority and silence dissent. Critics

argue that this approach not only undermines democratic norms but also risks further inflaming tensions. Ironically, Trump—who granted par-

adons to many involved in the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot—now presides over an administration using military force against peaceful American demonstrators. His actions have triggered concern over the growing politicisation of the armed forces and the erosion of constitutional checks on executive power. While Trump’s parade projected an image of strength, it has been overshadowed by nationwide outrage and a growing sense of unease. The use of the military to police domestic unrest evokes comparisons to authoritarian regimes and undermines the democratic ideals the parade was meant to honour. What was meant to be a birthday celebration has instead revealed deep fractures within American society and governance. Rather than unifying the country, the events of the day have amplified fears of executive overreach and the dangerous blurring of lines between political power and military force.

PM Modi Arrives in Canada for G7 Summit Amid Renewed Diplomatic Engagement

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Canada on June 16, 2025, to attend the G7 Summit at Kananaskis, marking his first visit to the country in a decade. The summit, hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, comes at a critical juncture in global geopolitics and bilateral relations. Mr. Modi is also scheduled to hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit, including discussions on energy security, technology, innovation, and the AI-energy nexus.

The visit comes just over a month after India's Operation Sindoor, which targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attacks. The operation underscored India's commitment to national security and has been a focal point of international dialogue, including at the G7.

This summit marks Modi's sixth consecutive G7 participation, and his presence reflects India's growing global stature as the world's fifth-largest economy. At the Outreach session, India will share views on pressing global challenges, including the Russia-Ukraine war and escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Crucially, this visit is seen as a reset in India-Canada relations, which hit a low



after the 2023 diplomatic fallout over the killing of pro-Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The situation led to the mutual expulsion of diplomats and strained bilateral ties. Carney's invitation signals a desire to mend relations. Following Justin Trudeau's resignation earlier this year, both sides have resumed high-level security contacts, with discussions underway to appoint new high commissioners.

India and Canada enjoy significant economic ties. In 2024, bilateral trade in goods stood at USD 8.6 billion, while trade in services reached USD 14.3 billion.

Canada also hosts a large Indian diaspora, including 1.8 million Indo-Canadians and 1 million NRIs, many of whom are students, professionals, and temporary workers. However, recent immigration curbs in Canada have impacted Indian students, who comprised 41% of Canada's international student population in 2022.

As the G7 Summit continues, the meeting between Modi and Carney is expected to offer an opportunity to explore new pathways for cooperation, restore mutual trust, and chart a more stable and strategic future for India-Canada relations.



Heavy Rain and Winds Bring Relief to Delhi-NCR, IMD Issues Red Alert; Flights May Be Affected

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Residents across Delhi-NCR finally experienced relief from the relentless heatwave as heavy rain and strong winds swept the region on Tuesday, June 17. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and surrounding areas in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, warning of thunderstorms, hailstorms, and wind speeds reaching up to 70 kmph.

The change in weather brought welcome relief, with visuals from Noida and parts of Delhi showing heavy showers and cooler conditions. However, the IMD's red alert indicates potential risks due to intense weather activity, including flash flooding, falling trees, and power disruptions. The alert was issued around 2 PM and forecasted storms within two hours for several parts of North India.

The IMD advisory also warned that flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport could be disrupted due to adverse weather. "Our on-ground teams are coordinating with all stakeholders. Passengers are advised to contact their airlines for the latest updates," a statement from airport authorities read.

IMD Forecast Breakdown:

- Severe Weather (Heavy rain, hailstorm, winds 50–70 kmph):**
 - Delhi:** Jafarpur
 - NCR:** Noida, Dadri, Greater Noida, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh
 - Haryana:** Jhajjar, Mattanhail, Farukhnagar
 - Uttar Pradesh:** Sikandrabad, Gulaoti
 - Rajasthan:** Laxmangarh, Rajgarh
- Moderate Thunderstorms (Gusts 50–70 kmph):**
 - Delhi:** IGI Airport, Dwarka, Tughlakabad, Narela, Dilshad Garden, Mundka, and others
 - NCR:** Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Indirapuram
 - Haryana:** Sonapat, Rohtak
 - Uttar Pradesh:** Modinagar, Hapur
 - Rajasthan:** Deeg, Nadbai
- Light to Moderate Rain (Winds 40–60 kmph):**
 - Delhi:** Karawal Nagar, Rohini, Kashmiri Gate, Lajpat Nagar, Palam, Safdarjung
 - Haryana, UP & Rajasthan:** Additional scattered areas listed under milder impact

Following Tuesday's red alert, a yellow alert has been issued for the following days, indicating the possibility of continued rain and storms through Thursday.

Meanwhile, the city's air quality showed improvement, with the AQI recorded at a 'satisfactory' 96, and temperatures ranging from a minimum of 29°C to a maximum of 34°C.

Air India Cancels Two More Dreamliner Flights After Deadly Crash

Technical Issues Raise Concerns



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid growing concerns over safety, Air India has cancelled two more international Boeing 787 Dreamliner flights — one from Delhi to Paris and another from Ahmedabad to London — just days after the tragic crash of flight AI-171. The cancellations have heightened scrutiny around the airline's Dreamliner fleet, which has faced multiple technical snags in recent days.

Air India's Delhi-Paris flight (AI 143), scheduled for Tuesday, was grounded after mandatory pre-flight checks revealed a technical issue. The return flight (AI 142) from Paris to Delhi, planned for Wednesday, has also been cancelled due to the delay, which would breach night-time flying restrictions at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport.

"We regret the inconvenience and are arranging alternate travel and hotel accommodation for affected passengers. Full refunds or complimentary rescheduling are also being offered," the airline said in a statement.

Earlier on Tuesday, the airline cancelled its Ahmedabad-London Gatwick service, citing airspace restrictions and precautionary checks in the aftermath of the AI-171 crash — a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that tragically crashed seconds after take-off from Ahmedabad on June 12, killing 241 of the 242 people on board. The aircraft crashed into buildings near the airport, including a college hostel, killing 33 people on the ground as well. Air India has since retired the "AI 171" call sign in tribute to the victims.

Following the crash, at least three other India-bound Boeing 787s operated by Air India, British Airways, and Lufthansa were forced to return to their departure airports due to technical faults. One Air India flight from Hong Kong to Delhi (AI-315) returned just 15 minutes after take-off due to an unspecified issue. Other incidents involved Dreamliners flying from Frankfurt to Hyderabad and London to Chennai.

On Tuesday, a San Francisco-Mumbai flight via Kolkata also experienced a left engine snag, prompting deplaning of passengers in Kolkata. Investigators have recovered the Cockpit Voice Recorder and Flight Data Recorder from the crashed aircraft, and analysis is underway to determine the cause of the fatal incident.



