



Seethakka Questions Authenticity of Maoist Letter

- Says BRS can’t digest a Koya woman holding a general portfolio
- Vows to protect forest dwellers’ rights and fight for tribal welfare

TPN Correspondent | Mulugu

In a powerful and emotionally charged response to recent political attacks, Telangana Minister Seethakka addressed the media in Eturu Nagar, Mulugu district, expressing anguish over the misuse of a controversial Maoist letter and the derogatory remarks made against her by sections of the media allegedly aligned with the BRS.

Minister Seethakka said the authenticity of the letter said to be issued by the Maoists remains unclear. “But what’s more concerning is that certain media houses, especially those tied to a political party, are interpreting the letter to suit their narrative, using vulgar language and targeting me personally,” she said.



The Minister, a prominent tribal leader from the Koya community, alleged that the BRS is unable to accept the fact that a tribal woman has been entrusted with a general portfolio for the first

time in 75 years. “They are trying to defame me with fake videos and personal attacks. But I have always been among the people. I spend days every week in Mulugu and Adilabad, working for development,” she stated.

Referring to her opposition to GO 49, which she described as “an axe to tribal lives,” Seethakka reiterated that even though she is not the Tribal Welfare Minister, she took initiative, gathered all ST MLAs regardless of party, and fought for its repeal. “I was born in the forest. I belong to the forest. My life is for the welfare of tribal people,” she asserted.

Seethakka revealed that she had directly spoken to Forest Minister Konda Surekha and PCCF Suvarna regarding recent incidents in Mulugu and

Bhadradri Kothagudem, where tribal huts were allegedly destroyed. “We have instructed officials not to repeat such incidents. If any officer oversteps, strict action will be taken,” she added.

She slammed the BRS for their “fake love” towards tribals. “They jailed tribal mothers, tied them to trees, beat them... and now they cry crocodile tears. You ruled for ten years—what did you do then?” she questioned.

The Minister also accused the BRS of spending ₹100 crore to defeat her in the last election. “But the people of Mulugu gave me a record majority. I am using this mandate to uplift the agency and poor communities,” she affirmed.

Seethakka concluded by invoking the legacies of Nehru and Ambedkar. “Because of them, the Constitution gave rights to SCs, STs, and BCs. I will always fight to protect those rights. My policy remains the same—don’t cut the new forest, but never abandon the old one. That’s the fight I stood for then, and now.”

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IS MEENAKSHI DOING WELL...?

to accommodate his close associates by offering them cabinet berths. But the high command clearly stated that social equations would be the only criteria for cabinet inclusion—and the expansion was carried out accordingly. Behind this shift, Meenakshi’s role was certainly significant.

At a time when the Congress gov-

ernment is under pressure from the public on various issues like the Hyderabad water crisis and the fall in land prices, Meenakshi’s entry has brought some organizational stability. This, in turn, has allowed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to focus more on administration and strategic governance.

PJR Flyover Opens Today for Public

Junction Flyover and Shilpa Layout Phase 1 Flyover—making it a landmark infrastructure feat in the city.

With this flyover, commuters heading from ORR towards Kondapur, Hafeezpet, Hi-Tech City, and the Financial District will see a drastic reduction in traffic congestion, especially at the notoriously busy Gachibowli Junction. Travel time is expected to be cut significantly, with improved connectivity to the Shamshabad Airport and surrounding IT zones.

This launch marks the 23rd flyover completed under SRDP. Of the 42 works sanctioned, 37 are now complete. GHMC Commis-

sioner R.V. Karnan has set targets to complete the Falaknuma Railway Over Bridge (ROB) by the end of July and the Shastripuram ROB by August-end. Once these are done, 39 of the 42 SRDP projects will be finished.

Under the People’s Governance government, Hyderabad is witnessing a renewed infrastructure push. H City has proposed 58 new works with an investment of ₹7,032 crore—including 28 flyovers, 13 underpasses, 4 ROB, 3 railway underbridges, and 10 road-widening projects. These developments aim to place Hyderabad firmly on the map as an international city with seamless urban mobility.

Demolition Orders Near Begumpet Airport

Demolition of Obstruction Rules 2025’, which lay out strict measures for ensuring clear air routes in aerodrome zones.

Under the new rules, buildings that exceed the permissible height limits or violate other safety criteria near airports are to be either reduced in height or completely demolished. Acting on these directives, authorities have begun targeting certain high-rise structures near Begumpet Airport, issuing orders for their demolition.

This move has sparked fear and unrest among local residents, many of whom have been living

in the area for decades. Families now face the possibility of sudden displacement, with little clarity on compensation or relocation support.

“We’ve built our homes here with our life savings. How can they demolish them overnight?” questioned a local resident.

While officials argue that the step is necessary to ensure flight safety and compliance with international aviation norms, affected citizens are demanding a more transparent process and adequate rehabilitation before any demolition begins.

Only The Mother and Daughter Left...

the mother and daughter were intercepted during that politically volatile period. The SIT plans to issue notices to both shortly, although reports suggest they have so far avoided questioning.

Officials say over 500 witnesses have already been examined, including MLAs, MPs, journalists, lawyers, and senior police officers. The remaining key individuals to be questioned include former Telangana DGP Mahender Reddy, BRS top leaders, and a few celebrities from the Telugu film industry whose phones were allegedly tapped.

Interestingly, the former SIB chief Prabhakar Rao, who was elusive for over 13 months, has also been identified during the probe. Officials hinted that the SIT is entering the final leg of the investigation, with interrogation of victims continuing on a daily basis in large numbers.

With political heavyweights largely covered, the focus now shifts to the remaining high-profile names—starting with the mother-daughter duo and ending with BRS bosses and cinema stars.

T News Anchor Swetcha Dies by Suicide in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a tragic incident, T News Channel anchor Swetcha Votarkar died by suicide at her residence in Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad. She reportedly attempted suicide earlier today and was rushed to the hospital, but doctors confirmed that she had already passed away by the time she was brought in.

The incident has sent shockwaves across media circles, with colleagues and friends expressing deep shock over her sudden demise. The Chikkadapalli police, who were alerted immediately, reached the spot and



have begun a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death.

Police sources confirmed that the body has been shifted to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem examination. The exact reasons for the suicide are still unknown, and authorities are examining all angles, including personal and professional aspects of her life.

Swetcha was known for her energetic presence on screen and had worked for multiple media houses before joining T News. Further details are awaited as the investigation continues.

Congress Govt Will Protect Telangana’s Water Rights: Uttam Kumar Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Suryapet

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday assured that the Congress government would fiercely protect Telangana’s rightful share in Krishna and Godavari river waters, declaring that there would be no compromise when it comes to the interests of farmers and the future of the state.

During an inspection of the ongoing irrigation works on Krishna River in Suryapet district, Uttam Kumar Reddy blamed the previous BRS regime for plunging the irrigation sector into crisis. He pointed out that due to their mismanagement, the state is now saddled with ₹16,000 crore in annual interest payments on irrigation loans, calling it a “sin against the people.”

He sharply criticised the BRS for surrendering Telangana’s rights in Krishna



water allocations. While the total allocation for combined Andhra Pradesh was 811 TMC, BRS had accepted just 299 TMC for Telangana, leaving 512 TMC for Andhra Pradesh. “This is a historical betrayal of our farmers,” he stated.

Uttam affirmed that the Congress government will pursue every avenue — administrative, political, and legal — to ensure Telangana receives a fair share. If consultations with the Centre don’t yield results, he warned, the state would not hesitate to move court.

Recalling past decisions, he said the Congress had originally proposed the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahitha-Ch-evella project at Tumma-dihatti for ₹38,000 crore, which would have benefited large parts of Telangana. But, the BRS government scrapped it in favour of the ₹1 lakh crore Kaleshwaram project, which he said has now proven to be a failure.

“That ₹62,000 crore waste could have completed several crucial projects,” he said, naming SLBC, Palamuru–Rangareddy, Bhima, Nettempadu, Koilsagar,

Devadula, Sitarama, and Gouravelli.

He also criticised the BRS for spending ₹27,500 crore on the Palamuru–Rangareddy project and ₹10,000 crore on the Sitarama project, without adding a single acre of new ayacut.

In contrast, he highlighted Congress government achievements — enabling farmers to produce a record 281 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in Kharif and Rabi combined, and disbursing ₹9,000 crore through Rythu Bharosa in just nine days.

Addressing delays in the Jawahar Jan Pahad lift irrigation scheme, he warned contractors to speed up work and advised them to use the Central Design Organisation for any necessary changes.

Uttam Kumar Reddy concluded by stating, “Telangana farmers deserve assured and timely irrigation. We will not rest until justice is delivered.”

Government Stands in Solidarity with Persons with Disabilities

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana’s IT and Industries Minister, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, reaffirmed the commitment of the people-centric government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to support persons with disabilities in every possible way.

On Friday, the Minister distributed tricycles and other assistive equipment to differently-abled individuals at Mahadevpur mandal headquarters in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

“Our government accords special priority to the welfare of persons with disabilities. We are committed to empowering them to excel in all fields. Indiramma housing will be allotted to them, and new pensions will be sanctioned. While we are focused on



restoring the economy that was derailed, we are also working tirelessly to fulfill every election promise made to the people,” he said.

He further highlighted key welfare initiatives being implemented across the state, including free electricity, subsidized rice, zero-interest loans for women, Indiramma housing, and

restoring the economy that was derailed, we are also working tirelessly to fulfill every election promise made to the people,” he said.

The event was attended by Telangana State Trade Promotion Corporation Chairman Ayitha Prakash Reddy, Kuda Chairman Inagala Venkataram Reddy, District Collector Rahul Sharma, Sub-Collector Mayank Singh, Additional Collector for Local Bodies Vijayalakshmi, and several other dignitaries.

Plan Power Generation According to Demand – Deputy CM

Full Freedom to Directors – Ensure Government’s Vision Is Fulfilled
Daily Monitoring of Power Agreements Ordered
GENCO Officials & Directors Review Meeting Held at Praja Bhavan



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has emphasized the need to formulate long-term strategies for power generation aligned with Telangana's future demand. Addressing a review meeting with senior officials from the power department and GENCO directors at Praja Bhavan on Friday evening, the Deputy CM pointed out that Telangana's peak power demand rose from 15,497 MW in March 2023 to 17,162 MW in March 2025. He directed officials to estimate how much this demand will grow by 2029-30, 2030-35, and 2047, and to plan generation capacity accordingly through various sources. Highlighting the state's commitment

to farmer welfare, the Deputy CM stated that the government is currently supplying free 24-hour power to nearly 30 lakh agricultural pump sets, for which the Finance Department is paying ₹12,500 crore annually to power utilities. Additionally, 200 units of free electricity are being provided to the poor, costing the government around ₹2,000 crore, which is projected to increase to ₹3,000 crore. In total, future financial obligations under free power schemes may reach ₹17,000 crore, he said. To handle this future scenario, the Deputy CM instructed officials to expedite plans to scale up green energy production. The government has launched the "Indira Solar Girijala Vi-

kasam" scheme aimed at empowering tribal communities, under which 6.70 lakh acres will be brought under cultivation using solar-powered pumps. Considering the future demand for thermal power by 2030-31 and 2035, he directed officials to plan for new thermal power plants to replace aging ones like the Ramagundam and KTPP units that were built 50 years ago. Since the Kothagudem Thermal Power Station completed 50 years and was shut down in 2019, he noted that the 500-acre site, with available coal reserves, is ideal for a new 800 MW unit. Likewise, the outdated 62.5 MW unit at Ramagundam (established

during the Nizam era) has been de-commissioned, and plans should be prepared to build an 800 MW thermal plant at the same site. With the government considering setting up thermal plants under GENCO, the Deputy CM asked directors to come up with a concrete action plan. He expressed hope that Telangana REDCO (Renewable Energy Development Corporation) would become a national role model and assured full government support, instructing them to submit a detailed proposal on the staffing needs and organizational structure. "We are giving directors full freedom—just deliver on the government's expectations," said the Deputy

CM, encouraging the newly appointed directors to contribute innovative ideas for the department's growth. Instructions were issued to fast-track solar panel installations on houses under the Gruha Jyothi and Indiramma housing schemes to provide clean energy and income to beneficiaries. Furthermore, he ordered the formation of a coordination team between the Irrigation Department and GENCO to advance floating solar power generation. The meeting was attended by Energy Department Principal Secretary Naveen Mittal, TRANSCO CMD D. Krishna Bhaskar, GENCO CMD Harish, REDCO VC&MD Anila, and other officials.

