




# Raids on Manchu Vishnu Ahead of ‘Kannappa’ Release

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## CM’s Vision Drives Investment Push



**Telangana eyes global investments in defense, aerospace, and future cities**

**CM Revanth proposes Hyderabad-Bangalore defense corridor**

**Safran, BrahMos, IFCI show interest**

**TPN | Suraj Reddy**  
**Hyderabad:** In a determined bid to attract large-scale investments and redefine Telangana’s development trajectory, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is holding key discussions with major global companies across crucial sectors such as defense, aerospace, automobiles, sports, and future urban planning. During a high-level meeting, CM Revanth Reddy met with BrahMos Aerospace MD Dr. Jaiteerth Joshi, Hyderabad Executive Director Surampudi Sambasiva Prasad, and DRDL Director G.A. Srinivasa Murthy. He urged them to further expand BrahMos operations in Hyderabad. Highlighting Telangana’s strategic advantage, the Chief Minister proposed the establishment of a defense corridor between Hyderabad and Bangalore, assuring that the state’s infrastructure is well-positioned to support such a project. In parallel, to develop international business relations, Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu conducted a roundtable with representatives from the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCI) at the Dr. BR Ambedkar Secretariat. The discussions focused on bringing in investments for the ambitious “Future City,” a visionary project being developed over 30,000 acres to cater to the needs of the next generation. The minister described the project as more than just a city—an initiative designed to introduce the Telangana brand globally through international collaborations. French aerospace major Safran is also stepping up its presence in Telangana. Having already established two production facilities in Hyderabad; the company is now launching a new venture—Safran Aircraft

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**BRS chief KCR’s thinking on alliance with BJP?**

**BRS’ strategy to maintain local power through alliance with BJP?**

**BJP leaders demand CBI inquiry into phone tapping affair**

**This demand is to put pressure on BRS?**

**BJP’s stance with the CBI under the control of the Centre**

# BJP–BRS Alliance Buzz Heats Up Telangana Politics

**TPN | Srikanth Gurruram**  
**Hyderabad:** Telangana politics is about to take a new turn once again. It seems BRS chief KCR is engaged in some serious strategic thinking. Rumors, speculations, and backdoor negotiations have intensified over a possible alliance with the BJP. The fact that these discussions have picked up pace during the local body elections has given them added political significance. According to reliable sources, the Gulabi Boss, who suffered a setback in the recent Assembly elections, is now exploring an alliance with the BJP for the upcoming local body polls. It appears that the former Chief Minister believes such a tie-up might help him regain lost ground at the grassroots level. Amid concerns that public support for the Pink Party is on the decline due to recent political developments, analysts believe that KCR sees an alliance with the BJP as a means to prevent a complete erosion of influence, especially in weak zones. He is said to be planning not only to retain local political control through this alliance but also to prepare for the future — particularly the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Meanwhile, BJP leaders are demanding that the controversial phone tapping case be handed over to the CBI. This move is being seen as an attempt to put pressure on the BRS. At the same time, there are debates around the fact that the CBI functions under the control of the central government, which could potentially make it a tool of political influence in such situations. Yet, the BJP has remained politically silent regarding the prospect of an alliance with the BRS. While the BJP and BRS have distinct and often conflicting agendas at the state level,

Will it remain just a campaign... or will an alliance be forged?

Regional performance of INC, BRS, BJP in Telangana Assembly Elections 2023

Alliance idea amid suspicions that support for the Pink Party is decreasing

Potential for political revival if they join hands with BJP in weak areas



Zone	INC	BRS	BJP
North Zone	34%	40%	26%
West Zone	38%	42%	20%
Hyderabad Zone	38%	40%	22%
South Zone	36%	40%	24%
East Zone	38%	40%	22%

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# Sharing a Home Without Marriage... The New Co-Living Culture

**Foreign Culture Growing in Hyderabad**

**Co-Living Rooms Spreading Freely**

**Mistakes in Rooms in the Name of Jobs and Study**

**Dirty Deeds in the Name of Privacy...**

One such recent trend is the rise of co-living spaces — modern pay-to-stay accommodations where boys and girls live together under the same roof. Due to the rising cost of hostels and independent housing, many youngsters are opting to share living spaces to reduce expenses. Though it may sound financially practical, allegations are now surfacing that this idea is being misused. While co-living is a common concept in foreign countries, it is gaining momentum in Hyderabad, particularly in areas like Hi-Tech City, Gachibowli, Madhapur, Kondapur, Rayadurgam, and the Financial District — all major IT hubs. These areas attract students and professionals from various states. Since most house owners avoid renting out to bachelors, co-living has become the go-to option for many, and it’s spreading rapidly across the city. The rent for such rooms often runs into thousands per month. Taking advantage of the demand, many have turned this into a business — constructing multi-storey buildings and renting them out not just monthly, but even weekly or hourly. They advertise home-cooked food and free WiFi. In practice, some of these co-living spaces are operating worse than lodges. In high-tech zones like Madhapur, Gachibowli, and Kondapur, such setups have mushroomed across the landscape.



## MEMU TRAINS TO BE PRODUCED IN KAZIPET FROM MAY 2026

- MEMU coaches to be manufactured at Kazipet RMU
- Production to begin in May 2026 after completion of ₹716 crore unit
- Railways aims to boost rural and semi-urban connectivity

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
Union Minister for Coal and Mines and Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss the status of various railway projects related to Telangana. During the meeting, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav announced that Main Line Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains will soon be introduced to enhance railway travel convenience across the state. He revealed that these next-generation MEMU trains, comprising 16 to 20 coaches, will be produced at the Kazipet Rail Manufacturing Unit (RMU) in Telangana. The move is aimed at improving regional rail connectivity, especially to rural and semi-urban areas, and will be of particular use during the festive season, when passenger demand peaks. The Kazipet RMU, which is being built at a cost of ₹716 crore, is progressing at a rapid pace and is expected to be completed by January 2026. Full-scale production of MEMU coaches is scheduled to begin in May 2026, the Railway Minister added. This development marks a significant step in decentralizing coach production and strengthening the railway infrastructure in Telangana, aligning with the Centre’s broader push for regional connectivity and modernization of passenger rail services.



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# Obscene Statue Removed After True Point News Report

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
A controversial statue installed outside a prominent businessman's residence at Jubilee Hills Diamond House was removed following strong backlash and swift police intervention, after True Point News published a viral report questioning the indecent nature of the installation. The news article, titled "Is this Nayana's depraved work? Such a statue in front of the house?", highlighted the inappropriateness of the statue prominently displayed along the main road. The report triggered widespread criticism on social media, prompting immediate attention from law enforcement authorities. Sources confirmed that police officials took the matter seriously and issued a stern warning to the businessman.



They clearly instructed that if the statue was not removed immediately, legal cases would be registered. In

response, the security personnel were called in and the statue was promptly taken down. Authorities have also made it clear that strict action will be taken not only against offensive statues, but also against posters, banners, and public comments that violate decency or undermine social values. Officials emphasized that any such attempts to display indecent or provocative material in public spaces will face legal consequences. The swift response underscores the growing impact of digital journalism and the role of media in prompting accountability. The incident serves as a warning to those misusing public visibility for objectionable displays and reaffirms the police's commitment to preserving public decorum.

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## BJP–BRS Alliance Buzz Heats Up Telangana Politics

there seems to be a mutual interest in forming tactical alliances at the local level. Political analysts observe that while the BJP is strong in some districts, it may need BRS support to ensure electoral dominance. Similarly, BRS, which is weaker in some pockets, might be eyeing BJP support for a better performance. Amid all these developments, questions are being raised: Is all this talk of a BJP-BRS alliance just a political stunt? Or is there a deeper political calculation at play? The most pressing question now is whether these two parties, who have previously lashed out at each other in the public domain, are now willing to join hands for mutual gain. Such moves may not go down well with the electorate. But, as often repeated in political circles — there are no permanent enemies or permanent friends in politics. Remembering this fact, no matter what strategies are being drawn behind closed doors, the final judgment will rest with the people. So, will this alliance remain just part of a publicity campaign? Or will it mark the beginning of a new political transaction? The debate among political analysts continues.

## CM's Vision Drives Investment Push

Engine Services. General Manager Pierre Fernandez confirmed that Hyderabad will serve as the hub for maintenance and overhaul of M-88 engines used in Rafale fighter jets. The new facility is expected to create 150 jobs by the end of next year, with an additional 750 positions in the pipeline. Despite the proactive push from the government, the opposition has raised concerns that these announcements may remain limited to publicity. They allege that past investment promises have seen slow implementation and question whether the required infrastructure and conducive business environment have actually been provided to the companies being courted. Political analysts suggest that for Telangana to truly benefit, these plans must move beyond discussions and materialize on the ground. Initiatives such as the Future City, Sports University, and Defense Corridor need full implementation to become transformative opportunities. The success of Telangana's investment strategy hinges on turning ambitious announcements into actionable outcomes. While the government's swift response and global outreach efforts are praiseworthy, the real test lies in execution. With collaborations forming with major players like BrahMos, Safran, and IFCI, the momentum is strong. But whether these partnerships yield tangible benefits or remain confined to press notes is a question only time will answer.

## Sharing a Home Without Marriage... The New Co-Living Culture

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao has expressed deep concern over this trend. He urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take strict action against these establishments, saying they are spreading like wild weeds. VH stated that co-living spaces are luring young men and women into taking the wrong path. He questioned the logic and morality behind unrelated men and women living together in the name of shared expenses. He further added that the influence of foreign culture, weekend and rave parties is already leading the youth astray, and now co-living adds another layer of risk. VH emphasized that such arrangements bypass basic security norms. Unlike gender-segregated hostels, which come under police

surveillance with CCTV cameras and trained guards, co-living spaces offer no such oversight. It is this lack of regulation and increased privacy that draws many young people toward them. Analysts also point out that co-living has become a platform for unmarried cohabitation under the guise of cost-sharing. They argue that this culture could have long-term social consequences and that strict government action is needed to prevent misuse. Now, all eyes are on how Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Telangana police department will respond to this growing concern. Will action be taken to regulate or restrict co-living spaces in Hyderabad? Or will the trend continue unchecked?

## HC Orders Telangana Local Body Elections by Sept 30

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**

In a significant development, the Telangana High Court has directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to conduct local body elections across the state by September 30. The court issued this directive following a petition challenging the delay in holding elections for rural local bodies. The court also instructed that the division of wards—a key prerequisite for conducting polls—must be completed within the next 30 days. This ruling clears the path for the much-awaited Sarpanch and Panchayat elections, which are now set to take place by the end of September. Earlier, the Telangana government had sought 30 days from the SEC to make arrangements for conducting the elections, while requesting 60 days' time from the High Court to carry out preparatory work. Taking all arguments into account, the court has now laid down a firm timeline to ensure timely completion of the democratic process at the grassroots level.



The coming weeks are likely to witness increased political activity at the village level as parties prepare for the elections in accordance with the court's deadline.

## Telangana Leaders Unite Against Drugs at Jalavihar Event

**Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Adluri Laxman lead anti-drug rally**

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

On the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a special awareness program was held at Jalavihar, Hyderabad, where prominent leaders and officials came together to send a clear message against drug consumption and distribution. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Adluri Laxman Kumar participated as chief guests and unveiled posters as part of the anti-drug campaign. A massive anti-drug rally was also organized, which saw the participation of officials, students, activists, and citizens. Notable attendees at the event included Government Whip Birla Ilaiah, GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijaya Lakshmi,

Corporation Chairman Mettu Saikumar, Veeraiah, Gyaneshwar Mudiraj, Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau DG Sandeep Sandalya, senior IAS officers Anitha Ramachandran and Shailaja, Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand, Rachakonda CP Sudheer Babu, and actor Nikhil among others. Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized the urgent need to protect society from the drug menace. "We can compromise on many issues, but there should be zero tolerance when it comes to drugs. Strict action must be taken without hesitation in drug-related cases," he stated. He warned that drugs pose a silent but dangerous threat to the youth and future generations. "What may start as a

thrill can quickly turn into a destructive habit, ruining lives and futures," he said. The minister called on society to ostracize those who endanger children's futures through the spread of narcotics. "There is no need for enemies from outside — if addiction becomes the enemy within, our entire future is at risk. We must act unitedly," Ponnam Prabhakar said, urging citizens to take a pledge not to consume or tolerate drugs, and to inform the police about any related activities. The event was part of Telangana's broader initiative to combat drug abuse through awareness, enforcement, and community participation. The rally concluded with a strong call to action: Say No to Drugs, Save Our Future.