India Expands Nuclear Edge Over Pakistan with Canisterised, MIRV-Ready Missiles: SIPRI Report

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has strengthened its strategic edge over Pakistan by expanding its nuclear arsenal and advancing its delivery systems, according to the latest annual report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), released on June 17, 2025.

The report estimates that India now possesses approximately 180 nuclear warheads, up from 172 in 2024. Alongside this modest expansion, India has made significant strides in modernising its nuclear delivery platforms. Notably, India is developing 'canisterised' missile systems, which allow nuclear warheads to be pre-mounted on missiles and safely transported even during peacetime. This technological leap enhances the readiness and survivability of India's nuclear arsenal.

Among the most advanced additions is the Agni Prime (Agni-P), a new-generation ballistic missile with a range of 1,000 to 2,000 km. It is fully canisterised and more accurate than its predecessors. India also successfully tested the MIRV-capable Agni-5 missile, capable of delivering multiple warheads to independent targets at distances exceeding 5,000 km. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the success of this test, calling it a proud moment for India's defence establishment.

In addition, India tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) with a range of about 3,500 km, marking progress toward a credible second-strike capability.

SIPRI also observed that Pakistan, while continuing to develop its own nuclear platforms and increasing fissile material production, has not kept pace with India's recent advancements. The think tank warned of heightened escalation risks, referencing a brief India-Pakistan military confrontation in early 2025, which raised fears of potential nuclear miscalculation.

SIPRI further noted that China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal, adding about 100 warheads annually and constructing around 350 new ICBM silos. China could match U.S. and Russian missile capabilities by 2030, SIPRI warned.

Globally, the total number of nuclear warheads stood at 12,241, with 9,614 in military stockpiles. Around 3,912 are deployed, with 2,100 on high operational alert. The report highlights a troubling global trend: while the dismantlement of warheads has slowed, deployment and modernisation efforts are accelerating across all nine nuclear-armed states.



Israeli Airstrike Kills Iran's Top Commander Ali Shadmani, Close Aide to Khamenei

TPN Correspondent | Iran

In a significant escalation of the ongoing conflict, Israel announced on Tuesday that its military had killed Ali Shadmani, Iran's top military commander and a close aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in an overnight airstrike. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed that Shadmani, who served as Iran's wartime Chief of Staff, was eliminated during a targeted strike on a command center in the heart of Tehran.

According to a statement released by the Israeli military, the attack took place after "a sudden opportunity" emerged overnight. The airstrike targeted a key military installation, resulting in Shadmani's death. The IDF described Shadmani as "the most senior military commander" and one of the closest figures to Khamenei, playing a central role in both the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the Iranian armed forces. The killing of Shadmani is seen as a major blow to Iran's military leadership. As the wartime Chief of Staff, he was responsible for coordinating operations between various military branches and playing a pivotal role in Iran's military strategy. His death will likely have profound implications for Iran's military operations, especially in the ongoing tensions with Israel.

Israel's military leadership emphasized that the strike was part of its broader efforts to neutralize high-ranking officials involved in planning and executing military operations that threaten Israeli security. Shadmani's death follows a series of Israeli airstrikes targeting key Iranian military figures and installations amid rising tensions in the region. This targeted strike underscores the intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran, with both nations engaged in a dangerous escalation of military actions that have already led to significant casualties on both sides. The situation remains volatile, and the geopolitical consequences of Shadmani's death are yet to unfold.

'Iran a source of instability': G7 expresses support for Israel

TPN Correspondent | Washington

The Group of Seven (G7) nations issued a statement late Monday expressing strong support for Israel and condemning Iran as a principal source of instability in the Middle East. The leaders of the G7, comprising major global economies, reiterated Israel's right to self-defense and called for broader de-escalation in the region as hostilities between Iran and Israel intensified.

The conflict, which erupted on Friday when Israel launched airstrikes on Iran, marks a new chapter in the ongoing tensions between the two Middle Eastern nations. Israel's airstrike was described as a preemptive move aimed at halting Iran's potential nuclear weapon development. Since then, the two countries have exchanged attacks, with Iranian officials reporting over 220 deaths, mostly civilians, while Israel con-



firmed the deaths of 24 civilians on its side.

In the G7 statement, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to Israel's security and labeled Iran as "the principal source of regional instabil-

ity and terror." The statement also underscored that Iran "can never have a nuclear weapon," reinforcing Israel's stance on preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear capabilities. Iran, however, denies any ambitions to develop nuclear weapons, assert-

ing its right to peaceful nuclear technology under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Israel, which is not a signatory to the NPT, is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, although it neither confirms nor denies the claim.

As the situation in the Middle East worsens, U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans to leave the G7 summit early due to the escalating crisis. While the U.S. maintains it is not directly involved in the Israeli strikes, Trump praised Israel's actions, calling them "excellent." Washington has also warned Tehran against targeting U.S. interests or personnel in the region.

The G7 urged the resolution of the Iranian crisis to lead to a broader de-escalation of hostilities, including a ceasefire in Gaza, and vowed to work together to stabilize energy markets affected by the conflict.

Germany, France, and UK Offer Immediate Nuclear Talks to Iran Amid Middle East Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Germany, France, and the United Kingdom have offered to hold immediate negotiations with Iran regarding its nuclear program in a bid to ease escalating tensions in the Middle East. German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, currently visiting the region, emphasized the urgency of de-escalating the conflict between Israel and Iran through diplomatic engagement.

Speaking to German broadcaster ARD on Saturday, Wadephul expressed hope that Iran would accept the offer for talks, despite Tehran's previous reluctance to engage constructively. He stressed that resolving concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions is crucial for achieving lasting peace and ensuring the safety of Israel, the wider region, and Europe.



"The conflict will only end when pressure and influence are applied to both Iran and Israel from all sides," Wadephul said during his visit to Oman on Sunday. He added that there is a shared expectation

that serious efforts must be made in the coming week to interrupt the ongoing spiral of violence.

When asked if he believed Iran's government might fall amid the

crisis, Wadephul stated that he did not think Israel intended to bring down Tehran's administration.

Turning to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Wadephul described the situation as "unacceptable" and called on Israel to allow unrestricted access for aid organizations. He highlighted the severe hunger and suffering of civilians in the enclave and urged an end to their plight.

Wadephul also blamed Hamas for sparking the conflict and insisted that the Islamist group must release hostages it has held since militants launched attacks on Israel in October 2023.

The offer by Germany, France, and the UK for renewed nuclear talks signals a push by European powers to bring diplomacy back to the forefront amid a volatile and dangerous regional conflict.

