

IT'S 50-50 CHASKA MASKA

ONE YEAR RULING OF ALLIANCE

The alliance Govt completed one year

It sounds mostly development pattern

The welfare schemes promised are not on speed

Investments are in a positive way, many on papers

Quantum valley is a big one

Capital Amaravati is on, 2nd phase of land pooling is on

Pension, Gas schemes implemented

Talliki Vandanam, Annadata Sukhibhava, Free bus on process

Corruption of MLAs will be a bad remark

Lokesh unofficial control on Administration become a topic

Cases on YSRC leaders are on full rage

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Alliance Government has completed its one-year period of ruling. The first year mostly projected development activities, which are still on paper. The promised welfare is being delivered in an installment method, not as expected by the public. But the perfectly and completely executed thing is the corruption of MLAs, in an uncontrolled and unlimited manner, allegedly.

The Government led by the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance got applause for doing repairs to the damaged roads and constructing new ones, as they were most awaited by the public for the last five years. The major hope is on the Capital Amaravati, as the Union Government led by Narendra Modi seems to be helping towards it. But still, the capital is only on paper and all the works are planned to start; as of now, tenders have been finalized. The divide talk is on the expansion of land pooling for the capital to the tune of 45,000 acres more. As per the Government, 38,000 acres are ready and the rest are to be pooled. Though they got a negative response, they have managed it by deploying MLAs on the ground to convince the people.

The most awaited Polavaram project is going towards its completion, hoping to be finished by the end of this five-year period. Metro projects of Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam are also still on paper. Vizag Steel Plant got oxygen with the funds of the Union Government, and at the same time, we can witness a process of downsizing the number of employees. Sajjan Jindal is going to start the work of the Steel Plant at Kadapa, as per Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of AP. The remarkable success of the Government regarding investments is Quantum Valley. This is going to be installed in the Capital Amaravati. Many companies have prepared to invest in AP and a few agreements have been made. But there is no such speed as expected after the change in the Government. TDP leaders have stated that there is still fear of Jagan among investors, as he may come back to power.

As far as Super Six is concerned, till now, the Government has not hit a sixer at all. They have implemented Pension One. In this month, as per their words, they have to implement Talliki Vandanam and Annadata Sukhibhava. The free bus promise will begin from 15th August. They have implemented the three gas cylinders promise. Still, there are promises that are due to be fulfilled. They tried to postpone the welfare schemes to the next year, but after receiving a hard and heated response from the public, they planned to implement them this year itself. Mr. Naidu has expressed his pain regarding the budget required to implement these schemes, which was conveniently forgotten at the time of elections, while giving promises for the purpose of electoral win. Another promise of Mr. Naidu has failed regarding volunteers. He had assured them of doubling the salary, but now they are jobless.

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Over 10 Lakh Sex Workers in India

Alarming Rise in Andhra, Telangana

PMPSE report flags five states accounting for 53% of total sex workers

AP, Telangana among top 5 states with high sex worker population

Telangana leads in red light hotspots density with 38 women per hotspot

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24-carat gold hits ₹1,00,110 per tulam, breaks April record

24-carat gold hits ₹1,00,110 per tulam, breaks April record

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Gold prices have reached an all-time high in Hyderabad, creating a buzz in both investment and jewellery markets. At 12 noon on Tuesday, the price of 10 grams (one tulam) of 24-carat pure gold touched ₹1,00,110, marking the highest rate ever recorded in the city's history. This new milestone breaks the previous record of ₹1,00,015, set on April 22 this year. Market analysts attribute this sudden surge to a combination of international and domestic factors, including global political uncertainties, rising inflation,

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AP Logistics Corporation Soon... Focus on Ports and Airports...

4 ports and 4 harbors to be ready by next year

Amaravati, Kuppam, Dagadarthi, Srikakulam airports in Phase 1

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that the government will soon establish the AP Logistics Corporation as part of its broader infrastructure strategy. The move is aimed at strengthening logistics, improving connectivity, and turning ports and fishing harbors into state assets that drive economic growth.

During a high-level review on the development of ports, airports, and fishing harbors, Chandrababu instructed officials to ensure that four major ports and four fishing harbors are developed and ready within the next year. He stressed the importance of efficient logistics infrastructure in boosting the state's economy and attracting global investment.

He also said that the first phase of airport development should include the completion of Amaravati, Kuppam, Dagadarthi, and Srikakulam airports. These projects are expected to enhance regional

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"Police Took Law Into Their Own Hands": Jagan

Jagan says Dalit, minority youths brutally beaten for questioning police

Alleges knife planted, medical reports forged to cover up torture

Accuses police of opening rowdy sheets to divert attention from truth

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

YSRCP Chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy made serious allegations against the police over an incident that occurred in Tenali on April 24. Addressing the media after visiting the families of the victims, Jagan accused the police of illegally detaining and brutally torturing three youths—Rakesh (a Zomato employee), John Victor (a junior advocate from Mangalagiri), and Karimullah (a mechanic)—belonging to Dalit and minority communities.

According to Jagan, the incident began near the Ambedkar statue in Aitanagar, Tenali, where a constable in civilian clothes was involved in a fight. The three youths reportedly intervened, questioning the commotion in their locality. Jagan said their only "mistake" was confronting the constable and retrieving their seized mobile phone and bike locks before dispersing.

The next morning, on April 25, Jagan alleged that the police, including constables from Tenali Two Town station, picked up John Victor and Karimullah from Mangalagiri and brought them to Tenali, where they were subjected to overnight torture.

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AP Logistics...