Is Phone Tapping Probe A Daily Serial?: Raghunandan Rao

BJP MP blames Congress-BRS nexus, slams SIT, namesake schemes
Alleges phone tapping began during Dubbaka bypoll



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
BJP MP Raghunandan Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged phone tapping scandal in Telangana. Speaking to the media on Friday, he likened the investigation to a "daily serial" and claimed it lacked seriousness and transparency. Raghunandan revealed that the alleged phone tapping began during the Dubbaka by-election and asserted that his phone was the first to be tapped. "I have already complained to the DGP regarding the tapping of my phone during the Dubbaka bypoll. But no details have been collected from me. SIT hasn't even called me for inquiry. They are questioning people unrelated to the case while ignoring those who raised the complaint," he said. He further ridiculed the investigation,

saying it would end up yielding "nothing but a donkey's egg." The MP accused both Congress and BRS of having an understanding behind the scenes. He alleged that the two parties are protecting each other, and questioned the Congress government's intentions in continuing the probe half-heartedly. Raghunandan Rao also strongly criticized the Congress government for renaming schemes, particularly slamming the decision to change the name of Annapurna canteens under GHMC to 'Indiramma'. He remarked, "Mentioning Indiramma brings back Emergency memories. Instead of renaming schemes, the mayor should focus on pressing civic issues like stray dog menace." He alleged that the houses built under the Indiramma scheme were being handed over to Congress workers instead of the poor. Challenging Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, he said, "Let him prove that deserving poor got the houses in his own constituency." Turning his criticism towards BRS, Raghunandan Rao took a dig at Kavitha's recent remarks on BC empowerment. "Was Kavitha a BC when BRS was in power for ten years? Did they remember BCs then? Now they talk of BC movements without giving the party or legislative leadership to a BC," he said. The MP concluded by stating that the BJP is prepared to amend the Constitution to remove religious-based reservations, and reaffirmed the party's commitment to social justice through constitutional reforms.

Manjira Barrage In Danger, Says KTR

BRS leader slams Congress for ignoring safety warnings

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, accusing it of endangering the Manjira Barrage — a crucial water source for Hyderabad and its surrounding areas. His remarks came a day after concerns were raised about the structural integrity of the Jurla project, drawing parallels between the two incidents. KTR alleged that the Congress-led government under CM Revanth Reddy has shown alarming negligence in handling irrigation and drinking water infrastructure. He reminded that the State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO) had inspected the Manjira Barrage on March 22 and submitted a safety report warning of cracked pillars, erosion of the apron, and a damaged spillway. "Despite these red flags, the government remained inactive. This is not just negligence; it is an unforgivable crime," he said. The BRS leader also criticized the government's failure to act on the Medigadda Barrage even after the NDSA report highlighted structural issues. "How can the government stay silent on Manjira, after making so much noise about Medigadda earlier? It is shameless political hypocrisy," KTR stated. He argued that factional politics should not come at the cost of public safety and infrastructure maintenance.



Highlighting the urgent need for repairs, KTR said that any further delay, especially with increased upstream inflows expected during the monsoon, could lead to a disaster at Manjira. He warned that if the Congress government continues to ignore these warnings, both irrigation and drinking water supply to major regions could be severely affected. Calling on the government to act responsibly, KTR demanded immediate repair work at both Manjira and Medigadda barrages. "History will not forgive CM Revanth Reddy if political ego is allowed to override public interest," he warned, concluding with a resolute "Jai Telangana."

KCR, KTR Should Go To Jail: MP Vishweshwar Reddy

BJP MP demands strict action in phone tapping case

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
BJP MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy made explosive remarks on Friday, demanding that former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) be sent to jail for their alleged involvement in the phone tapping scandal that has rocked the state's political landscape. The MP appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) as part of the ongoing probe into the case. After giving his statement at the Jubilee Hills Police Station, Vishweshwar Reddy spoke to the media and accused the previous BRS government of gross misuse of power. "My phone was tapped multiple times just because I raised my voice. I was targeted with false cases for speaking up," he alleged. He urged that those responsible for these violations be brought to justice. He further stated, "Unless KCR and KTR are punished for their roles in this conspiracy, such acts will continue to recur in our democracy. They must go to jail for

what they've done." The MP confirmed that he plans to take the issue to the national level by raising it during the upcoming Parliament session. He called for central government intervention, if necessary, to ensure a thorough and unbiased investigation. Vishweshwar Reddy's appearance before the SIT and his sharp accusations have intensified political tensions in Telangana, as the state continues to grapple with revelations from the high-profile surveillance scandal.



Congress Misusing Indiramma Housing Scheme for Political Mileage

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The BJP has accused the ruling Congress party of misusing the Indiramma housing scheme for political gains within the Badangpet Municipal Corporation. In a strong statement, BJP Badangpet Municipal President Rallagudem Ramakrishna Reddy condemned the way Congress workers are distributing housing pattas door to door, allegedly presenting the scheme as an exclusive Congress initiative. Speaking to the media, Ramakrishna Reddy expressed outrage that the Congress is claiming credit for a scheme implemented with both central and state government funds, and misleading the public by projecting it as a party-driven effort. He called the act a clear violation of rules, stating that distributing government welfare benefits through party workers was unethical and unlawful. He further criticized the Municipal Commissioner for ignoring repeated complaints about the is-



sue. "Even after several representations, the Commissioner has not changed his attitude. He continues to neglect development work and appears to be operating solely for commissions," Reddy alleged, accusing the officer of siding with the Congress instead of maintaining neutrality in public service. In protest, BJP leaders and workers announced a gathering today in front of the municipal office to submit an official complaint to the Commissioner, demanding immediate corrective action. Their primary demand is the transparent

and fair distribution of government welfare schemes. Ramakrishna Reddy also warned that if such misuse of public schemes is not stopped immediately, the BJP will be forced to launch an agitation. Prominent BJP leaders including Ramidi Veera Karna Reddy, Nimmala Sunitha Srikanth Goud, Kontham Prakash Reddy, Navara Srinivas Reddy, Race Narasimha Reddy, Saidulu Thota, Arender Reddy, Kyaragari Arvind, Praveen Goud, and Angalla Srinivas participated in the protest plan.

AP Police Launches National AI Hackathon to Transform Law Enforcement

60 top AI teams tackle 8 real-world policing challenges

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Police Department inaugurated the AI4AndhraPolice 2025 Hackathon in Guntur on Friday, marking a national first in leveraging Generative AI and Agentic AI for modern law enforcement. The event aims to reimagine policing through technology and innovation. Addressing the gathering, Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta, IPS, said, “It is a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh to host this ground-



breaking initiative. We are not just solving problems—we are building the future of policing.” He was joined by Hon’ble Chief

Minister Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Hon’ble Home Minister Smt. Vangalapudi Anitha.

The DGP recalled Andhra Pradesh’s tech leadership in the past, citing how the state’s eCOPS platform eventually became the national standard CCTNS. “Now, we stand at another inflection point, with AI at the heart of governance,” he said.

The idea for the hackathon was conceived three months ago, during which time over 30 senior IPS officers collaborated with knowledge partner 4SightAI to define eight high-impact, real-world challenges. These include domains like productivity, intelligence, investigation, and cybersecurity.

Over 160 teams applied, and 60 were selected, comprising AI startups, corporate R&D units, and top student innovators. The selected teams will work for 36 hours to build deployable AI solutions. According to the DGP, “At least four use cases have potential applications beyond policing—in health, urban services, and transport.” He noted the strong industry



response, with experts calling the challenges some of the “most realistic public sector AI problems” they’ve seen in India. The IndiaAI division from MeitY has expressed interest in supporting outcomes from the hackathon through funding and national alignment. “This is no longer just a hackathon—it’s a movement,” Gupta remarked. He confirmed that the department plans to present the results at platforms such as Global AI Summits, IEEE Police Tech Conferences, and IndiaAI Missions. The event also attracted at-

tention from international AI communities, including Silicon Valley, as the challenges addressed here reflect global issues in civic tech and public safety.

Gupta extended thanks to 4SightAI, their US-based knowledge partner, and RVR & JC College of Engineering, the event host. He concluded by thanking the Chief Minister and Home Minister for their visionary leadership.

“To all participants—welcome to history in the making,” he said. “Let’s build the future of policing, together.”

Illegal Defense Liquor Transport Busted in Rangareddy



TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy The Rangareddy District Enforcement Team has successfully cracked down on illegal liquor transportation near Attapur, detaining two individuals involved in smuggling Defense liquor. Acting on credible information, the enforcement officials apprehended the suspects under the Attapur flyover.

The two arrested individuals have been identified as Mutyala Bhanu Chander and Mutyala Akhilesh Sagar. Upon inspection, the authorities seized a total of 15 bottles of Defense liquor, which included 12 bottles of the 100 Papers brand and 3 bottles of the Bender Speed

brand, along with two beer bottles. The liquor was being transported illegally on a scooty, which was also confiscated.

AES Jeevan Kiran, who led the operation, confirmed that the seized items — including the liquor bottles and the scooty — have been handed over to the Shamshabad Excise Station for further investigation and legal action. The enforcement operation was conducted under the leadership of AES Jeevan Kiran, with CI Subash Chander and SI Venkateshwarlu also participating in the raid. Officials reiterated their commitment to cracking down on illegal liquor trade in the region.

Residents Protest Illegal Cremations in Park at Badangpet

TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy

Tension erupted in Telephone Colony under the 31st Division of Badangpet Municipal Corporation in Ranga Reddy district, as local residents staged an agitation against the alleged illegal cremation and burial of bodies in a public park located in Survey No. 153.

The agitating residents claimed that individuals from upper castes were conducting cremations in the park without any legal permissions. Former minister and local MLA Sabita Indra Reddy is said to have expressed serious concern over the matter.

Residents complained that the foul smell from the cremated and buried bodies is severely affecting daily life, particularly for children and women, making it difficult to even breathe or eat in nearby homes.

The locals demanded immediate intervention from the Ranga Reddy District Collector, RDO, and the Badangpet Municipal Commissioner. They urged officials to enforce government rules strictly and halt the ongoing cremations and burials at the public park. Residents also called for strict action against those violating regulations and misusing the park area meant for public recreation.



Deputy Mayor Participates in GHMC Sports Meet 2025

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The GHMC Sports Meet 2025 was inaugurated with much enthusiasm on Friday, bringing together corporators, employees, and press reporters in a vibrant display of sportsmanship and unity.