Iran Accuses Israel of Sabotaging Nuclear Talks Amid Rising Conflict

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused Israel of deliberately trying to derail ongoing nuclear negotiations with the United States as tensions between the two nations escalated sharply. The comments came after Israel launched deadly strikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing several and sparking retaliatory missile attacks by Iran on Israeli territory.



Araghchi stated that Iran's missile barrages on Israel would cease only if Israel ended its military campaign against Iran. He emphasized that Iran's actions were purely in self-defense and that Tehran did not seek to expand the conflict to neighboring countries unless forced. However, he warned that Israeli strikes on the South Pars gas field—shared by Iran and Qatar—were a dangerous provocation aimed at widening the war beyond Iranian borders.

The foreign minister condemned Israel for crossing a "new red line" by attacking Iran's nuclear facilities, which he said was a blatant violation of international law. He further accused Israel of sabotaging the sixth round of Iran-US nuclear talks, which had been scheduled for Sunday but were postponed due to the recent escalations. Araghchi insisted that Israel does not want a diplomatic resolution or an

agreement on the nuclear issue.

Araghchi also accused the United States of backing Israel's military campaign, claiming Iran has solid evidence that American forces and bases supported Israel's attacks. He expressed skepticism over U.S. denials and called on Washington to condemn the Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear sites to demonstrate true goodwill.

Finally, the Iranian minister criticized the United Nations Security Council for its perceived indifference toward Israel's attacks. He said Western nations have unfairly condemned Iran instead of Israel, despite Iran being the party whose sovereignty was violated. The escalating conflict continues to cast a shadow over delicate nuclear negotiations and regional stability.

Russian Missile and Drone Strike on Kyiv Kills 15

Injures Over 100 in One of the Deadliest Attacks of 2025

TPN Correspondent | KYIV

In a devastating overnight assault, Russia launched a massive missile and drone attack on Ukraine, killing at least 15 people and injuring 116 others, Ukrainian officials reported on Tuesday, June 17. The brunt of the attack hit the capital, Kyiv, where explosions rocked the city for hours, leaving widespread destruction and panic.

Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration, confirmed that 14 people were killed and 99 injured in Kyiv alone. A nine-story residential building was directly hit, collapsing dozens of apartments and trapping residents under rubble. Emergency crews, including over 2,000 personnel, rushed to the scene to rescue survivors and tend to the wounded.

In the southern port city of Odesa, a separate Russian drone strike killed one person and injured 17 more, according to Oleh Kiper, head of the regional administration.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the assault as "one of the most terrifying strikes on Kyiv" and revealed that Russian forces had launched more than 440 drones and 32 missiles in the overnight bombardment. He accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of prolonging the war intentionally and criticized global leaders for failing to act decisively.



"There's no military infrastructure here — nothing. Just civilians dying at night," said Olena Lapyshniak, a 49-year-old Kyiv resident whose building was nearly leveled. Witnesses described hearing a whistling sound followed by powerful blasts that destroyed windows and doors in nearby homes.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko revealed that a U.S. citizen died in the attack due to shrapnel wounds. Fires also broke out in multiple districts after Ukrainian air defenses shot down several drones, causing debris to fall across the city.

The attack coincided with the G7 Summit in Canada, which Zelenskyy was scheduled to attend. However, U.S. President Donald Trump unexpectedly returned to Washington early due to rising tensions in the Middle East. Peace talks between Russia and Ukraine have seen little progress, except for planned prisoner exchanges expected next week.

Geopolitical Heat and Rupee Weakness Drag Markets Down

Domestic stock markets fell on Tuesday. Benchmark indices fell moderately. The NSE market breadth, however, turned completely in favor of sellers. The ongoing war in West Asia, Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and continued missile and air strikes led to negative sentiment. The rupee also weakened. With this, cautious investors preferred to take profits. Metal and pharma stocks were hurt by the impact of Trump's tariffs. Overall, Nifty lost 93 points and Sensex lost 212 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,796 in the previous session, opened at 81,869 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 81,427. It reached an intraday high of 81,890. It ended at 81,583, down 212 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,977, touched a low of 24,813 and a high of 24,982. It closed at 24,853, down 93 points. The Nifty Bank fell 230 points to settle at 55,714.



In the Nifty50, 12 companies gained and 38 lost. Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Asian Paints, TCS, and Maruti Suzuki were the top gainers. Adani Enterprises, Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy's, Eternal, and ONGC lost the most. All sectoral indices, except IT, were mixed today. Pharma, healthcare, metal, commodities, consumer durables, oil, media, PSU bank, realty and auto indices rose.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2961 stocks traded, 939 gained and 1946 lost. 57 shares hit 52-week highs and 24 hit 52-week lows. The upper circuit reached 91 and the lower circuit reached 70.

The rupee weakened by 18 paise to settle at 86.24 against the dollar. Silver prices crossed Rs 1.07 lakh per kg on MCX. Profit booking continues in Reliance Power after rising 50% in a month. It has lost 17% in the last four sessions. Today, it touched the 5% lower circuit. Jefferies maintained its buy rating on Naveen Fluorine with a target price of Rs 5280. Defense stocks rose by 5% as the Iran-Israel war entered its fifth day. Oswal Pumps IPO received a response of 19.17 times on the third day in the afternoon. Pharma stocks were shaken after Donald Trump announced that pharma tariffs would be coming soon. CLSA has given an outperform rating to Tata Motors with a target price of Rs 805. Tanla Platforms board has approved the buyback proposal. The board has approved the investment of Rs 2237 crore by the promoter of Zee Entertainment Enterprises. CLSA has maintained an underperform rating for Westlife Food World and Jubilant Food Works. Raminfo has bagged an order worth Rs 474 crore for the installation of rooftop solar projects.

Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)

A Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence, BDL is a leading manufacturer of missiles and allied defense equipment in India. BDL's order book remains robust. As of April 1, 2025, the provisional order book stood at approximately ₹22,700 crore, providing strong revenue visibility for the next 3-4 years. The company also achieved its highest-ever export turnover of over ₹1,200 crore in FY25, a significant growth of over 640% YoY. Analysts remain positive due to the strong order book and the government's increased focus on defense R&D.



Astral Ltd.

Astral is a prominent player in the manufacturing and distribution of piping systems (PVC, CPVC, UPVC) and adhesives. While the YoY consolidated profit showed a slight dip,



the sequential growth indicates an improving trend. Analysts have an average target price of around ₹1637.86, suggesting a slight upside from current levels. The company's expansion in its product portfolio and market reach remains a key driver for future growth, catering to the growing demands of the building materials and infrastructure sectors.

CRISIL Ltd.

CRISIL is a global analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services. CRISIL's management remains optimistic about capitalizing on emerging opportunities in the Indian economy, despite global uncertainties impacting client budgets. The company's focus on domestic operations and strategic investments in technology and talent are expected to sustain its growth momentum across its service lines. CRISIL's strong fundamentals and stable cash flows are key positives.