## MLA Sabita Indra Reddy visits HUDA Complex, hears public grievances

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

MLA Sabita Indra Reddy on Tuesday visited the HUDA Complex in Saroor Nagar division and interacted with the local residents to understand their civic concerns. During her visit, she expressed strong dissatisfaction with the functioning of local municipal authorities, particularly the GHMC and the Water Board. Speaking to the media after her inspection, Sabita said that the Telangana government under former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao had ensured proper systems were in place for maintaining cleanliness and clearing silt from drains ahead of every monsoon season. "Back then, there was no need for a separate 100-day sanitation plan. Instructions were clear, and action was taken promptly," she said. The MLA instructed GHMC officials present to complete the second phase of the SNDP drain works without delay, emphasizing the urgency due to the ongoing rains and water stagnation issues in the area. Sabita also came down heavily on the LB Nagar Zonal Commissioner, alleging that he did not even respond to her calls regarding urgent civic issues. "When I called about the problems faced by the people, there was no response. How will people's issues be resolved if the Zonal Commissioner



himself is unresponsive?" she asked. She further added that both GHMC and the Water Board are claiming lack of funds as a reason for inaction. "If officials continue to ignore problems and blame funds, how will we bring solutions to the people?" Sabita questioned, expressing disappointment at the bureaucratic apathy. The MLA's remarks have brought renewed attention to the persistent civic issues in Saroor Nagar, especially during the monsoon season, and raised questions over the responsiveness and accountability of local municipal leadership.



# Congress Will Win All Upcoming Polls in Telangana: TPCC Chief



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
TPCC President and MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud addressed the media at Gandhi Bhavan, issuing a sharp political statement against BRS

and BJP while asserting the Congress party's confidence and preparedness for upcoming local body and Jubilee Hills by-elections. Goud reiterated Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's call for an open debate

**Congress ready to face BRS over 10-year rule vs 18-month performance**  
**Local polls to be held as per SC orders, Congress committed to BC reservations**

comparing 10 years of BRS rule with the Congress government's 18-month governance, calling it a "golden period" for Telangana. He confirmed that local body elections will be held in line with the Supreme Court verdict, and assured that the Congress is firmly committed to implementing BC reservations. "We will discuss and finalize the roadmap for implementing BC reservations in local polls," he added. Goud emphasized the Congress government's pro-farmer stance, citing the recent deposit of ₹9,000 crore into farmers' accounts within nine

days under the Rythu Bharosa scheme. "This is proof that the Congress is a farmer-friendly government," he said. Touching on internal party strategy, he said that PCC and PAC meetings held the previous day were successful and focused on preparing the party for GHMC elections and the Jubilee Hills by-election. "We are not only contesting Jubilee Hills, but we are also certain of victory," Goud asserted. He accused the BRS of having failed to complete any major project in their 10-year tenure, including the Kaleshwaram project, and alleged massive irregularities in execution. Re-

ferring to phone tapping revelations, he said, "It is one of the darkest chapters in Indian democratic history... even families of film stars and BRS MLAs were not spared. Everyone involved will be punished." In a strong criticism of BRS leader Kavitha, Goud questioned her moral ground to speak about women's development, and also condemned BJP MP Krishnaiah for siding with her. "If Kavitha says there are demons in BRS, then there are gods in the Congress," he remarked sharply. He listed out the Congress government's inclusivity, noting that five Dalits were induct-

ed into the Cabinet, and that ₹1.04 lakh crore has been allocated for farmer welfare. He also alleged that the central government is discriminating against Telangana by denying rightful funds and schemes. On water issues, Goud raised pointed questions: "Why did Harish Rao sign on the Krishna water sharing issue? Wasn't it BRS that gave the go-ahead for the Pothireddy project?" He concluded with a message of confidence, declaring that the Congress party will win every election held in Telangana, and no falsehoods or social media campaigns by the BRS can change the public mood.

## We Will Promote Cottage Industries and Build a Healthy Telangana



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Wednesday reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to promoting cottage industries and traditional crafts as a way to generate employment and build a healthy, sustainable society. Speaking at the inauguration of a special exhibition organized by the BC Welfare Department at Tank Bund, he emphasized the economic and social value of goods produced by artisans and traditional craftsmen. He said that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is focused on allocating dedicated funds to BC Corporations and uplifting communities through targeted welfare initiatives. Bhatti urged the public to actively support the artisans by visiting the exhibition, purchasing eco-friendly, health-beneficial handmade products, and spreading awareness about Telangana's

rich craft traditions. The exhibition runs from June 25 to 29, featuring handmade items from artisans not just from Hyderabad, but from districts across the state. Key displays include clay utensils by potters, bamboo crafts by Medari artisans, beadwork, and handloom fabrics from Pochampally, Gadwal, and Narayanpet. The Gouda community has also set up stalls displaying Neera-based products, while members of the Bestha community showcased traditional fish dishes, which were sampled by the ministers. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Vakiti Srihari, personally interacted with the artisans, appreciated their work, and reiterated the government's support for their growth and welfare. He concluded by appealing to the people: "Your encouragement can revive generations of traditional craftsmanship and help build a vibrant, inclusive Telangana."

## Stop Co-Living Trend in Hyd: VH Urges CM and IT Minister

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Former MP and senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao (VH) raised strong concerns over the increasing trend of co-living arrangements in Hyderabad, particularly in Hi-Tech City, urging Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and IT Minister Sridhar Babu to intervene and bring the practice to a halt. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, VH remarked that the practice of boys and girls staying together in the same hostels under the guise of co-living is "damaging to the city's cultural fabric." "If Hyderabad is to become the number one city, such practices must be stopped immediately," he said. He appealed to the NSUI student wing to take note and actively address the issue. Referring to a recent series of disturbing criminal incidents, VH expressed deep concern over what he called a "moral decline in society." "In the past, there were faction-related murders.

Now we are witnessing atrocities like a woman killing her husband or a daughter involved in her mother's murder. These are signs of where society is heading," he stated with distress. VH strongly condemned the rise in 'love murders' and questioned the silence of human rights organizations, which he said are quick to react to other forms of violence but fail to speak out on these growing social issues. "Human rights groups raise their voices for Naxalite encounters. But why are they silent on brutal love murders? They should speak up now," he urged. He also called upon psychologists and intellectuals to reflect on what is going wrong with today's youth and social structure. He emphasized the importance of promoting role models like Savitribhai Phule among women, saying every woman should draw inspiration from her life and principles.

## Telangana To Take Legal Route Against Banakacherla Project: Uttam

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Irrigation Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday declared that the state government will initiate legal action against the Andhra Pradesh government's Godavari-Banakacherla Link project, calling it illegal and a threat to Telangana's water rights. Addressing a high-level review meeting at Jala Saudha, the minister instructed officials to immediately prepare the legal roadmap to challenge the project and defend Telangana's interests. The move follows a recent representation made to Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy in Delhi, urging the Centre to withhold approval for the project.

To further reinforce Telangana's stance, the minister announced a detailed presentation on the Banakacherla issue at Praja Bhavan on June 30 at 3 PM, including proof that the project originated during the previous BRS regime. In a key decision, two Army tunnel experts are being inducted to strengthen Telangana's irrigation capabilities. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Harpal Singh, former Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army, will serve as Honorary Advisor, and Col. Parikshit Mehra, known for the Rohtang and Zojila tunnel projects, will formally join the department in July. The meeting also focused on Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages, with Uttam Kumar Reddy directing urgent imple-



mentation of NDSA recommendations. He stressed that restoration work must progress on a war footing, demanding weekly progress reports from officials. Reviewing key projects: Singur Canal: Tenders have been issued; officials asked to expedite agreements. Dindi Project: Coordination and post-design phase ongoing; officials told to fast-track land acquisition. SLBC: LIDAR surveys ordered, international bids invited, and daily progress reviews mandated. Devadula (Package-3) & Sitarama Project: Officials asked to expedite and accommodate new packages within budget. Addressing internal administrative issues, the minister promised to clear 18-

year pending promotions of Assistant Executive Engineers to Deputy Executive Engineers, noting that 125 DEE posts are currently vacant. On desiltation, the minister ordered immediate action on reservoirs that have lost 20-25% of storage, starting with Nagarjuna Sagar, and asked to formally notify the Andhra Pradesh Government. Uttam Kumar Reddy concluded with a stern directive: no delays would be tolerated in irrigation projects. Weekly reviews will track progress, and strict action will be taken against negligent officers. The government is determined to revamp the irrigation sector and stand by the promises made to Telangana's farmers.

## BRS Fires Fresh Salvo at CM Revanth Reddy

### If anyone should be probed, it is Revanth Reddy...

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
BRS Assembly Whip K.P. Vivekananda launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of extravagant spending, misuse of public funds, and political hypocrisy, during a press meet at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday. He was joined by party leaders Manne Govardhan Reddy and Palle Ravikumar Goud. Vivekananda recalled Revanth's earlier public lament that there was "no money in the treasury" to fulfill promises to employees or to complete irrigation projects. "He even cried saying he had to hide his slippers to avoid embarrassment while seeking help," Vivekananda stated, mocking the CM's emotional appeals. "If there is no money as he claims, then why is the government indulging in lavish expenses instead of practicing austerity?" he questioned. He cited the Bharat Summit held in Hyderabad recently—attended by Congress leader



Rahul Gandhi—as an example of misplaced priorities. He alleged that the government spent over ₹30 crore on hosting the event, with total expenses possibly crossing ₹200 crore. He questioned the rationale behind inviting Rahul Gandhi to an investment summit, saying, "Will investors come seeing Rahul Gandhi?" Vivekananda demanded accountability on the expenses, especially since the Telangana Trade Promotion Council had

reportedly disclosed partial details under an RTI application filed by a citizen named Karim. He slammed the use of government funds for what he described as a Congress party programme and asked whether public money was being diverted for political branding. Drawing comparisons, Vivekananda said Formula E car racing, held during BRS rule, had attracted ₹700 crore in investment, yet KTR is being targeted with "politically moti-

vated cases". "If anyone should be probed, it is Revanth Reddy, who splurged ₹1 lakh per meal plate in beauty pageants," he remarked. "The state has gained nothing from these pageants except shame," he added. He criticized the CM's frequent visits to Delhi, saying they serve no purpose for Telangana. "He's visited Delhi nearly 50 times but not to seek state development, only to meet party bosses," Vivekananda alleged. Continuing his offensive, Vivekananda alleged that government advertisements worth crores were being used not for public benefit but for personal attacks on KCR and KTR, and that integrated school buildings are being falsely projected in media ads. He accused Revanth Reddy of forming a government "on the foundation of lies" and claimed that ₹170 crore was misused by mortgaging prime lands in Gachibowli, calling for an ACB investigation.



# Elephant Tusk Smuggler Held in LB Nagar

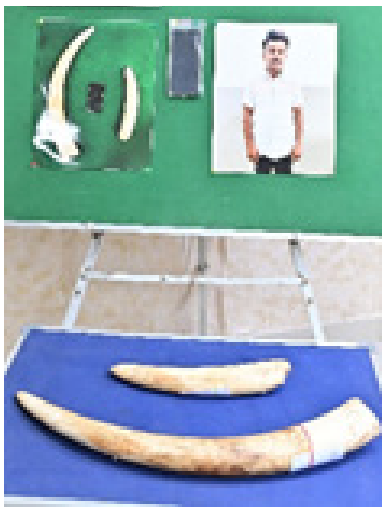
TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major breakthrough, the LB Nagar Zone SOT police, in co-ordination with Hayathnagar forest officials, arrested Rekulakunta Prasad, a native of Andhra Pradesh, for attempting to smuggle elephant tusks from the Seshachalam forests of Tirupati to Hyderabad. The arrest took place early Wednesday morning in LB Nagar when Prasad was trying to sell two tusks valued at nearly ₹3 crore in the open market. According to Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu, Prasad was previously arrested and jailed in a red sandalwood smuggling case. During his time in prison, he came into contact with Lokeshwar Reddy, another accused in a similar case. After their release, the duo decided to engage in illegal wildlife trade as a means of easy profit.