Deputy Mayor of Greater Hyderabad, Smt. Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy, actively took part in the event by participating in a shuttle badminton match, spreading cheer among attendees and boosting morale.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Mayor said, “It was a great pleasure to participate in this special sports event organized by GHMC. This event has fostered unity and friendship among corporators, employees, and journalists, and filled everyone with a fresh wave of enthusiasm.”

She emphasized that such sporting events play a crucial role in nurturing a healthy work environment and strengthening interpersonal bonds. She lauded the enthusiasm shown by all participants and wished the event continued success.

The GHMC Sports Meet 2025 is expected to run over the next few days, with multiple sporting events lined up to engage participants across departments and roles.

‘Operation Muskan-XI’ to Be Conducted in Telangana from July 1 to 31



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Central Government’s flagship programme ‘Operation Muskan-XI’ will be conducted across Telangana from July 1 to 31, with the aim of identifying, rescuing, and rehabilitating missing children, orphans, and child labourers. The operation is being led by Additional Director General of Police (Women’s Safety) Charu Sinha. A total of 121 sub-divisional police teams, consisting of 706 personnel, have been constituted to implement the programme effectively throughout the state. These teams will work in close coordination with the Women and Child Welfare Department, Labour Department, Health Department, District Child Welfare Units, Child Welfare Committees, and various non-governmental organisations.

To ensure seamless execution of the programme, a state-level online convergence meeting was held at the CID Conference Hall in Hyderabad. The meeting, chaired by Additional DGP Charu Sinha, was attended by representatives from the Child Rights Protection Commission, Legal Services Authority, key government departments, NGOs, and child welfare experts. The meeting focused on several critical issues including child labour, child begging, rescue protocols, legal rehabilitation processes, inter-agency coordination, and data management. Officials resolved to intensify efforts across the state for the entire month of July, ensuring no child is left behind.

Illegal Cannabis Oil Trafficking Busted in Secunderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant crackdown on the illegal drug trade, enforcement officials apprehended two individuals involved in the trafficking of cannabis-based drugs in Secunderabad on Friday. The arrests took place near the Sik Village Cross Road, where the accused were caught transporting cannabis oil. Officials seized 91 grams of cannabis weed oil, two motorcycles, and two mobile phones from the suspects. The total value of the confiscated items is estimated to be around Rs. 3 lakh.

According to authorities, the accused were applying cannabis oil to cigarettes in order to induce intoxication. The arrested individuals have been identified as Raju from Kukatpally and MD Soyab from Musheerabad. In connection with the same case, a legal complaint has also been registered against Kalyan Banu and Sheikh Imran, who are currently on the run.

The seized material and the arrested suspects



have been handed over to the Secunderabad Excise Station for further investigation. The operation was carried out under the leadership of Enforcement Circle Inspector Chandrasekhar Goud, with the support of SI Srinivas, Head Constable Mallikarjun Reddy, Karan, and other enforcement personnel. Authorities continue their efforts to locate the absconding accused and curb the spread of illegal narcotics in the city.

200 Kg Kumkuma Offered to Goddess Nimishambika

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a grand spiritual event held at Boduppal on the first Friday of the Ashada month, 200 kilograms of kumkuma (saffron) was ceremoniously offered to Goddess Sri Mata Nimishambika Devi. The sacred ritual drew hundreds of devotees who participated with great devotion.

Renowned spiritual orator Rama Ravi led the special puja, as groups of men and women chanted the Lalita Sahasra Nama Parayanam in unison. The kumkuma was reverently offered to the goddess at the Brahmanottamulu Moolavirat, signifying collective devotion and spiritual surrender.

Following the rituals, devotees had darshan of the deity and offered individual prayers. The event concluded with the distribution of breakfast prasadam to all attendees, marking a spiritually fulfilling day for the devotees.



Oil Farm Factory in Narmeta to Begin Operations in August

Facility to serve 4–5 districts and boost local oil farm cultivation

TPN Correspondent | Narmeta
Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponnam Prabhakar, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and Damodar Rajanarsimha jointly inspected the upcoming oil farm factory at Narmeta on Friday and confirmed that the unit will be operational by the first week of August. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said that this factory, Telangana's first refined oil processing unit, was

sanctioned through an agreement signed in January and is now set for launch within a year — a remarkable achievement. The factory will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and will serve four to five districts by refining and producing oil locally. "This is a proud moment for Telangana," Tummala said. "We are enabling districts, including regions like Gundakaya, to contribute to oil pro-

duction. All factories across the state should begin operations within the next 3–4 years." He further emphasized the government's goal of expanding oil farm cultivation to all 31 districts and urged the Centre to reduce import duties on edible oils. "If South Indian states, especially Telangana, are to become major oil farm cultivators, then the Centre must support us," he said, calling for a minimum support price

of ₹25,000 per tonne to benefit farmers. He criticized the central government for policies that he claimed cause losses to farmers and demanded collective action to safeguard their interests. "Instead of hoarding profits worth lakhs of crores, the government should empower farmers," he added. Tummala concluded by asserting that Telangana's farmers have the strength to save lakhs



of crores in foreign exchange and do not need to be looked down upon. He called for respect, recognition, and fair policies for the farmers of South India.

Amit Shah to Inaugurate Turmeric Board HQ in Nizamabad on June 29



TPN Correspondent | Nizamabad
Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to visit Nizamabad on June 29 to inaugurate the newly established Turmeric Board headquarters, a major milestone for turmeric farmers in the region. The long-pending demand of Nizamabad farmers is finally being fulfilled with the establishment of this board, aimed at boosting turmeric trade and ensuring better support for the farming community. According to official sources, Amit Shah will arrive at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad at 1 PM. From there, he will proceed directly to Nizamabad, where the inauguration ceremony is scheduled to take place. BJP leaders and cadres are making massive

preparations to accord a grand welcome to the Union Minister and to showcase the event as a significant win for the party and the farmers of Telangana. The Turmeric Board headquarters is expected to facilitate better price realization, exports, and processing support for turmeric growers. The inauguration is being seen as a strategic move ahead of upcoming elections, with the BJP seeking to cement its growing influence in North Telangana. This visit marks an important political and agricultural moment for the district, with the central government's promise now materializing on the ground.

Kharge Warns Ponguleti Over Public Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Congress Party National President Mallikarjuna Kharge has reportedly issued a strong warning to Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, advising him to exercise caution in public statements and avoid comments that could be seen as critical of the government. The development comes after some MLAs and ministers raised complaints with the party high command and Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan about Ponguleti's recent behavior and statements. The issue escalated following Ponguleti's controversial remarks on local body elec-

tions, in which he said "bombs would explode like in the past", drawing backlash within the party. Amid growing concerns, Ponguleti met Kharge for nearly an hour in New Delhi. During the meeting, Kharge is said to have advised Ponguleti not to make statements that appear to undermine the Congress government, especially in public forums. Kharge also suggested that Ponguleti work in coordination with state leaders, fellow MLAs, ministers, and senior IAS and IPS officers, to maintain internal harmony and uphold the image of the Congress administration in



Telangana. This incident signals the central leadership's intent to maintain discipline within the party ranks and address any internal dissent swiftly, especially as Telangana's Congress government continues to consolidate its position.

Maoists Warn Minister Seethakka Over Tribal Rights Issues

TPN Correspondent | Mulugu
In a significant development, Maoists have released a letter warning Telangana Minister Seethakka, criticizing her for what they allege is continued silence and inaction in the face of severe hardships faced by tribals in the state. The letter, issued in the name of Maoist spokesperson Jagan, has caused a stir in political and administrative circles, particularly in tribal-dominated regions like Mulugu. The Maoists questioned Seethakka's stance on key tribal rights and alleged that she had forgotten the very laws brought in by the Congress party, such as the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) and 1/70

Act, which are meant to protect tribal lands and autonomy. They held Minister Seethakka "fully responsible" for safeguarding the rights of tribals, especially given her tribal background and political position. The letter criticized her for failing to speak out against the alleged harassment and forced evictions by police and forest department officials in the Mulugu district. Particularly alarming is the Maoists' accusation regarding GO No. 49, which they claim is being used by the state to evacuate 339 tribal villages in the Kumuram Bheem district. They expressed concern that three tribal districts in the state are "disappearing" due to the enforcement of the govern-

ment order. The letter demanded that the state government immediately cancel GO 49, warning of consequences if tribal interests continue to be neglected. This warning comes at a time when Minister Seethakka has been actively speaking out against forest department actions in agency areas and asserting that her government stands by the tribals. However, the Maoist criticism intensifies the pressure on the state government to respond with clarity on policies affecting Scheduled Areas and forest rights. Security agencies are currently verifying the authenticity of the letter, while officials are on high alert in sensitive tribal zones.

Welding Machines Distributed to Tribal Youth by SP Rohit Raju

TPN Correspondent | Bhadradri Kothagudem
District Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju, IPS, handed over welding machines and tool kits to tribal youth undergoing vocational training at Rudrampur ITI College on Friday. The distribution was carried out under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) Scheme in collaboration with the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). A total of 10 welding units, each valued at ₹55,000, were distributed to trained youth to support their transition into skilled employment. SP Rohit Raju lauded the efforts of the tribal students and encouraged them to continue their journey with disci-



pline and determination. Officials informed the SP that last month, tribal trainees at the ITI welding workshop had successfully manufactured chairs and tables, which were then distributed to the BC Welfare Department. In contin-

uation of this initiative, the welding equipment was handed over to the trainees today, empowering them to start their professional journeys. Following the distribution, SP Rohit Raju visited various departments at the ITI, includ-

ing mechanical, electrical, and fitter sections. Addressing the students, he said, "Success in life is possible when one sets a clear goal early on and pursues it with discipline. Stay away from bad influences, make the right friends, and focus on your skill development." He added that the police department remains committed to the overall development of tribal communities, especially youth, and will continue to support such initiatives. The program was attended by District BC Welfare Officer Indira, Kothagudem DSP Rahman, ITI College Principal, DRDA APM Venkaiah, college staff, and the welding trainees.

Request Made to Medak MP for Underpass Near Rudraram Ganesh Temple

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy
Local leaders from Rudraram village in Patancheru mandal, Sangareddy district, have submitted a petition to Medak BJP MP Raghunandan Rao requesting the construction of an underpass bridge near the Ganesh Gadda Temple. The request comes in the wake of ongoing national highway expansion work, which includes the construction of a flyover near the temple, potentially obstructing devotees' access. The leaders met the MP at his residence in Hyderabad and explained that the current infrastructure development could cause serious inconvenience to pilgrims visiting the historic temple. They emphasized that an underpass bridge is essential to maintain safe and uninterrupted access for devotees. In response, MP Raghunandan Rao reacted positively and assured the delegation that he would make all necessary efforts to ensure the underpass is sanctioned and constructed at the earliest. He expressed his commitment to addressing the concerns of local communities and preserving access to religious sites. The delegation included former MPTC Hariprasad Reddy, along with local leaders Balaram, Prabhu, Nandiswar, Rajesh, Anjaneyulu, and several other villagers who voiced their concern and support for the proposal.