PB Fintech Ltd (Policybazaar)

PB Fintech operates Policybazaar, India's largest online insurance aggregator, and Paisabazaar, a leading online lending marketplace. The company's growth is fueled by India's massive underinsured market, aggressive expansion into Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, and a strong digital moat. Key strategic levers include the booming health insurance segment, the Point-of-Sale Person (POSP) model, and renewed traction in Paisabazaar. Analysts have mixed views, with some maintaining "Buy" ratings due to strong growth and profitability, while others express caution regarding high valuation and potential slowing new premium growth. The company continues to build a profitable, cash-rich, and defensible business model.



Godrej Industries Ltd (GIL)

Godrej Industries is a diversified conglomerate with interests in chemicals, agri-inputs, estate and property development, hospitality, vegetable oil, finance, and investments. It is also part of the broader Godrej Group, which recently underwent a restructuring. In 2024, the Godrej family restructured its businesses into two independent entities: Godrej Enterprises Group (GEG) and Godrej Industries Group (GIG). Godrej Industries Ltd belongs to the Godrej Industries Group. The strong Q4 and FY25 results indicate a healthy recovery and growth across its diversified segments. The board also approved raising funds up to ₹2,000 crore via NCDs/bonds to support future growth and operations



Russian Oil Freight Rates Ease, EU Price Cap Could Shift Trend



Freight rates for Russian oil shipments from Baltic ports to India have eased from late May to early June, primarily due to increased tanker availability. However, this downward trend may be reversed if the European Union's newly proposed sanctions, including a reduction in the Group of Seven (G7) price cap on Russian crude oil, are implemented.

The EU has put forward a fresh sanction package targeting Russia over the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. A key element is the proposal to lower the G7 price cap on Russian crude from \$60 per barrel to \$45 per barrel. The G7 and EU initially introduced the \$60 price ceiling in late 2022 to limit Moscow's oil revenues by restricting access to Western shipping and insurance services for crude sold above that price.

Since early April, the price of Russia's flagship Urals crude has remained below the \$60 cap, allowing Western shipowners, especially from Greece, to resume transporting Russian oil. This has significantly boosted tanker availability, which in turn has pressured freight rates downward.

As of mid-June, Urals crude prices at Russia's Baltic ports, including Primorsk and Ust-Luga, hovered around \$54.72 per barrel. Correspondingly, shipping costs from these ports to India dropped to between \$5.5 million and \$5.7 million per one-way voyage, down from approximately \$6 million in April and May, and much lower than the \$8 million recorded in early March.

Despite the easing, freight rates remain elevated compared to January levels, when shipping costs were between \$4.7 million and \$4.9 million per trip. The increase earlier this year followed new U.S. sanctions introduced in January targeting Russian energy interests, which forced Russian oil exporters to seek alternative tankers to replace those affected by restrictions. The potential implementation of the EU's proposed lower price cap could tighten market conditions once again, pushing freight rates higher and complicating shipping logistics for Russian crude to India and other destinations.

TCS Powers Digital Transformation for Danish Retailer Salling Group

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has entered into a long-term, strategic partnership with Danish retail conglomerate Salling Group to enhance sustainability, technological innovation, and organizational efficiency. The collaboration will span Salling Group's extensive network of over 2,100 stores and brands across Denmark, Poland, Germany, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, including popular outlets such as BR toy stores, Carl's Jr., Starbucks franchises, and grocers fØtex, Bilka, Netto, and RIMI Baltic.

Under this partnership, TCS will support Salling Group's cloud adoption journey, aiming to stabilize and optimize operations for greater agility, scalability, and sustainability. A key focus will be on accelerating the retail group's digital transformation, especially enhancing its e-commerce platform to better meet rapidly evolving consumer demands.

TCS will leverage its AI-driven cloud operations platform, Cloud Exponence, which employs a Machine First approach to optimize collaboration between machines and humans. This smart managed services solution is designed to operate efficiently in hybrid cloud environments, automating operational tasks with intelligent AI tools while ensuring robust security and compliance. The result is reduced cloud management overheads, consistent service delivery, and comprehensive full-stack infrastructure support. Vikram Sharma, Country Head of TCS Denmark,



highlighted the significance of this collaboration: "Salling Group is an esteemed retail leader with a century-long legacy, deeply embedded in the Danish community and across Europe. With our global retail expertise and technological capabilities, we are committed to helping Salling Group build resilience and leverage new technologies to achieve their strategic ambitions."

TCS has maintained a strong foothold in Denmark for over 30 years, currently employing more than 20,000 professionals who serve leading Nordic enterprises. The company has played a vital role in driving growth and transformation across multiple sectors in the region, including banking, financial services, insurance, telecom, and high-tech industries.

This partnership marks a significant step forward for both companies in embracing digital innovation and sustainability in the retail sector.

New Steel Import Rule May Disrupt Supply Chains, Increase Costs for MSMEs: GTRI

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has raised concerns over a recent regulation issued by India's Ministry of Steel, warning that the new rule could disrupt supply chains and impose significant compliance costs on the country's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

According to GTRI, the sudden implementation of the regulation has caused panic among MSMEs reliant on imported semi-finished steel, with fears of substantial financial losses and potential factory closures. The rule, announced on June 13, mandates that not only finished or semi-finished steel products but also the raw materials used in their manufacture must comply with Indian Standards (IS) and be registered on the Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) portal. This regulation affects all products under India's Quality Control Orders (QCOs). Previously, foreign exporters were required to obtain Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification only for finished steel products. Now, raw materials such as billets, slabs, or hot-rolled coils must also meet BIS standards before import.



For example, if a Malaysian firm supplies steel slabs to a Vietnamese company that processes them into steel sheets for export to India, both companies must now obtain BIS certification.

GTRI pointed out that many importers have already paid advances for shipments scheduled to arrive between June and August, which now risk being deemed non-compliant despite contracts being finalized months earlier.

The report also criticized the exemption of finished products like welded pipes from the traceability requirement, calling it inconsistent, especially since BIS officials already inspect and certify finished products at overseas factories.

GTRI highlighted that BIS certification for upstream suppliers can take six to nine months, yet the ministry enforced the new rule with only three days' notice and no stakeholder consultation. The organization urges the government to reconsider the move, warning that without relief or an extension, widespread factory closures and financial distress among MSMEs could follow.

Why Antarctic Penguins Are the ‘World’s Most Dedicated Dads’

On Father's Day 2025, a touching tribute by National Geographic spotlighted the emperor penguin as a true symbol of selfless fatherhood. In one of Earth's harshest environments, these Antarctic birds show extraordinary dedication to their offspring—earning them the title of the “World’s Most Dedicated Dads.”