As part of the plan, Lokeshwar Reddy visited the Yanadula tribal community in the Seshachalam forest region, where he managed to acquire elephant tusks at a low cost. He then transported them to Hyderabad using private travel services. On receiving a tip-off, the LB Nagar SOT team laid a trap and caught Prasad red-handed while attempting to strike a

deal. However, Lokeshwar Reddy is currently absconding, and efforts are underway to trace and apprehend him. Police said the tusks were being sold without any legal permits, which is a serious violation of wildlife protection laws. Smuggling of elephant tusks is a punishable offense under the Wildlife Protection Act, and further investigation is being carried out to trace the source



and end-buyers of the tusks. Authorities have appealed to the public to report any suspicious activities related to wildlife trafficking, assuring strict action against violators. The arrest serves as a stern warning against illegal trade in endangered species and underscores the vigilance of law enforcement in curbing forest and wildlife crimes.

# Bike Theft Gang Busted in Miyapur, 15 Vehicles Seized



TPN Correspondent | Miyapur

The Miyapur police have arrested a gang of four individuals involved in a spate of two-wheeler thefts, following the theft of a bike from RTC Colony on June 10. Acting swiftly on credible information, police apprehended the suspects and recovered 15 stolen bikes valued between ₹20 to ₹30 lakh. Madhapur Zone Additional DCP Uday Kumar, addressing the media, revealed that the arrested individuals are school dropouts who had become addicted to alcohol and resorted to thefts to support their lifestyle. The accused have been identified as A1: Mku Srikanth, A2: Kumbha Venkateswarlu, A3: Nallagonda Venu, A4: Eruva Gangadhar. The gang had a specific modus operandi—targeting bikes without handle locks. After stealing the vehicles from various areas, they transported them to Andhra Pradesh, where they were either resold as whole units or dismantled and sold as parts. So far, cases have been registered against the gang in multiple police station limits including Begumpet, KPHB, Chandanagar, Madhapur, and Miyapur. The arrests have brought relief to many victims and are expected to lead to the solving of more vehicle theft cases in the coming weeks. Authorities have urged citizens to ensure proper locking mechanisms for their vehicles and report any suspicious activity to local police stations promptly.



# Man Held for Illegal Sale of Foreign Cigarettes in Afzalgunj

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a joint operation, the Commissioner's Task Force (Central Zone) and the Afzalgunj Police apprehended a man involved in the illegal procurement and sale of foreign cigarettes in Hyderabad. The raid was conducted on June 24 at a residential premises located behind the Gowliguda Bus Depot under the jurisdiction of Afzalgunj Police Station. The accused, Manohar Singh (27), a resident of Gowliguda Chaman, was allegedly importing foreign cigarettes from Delhi using private transport services and selling them to local pan shops and kirana stores at inflated prices without valid tax documentation. Seized Contraband Total Value: ₹7,05,000. According to officials, Manohar Singh was originally in the business of cigarette lighter marketing, but shifted to illegal cigarette trade to earn easy profits. He stored the smuggled goods at his residence and sold them across the city, thereby evading taxes and violating health warning regulations. The seized cigarettes lacked the mandatory graphic health warnings required under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), which mandates that 85% of the packaging should display warnings about tobacco-related health risks. The illegal sale of these unregulated foreign brands not only results in tax evasion, but also poses a serious public health risk as they do not comply with Indian regulatory standards. The accused and the seized material have been handed over to the Afzalgunj Police Station for further investigation and legal action. The operation was led by the Inspector of Police, Task Force Central Zone, along with the Sub-Inspector and staff, in coordination with the Afzalgunj PS team. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to cracking down on illegal tobacco trade and protecting public health.

# ADGP Swati Lakra Distributes Rain Gear to Home Guards



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

As part of the Telangana Police's welfare initiatives, Additional DGP (Home Guards) Swati Lakra on Wednesday distributed woolen jackets and raincoats to Home Guards to help them carry out their duties more comfortably during the monsoon season. The distribution program was held at the DGP's Office in Hyderabad. Inspector General of Police (P&L) M. Ramesh, along with other senior officers, participated in the event. Addressing the gathering, Swati Lakra emphasized that Telangana is at the forefront among Indian states in implementing welfare measures for Home Guards. She highlighted recent initiatives such as salary enhancements, increased parade allowances, and improved ex-gratia benefits. She also noted that steps are underway to issue official ID cards and health

cards to all Home Guards across the state. The ADGP encouraged Home Guards to perform their duties with dedication and discipline, and warned against involvement in any illegal or unprofessional activities. She stressed that integrity and responsibility are key expectations from the force. IGP M. Ramesh also addressed the gathering and stated that Telangana Police has earned national-level recognition, and Home Guards should also contribute to upholding this reputation through committed service. RI Srinivasa Rao gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the structure and role of the Home Guard system. Telangana Region Home Guard Commandant B. Venkateswarlu, DSP (Stores) Venugopal, and several other officers were present at the event.

# Ganja Smuggling Foiled, 45 Kg Seized

Cab driver turned smuggler arrested by Task Force & IS Sadan Police

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major bust on Wednesday morning, a joint operation by the Task Force and IS Sadan Police led to the seizure of 45 kilograms of ganja being illegally transported in a car at IS Sadan intersection, Hyderabad. The police arrested Janapala Harikrishna, a cab driver from Peddakan-dukuru village in Yadagirigutta, Yadadri district, who was found with the contraband in his vehicle. Addressing the media at IS Sadan Police Station, Santosh Nagar ACP Sukh Dev Singh revealed that Harikrishna, influenced by his childhood friend and ganja dealer Tunam Aravind, entered the illegal trade to earn quick money. The duo had travelled to Kalimela in Odisha, where they procured the 45 kg of dried ganja from Sarath Kumar Sahu, another accused in the case. After transporting the ganja to Mahabubabad, Harikrishna was instructed to deliver it to Mangalhat, a known hub for drug distribution in Hyderabad. However, during routine vehicle checks at IS Sadan X Road, the police intercepted his car and discovered the ganja concealed inside. The vehicle used in the transporta-



tion has been seized, and two other accused—Sarath Kumar Sahu and Tunam Aravind—are absconding, ACP Sukh Dev Singh said. Efforts are ongoing to trace and apprehend the remaining accused. The operation was conducted under the supervision of South East Zone DCP Chaitanya Kumar, and further investigation is being carried out to uncover the broader network involved in the smuggling of narcotics into the city. The case highlights the increasing trend of inter-state drug trafficking and the police's continued efforts to crack down on such operations.

# Online Satta Betting Racket Busted in Hyderabad, Six Arrested



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major crackdown on illegal online gambling, the Commissioner's Task Force, Central Zone, in collaboration with the Amberpet Police, has busted a well-organized online Satta betting racket operating out of a rented flat in Bathakammakunta, Bagh Amberpet. Acting on credible inputs, the police team raided the location on the night of June 24, arresting six individuals involved in the operation. The accused were identified as Vodepelli Naveen (24), Carpenter, Pudari Sai Kiran (24), Student, Soma Mahender (24), Student, Bingi Sai Kiran (23), Kirana shop owner, Bingi Avinash (30), Private employee and Sana Sai Preetham (25), Private employee. All the accused hail from Kagaz Nagar, Komaram Bheem Asifabad District, except Preetham, who is from Huzurabad, Karimnagar. The gang reportedly gained knowledge of online betting and Satta operations, and to earn quick money, they rented a flat for ₹14,000 a month and set up their illegal activities using mobile phones and laptops. They created multiple fake Facebook accounts with names like Satta Matka Kalyan Result, Ashwin Nayak, Teer Shillong Counter, Arjuin Sarkar, and Vishal K. These accounts were linked to unverified mobile numbers, and used to promote betting activities. The gang lured victims by offering registration for number predictions at ₹1,000–₹2,000 and showcased fake success stories through promotional videos. Using Google Pay, PhonePe, QR codes, and other UPI platforms, the accused collected money from the victims. Once the victims invested large amounts, the gang manipulated outcomes on their betting sites, ensuring financial losses for the participants. Seized property worth ₹20 lakh includes ₹79,000 in online bank account (betting proceeds), 17 mobile phones, 1 laptop, 1 car and 1 motorcycle, 12 rubber stamps, 1 satta pamphlet/chart, 4 satta prediction vouchers and 1 Canon color printer. The arrested individuals and seized property have been handed over to the SHO of Amberpet Police Station for further legal action. The operation was led by Inspector of Police, Task Force Central Zone, supported by Sub-Inspectors and personnel from the Task Force and Amberpet PS. Deputy Commissioner of Police Y.V.S. Sudheendra reiterated that strict action will continue against all forms of illegal betting and cybercrime, and appealed to the public to remain alert and report such activities immediately.



# Jeedimetla Murder Case Cracked, Daughter Among 3 Held

## Police arrest Tejasri (16), her lover Shiva (19), and Yashwanth (17)



**TPN Correspondent | Medchal** The Medchal police have successfully cracked the shocking murder case of Anjali (39), a member of the Telangana Cultural Arts Association, who was brutally killed at her residence in the PIS area of Jeedimetla on Tuesday. The investigation has

revealed a disturbing plot involving Anjali's own daughter and two youths. According to Balnagar Zone DCP Suresh Kumar, Anjali had previously been accused in a case filed by her daughter Tejasri (16) at the Jeedimetla PIS. The daughter alleged that Anjali's second husband treated her like a maid and displayed affection primarily towards Tejasri, leading to growing tensions in the family. Tejasri had earlier been in a relationship with Shiva (19), who was living in their house in Shahpur Nagar. However, the relationship soured after Tejas-

ri began objecting to Shiva's advances. A kidnapping case was filed against Shiva at the Jeedimetla Police Station on June 19, intensifying tensions within the household. In a shocking turn, Tejasri, angered by the developments, allegedly plotted the murder with Shiva and his friend Yashwanth (17). On June 23, when the house was empty, the three accused executed their plan. Using a rope, they strangled Anjali and then fatally struck her with a heavy hammer, typically used for breaking stones. Police have now registered a murder case against all three

accused. Tejasri and Yashwanth have been sent to a juvenile home, while Shiva has been remanded to Cherlapalli jail. The investigation was carried out under the supervision of Balnagar Additional DCP Satyanarayana, Balanagar ACP Naresh Reddy, Jeedimetla CI Malleshham, and DI Kanakaiah, along with other police personnel. Authorities described the case as deeply disturbing and emphasized the importance of timely intervention in cases of domestic conflict and youth delinquency.

# Sridhar Babu Seeks Action on CPSU Lands in Telangana

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi** In a key development, Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu met Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy in New Delhi on Wednesday and submitted a detailed representation, urging the Union Government to resolve long-pending land issues related to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in Telangana. Congratulating Kumaraswamy on assuming office, Sridhar Babu used the occasion to highlight that thousands of acres of land allotted to CPSUs in the 1960s remain unutilised or are now being eyed for real estate monetisation, instead of fulfilling their original industrial objectives. "These lands were given at concessional rates to support industrial development and local employment. But many CPSUs are now defunct, and the original purpose remains unfulfilled," the Minister wrote in his representation. He cited the defunct Cement Corporation of India (CCI) unit in Adilabad, which has been non-operational since 1998 despite holding over 2,272 acres of land. Similarly, several other CPSUs are seeking No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to sell their land as real estate assets. Among the major CPSUs facing disinvestment or privatisation in Telangana:

- Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL), Medchal – 324.87 acres
- Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd. (HFL), Sangareddy – 126.32 acres
- Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (IDPL), Medchal – 551.03 acres
- Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT), Medchal – 888.05 acres
- CCI, Adilabad – 2,272.85 acres
- Ordnance Factory, Yeddumailaram, Sangareddy – 3,020 acres

Minister Sridhar Babu warned that the state risks losing strategic land assets to private players, without any compensation or local development, if this trend continues. He proposed two possible solutions: Revival of non-functional CPSUs to ensure the lands serve their original purpose of industrial growth and job creation. If revival isn't feasible, Telangana must be compensated at market value, or given the option to reclaim unused lands. "The Telangana government supports national industrial growth, but it must be done with fairness and respect for state resources," the Minister concluded.