Tragic Road Accident in Medchal District Class 1 Student Killed by Tipper



TPN Correspondent | Medchal
A heart-wrenching incident occurred in Medchal district on Thursday morning, leaving the entire community in grief. A young boy, on his way to school with his mother, was tragically killed when a tipper lorry ran over him near Mallampet, in front of Pallavi International School, under the Dundigal Police Station limits. According to eyewitnesses, the tragic accident happened when the boy's mother was riding a scooter with her son as pillion. While trying to overtake a vehicle, another vehicle came from the opposite direction. In an attempt to avoid a collision, the tipper driv-

er lost control and struck the scooter. The boy fell under the rear wheels of the tipper and died on the spot. The mother, who witnessed her son's death right before her eyes, was inconsolable. Her cries — "Oh, what a terrible thing has happened" — moved even passersby to tears, creating a somber atmosphere at the scene. Upon receiving the information, Dundigal police rushed to the spot and began their investigation. The deceased was identified as a Class 1 student of Geetanjali School in Bowrampet. Police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

Andhra Pradesh at the Crossroads: A Hidden Crisis of Sex Work, Trafficking, and Institutional Failure

Andhra Pradesh is facing a silent but deeply rooted humanitarian crisis. According to the NACO's Programmatic Mapping and Population Size Estimation (PMPSE) 2024, the state is home to 1.33 lakh female sex workers (FSWs)—a staggering 12% of India's total. It ranks second in the country for the density of sex work, with an average of 29 FSWs per hotspot, compared to the national average of just 8.

Behind these alarming numbers is a more dangerous trend: over 55% of sex work hotspots in the state are home-based, making the trade increasingly informal, invisible, and risky. These spaces are not just workplaces—they are homes, where children are raised amidst exploitation, violence, and the looming threat of second-generation trafficking.

In the districts of Krishna, Guntur, and Prakasam, where the NGO HELP operates, the crisis is especially stark. An estimated 35,000 women engaged in sex work support around 64,000 dependents, including thousands of vulnerable children. These children face a high risk of neglect, school dropout, child marriage, and eventual entry into the same exploitative systems their mothers endured.

Despite these urgent realities, the institutional response remains dismal.

Shelter Without Support

From 2019 to June 2023, the Department of Women Development & Child Welfare (DWDCW) reports that 2,737 survivors of trafficking were placed in shelter homes across Andhra Pradesh. This includes 2,265 in Ujjawala Homes, 447 in Swadhaar Homes, and 25 in NGO-run shelters. Yet, shelter does not guarantee recovery or justice.

Under G.O. Ms. No. 28, rescued victims are entitled to Rs. 20,000 in immediate relief. But a VIMUKTHI RTI investigation reveals that only 132 out of 2,737 (less than 5%) survivors received this benefit—despite being in state care. Worse, survivors often remain unaware of their rights, and shelter staff rarely assist them in accessing relief schemes.

The Victim Compensation Scheme, meant to financially rehabilitate survivors, paints an even grimmer picture. Between 2016 and 2022, 2890 victims of human trafficking were identified in Andhra Pradesh. However, only 5 applications for compensation were submitted—all from a single town: Machilipatnam in Krishna Dis-



trict. Even more shocking: none of the INR 12.14 crore allocated to the state's Legal Services Authorities for victim compensation during this period was disbursed to trafficking victims.

Institutional Failure & the Need for Alternatives

The state's dependence on institutional care models—through shelter homes—has consistently failed to reintegrate survivors. Of the 2,737 shelter residents, only 692 survivors applied for rehabilitation or welfare entitle-

ments. Out of them, just 592 survivors received support, indicating a success rate of only 22%.

This data exposes the structural shortcomings of shelter-based rehabilitation: limited outreach, poor legal aid, lack of psychological counseling, and most crucially, zero focus on economic independence and social reintegration.

What is urgently needed is a shift from institutional care to Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR). CBR offers a survivor-centered model grounded in dignity, autonomy, and inclusion. Internationally recognized and aligned with Indian law, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, CBR approaches prioritize non-institutional care, such as foster care, adoption, cash transfers, and sponsorships.

These models not only reduce dependency on overburdened shelter systems but also support survivors in rebuilding their lives within communities—through education, employment, housing, and access to social security.

Time for Urgent Action

The figures are more than just statistics; they are a reflection of systemic apathy. In Andhra Pradesh, a woman rescued from trafficking has less than a 1 in 20 chance of receiving emergency relief. She has an even smaller chance of receiving compensation or long-term rehabilitation.

To change this trajectory, policymakers, civil society, and local communities must demand urgent reforms:

Streamline victim compensation and ensure proactive support from shelters.

Scale up CBR models with partnerships between government and grassroots organizations.

Monitor and evaluate shelter homes for survivor outcomes, not just occupancy.

Train shelter staff and legal aid teams on survivor rights and entitlements.

If Andhra Pradesh wants to shed its image as a trafficking hotspot, it must begin by recognizing the failures of its current system—and embracing models that truly empower survivors.

A Century Of Conflict: How Iran-Israel Relations Unravelled Over Time

The Iran-Israel conflict stands today as one of the most enduring and volatile rivalries in the Middle East. While current headlines portray a bitter enmity between the two nations, a deeper historical analysis reveals a complex and evolving relationship. From strategic cooperation before 1979 to ideological hostility, proxy wars, and now direct military confrontation, the trajectory of Iran-Israel relations reflects the broader shifts in regional and global politics.

Pre-1979: A Strategic but Fragile Alliance

Contrary to modern perceptions, Iran and Israel were once strategic partners. Under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran became one of the few Muslim-majority countries to recognize Israel, doing so in 1950. This alliance, driven not by ideological alignment but by shared geopolitical interests, thrived during the Cold War. Both nations opposed the rise of Arab nationalism, particularly under Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser. Iran provided Israel with oil during times of embargo, while both countries engaged in intelligence and military cooperation, including the "Trident" alliance with Turkey. This period demonstrated how mutual threats and pragmatic politics could bridge cultural and religious divides. However, the alliance was heavily dependent on the Shah's rule—a vulnerability that became apparent in 1979.

1979 Islamic Revolution: A Turning Point

The Islamic Revolution fundamentally reshaped Iran's domestic and foreign policy. The overthrow of the Shah and rise of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini brought an end to ties with Israel. Khomeini's anti-Zionist stance cast Israel as a symbol of Western imperialism and illegitimacy. Declaring Israel a "cancerous tumor," Iran adopted a confrontational stance, pledging support to Palestinian resistance and severing all diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv. The revolution established Iran's identity as a revolutionary Islamic state, which placed it on a collision course with Israel, whose security policies were based on neutralizing existential threats. This ideological rupture created a deep and enduring divide between the two states.

Proxy Warfare: Indirect Conflict



with Regional Impact

Rather than engaging in open war, Iran and Israel entered a prolonged phase of proxy conflict. Iran built a network of non-state actors—including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, and Shia militias in Iraq and Syria—to project influence and harass Israel without direct confrontation. Hezbollah's role during the 2006 Lebanon War exemplified this approach. For its part, Israel used pre-emptive tactics and covert operations, such as the 2010 Stuxnet cyberattack on Iran's nuclear facilities and the 2020 assassination of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. This shadow war allowed both nations to wage a sustained campaign while avoiding all-out conflict—until recently.

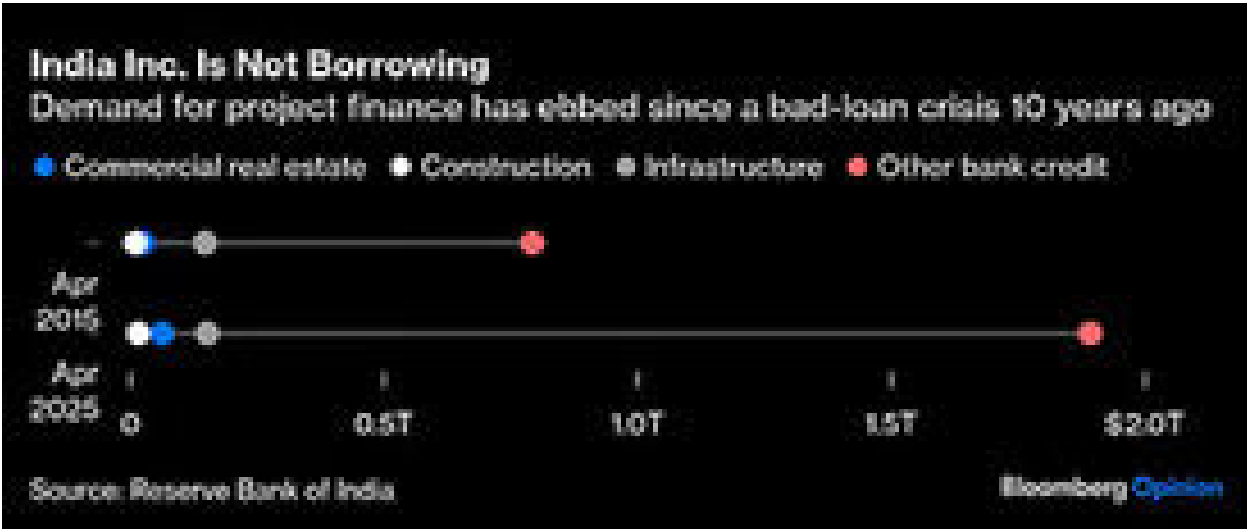
2020s: Escalation to Open Conflict

The strategic calculus shifted dramatically in the 2020s. In April 2024, Iran launched a massive drone and missile strike against Israel—the first direct attack since 1979—prompted by an Israeli strike on its consulate in Damascus. Israel responded forcefully, culminating in "Operation Rising Lion" in June 2025, which targeted Iranian military and nuclear sites. This new phase of open confrontation marks a departure from decades of proxy strategy, increasing the risk of regional escalation.

Conclusion: A Conflict Rooted in History

The Iran-Israel rivalry is not simply a product of ideology or religion—it is a historical narrative shaped by shifting alliances, regional ambitions, and global power dynamics. From allies to adversaries, the relationship reflects a broader struggle over the future of the Middle East. Understanding this evolution is critical, not just for policymakers, but for all who seek to comprehend the stakes of this ever-deepening conflict.

India's Investment Dilemma: Banks Are Ready to Lend, But Will Tycoons Borrow?



As India finds itself in a strategic position amid the US-China rivalry over trade and technology, the hope of becoming the world's next manufacturing hub is gaining momentum. With a workforce of over 600 million people, India theoretically has a strong foundation. However, to capitalize on this demographic advantage, the country needs a robust domestic investment push. Current data and investor sentiment, however, suggest a worrying lack of momentum.

Despite favorable monetary conditions, including a significant interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), private sector investment remains sluggish. Sanjay Malhotra, the newly appointed RBI Governor, has aggressively lowered the benchmark interest rate to 5.5% and injected liquidity into the financial system. He also introduced borrower-friendly measures such as easing lending norms for small-ticket loans and microcredit. Yet, these measures have failed to trigger a broader investment cycle.

The private sector's appetite for capital expenditure is at a three-year low. Banks' exposure to traditional infrastructure sectors—such as roads, power, telecommunications, ports, and real estate—has shrunk to just 11% of their total loan books, nearly half of what it was a decade ago. This suggests not a lack of credit availability, but a deeper crisis of confidence.

To mitigate risks and encourage lending to unfinished infrastructure projects, the RBI has adjusted provisioning norms, requiring banks to set aside 1-1.25% for under-construction projects, compared to earlier proposed levels of up to 5%. Once projects begin generating revenue, provisioning requirements fall to 0.4-1%. These relaxed rules aim to stimulate credit flow without burdening banks with excessive risk buffers. Still, without strong demand for capital, the impact may remain limited.



Analysts had earlier projected an \$800 billion investment wave over the next decade, driven by Indian conglomerates investing in emerging sectors like green hydrogen, renewable energy, aviation, electric vehicles, semiconductors, and data centers. These investments, along with the supporting infrastructure, could create a vibrant new asset base and generate sustained demand for financing. But this scenario hinges on the willingness of corporate leaders to take bold steps.