In emperor penguin families, once the female lays a single egg, she heads out to sea in search of food. The male is left to care for the egg alone, balancing it delicately on his feet and covering it with a protective flap called a brood pouch. For nearly two months,



the father penguin endures the brutal Antarctic winter without food, never abandoning the egg—not even for a moment.

What makes their parenting even more remarkable is how they survive together. Penguin dads huddle in tight groups to conserve warmth, taking turns standing in the center where it's warmer. This cooperative behavior helps them shield themselves and their precious eggs from fierce polar storms and subzero temperatures.

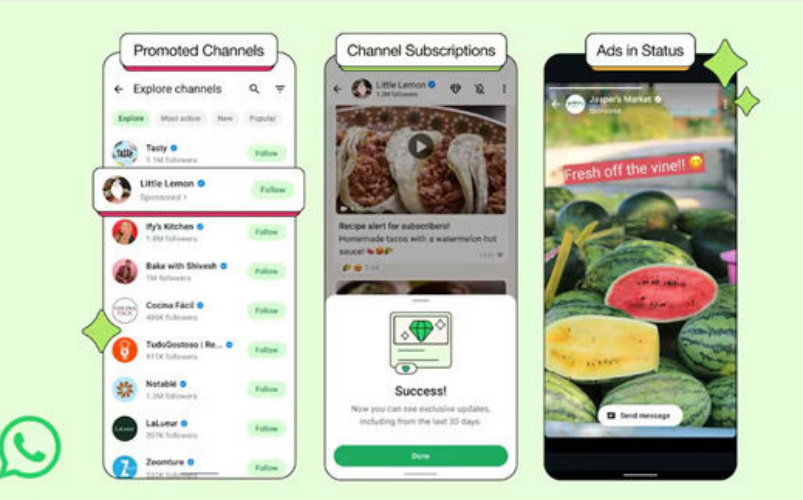
National Geographic's tribute, shared on social media alongside clips from

their documentary Secrets of the Penguins, resonated deeply with viewers. Comments poured in celebrating the emperor penguin's devotion. One user called it “ultimate dad goals,” while another noted how “humans have so much to learn from animals.”

The post ended with a powerful reminder: “Through darkness, hunger and polar storms, these fathers give everything to keep the next generation alive.” On a day meant to celebrate fatherhood, emperor penguins offered a moving example of what it truly means to protect and nurture—against all odds.

WhatsApp Introduces Ads in Status, Channel Subscriptions, and More Business Features

WhatsApp has officially rolled out advertisements and new monetisation tools, marking a significant shift in how the platform supports businesses and creators. The changes, announced by Meta, include ads in the Status section, Channel subscriptions, and Promoted Channels—all aimed at enhancing business growth and creator support on the messaging app.



The image shows three screenshots of the WhatsApp app. The first shows 'Promoted Channels' with a list of channels like 'Little Lemon', 'Ry's Kitchen', and 'Bake with Blush'. The second shows 'Channel Subscriptions' with a 'Success!' message. The third shows 'Ads in Status' with a video ad for 'Fresh off the vine!'.

For the first time, ads will appear in the Status area under the Updates tab. These ads are designed to help users discover businesses and initiate conversations about their offerings. Importantly, WhatsApp has assured users that ads will be confined to the Updates tab and will not appear in personal or group chats, which remain protected by end-to-end encryption.

To personalise ads, WhatsApp will use limited data such as country, city, language, followed Channels, and how users interact with ads. Additionally, ad preferences and data from linked Meta accounts in the Accounts Centre may be used. However, WhatsApp has firmly stated it will never share or sell users' phone numbers to advertisers.

In addition to ads, WhatsApp is introducing Channel subscriptions, allowing users to pay a

monthly fee to access exclusive content from their favourite creators. This also includes tools for admins to promote their Channels for better visibility in the directory.

These updates follow years of speculation about WhatsApp integrating ads. Back in 2018, former WhatsApp VP Chris Daniels hinted that ads would become the platform's primary revenue model. Now, that plan has materialised.

While this move aims to support businesses and content creators, WhatsApp stresses that user privacy remains a top priority, and no private messages, calls, or groups will be used for ad targeting. The changes are a clear signal of WhatsApp's evolving business strategy under Meta's broader ecosystem.

Man and His Golden Retrievers’ Top 7 Selfies From World Tour Are Pure Joy

Traveling the world is a dream for many—but doing it with your furry best friends takes the joy to another level. American vlogger Kevin Bubolz, along with his wife Katie and their golden retrievers, Ellie and Emma, has been capturing hearts with their wholesome globe-trotting adventures. Their latest Instagram reel, titled “Top 7 Global Selfies,” showcases their most joyful travel moments, and it's a guaranteed smile-maker.

The heartwarming video begins in Paris, with Kevin standing in front of the iconic Eiffel Tower. Calling Ellie for a selfie, she bounds over with excitement, hops onto his shoulders, and strikes a grin as he says, “And smile!” From there, the trio journeys through Poland, Canada, Belgium, and Germany—each location becoming the perfect backdrop for tail-wagging selfies.

Emma, the other golden retriever, joins in the fun as the video progresses. The two dogs light up each frame, their happy expressions making every destination even more delightful. A hilarious moment unfolds in Italy, where Kev-



in prepares for another selfie in front of scenic gardens. While Emma jumps into position, Ellie takes off toward a nearby lake, prompting Kevin to laugh and say, “She left us!” The caption of the post reveals their motivation: “Ever since Ellie was a puppy, she's loved the camera. So a few years ago, we started taking selfies and working on smiles. Here are our top 7 global selfies.”

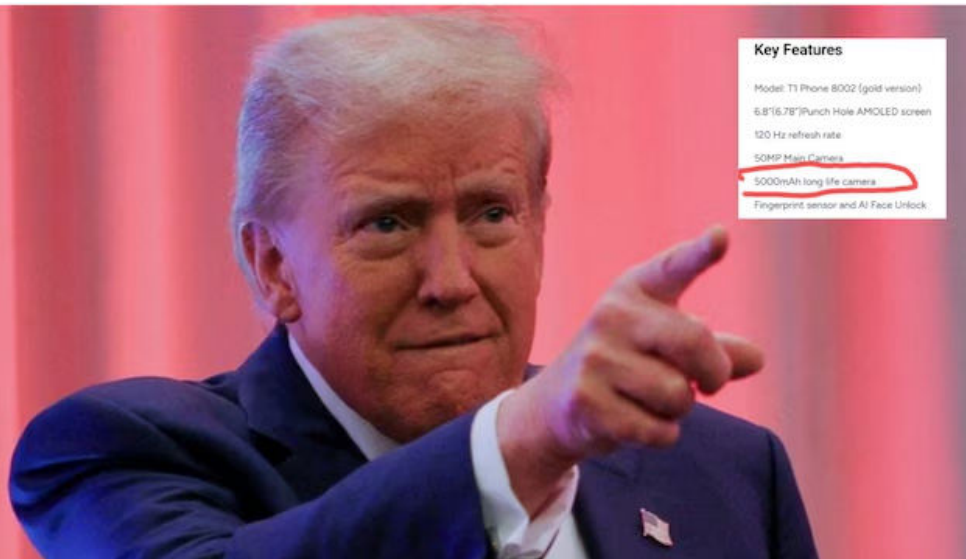
The clip quickly went viral, with viewers leaving heartfelt comments like “We were smiling along” and “This just made my day!” It's a reminder that sometimes, the best travel companions have four legs and the brightest smiles.