# ₹20 Crore Sanctioned for Bonalu Celebrations in Twin Cities: Minister Ponnamm

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad** Telangana State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar announced that the state government has sanctioned ₹20 crore for the grand celebration of the Bonalu festival across temples in GHMC limits of Hyderabad district. The funds have already been disbursed in the form of cheques to 2,783 temples to support a wide range of religious and cultural activities. In a press release issued on Wednesday, Minister Ponnamm expressed special thanks to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for allocating such a significant amount, stating that this gesture highlights the government's commitment to preserving and promoting Telangana's rich cultural heritage. Bonalu, one of the most important festivals in Telangana, is deeply rooted in the worship of rural deities and mother goddesses. Minister Ponnamm noted that while the festival originally belonged to village and hamlet traditions, it has now become an integral part of the urban identity of Hyderabad, surviving and thriving even as the city transformed into a modern metropolis. He outlined the schedule for the upcoming Bonalu festivities:

- Golkonda Bonalu – June 30
- Balkampet Yellamma Bonalu – July 1 & 2
- Sri Ujjain Mahakali Devasthanam – July 13 & 14
- Lal Darwaja Bonalu – July 20
- Charminar Bhagyalakshmi Bonalu – July 23



The minister said this centuries-old tradition—dating back to the 12th century—is a symbol of Telangana's social and spiritual fabric, showcasing women worship as divine power and celebrating community bonds. Funds have been allocated for a variety of programs including Traditional Bonam offerings, silk cloth donations, and pot processions, Pothuraju processions, Ambari yatras, wedding celebrations of the goddess, and nose piercing rituals, Decorative stages, art exhibitions, and cultural showcases promoting Telangana's heritage. Minister Ponnamm reiterated that the Bonala festival is not only a spiritual celebration but also a cultural movement that bridges rural traditions with urban life. He called upon the public to participate in large numbers and uphold the legacy of the festival with devotion and pride.

# Industries Key to District's Economic Growth: Collector Jitesh V. Patil

**TPN Correspondent | Kothagudem** District Collector Jitesh V. Patil emphasized the importance of industrial development for the economic growth of the district and directed officials to facilitate the swift establishment of industries. He chaired the District Industries Promotion Committee and TG IPASS review meeting at the IDOC office on Wednesday, urging departments to support aspiring entrepreneurs and industrialists. Stating that the district provides a favorable environment for industrial investment, the Collector instructed departments to expedite permissions for eligible applicants. He urged entrepreneurs to make use of government schemes such as TG IPASS, TPRIDE, PMEGP, PMFME, Mudra loans, and DRDA initiatives to set up units across the district and generate employment. The Collector reviewed the progress of approvals under TG IPASS and stressed the need for effective implementation of Suraksha Bima Yojana and Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. He



proposed utilizing the Employment Guarantee Scheme to produce clay bricks and called for coordination between ITIs, polytechnic colleges, and Nava Limited to construct work sheds using these bricks. Highlighting the need for skill development, Jitesh V. Patil instructed officials to conduct training based on the demand in SC, BC, ST, and minority communities. He emphasized promoting biochar awareness and ABCD (Awareness, Behavior Change, Cleanliness, Development) drives across all gram panchayats. He directed the Electricity Department to organize job-oriented training sessions for ITI students, and proposed district-wide training on

agricultural industries through existing skill centers. A major push was given to the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET) app, which connects unemployed youth with private sector job opportunities. The Collector urged officials to ensure all students—especially those with ITI, diploma, engineering, degree, and pharmacy backgrounds—register on DEET to enhance their employment prospects. The meeting was attended by Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Vidya Chandana, Industries GM Tirupathiah, LDM Ram Reddy, ST Welfare Officer Anasuya, Employment Officer Sriram, Groundwater Department AD Ramesh, Mining AD Dinesh, and officials from various departments. The Collector concluded by stressing that coordination among departments and optimal use of schemes is essential to turn the district into a hub of industrial and economic activity.

# Rain Alert in Telangana for Next Three Days

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for five districts in Telangana, warning of thunderstorms, lightning, and heavy rains over the next three days due to the development of a low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal. According to the IMD, the low-pressure system is expected to form within the next 24 hours, influencing widespread rainfall activity across the state. The districts of Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, and Bhadradri Kothagudem are likely to experience heavy rainfall accompanied by thunder, lightning, and gusty winds reaching speeds of 30–40 kmph today. In view of the forecast, the yellow alert has been issued for the affected districts, and the public is advised to remain cautious. The Meteorological Department has also advised local administrations to stay vigilant and take preventive measures to avoid any rain-related incidents. While heavy rainfall is expected in the alerted regions, light to moderate showers are likely across the remaining parts of Telangana during this period. Authorities are urging residents, especially in vulnerable areas, to avoid unnecessary travel and stay indoors during periods of lightning and strong winds. The situation is being closely monitored, and further updates will be issued by the IMD as needed.



# Youth Must Stay Away from Drugs, Work Towards Bright Future: SP Rohit Raju



**TPN | Avinash Reddy Bhadradri Kothagudem:** As part of International Anti-Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Day Week celebrations, Bhadradri Kothagudem District SP Rohit Raju, IPS, emphasized the importance of youth participation in building a drug-free society. He was speaking at an awareness program organized by Sujathanagar Police at Dhanwantari Pharmacy College, Vepalagadda. Addressing over 500 students, the SP urged the youth to stay focused on their life goals and not fall into the trap of marijuana, drugs, and other harmful substances, which could severely affect both physical and mental health. "Drugs destroy lives and futures. Students must realize this early and stay away from such destructive habits," he said. Rohit Raju stressed that parents too have a key role to play in monitoring their children's behavior and guiding them away from dangerous influences such as bad company or peer pressure. "Drug addiction often starts with exposure to harmful environments and bad friendships," he noted. The SP said the Bhadradri Kothagudem Police Department is working with commitment to make the district drug-free, and awareness programs like these are being held regularly in schools, colleges, and villages. He also called upon students to become members of anti-drug committees and act as anti-drug soldiers by spreading awareness and reporting any suspicious activities related to drug trafficking or consumption in their areas. "If you notice drugs being sold or used anywhere, immediately inform the local police," he added. During the event, officials informed that strict action is being taken against those targeting youth by selling narcotics, and cases have already been registered against several individuals involved in such illegal activities. The program was attended by Kothagudem DSP Rahman, CIs Pratap (2nd Town), Venkateswarlu (Chunchupalli), Karunakar (1st Town), Sivaprasad (3rd Town), IT Cell Inspector Ramu, Sujathanagar SI Ramadevi, and College Chairman Arikela Bhaskar along with college staff.



# From Emergency to Neo-Emergency: A Democracy Caught Between Memory and Manipulation

As India marks the 50th anniversary of the 1975 Emergency on June 26, 2025, the political atmosphere is thick with symbolism, rhetoric, and irony. What should have been a solemn moment of national reflection has become an arena of political theatre. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), invoking the dark past of the Emergency, has launched a full-throttle campaign against the Congress, declaring June 25 as Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas (Murder of Constitution Day). Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and even President Draupadi Murmu have echoed this line, presenting themselves as the protectors of democracy and constitutional values.

However, critics argue that this commemoration is not about remembering the past but rewriting it. The same government that claims to honour democracy is accused by its opponents of engineering an undeclared "neo-Emergency"—marked by institutional capture, suppression of dissent, and governance by fear. The Congress and the INDIA bloc have responded fiercely, accusing the BJP of exploiting the memory of Emergency to erase opposition, delegitimise dissent, and entrench authoritarianism.



Historically, the 1975 Emergency was a dark time. Declared by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, it suspended civil liberties and fundamental rights. Opposition leaders, including Jayaprakash Narayan (JP), were jailed. JP—an icon of moral courage and democratic integrity—emerged as a beacon of resistance. His peaceful defiance and the subsequent electoral ouster of the Congress in 1977 restored

India's democratic pride.

Today, as the ruling regime commemorates that resistance, critics question whether it truly honours those ideals. The irony is stark: those condemning past authoritarianism are accused of imposing a similar regime now—though more sophisticated and silent in its operation. Unlike the overt censorship and mass arrests of 1975,

today's repression is more veiled—enabled by pliant institutions, weakened opposition, surveillance, and polarised media.

The promise of Indian democracy was rooted in the Constitution, which begins with the collective voice: "We, the People of India..."—committing to justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. But in today's climate, these

ideals are fraying. Justice is inaccessible to the common citizen, liberty is compromised, equality is replaced by widening economic and social disparities, and fraternity is under siege due to growing hate and polarisation.

Voices from the past like Rabin-drath Tagore and Subramanya Bharati envisioned a fearless India. Their dreams remain unfulfilled as a fearful silence grips citizens and institutions alike. Leadership today is stifled—by politics, by bureaucracy, even by academia. Youthful dissent is extinguished before it can mature, and political parties, obsessed with power and loyalty, reward mediocrity over merit.

Yet, despite this gloom, there are flickers of resistance—individuals of courage and conscience who move quietly, preparing for a new dawn. These figures, though in silhouette now, may one day emerge to rebuild a democratic India. As we remember the Emergency of 1975, we must also recognise the neo-Emergency of 2025. The struggle for democracy is not over; it is simply being waged in new forms. The challenge before us is not just to remember history—but to resist the repeating of it.



## Skill India at a Crossroads: Leadership Crisis, Mismanagement, and a Shrinking Demographic Window

Against a backdrop of factories and promise, the Skill India logo symbolizes a national ambition: to empower India's vast youth population with employable skills. But despite this vision, the country's skill development ecosystem is plagued by leadership failures, financial opacity, and misaligned priorities—at a time when the urgency to act has never been greater.

Vocational education in India is largely financed by the government, with minimal participation from the formal private sector. Yet the outcomes remain dismal. Most Indian youth, after receiving a lack-luster school education, are either absorbed into the informal sector as unpaid trainees or funneled into the sprawling but underperforming government skill ecosystem.

There are five principal avenues for vocational training: the roughly 14,000 Industrial Training Institutes (mostly private), optional vocational courses in secondary school, short-term government-funded programs like the Prime Minister's Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), schemes under other ministries such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, and finally, public-private apprenticeship programs.

The PMKVY, managed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)—a public-private partnership under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)—has come under increasing scrutiny. Over ₹10,000 crore has been spent on Skill India initiatives so far, with a substantial share routed through NSDC. However, the organization's leadership vacuum has raised serious concerns. Key roles like CEO and Chairperson remained vacant for years, and in 2025, NSDC's officiating CEO Ved Mani Tiwari was abruptly terminated after allegations of unauthorized title usage—casting a shadow over the credibility and seriousness of the

program.

Worse, NSDC has become opaque since 2021, launching a new entity—NSDC International—without clear cabinet approval or public transparency. It is unclear what unique role this subsidiary plays, given its parent's similar mandate. Its financial reports are not publicly available, raising questions about oversight and accountability in the use of public funds.

Earlier, in 2015, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had flagged serious operational lapses within NSDC. Since then, public audits and internal reviews have been largely withheld. Changes in accounting methodology under Tiwari's tenure also warrant close examination—were they aimed at enhancing transparency, or simply improving optics?

NSDC has also invested significantly in technology platforms like ASEEM and SMART, yet India still lacks a fully functional Labour Market Information System (LMIS). Ironically, this critical task may now fall to the Ministry of Labour via its National Career Service portal. Meanwhile, Skill India platforms duplicate functionalities without solving the core problem: generating reliable, real-time labour market data.

Despite the Union Budget for 2025–26 allocating ₹36,000 crore to skill development—up from ₹20,000 crore—the results remain underwhelming. NSDC's 6,000+ short-term training partners under PMKVY have produced a long-term employability rate of just 22%. India's demographic advantage is fading fast. By 2040, the window closes, and the country enters the phase of an aging population. The rise of artificial intelligence will further disrupt the job market, making it critical that India's youth are adequately skilled.