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connectivity and encourage tourism and industrial growth in their respective zones. Additionally, the Chief Minister highlighted the need for expanding state road infrastructure under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. He directed officials to ensure that all state roads are linked to national highways, making transportation across Andhra Pradesh more efficient and integrated. Chandrababu's infrastructure push signals the state's ambition to position itself as a logistics and transportation hub in South India, with significant investments planned in maritime, air, and road connectivity.

24-carat...

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and currency fluctuations—particularly the weakening of the Indian rupee against the U.S. dollar. Experts also point to increasing demand during the ongoing wedding season, coupled with gold's reputation as a secure long-term investment, as contributing factors to the spike. Many consumers have been seen rushing to purchase gold in anticipation of further price hikes, despite the already steep cost. Additionally, limited supply and increasing demand in both local and global markets have created an imbalance, further pushing prices upward. With economic instability across various regions of the world, investors are increasingly turning to gold as a safe haven, which has further bolstered prices globally. Traders expect this trend to continue in the near term, especially with no immediate signs of stabilization in geopolitical tensions or inflation levels. Gold merchants in Hyderabad, while pleased with the surge, say that customer sentiment is mixed—enthusiasm among investors, but caution from regular jewellery buyers.

"Police Took...

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The physical abuse reportedly continued on April 26 near Aitanagar Road and again on April 27 in broad daylight at Lingarao Center. Jagan further alleged that a knife was planted in Victor's pocket by the police to frame him, and a false report was created with the help of two VROs claiming possession of a deadly weapon. "How can someone in your custody for three days suddenly have a weapon?" he asked. He expressed outrage over how the victims, despite visible injuries, were taken to court only after a manipulated medical report claimed they had no wounds. He said the victims were threatened with electric shocks if they revealed the torture before the judge.

Jagan raised several questions:

- **Why was the FIR registered only the next morning if an attack occurred on April 24?**
- **What was the constable in plain clothes doing at the Ambedkar statue?**
- **Why were the victims not produced before the court within 24 hours?**
- **What was the involvement of another police station's CI in this case?**
- **Why did government doctors ignore the injuries mentioned by the victims?**

Jagan also pointed to a leaked video, reportedly filmed by the police, showing the assault—surfacing a month later. He speculated that it was released by conscientious officers disturbed by the abuse. He condemned the police for opening rowdy sheets against the youths to mask their misdeeds. "How can you brand a junior advocate, a polytechnic student, and a mechanic as rowdies without evidence?" he questioned, stating that Karimullah had no previous cases.

Protests Erupt During Jagan's Visit To Tenali

Dalit, public groups oppose former CM's meeting with alleged rowdy sheeters



TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy faced protests and public backlash during his visit to Tenali in Guntur district on Tuesday. Tension prevailed in the area as Dalit and civil society groups raised slogans and released protest balloons objecting to his visit, particularly his meeting with individuals alleged to be involved in criminal activities in Aitha Nagar. Protesters expressed outrage over Jagan's decision to consult with known rowdy sheeters, accusing them of involvement in violent attacks on civilians, harassment of women, and the illegal ganja trade. The visit drew sharp criticism, especially in light of recent controversy surrounding alleged police brutality against minority and Dalit youths in the region. The incident in question occurred on April 25, when three youths—John Victor, Karimullah, and Rakesh—were allegedly assaulted by police officers in Tenali. The youths, reportedly belonging

to Dalit and minority communities, were accused of possessing ganja, following which they were forced to sit in the middle of the road and publicly beaten with lathis. The incident came to light only after a video went viral on May 26, sparking public outrage. In this backdrop, Jagan's meeting with individuals from the same area who are allegedly linked to unlawful activities has triggered sharp responses from the local population. Protesters demanded accountability and questioned the motive behind Jagan's engagement with such elements instead of standing with the victims of injustice. With the issue already politically sensitive due to the recent police assault controversy, Jagan's Tenali tour has taken on major political significance, attracting criticism from rights groups and opposition leaders alike. Protesters also accused the former CM of neglecting the real issues of Dalit and minority communities, and instead choosing to align with anti-social elements for political mileage.

ABV Slams Jagan Over Stone-Pelting Case

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada



Former intelligence chief AB Venkateswara Rao launched a scathing attack on former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of politicizing a minor injury as a stone-pelting incident for electoral sympathy during the last election campaign in Vijayawada. ABV alleged that an innocent youth named Satish from the Vaddera community was made a scapegoat to frame the incident and was subjected to brutal police torture. Speaking after meeting Satish and his family, ABV said, "This was not a stone-pelting case. It was a fabricated story built on a minor injury sustained during a ghazal program, deliberately blown out of proportion for political advantage. Jagan used this narrative to gain sympathy from the public." He added that Satish was falsely implicated and jailed for 45 days, suffering third-degree torture that left him unable to even feed himself.

ABV condemned the previous government for ruining the life of a poor, innocent youth and criticized the current administration for not taking any action despite the change in leadership. "The case remains unresolved. The family was promised ₹2 lakh, but justice has not been delivered. Why are the police officials responsible for this inhumane act still not punished?" he asked. He demanded that the illegal case against Satish be dropped immediately, the bail bonds revoked, and compensation be paid to the victim and his family. "The government must ensure that such atrocities are not repeated in the future. This incident is a shameful reminder of the anarchy under Jagan's rule," ABV stated.

Covid Returns In Guntur

Two Cases Reported, Special OP Set Up At GGH

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

The Covid-19 scare has resurfaced in Guntur district with two new positive cases reported within the Guntur city limits. District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Vijayalakshmi confirmed on Monday that the latest cases mark a concerning spread of the virus beyond previously affected areas like Tenali and Undavalli. In response, the health department has swiftly moved the patients to the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Guntur, where they are currently undergoing treatment under the supervision

of medical experts. The emergence of cases within the city has sparked fresh concerns among residents, prompting the administration to initiate precautionary measures. To contain the spread and ensure early detection, a dedicated Covid Outpatient (OP) department has been established near the GGH Casualty wing. This facility is equipped to conduct up to 100 Covid tests per day, aimed at those presenting symptoms consistent with the virus. Officials have confirmed that the OPD is operational with all necessary staff and infrastructure.