For pet lovers and travelers alike, Kevin, Katie, Ellie, and Emma are living proof that joy is best when shared.

Reddit Spots Hilarious Typo in Donald Trump’s Gold T1 Phone Description

Donald Trump's organization recently launched a shiny, gold smartphone dubbed the T1 Phone, and while it's generating buzz for its flashy looks and political branding, it also gained attention for a humorous typo that Reddit users couldn't ignore. The T1 Phone, priced at \$499 (approximately ₹42,000), is part of a larger mobile service initiative from the Trump family. Announced by Eric Trump, the phone targets Trump supporters and comes with a wireless plan priced at \$47.45—a not-so-subtle nod to Trump's status as the 45th and 47th U.S. President.

The smartphone itself features a 6.8-inch Punch Hole AMOLED display, 120Hz refresh rate, Android 15, a 50MP primary camera, and even includes a 3.5mm headphone jack. But the stand-out moment came from its description on the official Trump Mobile website, which read that the T1 is powered by a “5000 mAh long life camera” instead of a battery—an obvious typo that quickly became internet fodder. Reddit users jumped on the mistake. “I heard the battery has 10x optical zoom too,” joked one. An-



other wrote, “This is next-gen tech straight from your mobile king,” poking fun at the over-the-top branding. Some even speculated the phone might be a rebranded Chinese device sold at a premium. “Looks like an Escobar phone,” said one Reddit user, comparing it to the infamous rebranded gold smartphones linked to Pablo Escobar's brother.

Despite the typo and skepticism, the Trump Mobile site emphasizes “American values” in its service—promising simple pricing, reliable coverage, and customer support rooted in “freedom and fairness.” Pre-orders for the T1 Phone are now open, with an expected release in September. Meanwhile, the typo has already secured a viral spot in tech humor history.

UP Woman Leaves Husband Over Instagram Follower Dispute

In a surprising case from Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district, a couple's marriage has hit a breaking point over a disagreement related to social media. What started as a minor dip in Instagram followers spiraled into a domestic conflict, job loss, and police intervention.

Nisha, a resident of Pilkhuwa, is known locally for her regular Instagram reels. After marrying Vijendra from Noida, tensions reportedly began building over her social media activity. According to sources, Vijendra had advised Nisha to reduce her time online and focus more on household responsibilities. Nisha briefly complied, cutting back on content creation.

However, when Nisha noticed she had lost two followers, she believed the decline was linked to her husband's earlier suggestion and blamed him. A heated argument followed, and Nisha left their Noida home to return to her parents' house in Pilkhuwa. She then filed a complaint at the Women's Police Station in Hapur.

The police initiated counselling sessions to mediate between the couple. While tempers have since cooled, the two continue to live separately. Police say reconciliation remains uncertain at this point.



In an unfortunate twist, Vijendra reportedly lost his job amid the chaos, adding financial strain to the already tense situation. He is currently job-hunting and attending interviews in the city.

The peculiar nature of the conflict—triggered by the loss of just two Instagram followers—has become a major talking point in the region. Neither Nisha nor Vijendra have made public comments regarding the issue.

The case highlights the growing impact of social media on personal relationships, raising questions about the balance between digital lives and real-world responsibilities. For now, the couple's future remains unclear, but their story has certainly captured the public's attention.

World Padel League Returns to India with Expanded Season and New Teams



Following a successful debut in India earlier this year, the World Padel League (WPL), managed by Iconik Sports and Events Ltd. and supported by the Indian Padel Federation, is set to return for its highly anticipated third season. Scheduled from August 12 to 16 at Mumbai’s Nescio Centre, this edition promises to deliver thrilling padel action and showcase the sport’s rapid growth in India. Building on the momentum from the previous season held in February 2025, which featured 32 international players competing fiercely, the WPL is expanding its footprint by increasing the number of franchises from four to six. The inclusion of two new teams reflects the surging popularity and development of padel in India, with participation and infrastructure witnessing more than double growth over the past year. Hemali Sharma, Co-Founder of the World Padel League, expressed enthusiasm about the sport’s rising profile in India, calling the expansion a major milestone. “India is fast emerg-

ing as a high-potential growth hub for padel,” she noted, emphasizing WPL’s mission to offer a dynamic, world-class sporting experience that appeals to both dedicated fans and newcomers. Krishnan Kannan, Promoter of Iconik Sports and Events Ltd., highlighted the league’s tailored approach to the Indian market. He remarked, “Season 3 is a celebration of padel’s incredible progress here, with new teams and an extended player roster ensuring the energy this season is electric.” Sneha Abraham Sehgal, President of the Indian Padel Federation, praised WPL’s role in enhancing the sport’s visibility and encouraging local talent to compete on the global stage. The previous season ended with the SG Pipers Cheetahs triumphing over the Vernost Jaguars in a thrilling final, setting high expectations for this August. With fresh teams and fierce rivalries on the horizon, WPL Season 3 promises a festival-like atmosphere and world-class entertainment for padel fans across India.

ICC Plans Four-Day Tests for Smaller Nations in 2027-29 World Test Championship



The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering introducing four-day Test matches for smaller cricketing nations in the 2027-29 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, while allowing traditional five-day Tests to continue for India, Australia, and England, according to recent reports. This significant change aims to encourage more Test cricket among emerging teams by reducing the time and costs involved in hosting longer matches. At the WTC final at Lord’s, ICC Chair Jay Shah reportedly expressed support for sanctioning four-day Tests starting with the 2027-29 cycle. However, marquee series like the Ashes, the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and the newly named Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy between England and India will maintain the traditional five-day format. The Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy is set to debut with the first Test at Headingley this Friday. Four-day Tests are not new to international cricket. The ICC

first permitted them in 2017 for bilateral series, with England recently playing Zimbabwe over four days at Trent Bridge, following similar matches against Ireland in 2019 and 2023. Smaller nations have often been hesitant to host Tests due to the time commitment and expenses, but four-day matches could allow a full three-Test series to be completed in under three weeks. To compensate for the reduced days, playing hours in four-day Tests would be extended to ensure a minimum of 98 overs per day, instead of the usual 90. This adjustment aims to reduce time lost during matches and keep the game competitive. The upcoming 2025-27 WTC cycle will continue with the existing five-day format. It will feature 27 Test series among nine countries, including 17 two-Test series and six three-Test series. England, Australia, and India are set to play multiple five-day Tests, preserving their traditional role in the longest format of cricket.