## Bihar's Dalit Vote Fragmented Identity, Missed Opportunities, and the Struggle for Political Empowerment



Bihar's political landscape has long been framed by the rhetoric of social justice—a legacy born from the 1970s 'Total Revolution' led by Jaiprakash Narayan. This transformative movement gave rise to a generation of leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, and Ram Vilas Paswan, and promised empowerment for the marginalised, particularly the Dalits or Scheduled Castes, who constitute nearly 20% of the state's population. Yet, five decades later, the Dalit community continues to be shackled by economic deprivation, social exclusion, and political fragmentation.

Unlike Uttar Pradesh, where the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) unified Dalits under an Ambedkarite identity, Bihar's Dalit vote is deeply splintered. The three largest Dalit sub-castes—Chamars (31.3%), Paswans (30.9%), and Musahars (13.9%)—exhibit divergent political loyalties, diluting their collective bargaining power. This lack of unity has prevented the emergence of a cohesive Dalit political force capable of challenging entrenched social hierarchies.

In the 1990s, Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) garnered substantial Dalit support by emphasizing dignity, representation, and resistance to upper-caste dominance. However, Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) disrupted this alignment by crafting the 'Mahadalit' category, which excluded influential groups like the Paswans and focused on smaller, more marginalised sub-castes. This reconfiguration allowed him to target welfare schemes more strategically and create a new leadership base, most notably Jitan Ram Manjhi, who later formed the Hindustani Awam

Morcha (HAM).

Meanwhile, Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) claims to represent Paswan interests. However, both HAM and LJP have aligned with larger coalitions like the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), often limiting their ability to advocate independently for Dalit concerns. Personal rivalries and public spats between leaders like Manjhi and Paswan have further fractured Dalit solidarity.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in alliance with JD(U), has adeptly exploited these divisions. It has extended a blend of cultural nationalism, welfare initiatives, and strategic symbolism—integrating Dalit icons into its Hindutva narrative. This approach has helped it secure a segment of the Dalit vote, especially through partnerships with leaders like Manjhi and Paswan.

On the other hand, the RJD-Congress-led Mahagathbandhan has attempted to reignite Dalit support by advocating for policies like the caste census and showcasing Dalit icons like Dashrath Manjhi. However, their failure to elevate significant Dalit voices within their ranks has hampered trust and credibility. Interestingly, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, which won 12 of 19 seats it contested in the last Assembly election, is gaining traction among Dalits disillusioned with mainstream parties, though its influence remains regionally limited. The socio-economic challenges facing Dalits are staggering. A recent caste survey revealed widespread landlessness, institutional underrepresentation, and persistent caste discrimination.



# No Indian will ever forget manner in which spirit of Constitution was violated

## PM Modi on Emergency

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described it as one of the darkest periods in India's democratic history, stating that no Indian will ever forget how the Constitution was violated and Parliament silenced.

In a series of posts on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on June 25, 2025, PM Modi said the imposition of the Emergency in 1975 represented a deliberate attack on the Indian Constitution and democratic principles. He referred to the day as "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" (Constitution Murder Day).

"Fundamental rights were suspended, press freedom was crushed, and thousands — including political leaders, activists, students, and ordinary citizens — were jailed. It was as if the government of the day had



imprisoned democracy itself," Modi wrote.

He highlighted the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, brought during the Emergency, as a stark example of how power was mis-

used. This amendment made sweeping changes that were later reversed by the Janata Party government. The Prime Minister also emphasized the suffering of the poor, marginalized, and downtrodden,

who he said were especially targeted and humiliated during the Emergency.

Paying tribute to those who fought against authoritarian rule, he said: "We salute every person who resisted the Emergency. People from all walks of life and across political ideologies united to protect democracy."

Modi recalled his own experience during that time, saying, "When the Emergency was imposed, I was a young RSS Pracharak, and the anti-Emergency movement became a valuable learning experience for me."

Reaffirming his government's commitment, he concluded, "We must continue to uphold the principles of the Constitution and work towards building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India), ensuring dignity and justice for all."



## Bypoll victories were semifinals for 2027

### Assembly polls in Punjab, Gujarat: Arvind Kejriwal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday (June 25, 2025) described the party's recent victories in the Punjab and Gujarat Assembly bypolls as a "semifinal" ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, declaring that AAP is on the path to forming governments in both states.

Kejriwal was speaking at a celebratory event following the AAP's twin wins in Visavadar (Gujarat) and Ludhiana West (Punjab). He congratulated Gopal Italia, the winning candidate from Gujarat, and Sanjeev Arora, who secured the Punjab seat, thanking voters for their support.

"These bypoll results show that people are rejecting both BJP and Congress. In Punjab, we have been in power for three years. There's no anti-incumbency — in fact, people are supporting us more. We won 92 seats in 2022, and in 2027, we will cross 100," Kejriwal said.

Turning to Gujarat, Kejriwal asserted that the BJP's popularity is declining and the Congress offers no real alternative. "People were looking for change, and they now see hope in AAP. We are committed to clean politics, and we are fighting against a corrupt system. The top Congress leadership is working hand-in-hand with the BJP," he alleged.

Kejriwal confidently declared that AAP would form the next government in Gujarat in 2027. He emphasized that the bypoll results indicate a shift in public sentiment and growing trust in AAP's governance model. The twin victories come as a significant morale boost for AAP, strengthening its position as a rising national political force.



## DMK Launches 45-Day 'Oraniyil Tamil Nadu' Campaign to Challenge Centre Over State Rights and Keeladi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a bold political move, the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu has announced a 45-day statewide campaign titled 'Oraniyil Tamil Nadu' (Tamil Nadu in One), aimed at highlighting what it calls the Union Government's continued "betrayal" of the state. The campaign, to be flagged off by Chief Minister and party president M.K. Stalin on July 1, will formally begin on July 3. Covering all 234 assembly constituencies, the campaign will start simultaneously from Palaverkadu to Kanyakumari and Anaikattai to Nagapattinam. It will focus on key issues including the Centre's non-recognition of the Keeladi archaeological findings and the withholding of education-related funds.

Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, who is spearheading the effort, accused the Union Government of systematically eroding Tamil Nadu's rights while the DMK government continues to deliver on its promises. "The Keeladi excavations reveal the deep cultural and civilizational roots of Tamil Nadu, yet the Centre refuses to acknowledge their significance," he said. He also criticized the lack of adequate central funding for the state's education sector.

Described as a "first-of-its-kind" outreach, the campaign aims to connect with two crore households through door-to-door visits, public rallies, and meetings. A state-wide membership drive—including new enrolments and renewals—will be conducted in parallel. On June 27 and 28, DMK representatives from all constituencies will train booth-level agents to ensure grassroots mobilisation. Rajaa also took a jab at opposition parties, stating they lack both infrastructure and outreach compared to DMK's strong cadre network and digital capabilities.

# Operation Sindhu: IAF evacuates 224 more Indians from Israel, total reaches 818

In response to the escalating conflict in the Middle East, the Government of India has intensified efforts to safely evacuate Indian nationals and citizens of friendly nations, including those from Nepal and Sri Lanka, under Operation Sindhu. The large-scale repatriation operation is being coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The first successful evacuation flight under Operation Sindhu took off from Amman, Jordan on Monday, June 23. On Tuesday morning, the flight landed in New Delhi, carrying 161 Indian citizens who had been stranded in war-hit Israel.

Later the same day, a second flight arrived from Sharm el-



Sheikh, Egypt, with 286 Indian nationals who had been residing in Israel. These repatriations mark a significant step in India's ongoing mission to ensure the safety of its citizens abroad during the ongoing crisis.

Alongside the evacuations from Israel, a parallel operation has

been underway in Iran, where rising regional tensions have also endangered foreign nationals. According to the MEA, a total of 2,858 Indian nationals have been successfully evacuated from Iran so far. These efforts underscore India's proactive approach in safeguarding its diaspora during times of international turmoil.

The MEA has confirmed that evacuation operations will continue in coordination with various international agencies and partner governments. Special efforts are being made to ensure the safety of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly.

The Indian government has also extended evacuation assistance to nationals of friendly countries, reinforcing its commitment to regional cooperation and humanitarian support.

With the situation in the Middle East remaining volatile, Operation Sindhu stands as a testament to India's readiness and resolve in protecting its citizens abroad.

# Shubhanshu Shukla Becomes Second Indian in Space, Heads to ISS on Axiom-4 Mission

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has marked a historic moment in space exploration as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force launched aboard the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The launch took place on June 25, 2025, from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida — the same iconic site from which Apollo 11 began its journey to the Moon in 1969.

Group Captain Shukla becomes the second Indian to travel to space, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma who flew as part of a Soviet mission in 1984. Shukla has undergone rigorous training and spent more than a month in quarantine to ensure mission safety and health readiness.

The four-member Axiom-4 crew also includes Commander Peggy Whitson from the United States — a seasoned astronaut, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland, and Tibor Kapu of Hungary. The mission, which faced multiple delays due to weather and technical conditions, is now in full swing, with docking at the ISS



expected around 4:30 PM IST on June 26, after a 28-hour journey in orbit.

During their two-week mission, the crew will conduct 60 scientific experiments, including seven proposed by Indian researchers. These studies aim to advance

research in microgravity across domains like human physiology, material science, and Earth observation.

Before liftoff, Group Captain Shukla delivered an emotional message: "I carry with me not just instruments and equipment,

but the hopes and dreams of a billion hearts." He also sent a note to his family: "Just wait for me, I'm coming."

The Axiom-4 mission stands as a testament to India's growing presence in space exploration, reigniting national pride and scientific ambition.



# "It's Done": Indian Origin Democrat Zohran Mamdani Wins New York Mayoral Primary

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a major political upset, Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old Indian-origin Muslim and self-described socialist, has won the Democratic primary for Mayor of New York City, defeating former Governor Andrew Cuomo. According to the latest vote counts, Mamdani secured 43.5% of the vote, while Cuomo trailed with 36.3%.

Mamdani, the son of acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair and renowned Ugandan-Indian Marxist scholar Mahmood Mamdani, thanked his supporters in a heartfelt message on social media. Quoting Nelson Mandela, he wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "It always seems impossible until it's done. My friends, it is done. And you are the ones who did it. I am honoured to be your Democratic nominee for the Mayor of New York City."

The primary field featured nearly a dozen candidates vying to lead the largest city in the United States, where registered Democrats vastly outnumber Re-



publicans. Despite a scorching heatwave on election day, voter turnout remained strong, though final results may take time to certify. Mamdani's grassroots campaign was powered by youthful energy, social media savvy, and a platform focused on affordable housing, public transportation reform, and equity for marginalized communities. His candidacy

was endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America, energizing New York's progressive base.

In contrast, Andrew Cuomo, a centrist with strong establishment backing from figures like former President Bill Clinton, had led in early polls. However, his past controversies—including sexual harassment allegations

and criticism over his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic—seemed to weigh heavily on voters.

Mamdani's victory reflects a significant shift in the city's political landscape, signaling a rising appetite for progressive leadership and transformational change in one of the world's most influential urban centers.



## Pakistan Court Rejects Imran Khan's Bail in May 9 Riots Cases

A Pakistani court on Tuesday dismissed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's petitions for post-arrest bail in eight terrorism cases linked to the violent protests of May 9, 2023. The decision marks another legal setback for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, who has been incarcerated for nearly two years on multiple charges.

The cases stem from widespread violence that erupted following Khan's dramatic arrest by paramilitary Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises. The protests led to attacks on several government and military facilities, allegedly incited by Khan and his supporters.

**The eight cases in which bail was denied include high-profile incidents such as:**

- The Jinnah House attack
- The Askari Tower assault
- The burning of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office
- The arson of the Shadman police station

Authorities accuse Khan of inciting unrest and enabling these violent acts. His legal team, however, argues that the cases are politically motivated and intends to challenge the Lahore High Court's ruling in the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, PTI has raised serious concerns over Khan's treatment in jail. The party claims that the former prime minister is being kept in solitary confinement and that electricity to his prison cell has been cut, which they describe as a violation of basic human rights.