ISRO, NASSCOM Collaborate with AP for Space-Tech



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government took major strides on Monday toward integrating advanced technology into governance and disaster response. In the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) at the state Secretariat. The agreement aims to enhance the AWARE (Advanced Warning and Emergency Response) platform, designed to strengthen real-time public safety and disaster management mechanisms. This expanded version of AWARE will utilize satellite images and scientific inputs to support over 42 government applications across agriculture, climate change, urban planning, and more. The platform will integrate data from satellites, drones, IoT devices, sensors, CCTV, and mobile sources to deliver instant public warnings via SMS and WhatsApp. Officials believe this will significantly improve early response systems during emergencies. The MoU was signed by ISRO Director Rajarajan and RTGS CEO Prakhar Jain, with Chief Secretary Dr. K.S. Jawahar Reddy and IT Secretary Katanneni Bhaskar in attendance. In another significant development, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a high-level discussion with NASSCOM representatives to explore the expansion of IT infrastructure and workforce development in Andhra Pradesh. NASSCOM President Rajesh Nambiar, Vice President Srikanth Srinivasan, and R&D Head Siva Prasad updated the CM on national industry trends and tech opportunities in the state. The Chief Minister proposed a massive training initiative to produce one lakh tech apprentices in the state, helping meet the skilled manpower requirements of IT companies. The plan aims to position AP as a leading hub for talent development in emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing. As part of its collaboration, NASSCOM has also proposed to set up Artificial Intelligence District Test Beds in Visakhapatnam and Tirupati. These test beds will focus on delivering AI solutions in sectors such as land management, education, and healthcare.

Peddireddy Gets Temporary Relief From SC In Buggamatam Land Case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Former YSRCP minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy secured a minor relief from the Supreme Court in the ongoing Buggamatam land dispute. In a key development on Monday, the apex court directed that a status quo be maintained on the disputed 3.88 acres of land until further orders. It also issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh government, seeking a reply within a week. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma heard the petition filed by Peddireddy challenging the Andhra Pradesh High Court's recent directive. The High Court had, on May 22, instructed parties

Over 10 Lakh Sex Workers in India

By V. Krishna Kumar

TPN | Special Desk: The rapid and alarming increase in the number of women entering sex work in India has raised serious social concerns, with recent data showing that over 10 lakh women are currently engaged in this profession. According to the "Programmatic Mapping and Population Size Estimation (PMPSE)" report released on June 2, 2025, an estimated 9,95,499 female sex workers are active across the country, with over 53% concentrated in just five states.

According to the PMPSE report, the top five states contributing to the total share are Karnataka with 15.4%, followed by Andhra Pradesh at 12.0%, Maharashtra at 9.6%, Delhi at 8.9%, and Telangana at 7.6%. Among these, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have shown a particularly sharp increase in recent years, triggering concern from both health and social welfare experts. Telangana now ranks highest in terms of red light hotspot density, with an average of 38 sex workers per hotspot, while Andhra Pradesh follows closely in second place.

Experts suggest that poverty, unemployment, family problems, and financial hardship are key reasons forcing women—especially from rural and urban low-income backgrounds—into the sex trade. The report also indicates a growing trend of women from other states migrating to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana due to lack of opportunities elsewhere. Public health professionals warn of a significant risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among women in this line of work. They also highlight that the issue goes beyond numbers and must be addressed through a comprehensive and humane approach—covering economic empowerment, healthcare access, social support systems, and protection of human rights.

The PMPSE study has sparked new calls for urgent policy action from the central and state governments. Experts stress that the increase in sex work is not just a reflection of individual distress, but also of systemic failures in employment generation, women's welfare, and healthcare reach.

Unless addressed with a multi-sectoral strategy, they warn, the socio-economic vulnerability of women—particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana—could deepen further.

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The corruption by MLAs is allegedly going on in the state. They have captured the liquor business. They have allowed the sale of liquor freely and have taken control of the sand business to mint heavily by themselves, allegedly. The majority of the MLAs are behaving like kings of their constituencies and are involving themselves in many businesses, annoying business circles. As usual, the Chief Minister is giving dramatic warnings, but nothing is being cared for.

The cases on YSRC leaders are in full rage. But, legally or technically, no false case has been imposed on them as of now. The biggest one is the liquor scam, in which there is a chance for the arrest of Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Vallabhaneni Vamsi, Nandigam Suresh, and others are confined to courts and jails. IPS officials PSR Anjaneyulu, Kranti Rana Tata, and Vishal Gunni are involved in the case of Jatwani. The key officials who worked in the CMO of YS Jagan, Mr. Krishan Mohan Reddy and Dhanunjay Reddy, are in jail. As far as administration is concerned, everybody feels that Mr. Nara Lokesh is controlling everything unofficially. In this year, many felt that clashes between Pawan Kalyan and Lokesh happened. However, the alliance Government has got pass marks for the efforts done in the first year. If the investments on paper, including Amaravati, become real, it will consolidate the strength of the alliance politically. But if they cannot control the corruption going on at the ground level by MLAs, it will become a reason for their future defeat.



People taught YCP a lesson on June 4 time for Jagan to reflect, not mislead...