Among India's billionaires, only Gautam Adani appears undeterred, announcing plans to invest \$15-\$20 billion annually over the next five years, even as his conglomerate faces scrutiny from the U.S. Justice Department over alleged corruption. Other major industrialists are currently preoccupied with internal restructuring or legal challenges. Mukesh Ambani is focused on spinning off Reliance's retail and digital services units, while the Tata Group is entangled in operational and reputational issues surrounding Air India. Sajjan Jindal's JSW Steel is grappling with the legal fallout of a Supreme Court decision overturning a four-year-old acquisition.

The core issue isn't the supply of credit—it's the lack of confidence among India's corporate heavyweights to commit to long-gestation projects. Until that changes, the dream of India becoming a global industrial powerhouse will remain aspirational. For now, the banks are ready to lend. The question is: will the tycoons borrow?



PM Modi's Five-Nation Tour to Strengthen Ties with Global South

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a significant five-nation tour from July 2 to July 8, 2025, aimed at deepening India's engagement with the Global South and participating in the 17th BRICS Summit in Brazil. The tour includes visits to Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia, focusing on bilateral cooperation and multilateral diplomacy. The visit begins in Ghana on July 2-3, marking PM Modi's first-ever bilateral trip to the country and the first Indian prime ministerial visit in three decades. Discussions with Ghanaian leadership will focus on strengthening

ties in trade, energy, and defence. From July 3-4, PM Modi will be in Trinidad and Tobago, the first Indian PM to visit since 1999. He will meet President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, and is scheduled to address a joint session of Parliament to bolster historic ties rooted in shared culture and diaspora connections. Next, the Prime Minister will travel to Argentina (July 4-5) for wide-ranging talks with President Javier Milei. The visit aims to boost cooperation in areas like agriculture, defence, mining, and energy. PM Modi will then head to Brazil (July

5-8) to attend the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Key topics include global governance reforms, AI, climate change, and economic issues. A state visit to Brasilia will follow, with meetings with President Lula da Silva to strengthen strategic partnerships. The final stop will be Namibia, where PM Modi will meet President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and address the Parliament, reaffirming India's commitment to historical and developmental ties. This multi-nation tour reflects India's commitment to global cooperation, South-South solidarity, and expanded international influence.

Looking At Strengthening Partnership With Canada: India

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada and his meeting with newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, India signaled its intent to strengthen bilateral ties with Ottawa across key sectors such as trade, energy, mobility, and education.

Addressing the media on Thursday, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "We are looking forward to strengthening our partnership with Canada in several respects—on the economic side, trade side, energy side, mobility, and student exchange."

The remarks follow a recent high-level interaction between PM Modi and PM Carney on the sidelines of the G7 summit held in Kananaskis, Canada. Jaiswal described the meeting as "very productive and positive," with both leaders agreeing to take "constructive and balanced" steps to restore normalcy in relations.

Tensions between India and Canada had reached a low point in 2023 after then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau publicly alleged Indian involvement in the killing of pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The fallout led to reciprocal expulsions of diplomats and a halt in several bilateral engagements.

Responding to a question on the Nijjar case and whether ties with Canada were improving, Jaiswal



emphasized that the matter remains under judicial consideration and refrained from further comment, stating, "It is a legal issue. That particular matter is under judicial process right now."

Despite past strains, both sides appear committed to a reset. The two prime ministers agreed to the early return of ambassadors to each other's capitals and emphasized the importance of resuming senior ministerial and working-level discussions across key sectors to rebuild trust.

Mark Carney's election victory in April, as leader of Canada's Liberal Party, has sparked optimism about renewed diplomatic engagement and more stable India-Canada relations.

Millions Gather in Puri for Grand Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath Amid Tight Security

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The sacred city of Puri is witnessing a massive spiritual outpouring as millions of devotees have gathered for the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, also known as Shree Gundicha Yatra or the Chariot Festival. This nine-day celebration, among the most prominent Hindu festivals, began Friday with great fervor and devotion.

Celebrated on the Dwitiya Tithi of Shukla Paksha, the Rath Yatra marks the ceremonial journey of Lord Jagannath, along with his siblings Balabhadra and Subhadra, from their abode in the 12th-century Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple, believed by many to be their birthplace.

As per tradition, devotees will pull the elaborately decorated wooden chariots — Nandighosh (for Lord Jagannath), Taladhawaja (for Balabhadra), and Darpadalan (for Subhadra) — over a 3-km stretch to the Gundicha Temple. The sight of these deities during the yatra is believed to bestow moksha (liberation) upon the devotees.

Noted Jagannath culture scholar, Suryanarayan Rath Sharma, remarked, "The Rath Yatra is the most ancient chariot fes-

tival in the world. It's a divine opportunity for millions to attain spiritual fulfillment."

To ensure the smooth conduct of the festival, the Odisha government has rolled out comprehensive security and logistical arrangements. Over 200 police platoons, along with eight companies of BSF, CRPF, and around 10,000 personnel including Odisha Police, Central Armed Police Forces, and Home Guards, are on duty in Puri and surrounding areas.

For the first time, a state-of-the-art integrated command and control system has been set up to monitor the event. Live footage from over 275 AI-powered CCTV cameras is being used to manage crowd movement and traffic from Uttara Square to Puri and onward to Konark.

Collector Sidharth Shankar Swain affirmed, "All rituals and logistics have been meticulously arranged. We seek the blessings of Mahaprabhu for a safe and sacred Yatra."

The atmosphere in Puri is charged with devotion, as the faithful chant, dance, and celebrate one of India's oldest and most spiritually significant festivals.

‘Ready to wipe out Hinduism’: Kangana Ranaut slams New York mayoral hopeful Zohran Mamdani over protest video

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Indian-origin US politician Zohran Kwame Mamdani caused a major upset in the Democratic primary race for New York City mayor by defeating former New York governor Andrew Cuomo. Mamdani, the son of acclaimed Indian filmmaker Mira Nair—known for movies such as Mississippi Masala, Monsoon Wedding, and Salaam Bombay—and academic Mahmood Mamdani, has emerged as a fresh and unexpected face in New York politics.

Following his surprising victory, Mamdani drew criticism from Indian actor and BJP Member of Parliament Kangana Ranaut. She took to her official X (formerly

Twitter) account to question Mamdani's "bloodline" and launched a sharp attack against him. Ranaut reshared a video showing Mamdani leading a protest in Times Square, where, according to the video's caption, he and the crowd allegedly insulted Hindus and Lord Rama, a revered deity in Hinduism. Ranaut's post read: "NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani once led a mob of protestors in Times Square calling Hindus bastards and heaping abuses upon Lord Rama, who is worshipped by Hindus." This accusation sparked a strong reaction online, with debates around Mamdani's political stance and the nature of the protests.

Mamdani's win reflects

shifting dynamics in New York politics, highlighting voter appetite for new leadership and progressive ideas. His background as a community organizer and advocate for social justice has earned him support among younger and more diverse voters. However, the backlash from figures like Kangana Ranaut indicates the contentious nature of identity politics and the challenges faced by politicians with multicultural backgrounds.

As the NYC mayoral race progresses, Zohran Kwame Mamdani's rise underscores the complexities of global politics intersecting with local American elections, as well as the scrutiny public figures endure in the digital age.

Maharashtra Slashes Power Tariffs by 26% Over 5 Years, Starting with 10% Cut: Devendra Fadnavis



In a landmark decision, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a phased reduction in electricity tariffs across the state, beginning with an unprecedented 10% cut in the first year. This is the first time in Maharashtra's history that electricity rates are being lowered instead of raised. Fadnavis, who also holds the energy portfolio, shared the development on social media platform X, thanking the Maharashtra State Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for approving Mahavitaran's petition to reduce tariffs. He stated that consumers will see a total reduction of 26% over five years.

"This is a historic moment. For the first time, electricity rates are being reduced—starting with a 10% drop in the first year. MERC has approved Mahavitaran's petition, reversing the usual trend of tariff hikes," Fadnavis posted. The tariff cuts will benefit all major consumer categories—domestic, industrial, and commercial. Notably, about 70% of electricity users in the state who consume under 100 units per month will see the maximum benefit, enjoying a 10% cut immediately. This decision comes amid earlier expectations of a possible 10% hike, with petitions submitted to MERC seeking higher tariffs. However, Mahavitaran's push

for a reduction marked a unique turn in policy. Fadnavis also highlighted the ongoing work under the Mukhyamantri Saur Krishi Vahini Yojana 2.0, aimed at providing reliable, daytime power supply to farmers through solar energy. Additionally, he mentioned that upcoming changes in power purchase agreements, with an emphasis on green energy, will reduce electricity procurement costs in the long run. The power tariff reform is seen as a major relief for consumers and a step toward making electricity more affordable, while aligning with sustainability goals.



Very big deal coming up that would 'open up' India: US President Trump

TPN Correspondent | Washington

At a high-profile White House event on Thursday, US President Donald Trump signaled a potential breakthrough in trade negotiations with India, calling it a “very big” deal that could significantly “open up” the Indian market.

Speaking at the ‘Big Beautiful Event’, Trump said, “We are having some great deals. We have one coming up, maybe with India. Very big one, where we are going to open up India.” His statement comes as a senior Indian delegation, led by Rajesh Agarwal, Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce, arrived in Washington for an intensive round of trade talks.

Both nations are aiming to finalize the trade pact before July 9, amid growing strategic and economic cooperation. The anticipated agreement could potentially remove trade barriers and enhance market access for American companies in India.

President Trump also reflected on recent trade developments with China, noting the progress made on rare earth mineral exports. A White House official confirmed that



Washington and Beijing have agreed on steps to speed up rare earth shipments to the US—a critical resource in the tech and defense sectors.

While highlighting positive momentum with key global partners, Trump also made it clear that not every country would receive favorable treatment. “We’re not going to

make deals with everybody. Some we are just going to send them a letter—say thank you very much. You are to pay 25, 35, 45 per cent,” he added, reinforcing his administration’s tough stance on trade imbalances. As global markets watch closely, the proposed US-India trade deal could mark a pivotal moment in reshaping international commerce and bolstering bilateral ties.

Trump Administration Proposes Incentives to Restart Iran Nuclear Talks Amid Regional Tensions



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Trump administration is exploring a series of proposals aimed at bringing Iran back to the negotiating table, according to CNN sources. These initiatives include easing sanctions, releasing frozen Iranian funds, and offering multi-billion-dollar investments in civilian nuclear energy projects. Despite recent military strikes between Israel and Iran, US officials and Middle Eastern intermediaries have continued

confidential discussions with Tehran, especially after a fragile ceasefire brokered by President Trump this week. The administration’s proposals all hinge on one non-negotiable demand: zero uranium enrichment by Iran—a stance Tehran has consistently rejected. Among the incentives being considered are a \$20-30 billion investment in non-enriching nuclear infrastructure for civilian energy purposes, sanctions relief, and access to \$6 billion in Iranian assets frozen overseas.