Imran Khan, once Pakistan's most powerful civilian leader, has faced increasing legal pressure and political isolation since his ouster in 2022. The May 9 riots have become a focal point in the government's crackdown on PTI, resulting in hundreds of arrests and ongoing trials. Khan's legal battles continue to shape the country's volatile political landscape as the PTI fights to remain relevant amid mounting challenges.

# Axiom-4 Mission Cleared for Launch: India, Poland, and Hungary Return to Human Spaceflight

TPN Correspondent | Dubai

SpaceX has confirmed that all systems are "go" for the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS), with Dragon's hatch secured, suit and communication checks complete, and the four-member crew ready for liftoff. The launch is scheduled for 2:31 AM EDT (12:01 PM IST) on June 25, from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The Ax-4 mission, a collaborative effort by NASA, Axiom Space, and SpaceX, marks the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS. It is a landmark mission for India, Poland, and Hungary, each of which is sending astronauts to space



for the first time in over four decades.

Commanding the mission is veteran American astronaut Peggy Whitson, who holds the record for the most time spent in space

by any American. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force will serve as the mission's pilot, representing ISRO. Mission specialists include ESA astronaut Sławosz Uznanski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary. All four astronauts remain in pre-launch quarantine in Florida.

Originally scheduled for June 22, the launch was delayed to ensure ISS readiness following repairs to the Zvezda service module. Agencies have emphasized the historic nature of this mission, highlight-

ing the strengthened global partnerships in space exploration.

The Ax-4 mission includes 60 scientific studies spanning 31 countries, making it the most research-intensive mission Axiom has conducted to date. These studies focus on microgravity research, human health, biological sciences, and Earth observation, showcasing international cooperation and scientific ambition.

Axiom Space described the mission as a "return to human spaceflight" for the three participating nations, reinforcing their commitment to developing national space programs and contributing meaningfully to future space exploration.

# Indian Army Participates in Multinational Exercise 'Khaan Quest 2025' in Mongolia

TPN Correspondent | Cameroon

The Indian Army is actively taking part in the 22nd edition of the multinational military exercise 'Khaan Quest 2025', held from June 14 to June 28 at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This prestigious event is co-hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, with troops from 24 countries training together under the United Nations peacekeeping framework.

The Indian contingent comprises 40 personnel, mainly from a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment, supported by troops from various arms and services. Notably, the team includes one woman officer and two women soldiers, reflecting the Indian Army's dedication to gender inclusivity.

'Khaan Quest 2025' focuses on enhancing interoperability, counter-IED operations, and civil-military coordination, underlining



India's commitment to global peacekeeping and strengthening defence ties with Mongolia. The exercise also builds on the momentum of the recent Nomadic Elephant 2025 bilateral drill.

On June 18, the Indian contingent delivered a standout performance by clocking the fastest timing in the obstacle course among all participating nations. From sandbag carries to tire flips, the team showcased not only physical endurance but also team spirit, resilience, and camaraderie.

The Indian Army shared visuals and updates from the ground through its official handles, stating that the exercise promotes collaboration and synergy in multinational peacekeeping operations.

Originally started in 2003 as a bilateral event, 'Khaan Quest' evolved into a major multinational peacekeeping training exercise from 2006 onward. With its participation, the Indian Army reaffirms its role as a key player in global peace and stability, in alignment with UN Chapter VII mandates.

# Explosive Attack in Gaza Kills 7 Israeli Soldiers; Conflict Death Toll Surges

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Seven Israeli soldiers were killed on Tuesday in southern Gaza's Khan Younis when an armoured military vehicle was hit by an explosive device, according to an Israeli military official. Six of the soldiers' names have been released to the public, while the identity of one remains confidential.

This marks one of the deadliest single incidents for Israeli forces in Gaza. Since the war erupted following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, more than 860 Israeli soldiers have been killed, with over 400 deaths occurring during ground operations inside Gaza.

Also on Tuesday, another Israeli soldier was seriously wounded by gunfire in the Khan Younis region. Meanwhile, Hamas's military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, claimed responsibility for an ambush in the area, stating that its fighters targeted Israeli soldiers hiding in a residential building using a Yassin 105 missile followed by another explosive strike. They also claimed to have used machine guns to attack the building. It remains unclear whether this was the same incident as the armoured vehicle explosion.

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, the Palestinian death toll has now exceeded 56,000 since Israel launched its military re-



sponse, including 5,759 deaths since March 18, when hostilities resumed after a brief ceasefire. The ministry reports that more than half of the deceased are women and children. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants.

Israel maintains that it targets only militants, blaming Hamas for civilian casualties due to their operations within densely populated areas. Israel claims to have killed over 20,000 Hamas fighters, though this figure remains unverified.

In a separate incident on Wednesday, Israeli police launched an investigation into the death of a woman from east Jerusalem who arrived fatally wounded at a checkpoint.

This ongoing conflict continues to claim lives on both sides, with no clear end in sight.



## Markets Rally on Fed Rate Cut Hopes and Geopolitical Easing; Sensex Jumps 700 Points, Nifty Reclaims 25,244

Domestic stock markets gained heavily on Wednesday. Benchmark indices rose on positive signals from global markets. US Fed Chair Jerome Powell's signal that he would cut interest rates in the future also contributed to this. With this, IT, pharma and healthcare shares gained. On the other hand, the cessation of the Israel-Iran war also helped. Overall, the Nifty 200 and the Sensex rose by 700 points. The Nifty closed at 25,244.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,055 in the previous session, opened at 82,448 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 82,339. It reached an intraday high of 82,815. It finally closed at 82,755 with a gain of 700 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,150, touched a low of 25,125 and a high of 25,266. It rose 200 points to settle at 25,244. The Bank Nifty rose 159 points to settle at 56,621.

In the Nifty50, 41 companies gained while 9 lost. Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, Grasim, and Infi were the top gainers. BEL, Kotak Bank, Eicher Motors, ONGC, and Axis Bank were the biggest losers. Today, media, IT, healthcare, consumer durables, auto, FMCG, pharma, realty, finance, and metal indices rose the most. The private bank index rose slightly.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2990 stocks traded, 135 gained and 776 lost. 51 shares touched their 52-week high and 23 shares touched their 52-week low. 106 shares reached the upper circuit and 45 shares reached the lower circuit.

By the end of the market, HDB



Financial Services IPO received a response of 0.29 times on the first day. Nuama has given a buy rating to Lalpath Lab with a target price of Rs. 3440. Sambhav Steel IPO received a response of 0.47 times on the first day in the afternoon. Tata Technologies collaborates with Amazon Web Services. KNR Construction has won an order worth Rs. 4801 crore for the development of a coal mining block in Jharkhand. Jefferies has retained a buy rating on JSW Energy with a target price of Rs 700. Himadri Specialty Chemicals has acquired a 16.24% stake in International Battery Company. InterGlobe Aviation's market value increased from 64.1% to 64.6% in April. Kalpataru IPO received a response of 0.31 times on the second day in the afternoon. Reliance Defense Company received an order worth Rs 600 crore from a German defense company. Keynes Technology raised Rs 1600 crore by allotting 28.72 lakh shares under the QIP method.

### Max Healthcare Institute Ltd.

Max Healthcare delivered a strong performance in Q4 FY25, with net profit rising 21% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹376 crore. Gross revenue grew 29% to ₹2,429 crore, driven by robust growth across its hospitals and healthcare services. EBITDA also increased by 26%



to ₹632 crore. Max Healthcare is in an expansion mode, planning to invest ₹6,000 crore by 2028 to add 3,700 beds, aiming for around 30 hospitals by then. The company's focus on higher occupancy, increasing average revenue per occupied bed (ARPOB), and inflow of international patients are key drivers for future growth.

### Titan Company Ltd.

Titan reported a solid Q4 FY25, with a 10.7% YoY increase in consolidated net profit to ₹870 crore and operational revenues rising by 19.7% YoY to ₹13,477 crore. The jewellery business posted a 25% jump in revenue, while watches and wearables saw a 20% uptick. Titan is expected to continue benefiting from robust demand trends, particularly in the jewellery segment, despite elevated global gold prices. Macquarie reiterated an 'Outperform' rating with a target price of ₹4,150, citing a bright jewellery outlook and improving profitability.



### TVS Motor Company Ltd.

TVS Motor reported a strong Q4 FY25, with consolidated net profit jumping 68% YoY to ₹648.1 crore, and revenue from operations rising 16% to ₹11,542 crore. Both



two-wheeler and three-wheeler sales, including exports, grew by 14% to 12.16 lakh units in Q4. TVS Motor's consistent growth across segments, including electric vehicles, positions it well in the competitive auto market. Indicating confidence in its continued performance. The company's focus on product innovation and expanding market reach (including exports) are expected to sustain its momentum.

### JSW Steel Ltd.

JSW Steel achieved its highest-ever crude steel production of 27.791 million tonnes and saleable steel sales of 26.452 million tonnes in FY25. For Q4 FY25, crude steel production was 7.633 million tonnes (up 12% YoY), and saleable steel sales were 7.49 million tonnes (up 11% YoY). JSW Steel's future outlook is positive, driven by strong domestic demand, particularly from the government's continued capital expenditure push. The company aims to increase its domestic crude steel production capacity to 37 MT by 2025.



### Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd. (JFL)

Jubilant FoodWorks, the operator of Domino's Pizza in India, reported a significant 76.86% drop in net profit for Q4 FY25 to ₹48 crore, despite a 33.6% revenue increase to ₹2,103 crore. While the Q4 profit drop raises concerns, the company's robust revenue growth, driven by new store openings (52 new Domino's outlets in Q4 alone), increasing order volumes, and a growing loyalty program (33.7 million members), indicates underlying demand strength. JFL is focused on profitable growth for Domino's, aiming to expand its network to over 5,500 stores in the geographies it operates.



## S&P Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5%

Cites Domestic Resilience and Favorable Global Conditions



S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 upward to 6.5%, citing supportive domestic conditions and a favorable external environment. The forecast aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) earlier projection and assumes a normal monsoon, lower global crude oil prices, income tax concessions, and monetary policy easing.

This revision comes just a month after S&P had downgraded India's FY26 estimate to 6.3%, largely due to concerns over global uncertainties and potential economic shocks from new U.S. tariffs. However, improved domestic indicators and stabilizing global energy markets have prompted the agency to adopt a more optimistic view.

India, which imports about 90% of its crude oil and roughly half of its natural gas, is highly sensitive to global energy price fluctuations. S&P acknowledged the escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly the recent U.S. military strikes on Iran's key nuclear sites following Israeli counterattacks. While these developments could

raise the risk of sustained oil price hikes, S&P believes current global oil markets are well-supplied, minimizing the chances of a long-term energy price shock.

The report further highlights India's resilient domestic demand, which plays a critical role in cushioning the economy from external shocks. Unlike export-heavy economies, India's reliance on internal consumption and services has made its economic outlook comparatively more stable.

S&P also warned of broader global risks, especially the ripple effects of U.S. trade policies and rising geopolitical instability. "The increase in U.S. import tariffs and the uncertainty surrounding them could weigh on global trade, investment, and overall growth," the report noted.

Despite these external headwinds, India's economy is expected to maintain momentum, driven by structural reforms, fiscal incentives, and stable macroeconomic fundamentals. As the world navigates volatile conditions, India's internal strengths are likely to be the cornerstone of its growth in FY26.

## India Set to See 55% Surge in Millionaires by 2029, Outpaces Asia-Pacific Growth: BCG Report

India is witnessing a significant rise in its millionaire population, with the number of individuals holding over USD 1 million in financial wealth expected to grow by 55% between 2024 and 2029, far surpassing the global average of 21%, according to a Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report released on June 25, 2025.

The report highlights India's accelerating momentum as a wealth management powerhouse, driven by a new generation of first-time wealth creators, including millennial entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and digital economy pioneers. This surge reflects a seismic transformation in India's financial landscape and positions the country at the forefront of global wealth expansion.