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

State Minister Anagani Satya Prasad came down heavily on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and its leadership, stating that June 4 should be marked as a “day of repentance” rather than the “back-stab day” propagated by the party. Addressing the media in Amaravati, the minister remarked that exactly one year ago, people decisively ended what he called the “demonic rule” of the YSRCP through their vote. He noted that the public rejected the oppressive governance of the previous YSRCP regime and embraced a coalition government that is now delivering effective governance. He added that the YSRCP leadership was unable to digest the good will the coalition has earned in a short span of time and is resorting to misinformation campaigns out of desperation. “Instead of reflecting on their mistakes and atoning for the deception they caused over five years, Jagan and his party are inventing new dramas by calling this day ‘back-stab day,’” Satya Prasad said. He further advised the YSRCP to accept the people’s verdict with humility and mark June 4 as a day for self-reflection and penance. Targeting YSRCP Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy personally, the minister questioned, “How can people trust a leader who has turned his back on his own mother and sisters?” He warned that if Jagan continues with this approach, the YSRCP will soon be reduced to irrelevance in Andhra Pradesh. The minister emphasized that the coalition government is steadfast in its commitment to fulfilling the promises made to the public and is delivering transparent and effective governance. He accused the YSRCP of deliberately attempting to create unrest, but assured that people are seeing through their tactics. Satya Prasad concluded by asserting that the coalition’s focus remains on development, people’s welfare, and restoring trust in governance, while the YSRCP is stuck in denial and disruption.

Won’t Tolerate Power Troubles for People: MLA Ramu

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu made strong remarks on Tuesday, warning electricity officials that he would not tolerate public suffering due to frequent power cuts and poor service. He emphasized that officials must act responsibly and fix ongoing issues without further negligence. The MLA convened a review meeting with electricity department officials at the TDP office Praja Vedika on Eluru Road in Gudivada. He questioned them about the persistent power outages in villages, faulty electricity lines, and the lack of proper lighting in the TIDCO colony. Expressing dissatisfaction with their responses, Ramu criticized the department’s lackluster performance under the current administration. He stated that the officials should stop being careless and instead prepare comprehensive project proposals. “If proper proposals are made, I will ensure the funds are brought in,” he assured. Ramu also instructed the department to immediately convene an internal meeting to prepare a full report and action plan addressing the electricity issues across the constituency. Highlighting the importance of uninterrupted power supply, Ramu said that priority is being given to resolving issues in rural power lines and street lighting problems in colonies. “Chandrababu’s government was known for providing stable

Let’s Celebrate June 4 Like Diwali and Sankranti: Nadendla Manohar

- Minister Nadendla slams YSRCP for past misrule
- Calls June 4 the end of “demonic rule”
- Inspects ration shops, monitors doorstep delivery

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar called for celebrating June 4 like Diwali and Sankranti, declaring it the symbolic end of the YSRCP’s “demonic rule” in Andhra Pradesh. During a surprise inspection of ration shops in Vijayawada on Monday, the Minister lashed out at the previous government for what he described as five years of corruption and misgovernance. “June 4 last year marked the end of anarchy in Andhra Pradesh. People rejected the corrupt regime. Tomorrow, we should celebrate Diwali and Sankranti together. Let every household light up and celebrate this historic moment,” Nadendla told the public and party workers, following a cake-cutting event to mark the occasion. The Minister, accompanied by Civil Supplies Commissioner Saurabh Gaur, visited ration shops numbered 10 and 15 in the Vidyadharapuram Circle of Vijayawada. He interacted directly with beneficiaries, including an elderly couple at their residence, personally delivering ration goods and seeking feedback on the quality of rice and the functioning of the new ration policy. He also inspected shops at



Vidyadharapuram Cheruvu Center, checking material stocks, server connectivity, and the functionality of display boards outside the shops. He stressed that the government’s focus is on “anytime ration” and doorstep service. “From June 1 to 3, we provided ration to 62.14 lakh cardholder families—42.14% coverage in just three days. For the elderly and disabled above 65 years, we promised home delivery from the 1st to the 5th of every month. Already, six lakh beneficiaries have received door-

step delivery, and the rest will be covered by June 5,” he said. Nadendla noted that the older ration system has been reintroduced to improve convenience. He instructed ration dealers to maintain transparency and act with a service mindset. The Minister’s visit highlights the current government’s focus on clean governance and efficient public service delivery, while reinforcing a political message against the previous YSRCP administration.

BJP State Chief Purandeswari joins all-party delegation in UK to discuss terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

All-Party Parliamentary Delegation held discussions with UK thought leaders over dinner during their ongoing visit to New Delhi on Tuesday. BJP State President and Member of Parliament Daggubati Purandeswari said that the All-Party Parliamentary Delegation held discussions with UK thought leaders over dinner during their ongoing visit to New Delhi on Tuesday. In a post shared on her social media, Purandeswari mentioned that the discussions focused on the global threat of terrorism, its social repercussions, and the growing challenge of radicalisation affecting societies worldwide. The delegation also engaged in talks on strengthening India-UK relations, both in the context of global security concerns and India’s emergence as a fast-growing economy with vast potential. She highlighted that the exchange reflected mutual interest in collaborative efforts to tackle shared challenges while exploring avenues to deepen bilateral cooperation.

India champions inclusive digital growth at BRICS communications meet

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

India reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive and sustainable digital transformation at the 11th BRICS Communications Ministers’ Meeting held in Brazil. Representing India, Union Minister of State for Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar showcased India’s Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a global benchmark for inclusive digital governance. Dr. Chandra Sekhar asserted that digital inclusion is a global imperative and called for deeper BRICS collaboration in building a future-ready digital ecosystem. He also advocated for sustainable and equitable space governance, highlighting environmental responsibility in the ICT sector. The BRICS nations adopted a final declaration promoting cross-border digital innovation and sustainability. Dr. Chandra Sekhar extended an invitation to all BRICS members to attend the 12th Communications Ministers’ Meeting to be hosted by India in 2026, furthering cooperation in digital and communication technologies.