One specific idea involves transforming the Fordow nuclear facility—recently targeted by US bunker-buster bombs—into a non-enrichment civilian site. Funding for this could come from Gulf nations aligned with the US, though it remains unclear if Iran would directly operate the facility under the new framework. A Trump administration official told CNN that while the US is ready to lead negotiations, it expects other parties to finance the nuclear program’s reconstruction. Steve Witkoff, the US Special Envoy to the Middle East, emphasized the goal of a “comprehensive peace agreement” and compared the plan to the UAE’s civil nuclear project, which bans uranium enrichment. President Trump confirmed the possibility of talks next week but expressed ambivalence about the deal’s necessity, stating, “I don’t care if I have an agreement or not.” Still, some aides see a lasting nuclear deal as vital to maintaining the ceasefire. Qatar remains a key mediator in ongoing US-Iran communications, with five rounds of talks held before Israel’s strikes paused further discussions in Oman. Trump added, “We may sign an agreement, I don’t know,” signaling cautious optimism for a diplomatic breakthrough.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer Scales Back Welfare Cuts Amid Labour Party Revolt



TPN Correspondent | London

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has significantly softened his proposed welfare cuts after facing strong opposition from within his own Labour Party. Over 100 Labour MPs publicly opposed the original plan, which aimed to reduce welfare spending by £5 billion (\$6.9 billion) annually to curb a rapidly increasing welfare budget. The reforms were criticized for their impact on disabled individuals and those with long-term health conditions. Concerned about a parliamentary defeat just a year after winning a landslide election, Starmer’s office confirmed the decision to scale back the cuts ahead of a vote scheduled for July 1.

A government spokesperson stated, “We have listened to MPs who support reform but worry about the pace of change for current beneficiaries.” Work and Pensions Minister Liz Kendall clarified in a letter to MPs that only new claimants would face tighter eligibility criteria, while existing recipients would be protected from the changes. Kendall emphasized the government’s commitment to “target funding for those most in need” and ensure the welfare system remains sustainable for future generations. Labour MP Meg Hillier, who led efforts to moderate the bill, described the revisions as “a good and workable compromise.”

However, critics slammed the move as another government U-turn, following recent reversals on winter fuel payment cuts and an inquiry into grooming gangs. Conservative Work and Pensions spokesperson Helen Whately called the decision “humiliating” and a missed chance to reduce welfare spending, accusing Starmer of avoiding tough choices.

The government maintains that controlling the welfare budget, which is forecast to exceed £100 billion by 2030, is vital to safeguarding public finances and encouraging employment. Despite the concessions, some Labour MPs like Peter Lamb remain resolute in opposing the bill, indicating continued internal divisions within the party.

Myanmar To Hold Elections In December-January: Junta Chief



TPN Correspondent | Myanmar

Myanmar’s military junta has announced plans to hold elections in December 2025 and January 2026, according to state media reports. Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, speaking at a conference in the capital Naypyidaw, pledged that the polls will take place as part of what the military claims is a pathway to peace following the 2021 coup that ousted the civilian government.

However, international observers and opposition groups have widely condemned the election plans as a sham. Since the coup, Myanmar has been engulfed in a complex civil war involving anti-junta rebels and ethnic armed organizations controlling large parts of the country, making a free and fair election appear impossible. Many opposition leaders remain imprisoned or in exile, and several have announced they will boycott the vote.

It is unclear whether the election will be conducted in multiple phases, which could signal challenges in ensuring nationwide security on a single day. The timetable for the election campaign period has also not been specified. The military-backed census conducted last year revealed that data could not be collected from about 19 million people due to security issues, reflecting the extensive areas outside junta control.

United Nations special rapporteur Tom Andrews criticized the planned elections, calling them a “mirage” designed to create the illusion of a legitimate civilian government. He pointed to ongoing human rights abuses, including the imprisonment and torture of opponents, restrictions on journalists, and bans on criticizing the military regime. Despite recent territorial losses suffered by the junta to pro-democracy forces, support from China and Russia has helped the military hold its ground. Min Aung Hlaing insisted that preparations are underway to hold “free and fair” elections “as widely and extensively as possible,” though doubts remain about the credibility and inclusiveness of the process.

The UN at 80: A Legacy Under Pressure

TPN Correspondent | UN

Eighty years after its founding, the United Nations stands at a crossroads. Born from the ashes of World War II with the mission “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,” the UN today faces questions about its relevance and survival in a deeply divided and unstable world.

While the organization has helped prevent another global conflict, wars still rage in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and elsewhere. The Security Council—once the UN’s most potent body—has been paralyzed, unable to act decisively on major crises due to deep geopolitical divides and veto power misuse. Multilateralism, once the heart of the UN’s ethos, is under siege.

Funding cuts, particularly from the United States, have forced job reductions and prompted Secretary-General António Guterres to initiate sweeping reforms. The upcoming U.S. review of multilateral institutions further clouds the UN’s future.

Despite these challenges, the UN still plays vital roles. Agencies like the World Food Pro-



gramme and UNHCR continue critical work in hunger relief and refugee support. The UN also remains a central stage for global diplomacy, hosting leaders annually and enabling daily international dialogue in New York.

Diplomats and observers express a mix of frustration and hope. Former Singaporean ambassador Kishore Mahbubani calls it a “sad place,” yet he acknowledges its enduring value: “It is alive, not dead.”

Reform is essential. Proposals to expand the Security Council and consolidate aid agencies highlight the push for change. And as global power dynamics shift—with China gaining influence—the UN must adapt to maintain its role.

Though its dream of unity has faded, the UN’s survival—rooted in the pragmatism of its founding—may still ensure it remains a cornerstone of global order.

Markets End Week on a High: Sensex Rises 303 pts, Nifty Nears 25,650 Amid Global Positivity and Energy Stock Gains



Domestic stock markets gained on Friday on positive signals from global markets, cooling geopolitical disputes and increasing investor confidence. Shares in energy, oil and banking sectors contributed to this. Benchmark indices started at low levels in the morning. Gradually, sentiment strengthened, the absence of auto-poll conditions and investors started buying. They continued to range-bound till the end. Finally, the Nifty settled at 25,637 with a gain of 88 points and the Sensex at 84,058 with a gain of 303 points. It is noteworthy that the markets closed strongly for the second consecutive week.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 83,755 in the previous session, opened at 83,774 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 83,645. It reached an intraday high of 84,089. It finally closed at 84,058 with a gain of 303 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,576, reached a low of 25,223 and a high of 25,654. It rose by 88 points to close at 25,637. The Nifty Bank rose by 237 points to settle at 57,443.

In the Nifty50, 26 companies gained and 23 lost. Geofinance, Asian Paints, Apollo Hospitals, IndusInd Bank, Adani Enterprises were the top gainers. Tata Consumer, Dr. Reddy's, Trent, Wipro, Eternal were the

top losers. Oil, energy, commodities, PSE, healthcare, MNC, pharma, PSU bank indices were in the red. Realty, IT, consumer durables, FMCG indices were in the red.

Today, the market breadth is in favor of buyers. Out of 2986 stocks traded, 1681 gained. 1229 lost. 86 stocks touched their 52-week highs and 24 stocks touched their 52-week lows. 105 stocks reached the upper circuit and 40 stocks reached the lower circuit.

Nomura has maintained its neutral rating on NICA with a target price of Rs. 216. It is learned that SBI intends to raise Rs. 5000 crore by issuing Tier 2 bonds by August. The Colombo Dockyard acquisition was approved by the Majdak Shipbuilders board. HDB Financial Services IPO received a response of 10.91 times on the third afternoon. Ahluwalia Contracts Company bagged two contracts worth Rs. 1103 crore. Sambhav Steel IPO received a response of 16.29 times on the third afternoon. The rupee strengthened by 19 paise to settle at 85.51 against the dollar. Dr. Reddy's shares fell for the second consecutive day after Citi Research reduced its target price. RBI removed Rs. 84,974 crore of liquidity from the banking system through a seven-day variable rate reserve repo auction. HSBC maintained its buy rating on Varun Beverages with a target price of Rs. 670. Jefferies has retained a buy rating on GAIL with a target price of Rs 210.



BSE Shares Slip as SEBI Imposes ₹25 Lakh Fine for Regulatory Violations



Shares of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) declined over 1% on Thursday after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a ₹25 lakh penalty for breaching regulatory norms related to data dissemination and trading compliance.

The stock fell 1.47% to ₹2,748 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) following a weak opening, reacting to the regulatory action stemming from an inspection carried out between February 2021 and September 2022.

In a detailed 45-page order issued on Wednesday, SEBI highlighted serious lapses in BSE's system architecture. It found that certain corporate announcements were made accessible to BSE's paid clients and its internal Listing Compliance Monitoring (LCM) team before the information was published on the public website. This created an unfair advantage, violating the principle of equal access to market information.

The regulator concluded that BSE failed

to comply with Regulation 39(3) of the SECC Regulations, 2018, which mandates fair and transparent access to all stakeholders. SEBI also criticized BSE for not having a proper real-time information feed like an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) system, which could have prevented the information disparity.

Additionally, SEBI identified deficiencies in how BSE monitored client code modifications. The stock exchange did not take disciplinary action against brokers frequently altering trade codes and failed to properly oversee 'error accounts'—raising concerns over potential misuse and insufficient due diligence, particularly in trades between unrelated institutional clients.

While BSE eventually introduced corrective measures, SEBI noted that these actions came only after the inspection exposed the shortcomings. The regulator's penalty underlines the need for tighter oversight and a more transparent framework to uphold market integrity.

India's Economy Shows Resilience Amid Global Challenges: RBI Bulletin

India's economy continues to demonstrate strong resilience despite ongoing global economic, trade, and geopolitical uncertainties, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) June bulletin. The bulletin highlights that India registered the highest growth among major global economies in Q4 of 2024-25, signaling a sharp pickup in economic momentum.

The RBI's article, titled "State of the Economy," notes that while the global economy grapples with trade policy uncertainties and rising geopolitical tensions, India's industrial and services sectors have remained robust. High-frequency indicators for May 2025 show sustained economic activity, reflecting the country's ability to withstand external shocks.

A key positive factor supporting this resilience is the record domestic crop production in the 2024-25 agricultural season, which has significantly eased food price inflation. Headline inflation in India stayed below the Reserve Bank's target for the fourth consecutive month in May, aided by the sharp decline in food prices. Core inflation, excluding food and fuel, also remains steady with signs of softening, once the impact of volatile gold and silver prices is removed, indicating muted underlying inflationary pressures.



The RBI bulletin also highlights that financial conditions in India have remained favorable, helping the smooth transmission of rate cuts to the credit market. This has supported credit growth and investment, further strengthening economic prospects.

Despite optimism driven by a temporary tariff freeze and new trade deals in May and early June, recent geopolitical tensions, such as the Iran-Israel conflict, have introduced renewed uncertainty and volatility in financial markets.

Overall, India's economy holds firm against global crosswinds, bolstered by strong domestic fundamentals and supportive policy measures. The RBI stresses that while the global outlook remains uncertain, India's economic growth trajectory remains promising in the near term.

Vodafone Idea Shares Jump Over 15% in 4 Days Amid Fundraising Buzz and Relief Hopes

Vodafone Idea shares have soared over 15% in the past four trading sessions, hitting ₹7.55, driven by investor optimism surrounding a large-scale fundraising effort and speculation of potential government relief on the company's massive dues.

According to Bloomberg, the telecom operator is in advanced talks to raise around ₹25,000 crore (approx. \$2.9 billion) in long-term loans. The State Bank of India is reportedly leading a consortium of domestic and international lenders to support the initiative, which would be a vital step in boosting Vodafone Idea's network infrastructure and improving its competitiveness against market leaders Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

Backed by billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla, Vodafone Idea had previously shelved fundraising plans due to severe financial stress and mounting liabilities. However, renewed momentum comes as the company faces declining subscriber numbers and fresh optimism that the government may extend the timeline to repay its ₹84,000 crore in dues, including adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liabilities. Though no official notification has been received, reports indicate repayment terms may be stretched



from six to twenty years.