"India's wealth management market is undergoing rapid transformation," said Mayank Jha, Managing Director and Partner at BCG. "With financial wealth growing at 10.8% between 2023 and 2024—surpassing the Asia-Pacific (APAC) average of 7.3%—India is reshaping the global financial narrative."

Globally, financial wealth reached a record USD 305 trillion in 2024, propelled by an 8.1% increase in financial assets, largely fueled by strong equity market performance. In the Asia-Pacific region, Asset Under Management (AUM) saw organic growth of 50% from 2014



to 2024, more than double that of Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), and North America—primarily due to emerging economies like India.

According to BCG, India's continued rise will be powered by AI and GenAI-driven wealth advisory solutions, with firms needing to focus on customer segmentation, personalized services, and digital transformation to stay competitive.

BCG's Michael Kahlich added that the firms seeing the highest growth today are not just reliant on market exposure or hiring top bankers, but are those investing in advisor enablement, brand identity, and next-gen client strategies.

India's expanding pool of high-net-worth individuals signals not only rising prosperity but also an opportunity for global financial institutions to tap into a thriving and digitally evolving wealth ecosystem.

## Adani Airports Secures \$1 Billion Financing for Mumbai International Airport Modernisation

Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has successfully raised \$1 billion in project financing for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), marking a major milestone in India's airport infrastructure sector.

The financing includes a \$750 million bond issuance maturing in July 2029, aimed at refinancing existing obligations. An additional \$250 million provision is included in the structure, offering flexibility for future capital needs. This is India's first private investment-grade bond issuance in the airport sector and is expected to be rated BBB-/Stable.

"This successful issuance validates the strength of the Adani Airports' operating platform, the robust fundamentals of Mumbai International Airport, and our commitment to sustainable infrastructure development," said Arun Bansal, CEO of Adani Airports Holdings Ltd.

The capital raised will be used to support MIAL's development and modernisation plans, including capacity expansion, digitisation, and technology integration. The funding will also help accelerate the airport's sustainability initiatives, supporting its goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2029.

The transaction saw strong participation from



global institutional investors, including Apollo-managed funds, BlackRock, Standard Chartered, and other leading insurance companies. This highlights growing international confidence in India's infrastructure growth story and the credibility of Adani's airport operating model.

"This deal reflects our ability to attract diversified, high-quality global capital and reinforces our financial discipline and long-term value creation strategy," Bansal added.

The issuance follows AAHL's recent \$750 million financing round from a consortium of global banks and reaffirms Adani Group's growing access to international capital markets. Incorporated in 2019, AAHL is now India's largest private airport operator and continues to lead transformation efforts across the country's aviation infrastructure.



# YouTuber Sparks Debate With Eerie 2025–1941 Calendar Parallels Amid Global Turmoil

A viral video series by YouTuber Akuldeep Singhania has sparked intense discussion online, drawing unsettling comparisons between the year 2025 and the historically grim year of 1941. As global crises mount—from the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam—many are beginning to question whether history is eerily repeating itself.

Singhania’s videos suggest that the calendars for 2025 and 1941 are strikingly similar, with identical dates, weekdays, and weekends. He claims this parallel might explain why 2025 feels “cursed,” pointing to how 1941 was one of the bloodiest years in modern history, marred by World War II atrocities, global instability, and large-scale loss of life.

As tensions flare in the Middle East between Israel and Iran, and Indo-Pakistani relations deteriorate further following fresh violence, many viewers have resonated with Singhania’s theory. His videos have garnered millions of views, sparking debate not just about calendar oddities, but about whether humanity is ignoring the lessons of the past.

Adding to the intrigue, Singhania also touches on the ancient 13-month calendar systems used in some early civilizations, which he claims offered more balanced timekeeping but were abandoned for political and religious reasons. He implies that today’s 12-month Gregorian system may be spiritually or energetically flawed.

While many experts dismiss these theories as pseudoscience or coincidence, they’ve clearly tapped into a growing sense of unease in 2025.

With six months still left in the year, and global crises mounting, viewers are left to wonder: is this just pattern recognition—or something more ominous?



# Woman Wears Makeup Daily for 22 Years, Suffers Severe Skin Damage



A Chinese woman’s shocking skincare journey has gone viral after she revealed the devastating effects of wearing makeup every single day for 22 years—without ever properly removing it. Known online as Niuyoumian, the 37-year-old from China’s Jilin province shared her painful story, drawing attention to the long-term risks of poor skincare and heavy cosmetic use.

In a video widely circulated on social media, Niuyoumian appears with visibly inflamed, red, and swollen skin—symptoms of what she refers to as “hormone face,” a chronic skin condition caused by prolonged exposure to cosmetic chemicals and inadequate cleansing routines.

According to South China Morning Post, her skin problems began as early as age 14 after using an unsuitable acne cream. By 15, she was wearing makeup daily and continued the habit for over two decades. Working in the beauty and hair industry, she was also regularly exposed to strong salon chemicals. Using inexpensive, low-quality foundations only worsened her condition.

Despite suffering early signs like redness and itching, she ignored them. “I thought it could be fixed with some ointment,” she admitted. “But after 25, everything changed.”

Niuyoumian eventually turned to facial injections in 2011, hoping to improve her skin. However, these treatments backfired, further damaging her complexion. She has since been diagnosed with rosacea and Demodex mite infestations. “At its worst, it felt like ants crawling on my face,” she said.

Reflecting on her journey, she acknowledged that her impatience and constant switching of skincare products only made things worse. Now, with nearly 30,000 followers, she urges others: “Don’t blindly trust beauty products just because someone else says they work.”

Her experience has sparked widespread discussion online about responsible makeup use, the importance of proper skincare, and the hidden costs of beauty standards.

# From Village Craft to Global Catwalk: Kolhapuri Chappals Shine on Prada Runway

Once a staple of rural Maharashtra, the iconic Kolhapuri chappal has now taken center stage in global fashion. In a remarkable nod to Indian craftsmanship, the traditional hand-made leather footwear made a stunning appearance at Prada’s Spring/Summer 2026 menswear show in Milan.



Held at the prestigious Deposito of the Fondazione Prada, the event featured models walking the runway in Kolhapuri chappals paired with sleek, modern ensembles. The juxtaposition of the rustic charm of these age-old sandals with high-fashion silhouettes created a moment that fashion watchers are calling both bold and respectful.

Kolhapuri chappals originated centuries ago in the town of Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Designed to endure the harsh, sweltering heat of the region, the sandals are crafted using locally sourced leather and eco-conscious tanning methods. Artisans traditionally tan the leather using vegetable-based dyes and natural oils, ensuring the process remains environmentally sustainable.

What makes Kolhapuris unique is their hand-crafted precision—often involving families of cobblers who have passed the skills down through generations. Each pair carries a story

of tradition, heritage, and regional pride.

The Prada show’s inclusion of these sandals is being hailed as a significant step forward for Indian artisan representation in luxury fashion. While Indian textiles and embroidery have long influenced global designers, footwear rarely receives this level of attention.

Fashion critics and cultural commentators have praised Prada’s move as a celebration of authentic craftsmanship, not just a passing trend. With this global spotlight, Kolhapuri chappals are poised for a major resurgence—not just as summer staples in Indian homes, but as statement pieces in closets worldwide.

As the fashion world turns its eyes toward more sustainable, rooted design choices, the Kolhapuri chappal may finally be stepping into the global limelight it has long deserved.

# Could Earth Be Ejected From the Solar System? New Study Reveals Alarming Possibility

A new scientific study has sparked global curiosity—and a bit of concern—about the long-term stability of our planet within the solar system. According to research published in the journal *Icarus*, Earth could one day be ejected into deep space or spiral into the Sun, all due to the gravitational effects of passing stars.



The study, conducted by astronomers Nathan Kaib and Sean Raymond, explored the influence of “field stars”—stars that may pass close to our solar system—on the orbits of planets over billions of years. Using thousands of advanced computer simulations, the researchers found that the solar system is significantly less stable than previously believed.

If a star with a mass similar to our Sun passes within 10,000 astronomical units (about 1.5 trillion kilometers), it could disturb the Oort Cloud, a vast shell of icy objects at the outer edge of the solar system. This could trigger orbital instability across the planetary lineup, including Earth.

The study highlights that Mercury’s orbit could become unstable with a 50–80% increased risk, potentially causing catastrophic gravitational chain

reactions. Such events could redirect Venus or Mars into collision paths with Earth or even hurl our planet toward Jupiter, whose strong gravitational pull could eject Earth entirely from the solar system.

Although the likelihood remains low—just 0.2% over the next five billion years—the findings challenge the long-held belief that our planetary orbits are perfectly balanced and unchanging. These revelations come as a reminder that while Earth feels like a safe haven, it is ultimately part of a dynamic and unpredictable cosmic environment. The study offers a humbling perspective on our place in the universe and underscores the ongoing need to study celestial mechanics in greater depth.

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## Neeraj Chopra Wins Golden Spike Title, Joins Coach Zelezny in Elite Club

Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra clinched the top spot at the Golden Spike meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic, on Tuesday (June 25, 2025), with a winning throw of 85.29m. This marks Chopra's debut win at the prestigious World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event — and another significant milestone in his already illustrious career.

Coming off a strong victory at the Paris Diamond League on June 20, Chopra continued his fine form in Ostrava, where he outperformed a nine-man field. Despite a modest throw by his high standards, Chopra did enough to secure the title, edging past South Africa's Douw Smit (84.12m) and Grenada's Anderson Peters (83.63m).

Chopra began the competition with a foul, followed by an 83.45m attempt. His best came in the third round with an 85.29m throw, which secured him the lead. His next two attempts measured 82.17m and 81.01m, while the final throw resulted in another foul.

Interestingly, this victory aligns Chopra with his legendary coach Jan Zelezny, who serves as the event director and is a nine-time winner of the Golden Spike meet. Held in Zelezny's homeland,



this event has long been a revered venue in the world of javelin, and Chopra's win only adds to its legacy.

The competition field was relatively light in the absence of Germany's Julian Weber, who had previously beaten Chopra in Doha and Poland. Nonetheless, Chopra's consistency has been notable, with Paris DL, a second-place finish in Doha with a 90m+ throw, and now this win in Ostrava all coming in a stellar 2025 season.

Chopra now looks ahead to hosting the NC Classic in Bengaluru on July 5, where big names like Anderson Peters and Thomas Rohler are also expected to participate.

## AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Chris Morris Lead Star-Studded South Africa Champions Squad for WCL 2025

Johannesburg, June 25, 2025 — Cricket fans are set for a nostalgia-packed treat as South Africa's legendary cricketers reunite for the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025. Headlining the formidable South Africa Champions squad are iconic names like AB de Villiers, Chris Morris, and Hashim Amla — players who defined an era of South African cricket.

Joining this powerhouse trio are other notable stars including Albie Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Hardus Viljoen, Aaron Phangiso, and JP Duminy, creating a well-balanced team rich in experience, firepower, and match-winning potential. Together, they bring not only talent but also the legacy and competitive edge that made South African cricket feared and respected globally.

Speaking about his return, AB de Villiers said, "There's nothing like playing for South Africa. Being back with this group of legends, in front of fans who've always supported us, is truly



special. WCL is more than a tournament — it's a celebration of cricket's enduring spirit. And we're here to compete and win."

Amandeep Singh, founder of Game Changers and owner of the South Africa Champions, shared his excitement: "This squad is built to inspire and ignite passion across generations. Legends like AB, Amla, and Morris don't just play — they command the game. We're honoured to have them lead our charge at WCL 2025."

Harry Singh, co-owner of the team, added, "It's a privilege to bring this legendary squad back together. The South Africa Champions embody everything bold, competitive, and passionate about cricket. We're not just participating — we're writing history again."

With such an elite lineup, South Africa Champions are undoubtedly among the top contenders to lift the WCL 2025 trophy, promising thrilling moments for cricket lovers worldwide.

## World Pickleball League Launches 'WPBL On Tour' to Boost Year-Round Engagement

In a strategic move to expand its fanbase and deepen regional engagement, the World Pickleball League (WPBL) has launched "WPBL On Tour"—a multi-city, off-season tournament series designed to sustain momentum and visibility ahead of Season 2 in early 2026.