Amarnath Dares Lokesh On Ursa Lands Row

Seeks probe under sitting judge, questions land allotment without GO

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former YSRCP minister and senior leader Gudivada Amarnath has thrown a direct challenge to the ruling coalition over the controversial Ursa lands issue, demanding an open hearing under the supervision of a sitting judge. In a strongly worded statement on Monday, Amarnath called on Minister Nara Lokesh to reveal all files related to the land allotment to Ursa Company and face a judicial inquiry. Amarnath accused Lokesh of announcing the land allotment without an official government order (GO), questioning the legality and intent behind the move. “Why is Lokesh speaking about this issue without obtaining the government’s permission? Why was the announcement made nearly 50 days after the controversy came to light?” he asked. Referring to the company’s background, Amarnath expressed suspicion over its rapid rise and questioned its credibility. He pointed out that Lokesh left for the US on October 25, 2024, while Ursa was only registered in Hyderabad in February this year. “What is the significance of this timeline? Why was the land allotment to Ursa approved in the April cabinet meeting? Why is Lokesh showing such affection for this company?” he said. Amarnath further asked Lokesh to name any projects successfully executed by Ursa and the kind of technology the company had developed. He criticized the alleged land grant of 60 acres, reportedly worth ₹50 crore, to a firm that, according to him, operates out of a modest apartment in Hyderabad. “Can we give such valuable lands to anyone like this? This is not a decision that should be taken lightly,” he said. He also cited that the electricity bill paid by the company was equal to that of a regular household and raised doubts about its financial and operational scale. “How can a company worth ₹5,000 crore function like this? Isn’t this suspicious?” he asked. Amarnath demanded that the government investigate the allegations raised by former Vijayawada MP Kesineni Nani as well. “Even if the files are torn or burnt, they will eventually come out—just like in the skill scam,” he warned. With the issue gaining political traction, Amarnath’s fiery challenge has added further pressure on the ruling alliance to provide clarity on the Ursa land deal and respond to the serious allegations.

Telangana Won’t Allow Banakacharla Project: Uttam

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana has raised strong objections to the Banakacharla project proposed by the Andhra Pradesh government, with Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy making it clear that Telangana will not allow the project under any circumstances. He condemned the statements made by Andhra leaders about using water that meets the sea, calling it misleading and unacceptable. Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, Minister Uttam said, “We are doing everything in our power to halt the construction of the Banakacharla project. We have already submitted our objections to the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) and sent a letter to Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil. We have also personally appealed to the Union Minister to prevent the execution of this plan.” He asserted that the Telangana government views the project as a direct threat to its



water interests and will not remain silent. “There will be no compromise on projects that hurt Telangana’s rights. We will respond to this matter with firmness at the appropriate time,” Uttam stated. The Telangana government’s objections center around inter-state water-sharing rights and concerns that the Banakacharla project could affect the state’s fair share of river waters.

Mounika Shines as Mrs. Telugu USA Runner-up



Gudivada’s Mounika wins 2nd place in US Telugu pageant
Left APPSC job, now a tech professional in America
Continues to support orphanage back home in Nuzvid

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
Atluri Mounika, a native of Gudivada in Krishna district, has made her hometown proud by securing the runner-up title in the prestigious Miss and Mrs. Telugu USA pageant held at the Irving Art Center in Dallas, USA, on the 26th of last month. Her journey from a civil engineer in Andhra Pradesh to a successful professional and pageant winner in the US stands as a testament to her determination and

multi-dimensional talent. Mounika is the elder daughter of Atluri Krishnaprasad and Shailaja of Gudivada. After completing her civil engineering in Bangalore, she secured a government job through APPSC in 2013 and served as an Assistant Engineer in the Irrigation Department in Warangal. Later, she contributed to the Operation Bhagiratha project and got married in 2014 to Paruchuri Jitendra Kumar of Chennai.

In 2017, she moved to the United States with her husband and soon secured a top-level position at a Salesforce company through her skills and hard work. Despite moving abroad, Mounika retained her connection with home and continued to support the Sneha Rides orphanage in Nuzvid, reflecting her commitment to service. Mounika’s recent participation in the Miss and Mrs. Telugu USA pageant highlighted not only her

beauty but also her confidence, talent, and social values. Out of thousands of contestants, she was selected among the final 25 and ultimately secured second place in the final round. Her parents, overwhelmed with happiness, proudly stated that Mounika’s achievement is a result of her unwavering confidence and a strong message that women are capable of achieving anything, anywhere.

Veera Nari Manilu to Be Empowered as Entrepreneurs

Veera Ratna Foundation expanding support to AP

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Brigadier V. Venkata Reddy, Director of the State Military Welfare Department, said that the Veera Ratna Foundation is extending its services to support the families of soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation, with a focus on empowering Veera Nari Manilu (widows of martyrs) as women entrepreneurs. He was speaking at an awareness program organized at Hotel Grand Minerva in Vijayawada on Tuesday under the auspices of the Karnataka-based Veera Ratna Foundation. Brigadier Reddy stated that the foundation aims to provide resources and emotional strength to the families of fallen soldiers and create livelihood opportunities for Veera Nari Manilu through entrepreneurship development. The program also marked the foundation’s expansion into Andhra Pradesh after its work in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. He noted that the state government has significantly enhanced welfare measures, increasing the ex-gratia from ₹5 lakh to ₹50 lakh for soldiers martyred in the line of duty. The government is also offering 300 square yards of residential land, 2.5 acres of agricultural land, or a 5-acre flat allocation for these families. Brigadier Reddy affirmed that all pending