Adding to the positive sentiment, the company recently announced a strategic partnership with US-based AST SpaceMobile to introduce direct-to-device (D2D) satellite connectivity across India—targeting rural and remote areas as part of its digital expansion.

On the technical front, Vodafone Idea stock recently displayed a "twin breakout" on the charts, breaking through two key resistance levels and signaling a possible 13% upside from current levels. Despite the bullish setup, analysts remain cautious due to the company's weak fundamentals, including a net loss of ₹7,166 crore in Q4 FY25 and continued dependence on external funding.

Short-term prospects look promising, but sustained growth will hinge on successful fundraising and structural reforms.

Nutella Unveils First New Flavour in 60 Years – Can You Guess What It Is?

For the first time in six decades, Nutella has introduced a brand-new flavour — and it’s a game-changer. Since its launch in 1964, Nutella’s creamy blend of hazelnuts and cocoa has remained unchanged and loved by millions. But now, Ferrero, the company behind the iconic spread, has announced the release of a new variant: Nutella with Peanut.

This new flavour blends Nutella’s signature chocolate-hazelnut spread with the rich, roasted taste of peanuts — combining two of the most beloved spreads in the world. The addition of peanuts is expected to appeal to fans of both chocolate and peanut butter, offering a familiar yet exciting new twist.

In a statement, Ferrero described the new spread as “a combination of the distinctive creaminess of Nutella with the delicious taste of roasted peanuts.” While the spread retains Nutella’s classic dark brown color, the packaging will look different — featuring a yellow lid and label in place of the usual white, symbolizing the peanut element.

However, there’s a catch. This new flavour will only be available in North America, and not until Spring 2026. Details about the price and exact



launch date have yet to be revealed.

Nutella fans may remember Francesco Rivella, the man credited with developing the beloved spread. Rivella, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 97, initially created a hazelnut chocolate stick called Giandujot before refining the formula into the creamy version we now know as Nutella.

While the new peanut flavour marks a major shift in Nutella’s product line, it remains to be seen how fans across the world will react — and whether it might eventually roll out globally. For now, it’s a North American exclusive that promises to shake up breakfast tables and dessert recipes alike.

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

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

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

In comparison, the Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra, equipped with the latest Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC, scored 3,054 (single-core) and 9,832 (multi-core). While Qualcomm’s chip remains highly competitive, Apple’s A19 Pro appears to take a slight lead in raw processing power, according to these early results.

Beyond performance, design leaks suggest the iPhone 17 Pro models may feature a thicker chassis—possibly to accommodate



a larger battery or a VC (vapor chamber) cooling system, which would be a first for Apple. Rumors also hint at a redesigned camera module and enhancements to display technology across the lineup, including the new iPhone 17 Air, a lightweight model poised to rival Samsung’s Galaxy S25 Edge.

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

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

Swiggy’s ‘Dilli Se Hu BLCK’ Ad Sparks Backlash Over Slang Reference

Swiggy’s latest ad campaign to promote its premium membership service, One BLCK, in Delhi has stirred controversy rather than celebration. The food delivery platform recently ran a full-page newspaper ad featuring the bold tagline “Dilli Se Hu BLCK” — a play on a well-known Hindi slang phrase. While intended to grab attention, the phrase drew sharp criticism online for its perceived insensitivity and suggestive language.



The phrase appeared on the front page of a prominent newspaper, prompting outrage among many Delhi residents and social media users who found the ad inappropriate and offensive. Journalist Sanket Upadhyay voiced his disapproval on X (formerly Twitter), describing the advertisement as “notorious” and accusing it of normalizing abusive language in mainstream media. He questioned how such messaging was deemed acceptable in a reputable publication.

His post quickly gained traction, with many agreeing that Swiggy had crossed a line. One commenter stressed the need for clear advertising guidelines to prevent such messaging, while another argued that the primary responsibility lies with advertisers, not just publishers. “Normalising bad is the new good,” one user remarked, referencing a growing trend of provocative marketing.

However, not everyone saw the issue the same way. A few users defended the campaign, suggesting the outrage was exaggerated. “This is the most non-issue issue,” one user commented, criticizing the backlash as misplaced.

Swiggy’s One BLCK is positioned as an elite, invite-only service that builds on the existing Swiggy One membership. It offers premium benefits such as faster deliveries, complimentary add-ons during dine-outs, and dedicated customer support.

Despite the marketing misstep, the service aims to appeal to high-end customers seeking enhanced convenience. However, this incident has reignited the debate over the limits of creativity in advertising and cultural sensitivity.

Friday the 13th: Where the ‘Curse’ Comes From and Whether You Can Avoid It

Friday the 13th has long been regarded as a day of misfortune in many Western cultures. The superstition surrounding this particular date combines fears tied to both the number 13 and Fridays — a duo many believe brings bad luck. While some brush off the notion as mere myth, others actively avoid travel, important decisions, or even stepping outside on this day.



The number 13 itself has been viewed as unlucky for centuries. It breaks the completeness of the number 12, which is often seen as a symbol of order — 12 months, 12 zodiac signs, 12 apostles. According to Christian tradition, Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus, was the 13th guest at the Last Supper. Jesus was said to be crucified on a Friday, further fueling the superstition, although historical accuracy remains debated.

Some biblical stories also tie Fridays to misfortune — including the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden, Cain’s murder of Abel, and the onset of the Great Flood. Roman legends contributed as well, with beliefs that witches gathered in groups of 12, with the 13th being the devil himself.

Modern pop culture has only amplified these fears. The Friday the 13th horror movie franchise and novels like Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code have embedded the superstition deeper into public consciousness. The day is also remembered for real-life tragedies — plane crashes, accidents, and other eerie events — further stoking fear.

Despite a lack of scientific proof, many still take precautions on Friday the 13th. Whether avoiding black cats or postponing major life decisions, believers continue to treat it as a date best approached with caution — just in case the curse holds some truth.

Is the Haldi Water Trend Black Magic? A Viral Kanpuriya Twist Brings Humor to Controversy

The internet is currently flooded with videos of a bizarre but visually captivating trend involving turmeric (haldi), water, and a mobile phone flashlight. The so-called Haldi Water Trend has gone viral across Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook, drawing reactions ranging from awe to alarm. The simple idea involves adding turmeric to a glass of water placed over a phone flashlight, creating a glowing effect that many find mesmerizing.

However, not everyone is amused. While some netizens admire the aesthetic glow, others have raised red flags, calling the trend occult-like or even a form

of black magic. Certain religious users have questioned whether the trend aligns with spiritual beliefs, with some going as far as to say it’s against the will of Allah. A few videos even suggest it could “invite evil energy” or mimic ancient rituals.

Amid the heated debate, social media vlogger Nafia Anas brought comic relief with a viral “Kanpuriya” twist. In her Instagram reel, instead of turmeric, she humorously used gutka (chewing tobacco), mimicking the setup but with a wildly different result. The quirky take, complete with dramatic music and lighting, left viewers in splits. Comments

poured in praising the creativity, with one user joking, “A mesmerizing view of Kanpur,” and another declaring it “better than haldi!”

The video, which has crossed 3 million views, has become a fan favorite, offering a much-needed comic spin on a trend now caught in spiritual debate. While concerns persist—ranging from black magic claims to water wastage—the viral Kanpuriya version proves that humor can sometimes be the best antidote to controversy. As reactions continue to pour in, one thing is clear: whether you believe in the magic or mock it, the Haldi Water trend has certainly cast a spell online.



PV Sindhu Faces Tough Season, Eyes Turnaround in Upcoming Tournaments

It has been a challenging year on the court for India's badminton icon PV Sindhu. The double Olympic medallist is struggling to find her rhythm in 2025, with a string of early exits raising concerns about her current form and future prospects. Despite her legacy as one of the sport's elite, recent performances suggest a critical phase in her career.

Sindhu's most recent setback came at the Indonesian Open, where she was defeated in the Round of 16 by Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong. This marked her third Round of 16 exit this year. Alarmingly, she has managed to reach the quarterfinals only once—in the India Open back in January.

Yet, the former world champion remains optimistic. "The recent results definitely bother me, but there's been improvement," Sindhu said. "Five or six tournaments ago, I was losing quite easily. But now I've



had close, tough matches against top players. That's a positive sign I can build on." Sindhu also revealed that changes are being made in her training regime in hopes of delivering stronger performances in the upcoming China and Japan tournaments. "We're working on a few things, and hopefully, you'll see the dif-

ference soon," she added. On the fitness front, Sindhu assured fans that she's in good shape. With a brief break from competition, she's using the time to focus on recovery and training. "We've had back-to-back tournaments and constant travel. It's important to be both physically and mentally 100 percent," she noted.

Reflecting on her career, Sindhu acknowledged the weight of maintaining high standards. "Yes, I've won everything, but that doesn't mean there's no pressure. I still have to prove myself. It's not like it was 10 years ago." Despite the dip in form, Sindhu's determination to bounce back remains firm.

Devon Conway Left Out of New Zealand Squad for T20 Tri-Series in Zimbabwe

New Zealand opener Devon Conway has been left out of the 15-man Black Caps squad named for the upcoming T20 tri-series against Zimbabwe and South Africa, to be played in Harare from July 14 to 26, 2025. This marks the first squad announcement under new head coach Rob Walter. Conway's omission reflects a broader trend, with several senior players opting out of central contracts in favour of opportunities in global T20 leagues. Conway last represented New Zealand during the 2024 T20 World Cup, in the team's final group stage match. Former captain Kane Williamson has also made himself unavailable for selection, currently playing county cricket for Middlesex in England.

Among the fresh faces, Auckland's Bevon Jacobs has earned his maiden squad call-up. Though part of the squad during the December series against Sri Lanka, the 23-year-old is yet to debut for New Zealand. Jacobs is the only uncapped player in the squad.

There's a recall for fast bowler Adam Milne, who last featured for the national side in November 2024. His strong showing in the United States' Major League Cricket (MLC) paved the



way for his return. Big-hitting batters Finn Allen and Tim Seifert also make a comeback. Allen recently made headlines with a world-record 19 sixes in a blistering 151-run innings for the San Francisco Unicorns in the MLC.

Mitchell Santner will lead the squad, which combines experienced campaigners and fresh talent. Head coach Rob Walter expressed optimism, saying, "We've got a really strong squad for this tour. It's great to have players back who missed the Pakistan series due to the IPL, and I'm excited to get to work with this group."

The tri-series is set to bring competitive action as Walter begins his tenure with a blend of continuity and new energy.

India gearing up to host Asian Swimming Championships 2025

India is preparing to host the much-anticipated revival of the Asian Swimming Championships in October 2025 at a newly constructed world-class venue in Ahmedabad. This marks the return of the continental event after a nine-year hiatus, with top aquatic nations like China, Japan, and Korea set to participate. The Swimming Federation of India (SFI) aims to not only showcase its organizational capabilities but also make a mark in the water through its divers and water polo teams. Notably, India is placing significant hopes on its divers, with special attention to the men's synchronised diving team.



"We are expecting a realistic medal chance in diving. Our divers recently completed a one-month training stint in Malaysia, where they received informal judging and benchmarking," said SFI secretary Monal Chokshi. Australian coach Shannon Roy is currently leading their training. Although a planned competition in Australia had to be cancelled due to visa issues, the SFI is exploring other competitive opportunities. In water polo, camps with 25 men and 25 women began in January in Bangalore, with final squads of 14 and four reserves to be selected. A month-long training trip to an Eastern European country is also planned.