This initiative will see each of the six WPBL franchises host a city-based tournament in their home territories, with the league providing marketing, strategic, and financial support. The tour will run over four months and include 20+ days of on-ground events, opening doors for local players and enthusiasts to compete under their city's team banner.

WPBL Co-founder and CEO Gaurav Natekar emphasized the league's commitment to community-driven growth. "From the beginning, our goal



was to create value not just during the main season, but throughout the year. 'WPBL On Tour' empowers franchises to build grassroots support, foster loyal fan communities, and make pickleball a permanent cultural presence in each city,"

he said.

**WPBL On Tour Schedule:**  
Chennai Super Champs: August 6–10, Chennai  
Hyderabad Superstars: August 19–24, Hyderabad  
Dilli Dillwale: August 29–31,

New Delhi  
Bengaluru Jawans: October 8–10, Bengaluru  
Pune United: October 29–November 2, Pune  
Mumbai Pickle Power: November 5–9, Mumbai

WPBL promises to reveal more activations, programs, and partnerships in the coming months, aiming to create a 360° sporting ecosystem unlike any other professional league in India.

Registration and event details will be shared soon by the WPBL and individual franchises through their social media channels.

With Season 2 scheduled for January 24 to February 8, 2026, 'WPBL On Tour' is positioned as a dynamic lead-up to India's growing pickleball spectacle.

## Duckett Masterclass Powers England to Famous Win Over India at Headingley

England pulled off a sensational chase on Day 5 of the Headingley Test, gunning down a daunting 371-run target to defeat India by five wickets and take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The victory was built on a commanding 188-run opening stand between Ben Duckett (149 off 170) and Zak Crawley (65 off 126), who neutralised India's pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj under overcast morning skies. Duckett, named Player of the Match, lit up the innings with a flurry of strokes, including seven sweeps and a reverse-swept six, en route to his sixth Test century.

India briefly clawed back after a short rain delay. Prasidh Krishna removed Crawley and Ollie Pope in quick succession, while Shardul Thakur dismissed Duckett and Harry Brook in back-to-back deliveries to leave England wobbling.



But Joe Root (53\* off 84) and Jamie Smith (44\* off 55) held their nerve, stitching together an unbeaten 71-run partnership that sealed the win in front of an electric Headingley crowd. Ben Stokes added 33 vital runs in the middle.

India's bowlers struggled to maintain pressure, with Bumrah and Siraj going wicketless. Jadeja managed one scalp, while Prasidh and Shardul claimed two each.

**Final Scores:**  
India 1st innings: 471  
England 1st innings: 465  
India 2nd innings: 364  
England 2nd innings: 373/5 (82 overs)

The series now heads to Birmingham for the second Test, starting July 2, with India needing a strong response after a defeat that will spark serious introspection.

## Faith Kipyegon's Historic Quest: Can She Become the First Woman to Break the 4-Minute Mile?



Faith Kipyegon, Kenya's legendary middle-distance runner and a three-time Olympic gold medallist in the 1500m, is now aiming to achieve what no woman has done before — break the four-minute barrier in the mile. In a groundbreaking, non-official race titled Breaking, Kipyegon is determined to etch her name alongside Roger Bannister, who famously broke the men's four-minute mile in 1954.

To accomplish this monumental feat, Kipyegon is embracing cutting-edge performance science. She'll be supported by five pacemakers running in a strategic formation, designed to maximize drafting efficiency. Additionally, she will wear a specially engineered sports bra that retains less moisture, along with an aerodynamic racing suit and headband crafted to reduce wind resistance — all of which aim to shave off precious seconds.

**This attempt isn't just about a time. It's about legacy.**

Kipyegon's journey began far from the spotlight. A clip from the 2010 World Cross Country Championships shows a teenage Kipyegon running barefoot through mud in Bydgoszcz, Poland, competing in her first international race and finishing fourth in the junior category. "I was just a young girl from the village without shoes or spikes," Kipyegon reflects in the new documentary Breaking4, released ahead of the challenge. "That moment still inspires me. It will always stay in my heart."

Her career has since flourished, culminating in Olympic gold medals in Rio (2016), Tokyo (2021), and Paris (2024), making her the first woman to win three Olympic 1500m titles.

Now, at the peak of her powers, Kipyegon is pushing the boundaries of human potential once more. Can she become the first woman to run a sub-4-minute mile? The world is watching, and history beckons.





## “Final Destination: Bloodlines Now Streaming – But There’s a Catch!”

The latest installment in the iconic horror franchise, Final Destination: Bloodlines, has made its way to streaming platforms after a successful theatrical run. Directed by Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein, the film has drawn in horror fans across the globe, especially in India, where it was released in multiple languages including Telugu. Known for its trademark mix of suspense, eerie coincidences, and fatalistic thrills, Bloodlines has been praised for staying true to the spirit of the original films while offering a fresh, terrifying experience.

Now available for home viewing, the film is streaming in English on Amazon Prime Video. However, viewers hoping to watch the Telugu or other regional dubbed versions will need to head over to BookMyShow Stream. Here’s where the twist comes in — those versions come with a rental price tag of Rs. 499, which many fans might find steep, especially considering that the movie is



still playing in theaters in several cities at a lower ticket cost. This pricing strategy has left fans divided. While die-hard franchise lovers may pay the premium to enjoy the film at home, casual viewers are more likely to wait until it becomes available for free with a standard OTT subscription.

Starring Kaitlyn Santa Juana, Teo Briones, and Richard Harmon, the film continues the legacy of death’s relentless design with a new set of characters caught in a deadly chain of events. Though the digital release has brought the scares closer to home, many still believe that the big screen delivers the ultimate Final Destination experience. For now, fans must choose between the thrill of the theater and the convenience of streaming — at a cost.

## Raids on Manchu Vishnu Ahead of ‘Kannappa’ Release

- GST officials inspect homes of Vishnu and film crew
- Raids linked to alleged tax evasion on ₹120–₹200 crore film
- Searches come just two days before ‘Kannappa’ release

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar

Hyderabad: Just two days ahead of its highly anticipated release, Manchu Vishnu’s pan-India film ‘Kannappa’ has landed in controversy, as GST officials conducted surprise raids on the actor’s residence and office in Madhapur, Hyderabad. Searches were also carried out at the residences of several members of the film unit. According to officials, the raids were based on allegations of tax and GST evasion related to the massive budget of the film. The film, which reportedly cost between ₹120 crore and ₹200 crore, has caught the attention of authorities, especially after Vishnu himself admitted in an interview that the project involved a large financial risk. “Trains were running in my heart,” he had said about the scale of the production — a statement that officials now seem to be treating seriously. Sources reveal that five officials were involved in the inspections, which were focused on budget records and financial documentation of the film. The fact that these raids have taken place just before the film’s June 27 release has caused a major buzz in the film industry.



‘Kannappa’ features a star-studded lineup including Tollywood star Prabhas, Malayalam legend Mohanlal, and Bollywood icon Akshay Kumar. With such big names involved, there’s now growing speculation around their remunerations and the structuring of payments, which the authorities may also be reviewing. Veteran actor and Vishnu’s father, Mohan Babu, arrived at the office soon after learning about the raids but declined to speak to the media and left quietly. With expectations sky-high for ‘Kannappa’, all eyes are now on whether these last-minute raids will impact the film’s release or reception. The production team has not issued an official statement yet.

## Rajinikanth’s ‘Coolie’ Gets a New Title in Hindi – Here’s Why!

Superstar Rajinikanth’s 171st film, Coolie, directed by the sensational Lokesh Kanagaraj, is one of the most anticipated films of the year. With expectations soaring high, the film is set to hit theatres worldwide on August 14, 2025. Touted as a pan-India action entertainer, Coolie marks the first collaboration between Rajinikanth and Lokesh Kanagaraj — a pairing that has generated massive buzz among fans and cinephiles. The ensemble cast includes prominent names such as Nagarjuna Akkineni, Upendra, Soubin Shahir, and Shruti Haasan in pivotal roles, with Pooja Hegde making a special appearance in a much-talked-about song. The film, made on a massive budget of ₹250 crore, is being positioned as a box-office juggernaut with an ambitious target of ₹1000 crore in global collections. However, the film has now made headlines for an unexpected reason — a title change in the Hindi version. While Coolie will retain its original title in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam, sources reveal that the Hindi version will be released as Mazdoor. The rea-



son? Bollywood already has two well-known films with the title Coolie — the iconic 1983 Amitabh Bachchan starrer and the 2020 remake Coolie No. 1 starring Varun Dhawan. To avoid confusion and establish a unique identity in the Hindi market, the makers have opted for the alternative title Mazdoor, which carries a similar meaning. The change has received a

mixed response from fans — some feel Coolie had stronger brand recall across languages, while others appreciate the effort to differentiate. With just weeks to go for release, all eyes are now on Coolie/Mazdoor as it gears up to storm the box office with Rajinikanth’s trademark charisma and Lokesh Kanagaraj’s gripping direction.

## Simbu’s Sci-Fi Hit ‘Maanaadu’ Set for a Sequel: Maanaadu 2 in the Works

Kollywood star Silambarasan TR, popularly known as Simbu, is all set to return to one of his biggest hits — Maanaadu. The 2021 time-loop sci-fi thriller, directed by Venkat Prabhu, turned out to be a major game-changer in Simbu’s career, especially after a string of underwhelming releases. Now, exciting reports from Tamil film circles suggest that Maanaadu 2 is officially in the pipeline.

The original film not only brought Simbu back into the limelight but also earned glowing reviews from critics and audiences alike. With its smart screenplay, engaging narrative, and strong performances — particularly from Simbu and SJ Suryah — Maanaadu was both a critical and commercial success. It grossed over Rs. 120 crores worldwide and found a strong fan base even among Telugu au-



diences, where it was dubbed and released as The Loop.

The sequel is expected to once again feature the dynamic duo of Simbu and director Venkat Prabhu, although produc-

tion will commence only after the two complete their current projects. Simbu is presently working on films with Dragon director Ashwath Marimuthu and acclaimed filmmaker Vetrimaaran. Meanwhile, Venkat Prabhu is busy with a movie starring Sivakarthikeyan.

While plot details for Maanaadu 2 are still under wraps, fans are already speculating about how the time-loop concept will be taken forward. Given the success of the original and the creative potential of the genre, expectations are sky-high.

With this sequel, both Simbu and Venkat Prabhu aim to recreate — or even surpass — the magic of their previous outing. All eyes are now on official announcements to see when the loop will begin again.



## Sreeleela Walks Out of Akhil’s ‘Lenin’? Heroine Exit Creates Buzz

Young Tollywood star Akhil Akkineni’s much-anticipated film Lenin has been making waves ever since its announcement. Directed by Murali Kishore Abburi, the film is being jointly produced by Annapurna Studios and Sithara Entertainment, with Akkineni Nagarjuna and Naga Vamsi backing the project. A powerful glimpse from the film, set in a rural backdrop, has already generated excitement among fans. However, recent reports suggest a major shake-up in the cast — leading actress Sreeleela is said to have exited the film.

Initially, Sreeleela was announced as the female lead opposite Akhil in Lenin. Her pairing with the young star had sparked interest, especially considering her rising popularity in Telugu cinema. But according to industry buzz, Sreeleela has decided to step away from the project due to scheduling conflicts. The actress is currently juggling multiple big-ticket films across different languages, including Ustaad

Bhagat Singh with Pawan Kalyan in Telugu, a Hindi film alongside Kartik Aaryan, and a Tamil film directed by Sudha Kongara.

Sources claim that her packed calendar made it difficult to allocate dates for Lenin, prompting her decision to opt out. However, there has been no official confirmation from the film’s team or Sreeleela’s representatives so far.

If the reports are true, the makers are now actively looking for a new heroine to step into the role. This unexpected development has stirred curiosity about who will replace Sreeleela and whether the casting change will impact the film’s production timeline.

With Lenin shaping up to be a crucial project in Akhil’s career, all eyes are on the team’s next move. Fans are eagerly waiting for an official update regarding the film’s female lead and further progress.