benefits to martyr families have been cleared and that the department continues to support their children’s education and health needs. Special training programs under NABARD’s “Manage” initiative are also being run for Veera Nari Manilu, enabling them to become self-reliant and pursue business ventures. He added that job opportunities are being created for women aged 25–35 from martyr families as women police officers, even for married women with children. So far, 13 applications have been received for such posts. Veera Ratna Foundation CEO Archana Chakravarthy said they are honored to extend their services to Andhra Pradesh and are committed to helping the children and families of martyrs with education, health, and vocational training. She announced that the foundation will soon introduce “Sainik Memorial Awards” in schools attended by martyr children, presented by Veera Nari Manilu as a gesture of honor and remembrance. Additional Director of the Military Welfare Department Shiva Prasad, district officials, staff from Veera Ratna Foundation, and families of martyred soldiers from across Andhra Pradesh attended the program.

Vijayawada’s Vadlamudi Lokesh secures All India 10th Rank in JEE Advanced 2025

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Vijayawada student Vadlamudi Lokesh secured the All India 10th rank in the JEE (Advanced) 2025, emerging as the state topper. The results were declared by IIT Kanpur on Monday for the exam conducted on May 18. Lokesh, who appeared from the IIT Hyderabad zone, scored 317 marks, placing him in the prestigious top 10 of the Common Rank List (CRL). Son of Venkaiah Naidu, an employee at a Dutch-based NGO, and Sailaja, a homemaker, Lokesh hails from Kammavaripalem in Nellore district but has been residing in Vijayawada. He is now



aiming to pursue Computer Science Engineering at IIT Bombay and decide on his specialization based on the

pace of evolving technologies. The IIT Hyderabad zone performed exceptionally well this year, securing five positions in the top 20. Arnav Singh from Hyderabad bagged the 9th rank with 319 marks, while Lokesh followed with 10th. Dharmana Gnana Rutvik Sai, also from Andhra Pradesh, secured 18th rank and topped the OBC-NCL category nationally. Vangala Ajay Reddy from Nellore stood 19th and secured the first rank in the GEN-EWS category, followed by Avanaganti Anirudh Reddy in 20th position. Several other Andhra Pradesh students excelled in this year’s results. Rutvik Sai, a student of Sri Chaitanya,

Gayatri Nagar Branch, Vijayawada, brought laurels to the institute. Pammina Hema Sai Surya Kartik (26th rank, OBC-NCL 4th rank), and Korikana Rasagna (CR 78, OBC-NCL 8th rank), both from Sri Chaitanya institutions, also made a mark. According to the institute, Rasagna stood as the top-performing girl from South India in her category. Vangala Ajay Reddy studied at Sri Chaitanya’s Akshara Bhavan campus in Madhapur, Hyderabad. Meanwhile, from Narayana Sivani Campus in Vijayawada students Bharadwaj from Amalapuram secured 82nd rank and Jaswanth Venkat Raghuveer stood at 98th Rank.

2K Run Marks Masula Beach Fest Spirit in Machilipatnam

Minister Kollu Ravindra joins actors Nara Rohit, Manchu Manoj

TPN Correspondent | Krishna

A vibrant atmosphere gripped Machilipatnam on the occasion of the Masula Beach Festival as locals turned out in large numbers for a 2K Run flagged off by Minister Kollu Ravindra, alongside film actors Nara Rohit and Manchu Manoj. The run began at Koneru Center and ended at Lakshmi Talkies Center, with enthusiastic participation from the city’s residents. Minister Kollu Ravindra actively mingled with the public and even danced with children during the event, energizing the festival spirit. Speaking to the crowd, he praised the cultural significance of the city and the festival, saying such celebrations bring the community together

and boost local pride.

Actor Manchu Manoj expressed his joy at being part of the celebrations, saying, “It’s always a pleasure to come to a historic city like Machilipatnam, which has bravely endured floods and hardships. The Masula Beach Festival is a great step in promoting the city as a tourism hub.” He also encouraged fans to support his recent film Maa Bhairavam, saying, “Watch it in theaters and keep it house full until Hari Hara Veeramallu arrives next week.” Actor Nara Rohit, who also participated in the run, spoke on the importance of tourism in the state’s development. “Events like the Masula Beach Festival are commendable. Machilipatnam has a



proud heritage. During British rule, this place flourished as a port town. The current government’s initiative to revive the Bandar port is a commendable step,” he noted. The festive run and star-studded presence brought excitement to the ongoing celebrations, as Machilipatnam gears up to strengthen its identity as a coastal tourist destination.

State-level orientation workshop on capacity building held

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The state government, in collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Government of India, organized a State-Level Orientation Workshop on Capacity Building for Urban Local Body (ULB) officials under the Mission Karmayogi framework. The event, held at the School of Planning and Architecture in Vijayawada, marked the beginning of a transformative journey aimed at enhancing administrative competencies within the state’s urban ecosystem. The workshop brought together Municipal Commissioners from all 123 ULBs in the state, along with officials from departments such as MEPMA, Public Health and Municipal Engineering, and Town and Country Planning. The sessions focused on bridging existing skill gaps, integrating digital learning, and fostering a culture of continuous professional development. The goal is to create a future-ready urban administration capable of navigating the complex