"We will bring back coaches Babovic Miodrag and Anderic Nemanja, who had previously worked with our teams," Chokshi added. India hopes to qualify for the Asian Games through this championship—something it hasn't achieved since 1986. Among swimmers, Srihari Nataraj, Benediction Rohit, Shoan Ganguly, and Aryan Nehra are considered strong prospects. A two-month national camp will be held at the Ahmedabad venue to fine-tune preparations. With home advantage and robust planning, India is aiming to make a splash at the 2025 Asian Swimming Championships.

WI vs AUS First Test: West Indies Holds Slim Lead Amid Controversial Decisions

Travis Head Anchors Australia's Fightback



The first Test between West Indies and Australia at Kensington Oval is shaping up to be a gripping contest, despite early disruptions and two disputed TV umpire decisions. After West Indies posted 190 in their first innings, they took a narrow 10-run lead when Australia was bowled out for 180. Australia then showed resilience on day two, fighting back from 65-4 to 92-4 by stumps, with Travis Head leading the charge. Head, who scored the only half-century so far in the match, was determined to keep Australia in the game. Battling both the swing-friendly pitch and relentless West Indies pace attack, Head was 13 not out off 37 balls at stumps, supported by Beau Webster on 19 not out. Despite taking a blow to his left glove from Alzarri Joseph, Head's stubbornness is Australia's key to survival. Day two saw 10 wickets fall on a pitch still offering seam movement. West Indies'

bowlers continued to trouble Australia's top order, with Hazlewood claiming the crucial wicket of debutant Brandon King, who had earlier been dropped. West Indies' Shai Hope and Roston Chase fought back with a 67-run partnership, but Chase was controversially given out lbw after a review showed minor bat spikes, which the umpire ruled insignificant. Hope's gritty 48 was cut short by a contentious caught-behind decision where replays suggested the ball touched the ground, but the catch stood. His dismissal left West Indies at 162-8, just short of Australia's total. Australia's second innings started poorly, losing early wickets, but Head and Webster steadied the innings to reduce pressure. With the match potentially ending within three days, both teams are battling hard for control in this intense Test encounter.

Indian Women's Hockey Team Gears Up for Crucial Double-Header Against China in FIH Pro League

In what promises to be a high-stakes weekend, the Indian Women's Hockey Team will take on Asian rivals China in a must-win double-header in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25. The matches, scheduled for June 28 and 29 in Berlin, are critical for India, who currently sit at the bottom of the league table.

Led by captain Salima Tete, India is seeking to end its losing streak and revive hopes in the prestigious international league. The team is currently ranked ninth, trailing England by just a point, with both nations still having two matches left to play. China, on the other hand, holds the fourth spot and will be looking to cement their place among the league's top contenders.

Captain Salima Tete acknowledged the gravity of the upcoming matches and emphasized the importance of drawing motivation from the Indian Men's Team, who recently ended their Pro League campaign on a high with a win over Belgium.

"This is a very crucial double-header for us," said Tete. "The Pro League has been a learning curve, and though we will reflect deeply once we return home, our focus now is on executing well against China."

India will take encouragement from their recent successes over China in the Asian Champions Trophy 2024, where they secured a 3-0 win in the group stage and a 1-0 win in the final. However, the Pro League



tells a different story, as India lost both encounters to China last season.

"They are a familiar and strong opponent," Tete added. "But we know our strengths, and we're prepared to give our best."

All eyes will be on this do-or-die clash as India aims for a turnaround.



Rashmika Mandanna Unleashes Her Fierce Avatar in First Look of PAN-India Film Mysaa

Star actress Rashmika Mandanna is all set to lead her next big PAN-India project titled Mysaa, and the first look has already made waves. Produced by Ajay and Anil Sayyapureddy under Uniformula Films, and co-produced by Sai Gopa, this intense action drama marks the directorial debut of Rawindra Pulle, a former assistant of film-maker Hanu Raghavapudi. Following the buzz created by its announcement poster, the makers have now officially unveiled the title and first look of Mysaa, and it's nothing short of electrifying. Rashmika appears in a never-seen-before avatar—fierce, raw, and unflinching. Clad in a traditional saree, she dons tribal Gond jewelry, including a nose ring and layered neckpieces, portraying a warrior-like presence. Her intense gaze, blood-smeared face, and a cryptic object held in her hand hint at a gripping and emotionally charged narrative.

Adding to the excitement, the poster was launched in a collaborative fashion across different languages. Hanu Raghavapudi introduced the Telugu version, while Rashmika's co-stars Dhanush (Kuberaa) and Vicky Kaushal (Chhaava) launched the Tamil



and Hindi posters, respectively. The Malayalam version was unveiled by Dulquer Salmaan, and the Kannada by Shiv Rajkumar—each extending their support and best wishes. Director Rawindra Pulle revealed that Mysaa has been in development for two years, with extensive work put into the story, characters, and the unique world they inhabit. Promising a heroine-driven narrative, the film aims to push boundaries and showcase a raw, intense side of Rashmika Mandanna. The makers plan to reveal the film's technical crew next week, building further anticipation for what's clearly shaping up to be a landmark project in Rashmika's career.



Kannappa Movie Review: A Sincere Spiritual Journey Anchored by Vishnu Manchu and Prabhas

Kannappa, the long-awaited mythological drama directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, finally arrives with sky-high expectations. Featuring Vishnu Manchu in the titular role, alongside a star-studded ensemble including Mohan Babu, Prabhas, Mohanlal, and Akshay Kumar, the film strives to retell the timeless legend of devotion with modern cinematic flair.

The story centers around Thinnadu (Vishnu Manchu), a tribal hunter who lives by instinct, far removed from religious faith. His life takes a dramatic turn when he encounters a mysterious Shiva lingam deep in the forest. From skepticism to raw, uninhibited devotion, Thinnadu's transformation is at the heart of the narrative. Lord Shiva

(Akshay Kumar) eventually tests this devotion, leading to a powerful climax that defines the legacy of Kannappa.

Vishnu Manchu delivers a sincere performance, showcasing his growth as an actor. A particular monologue stands out for its emotional resonance. Prabhas, appearing as Rudra in the second half, adds charm and depth, providing a much-needed lift to the narrative with his presence and comic timing. Mohanlal and Mohan Babu leave a mark despite limited screen time.

However, the film struggles with pacing in the first half, and emotional connections—especially Thinnadu's familial bonds—are underdeveloped.

Some supporting characters, like those played by Madhubala and Brahmanandam, feel underutilized. The action choreography and VFX fall short of the film's epic ambition.

On the technical front, Sheldon Chau's cinematography impresses with rich visuals, while Stephen Devassy's music is serviceable but occasionally misplaced. Anthony's editing is clean, though a tighter runtime would have benefited the film.

Kannappa is a heartfelt attempt to retell a spiritual epic. While not without flaws, it redeems itself with emotional payoff in the end, anchored by Vishnu Manchu's dedication and Prabhas's impactful presence.

Rajinikanth's Coolie Retains Its Title for Hindi Release with New Tagline

Superstar Rajinikanth's much-anticipated action entertainer Coolie, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, is all set to hit theatres on August 14, 2025. With just 50 days to go for release, the makers have now officially confirmed that the film will retain the title Coolie across all languages—including the Hindi version—debunking earlier speculations about a possible title change.

For weeks, rumors suggested that the Hindi version of the film might be titled Majadoor, a move believed to avoid overlap with earlier Bollywood titles. However, the newly released poster puts all speculation to rest. It features the title Coolie prominently written in Hindi, along with the tagline "The Power House," a nod to Rajinikanth's iconic screen presence.

The title Coolie carries strong associations for Hindi-speaking audiences, largely due to the legendary Amitabh Bachchan starrer Coolie (1983), which was a massive commercial hit. Later, films like Coolie No. 1 starring Govinda, and the 2020 remake featuring Varun Dhawan, further cemented the term in Bollywood pop culture. Now, Rajinikanth is set to redefine the title with his own trademark style and charisma.

Given that Coolie is set to release



alongside WAR 2, expectations and competition at the box office are sky-high. Yet, the makers have opted for a unified title across all language versions—a move that reflects confidence in the film's universal appeal and the superstar's pan-Indian pull.

With Lokesh Kanagaraj at the helm and Rajinikanth returning to a mass-action role, Coolie is being marketed as a true pan-Indian spectacle. The film's posters have already created a buzz, and the decision to retain the same title—enhanced by the "Power House" tagline for Hindi—only adds to the anticipation surrounding its release.

'Love Jathara' First Look Unveiled: A Promising Romantic Entertainer from Director Gopinath Reddy

Director Gopinath Reddy, who previously charmed audiences with the feel-good romance Sammathame, is back with a new romantic venture titled Love Jathara. The film promises to be a vibrant and youthful love story, produced by Kankanala Praveen under the UG Creations banner. The makers officially unveiled the title and first look poster of Love Jathara today, generating buzz among cinephiles and fans of Telugu romantic dramas. The poster introduces lead actors Ankith Koyya and Manasa Choudhary in an effervescent and colorful setting, sparking interest with their fresh pairing and dynamic screen presence.

The first glimpse suggests that Love Jathara will be a heartwarming entertainer filled with emotion, romance, and playful charm. The term



"Jathara," traditionally associated with festivities or fairs, hints at a narrative rich in cultural vibrancy and youthful celebration — setting the tone for a lively romantic drama.

Supporting the film's visual appeal is cinematographer Sujatha Sidharth, while the musical landscape is shaped by Chaitan Bharadwaj, known for his soul-stirring compositions. Together, they aim to elevate the storytelling with a strong audio-visual experience.

Speaking about the project, the team expressed excitement about bringing a fresh romantic story to the audience and assured that more updates — including the teaser, soundtrack, and release date — will be shared in the coming weeks. With its appealing lead pair, energetic visuals, and strong creative team, Love Jathara is shaping up to be a delightful addition to the Telugu romantic genre. As anticipation builds, fans are eager to see what magic Gopinath Reddy will deliver next.

Telugu Crime Drama '23' Now Streaming on Amazon Prime Video and ETV Win

The intense Telugu crime drama 23 (Iravai Moodu), which made a bold attempt to spotlight social injustices, is now available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video and ETV Win. Directed by Raj R — known for his critically appreciated films Malleshham and 8 AM Metro — the film was released in theatres on May 16, 2025.

Despite receiving below-average reviews upon its theatrical release, 23 drew attention for tackling sensitive themes such as caste-based violence and real-life tragedies. It stars Teja and Tanmai Kushi in the lead roles, whose performances aim to bring authenticity and emotional weight to the powerful narrative.

Now accessible to a wider audience through OTT platforms, the film has



an opportunity to reach viewers who may have missed it in cinemas. With the convenience of streaming, there's hope that 23 could resonate more deeply with digital audiences seeking socially relevant content. Produced by Studio 99, the film also

boasts a supporting cast of seasoned actors including Jhansi, Pawon Ramesh, Thagubothu Ramesh, and Praneeth, each contributing significantly to the film's layered storytelling. The background score by Mark K Robin provides an emotional undercurrent that enhances the film's dramatic tone and adds to the gritty realism of the subject matter.

Whether 23 will find renewed appreciation on digital platforms remains to be seen, but its availability on both Amazon Prime Video and ETV Win gives it a second chance to connect with a socially conscious audience. For viewers interested in films that challenge societal norms and reflect harsh realities, 23 may prove to be a thought-provoking watch.