Smriti Mandhana Reclaims ICC ODI Batting No. 1 Spot After Six Years

India’s star opener Smriti Mandhana has climbed back to the pinnacle of the ICC Women’s ODI batting rankings after a gap of more than six years. On Tuesday, Mandhana surged to the world No. 1 position, ending a long wait since she last held the top spot at the beginning of 2019. The left-handed batter’s return to the summit comes after South African captain Laura Wolvaardt, who previously occupied the No. 1 ranking, dropped 19 rating points, allowing Mandhana to reclaim her place at the top. While Mandhana has consistently featured among the top 10 ODI batters over recent years, this is her first time back as the leading batter in the world since her initial rise. Mandhana’s resurgence reflects her remarkable form and consistency in international cricket. Known for her elegant strokeplay and ability to anchor innings, the Indian opener has been a vital cog in India’s batting lineup across formats. Her performances have played a key role in India’s recent successes in women’s cricket, both at home and abroad. This milestone is significant not only for Mandhana personally but also for Indian women’s cricket, which has seen steady growth and increasing global recognition over the last decade. Mand-



hana’s return to the No. 1 ODI batting ranking highlights the depth of talent in the Indian squad and underscores her status as one of the finest batters in the game today. As Mandhana reclaims her top spot after a six-year gap, cricket fans and ex-

perts alike will be keen to see how long she can maintain her dominance in the ODI format. With her skill and determination, Mandhana appears poised to continue making valuable contributions to Indian cricket in the years to come.

Chelsea Cruise, Boca and Benfica Brawl in Dramatic FIFA Club World Cup Day

The 2025 FIFA Club World Cup served up a thrilling day of action on Monday, as Chelsea began their campaign with a comfortable 2-0 win over Los Angeles FC, while Boca Juniors and Benfica delivered a fiery 2-2 draw in one of the most dramatic encounters of the tournament so far.



Chelsea 2-0 Los Angeles FC (Group D)
Chelsea showcased their class with a dominant performance against MLS champions Los Angeles FC. The London club controlled possession and dictated tempo from the outset, eventually securing the win through goals from Pedro Neto and Enzo Fernández.

Neto opened the scoring in the 34th minute, collecting a long ball from Nicolas Jackson, turning LAFC defender Ryan Hollingshead inside out, and calmly finishing

past veteran goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. Chelsea continued to press and maintain control, with 65.3% possession and 17 shots compared to LAFC’s seven.

Their second came in the 79th minute when substitute Liam Delap whipped in a sharp cross that Fernández converted with precision. While the match had a few heated moments, including a confrontation between Neto and Denis Bouanga before halftime, Chelsea’s compo-

sure and depth proved decisive.

Goalkeeper Robert Sánchez made four important saves to preserve the clean sheet, while Chelsea’s seven corners to LAFC’s one reflected their attacking dominance.

Boca Juniors 2-2 Benfica (Group C)
In contrast, the clash between Boca Juniors and Benfica in Miami Gardens erupted into chaos and drama. Boca raced to a 2-0 lead with goals from

Miguel Merentiel (21’) and Rodrigo Battaglia (27’), capitalizing on sharp wing play and aerial superiority.

Benfica halved the deficit before halftime through a penalty converted by Ángel Di María, awarded after a VAR review of Nicolás Otamendi being fouled. The drama intensified as Boca midfielder Ander Herrera was shown a red card from the bench for dissent.

Andrea Belotti was then sent off in the 72nd minute for Benfica following a dangerous high challenge, yet the Portuguese side equalized through Otamendi’s powerful header in the 84th minute. Boca’s Jorge Figo received a red in the 88th minute, but the Argentine club held on with nine men to secure a hard-fought point in an explosive encounter.

India Juniors End Europe Tour with Shootout Loss to Netherlands

The Indian junior women’s hockey team concluded a strong European tour with a narrow 2-3 shootout defeat to the Netherlands after a hard-fought goalless draw in regulation time. The match, held in the Netherlands, was the final fixture of their preparatory tour for the upcoming Women’s Junior World Cup scheduled for December 2025.

Heading into the game on the back of four straight victories—three against Belgium and one against Australia—India showed resilience and tactical discipline against a technically superior Dutch side. The encounter saw both teams generating multiple scoring opportunities across the four quarters, but neither could break the deadlock due to solid defensive structures and outstanding goalkeeping.

Despite the high intensity, the regulation time ended 0-0, pushing the match into a shootout. For India, Lalrinpuii and Priyanka Yadav successfully converted their attempts, showcasing composure under pressure. However, the Netherlands managed to clinch the win with



clinical finishes from Imme de Leeuw, Roos Alkemade, and Lotte Rust.

Although the match ended in a loss, the Indian team’s overall performance during the tour was commendable. They demonstrated consistent improvement, strategic maturity, and an ability to match up against top-tier international opponents.

This European tour served as a crucial component of India’s preparations for

the Women’s Junior World Cup. The experience gained from playing against strong teams like Belgium, Australia, and the Netherlands is expected to be invaluable in building confidence and sharpening skills ahead of the global event.

The Indian junior squad now returns home with positive momentum and clear areas for growth as they continue to gear up for the challenges that lie ahead in December.



Rana Naidu Meets Kattappa: “Why Did You Kill Baahubali?” – A Hilarious Crossover Promo Goes Viral

The popular Netflix web series Rana Naidu, starring Daggubati Venkatesh and Rana Daggubati, has returned with a highly anticipated Season 2. Available in multiple languages including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and English, the show continues to captivate audiences with its gritty drama and intense performances.



As part of the ongoing promotional campaign for Season 2, the makers have released a special video that’s gaining attention for its unique and humorous crossover. In the video, the legendary character Kattappa from Baahubali (played by Sathyaraj) makes a surprise appearance in the Rana Naidu universe. The scene is set in the dead of night, with Rana Naidu (Rana Daggubati) restless and unable to sleep, overwhelmed by family issues and emotional struggles.

Just then, Kattappa arrives and questions Rana in a dramatic yet comical tone: “Are you the ruler of Mahishmati, and still suffering sleepless nights over family issues?” To this, Rana humorously responds, “What did I even do in the kingdom of Mahishmati? Now I’m just a family man

with real-life problems.”