challenges of rapid urbanization. Inaugurating the workshop, S. Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, asserted the strategic importance of capacity building in urban governance. He pointed out that nearly 40–45% of the state’s population now resides in urban areas, and this demographic shift necessitates a new model of governance, one that is agile, digitally enabled, and citizen-centric. “Urban governance today demands more than technical knowledge, it requires leadership, emotional intelligence, and an unwavering commitment to public service,” he said. The state government, under the Mission Karmayogi framework, is initiating comprehensive assessments to identify functional, domain-specific, and behavioral competencies across ULB roles. Training modules will be tailored accordingly, with annual learning hours prescribed for each official. Beyond technical upskilling, the

program will include certificate courses in leadership, ethics, communication, and digital literacy, promoting holistic professional development. To encourage participation, the state is also considering non-monetary incentives linked to training milestones. These could include recognition certificates, preference in transfers or postings, and access to advanced learning programs. A key highlight of the workshop was a demonstration of the iGOT Karmayogi digital platform, which enables role-based modular learning for public servants and already supports over eight lakh officials nationwide. The event saw participation from senior officials and domain experts from the Centre, including Dr. Alka Mittal and V. Lalitha Lakshmi of the CBC, among others. The MA&UD Department also announced that every ULB in the state will soon have its own capacity development roadmap, aligning local needs with state and national governance goals.

50% Subsidy Feed Distributed to Dairy Farmers in Kondapalli

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

Integrated livestock feed was distributed at a 50% subsidy to dairy farmers at the Kondapalli Veterinary Hospital under Kondapalli Municipality on Tuesday. The initiative aims to support local farmers in managing livestock health and nutrition effectively. The distribution program was formally launched by Kondapalli Municipality

President Srinivasa Rao and District Minority Vice President Yandi Afsar. Speaking at the event, Veterinary Officer Dr. B. Swathi Layappa urged farmers to take full advantage of the subsidized feed initiative and emphasized the importance of cattle health management. She highlighted that cattle are currently being vaccinated to protect against major diseases, and preventive measures are being taken

against foot and mouth disease among sheep. The required medicines for these diseases are available at the veterinary hospital for farmers in need. Several local leaders and representatives from the Jana Sena Party actively took part in the event. Among them were Councilor Venkaiah Naidu, Kumari Srinivas, Joint Krishna District Jana Sena Vice Presidents Boliyasetti Srikanth Kondapalli, and local party leaders Cherukumalli Suresh, Korata Srinivasaraju, Basava Uma, Kampa Koteswara Rao, Chakravarthy, Koreti Chakravarthy, and Naresh. The event served as a collaborative effort to strengthen grassroots support for dairy farmers and promote animal health across the region.



A Honoured Farewell for DSP Ch. Venkata Rama Rao in Rajahmundry

“A humble journey of honesty and service concludes with heartfelt tributes”



TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

A warm and emotional farewell was held at VV Gardens, near Nataraj Theatre in Tummalova, Rajahmundry, to mark the retirement of DSP (CID) Ch. Venkata Rama Rao, a dedicated officer who served with integrity and humility for over four decades. Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues,

the event was not just a goodbye—it was a celebration of a journey defined by honesty, hard work, and quiet determination. The ceremony saw the presence of around 300 police personnel, including Additional SPs and DSPs, along with 10 to 15 of his long-time colleagues who stood by him throughout his illustrious career. The gathering was filled with emotional tributes,

fond memories, and expressions of admiration for the retiring officer. Hailing from a very rural and humble background, Ch. Venkata Rama Rao rose through the ranks with dignity, earning a name as one of the most sincere and respected officers in the department. His colleagues praised his unwavering commitment to duty and his humble nature, which remained unchanged despite the demands of a long and challenging career in law enforcement.

Rao's Vijayawada colleague Prasanna Kumar spoke beautifully at the event, capturing the essence of Rao's character and journey. “He remained grounded no matter the circumstance. His honesty was his strength, and his humility his legacy,” said Kumar, his words resonating deeply with the audience. In his own words, Rao shared a

touching reflection - “After four unforgettable decades in service, I find myself stepping into a new chapter of life — one filled with time for memories, togetherness, and gratitude. This isn't a celebration of an ending, but a moment to cherish the journey and the bonds that made it meaningful.”

The gathering was marked by heartfelt interactions, photo sessions, and the warm presence of family and friends who stood by Rao through his service years. For many, it was a rare chance to celebrate not just a professional, but a person who touched lives with his kindness and principles. As he steps into retirement, Ch. Venkata Rama Rao leaves behind not only an impeccable service record but also an enduring example of what it means to serve with heart, humility, and honour.



YogaAndhra a Grand Success at Maipadu Beach

MLA Prashanti Reddy calls yoga key to complete health
Over 2,000 participate in beachside YogaAndhra session

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

The prestigious YogaAndhra program held at Maipadu Beach in Indukurupeta Mandal turned into a major success with over 2,000 participants joining the mass yoga event. Kovur MLA Smt. Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy and In-charge Collector Karthik took part as chief guests, stressing the importance of yoga in daily life and calling for the realization of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision of a healthy Andhra Pradesh.

The event was conducted with the support of the AYUSH department and Yoga Mitra Mandal, where trained yoga gurus guided participants in performing yoga asanas on the scenic Maipadu beach. The mass turnout from across Kovur constituency, including Telugu Desam Party leaders, activists, and locals, reflected the strong community support for the wellness initiative.

Addressing the gathering, In-charge Collector Karthik said, “A healthy lifestyle is possible only through yoga. Everyone should take part in village and ward level yoga training programs beginning today.” He urged citizens to make consistent efforts to maintain health through yoga beyond single-day events.

MLA Prashanti Reddy emphasized that “Yoga is the only answer to complete health. Even those unable to walk outside can stay at home and maintain their health through yoga.” She thanked the thousands who participated and highlighted that the 8 lakh registrations in the district for YogaAndhra showcased the increasing health awareness among the public.