The most hilarious moment comes when Kattappa, seemingly having watched the Rana Naidu series, suddenly asks Rana, “Why did you kill Baahubali?” In a clever twist, Rana shoots back with a smile, “You’re the one who killed him!” To which Kattappa jokingly replies, “Because you asked me to!”

This light-hearted promotional skit blends iconic cinematic moments with modern-day storytelling, drawing laughter and nostalgia alike. It’s a brilliant move that not only promotes Rana Naidu Season 2 but also nods to the epic legacy of Baahubali. Fans are loving the crossover and sharing it widely across social media platforms.

Can “Golden-Leg” Samyuktha Revive Puri Jagannadh’s Fortunes?

Renowned director Puri Jagannadh is gearing up for a powerful comeback with his upcoming film starring the versatile Vijay Sethupathi in the lead role. The project is steadily gaining buzz, thanks to its ever-growing star-studded cast. With every new update, expectations from this yet-to-be-titled film are reaching new heights.



After confirming National Award-winning actress Tabu for a crucial supporting role and roping in Kannada star Duniya Vijay for a key character, the makers have now officially announced Samyuktha as the female lead. Samyuktha, often referred to as the “golden-leg” heroine of Tollywood, has become a lucky charm at the box office—four of her five Telugu films have turned out to be commercial successes.

Given director Puri Jagannadh’s recent slump at the box office, fans and industry insiders alike are curious to see whether Samyuktha’s golden streak can bring back some much-needed luck to the seasoned filmmaker. With her growing popularity and consistent track record, her presence could be a game-changer.

Welcoming Samyuktha to the team, the

production house Puri Connects shared on social media:

“Grace in her stride. Fire in her eyes. Welcoming the stunning @iamsamyuktha_ on board into the electrifying world of #PuriSethupathi. A #PuriJagannadh film. Starring Makkalselvan @VijaySethuOffl, #Tabu, and @OfficialViji. Produced by Puri Jagannadh & @Charmmeofficial under @puriconnects.”

The film is being produced by Puri Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur under their home banner, Puri Connects. With a powerful cast and renewed creative energy, the film is set to go on floors soon. Whether this combination proves to be a turning point in Puri’s career remains to be seen—but it certainly has all the right ingredients.

Supreme Court Clears Thug Life Release in Karnataka, Slams Mob-Driven Censorship



In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India has allowed the release of Thug Life in Karnataka, pulling up the state government for yielding to mob pressure and failing to uphold the rule of law. The film, starring Kamal Haasan and directed by Mani Ratnam, was caught in controversy following Haasan’s remarks on the Kannada language, which triggered protests from pro-Kannada groups.

As tensions rose, the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) halted the release of the film, citing threats of violence. The Supreme Court took strong exception to this, stating that a film cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) cannot be blocked due to mob pressure, political sentiments, or threats of unrest. The Court transferred the case to itself, overriding the Karnataka High Court, which had controversially suggested that Haasan issue an apology — a move the apex court called an “overreach” of judicial boundaries.

The Court also directed the Karnataka government to ensure police protection for theatres choosing to screen Thug Life and demanded a compliance report by June 18, 2025. This ruling is being hailed as a significant win for artistic freedom and a bold stance against mob censorship and unofficial bans.

Despite the legal green light, the film’s release date in Karnataka is yet to be confirmed. Meanwhile, Thug Life has underperformed at the box office, with mixed reviews and a lukewarm audience response. Industry sources suggest that the film may arrive on OTT platforms soon.

This Supreme Court intervention reinforces the constitutional protection of creative expression, sending a strong message against the rising trend of mob vetoes in India’s entertainment industry.

Prabhas’ ‘The Raja Saab’ Teaser Creates History with 59 Million Views in 24 Hours

The much-anticipated teaser of The Raja Saab was finally unveiled on June 16, and it has taken the internet by storm. Within just 24 hours of its release, the teaser racked up an astonishing 59 million views across all languages, instantly catapulting it to the No. 1 trending spot on YouTube.

Directed by Maruthi, the teaser showcases Prabhas in a charming and stylish avatar — a look that fans have long been waiting to see. The actor’s suave presence, paired with sleek visuals and high-energy sequences, has ignited a massive buzz around the film. Social media platforms are flooded with reactions from fans who are watching and rewatching the teaser, praising the fresh vibe and presentation.

The makers have teased that the actual film holds far more than what the teaser reveals, calling it just the “tip of the iceberg.” This statement has only

heightened excitement, with the full trailer now one of the most anticipated events for fans.

The Raja Saab boasts a strong cast, including Nidhhi Agerwal, Malavika Mohanan, and Riddhi Kumar as the female leads. Adding to the star power, veteran actor Sanjay Dutt plays the pivotal role of Prabhas’ grandfather. The film is being produced by People Media Factory and features music composed by Thaman, promising a power-packed soundtrack to match the film’s grandeur.

With its grand theatrical release set for December 5, 2025, The Raja Saab has made a thunderous entry into the limelight. If the teaser is anything to go by, this could be one of the biggest cinematic events of the year, setting the stage for Prabhas’ triumphant return to the big screen.



Candid Click of Ram Charan and Buchi Babu Goes Viral as Peddi Hype Grows

As excitement builds around Peddi, one of Tollywood’s most eagerly awaited upcoming films, a candid photo of Global Star Ram Charan with director Buchi Babu Sana has set social media ablaze. Shared by Buchi Babu himself on Instagram, the picture captures a lighthearted moment between the actor and director, and fans couldn’t get enough of it. The image quickly went viral, with fans celebrating the duo’s chemistry and praising the star’s charisma.

Peddi marks a powerful collaboration, featuring Ram Charan in the lead alongside Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, known for his storytelling prowess, the film promises to be a unique cinematic experience blending emotion, action, and visual grandeur.

The shooting is currently progressing at a swift pace, with the team aiming to complete production in time for its much-anticipated release on March 27, 2026 — a date that also marks Ram Charan’s birthday, making it a double celebration for fans. Behind the scenes, the cast and crew are working hard to deliver a film that lives up to the massive expectations surrounding it.

In addition to Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor, Peddi features an impressive ensemble cast including Sandalwood superstar Shiva Rajkumar, veteran actor Jagapathi Babu, and Bollywood actor Divyenndu Sharma, among others. The film is backed by Vriddhi Cinemas and boasts a powerful musical score composed by the



Oscar-winning maestro A.R. Rahman, adding yet another layer of anticipation.

With viral moments like this candid click and an all-star team both in front of and behind the camera, Peddi is shaping up to be one of the biggest film events of 2026. Fans eagerly await more glimpses as the journey to the big screen continues.