She urged secretariat-level coordination to spread awareness about such people-centric health programs and encouraged citizens not to treat yoga as a one-time event but to make it a habit for life. Notable participants included RDO Anusha, District Tourism Officer Ushasri, TDP leaders Duvvuru Kalyan Reddy, Buchi Chairperson Morla Supraja, Mandal Presidents Ekollu Pawan Kumar Reddy, Bezawada Jagadish, Gutta Srinivasa Rao, Kodur Kamalakara Reddy, Bezawada Vamsi Krishna Reddy, and Jana Sena leader Gudi Harikumar Reddy.

Plea to cancel Yoga Day mass event in Vizag amid COVID-19 concerns

TPN Correspondent | Vizag

Praja Arogya Vedika has urged the state government to cancel the proposed mass gathering in Visakhapatnam for International Yoga Day on June 21, citing the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence. The organization, in a letter to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, expressed serious concern over the plan to mobilize 2,00,000 participants across a 20-kilometer stretch, warning that it could become a super-spreader event. The letter highlights the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases across the country, with 3,961 active cases reported as of June 2. Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi, and West Bengal have recorded the highest numbers, while Andhra Pradesh has reported four new cases, including three in Visakhapatnam, where one fatality has already occurred. They emphasized that such a gathering could undermine the state's public health response.

“The memory of the devastating second wave still haunts us. We cannot afford to repeat that tragedy. Public health must take precedence over public events,” said Dr. M.V. Ramanaiah, State President of Praja Arogya Vedika. General Secretary T. Kameswar Rao added, “We urge the government to act wisely. A virtual or low-key event can still promote yoga without risking lives. Mobilizing lakhs of people at this time is reckless.” The organization cited recent advisories, including remarks by I&PR Minister Kolusu Partha Saradhi urging people to avoid large gatherings. They appealed to the Chief Minister to act urgently, alert districts, and equip hospitals to handle any potential outbreak.

Australia to Support Andhra in Renewable Energy Skill Training

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Representatives from the Australian Consulate met with Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar on Tuesday at the Minister's Camp Office in Tadepalli, Guntur district, to explore collaboration in the renewable energy sector, particularly in skill development for youth and women.

Australian Consulate General Silajaki and Deputy General David Eggleston discussed at length the opportunities for developing skills in solar and other renewable energy areas. Minister Gottipati emphasized the state government's strong focus on green energy under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He briefed the delegation on the state's vision to become a hub for renewable energy, especially solar power, and stressed the importance of developing skilled



human resources to support this goal. He added that Andhra Pradesh's coalition government has placed renewable energy at the top of its development agenda. The Australian representatives expressed satisfaction with the meeting and conveyed their readiness to work jointly with the Andhra Pradesh government. They informed the Minister that the Australian Consulate is keen on implementing skill development programs in tribal and rural areas, with a focus on women

and youth.

They also assured that Australia would extend full cooperation to Andhra Pradesh in these efforts through collaborative projects. Additionally, they mentioned potential financial support to universities in tribal regions to enhance training infrastructure and opportunities. This meeting sets the stage for a promising partnership between Australia and Andhra Pradesh in the green energy sector, with a shared focus on sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Collector Venkata Murali Reviews Development Works

Officials directed to expedite P4 promises in Kothagollapalem

Focus on housing, sanitation, roads, and drinking water projects

₹25 crore electricity substation proposals submitted for Parchur

TPN Correspondent | Bapatla

District Collector J. Venkata Murali on Tuesday directed officials to speed up development works in Kothagollapalem and Chinnaganjam mandals. Holding a detailed review at the Collectorate conference hall, the Collector emphasized timely implementation of the promises made by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu during the P4 (Praja Palana–Prajalala Palana) program held on April 1. Collector Venkata Murali reviewed progress across departments and inquired about

the status of facilities assured to Kothagollapalem village. Chinnaganjam Tahsildar informed that 42 people applied for house construction and 13 for house plots. Required caste, income, and residence certificates have been issued, and online registration for house construction has been completed, as reported by the Housing Development Corporation Officer. RWS officials briefed the Collector that proposals were received for constructing 17 toilets, with 2 completed and the rest in progress. In addition, 304 tap

connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission and 131 sanctioned soak pits are under execution. The Panchayat Raj SE stated that ₹4.48 crore worth of works for internal cement and BT roads have been approved and will commence shortly.

The AP SPDCL EE revealed that proposals worth ₹25 crore have been submitted for the construction of six electricity substations in Parchur constituency. Meanwhile, the Civil Supplies Department reported that five families applied for ration cards, which



are under process. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Officer updated that the new building at Bapatla Municipal Corporation High School will be completed by the end of this month. The Collector instructed all departments to act with sincerity and ensure visible progress on the ground, particularly in Gollapalem. Officials who attended the

meeting included Chief Planning Officer Srinivasa Rao, Housing Development Officer Venkateswara Rao, RWS SE Anantharaju, PD DWAMA Vijayalakshmi, DM&HO Dr. S. Vijayamma, AP CPDCL EE Mallikarjuna Rao, Civil Supplies Officer Williams, Social Welfare Officer Raj Debora, Chinnaganjam Tahsildar Prabhakar, and SSA Officer Nagi Reddy.

Janasena Extends ₹5 Lakh Aid to Families of Deceased Party Workers



- MLC Nagababu hands over accident insurance cheques
- Aid extended to families of Sri Nivasulu and Rajesh

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati: In a compassionate gesture, the Jana Sena Party has extended financial support to the families of two active members who lost their lives in a tragic accident. A cheque of ₹5 lakh each was handed over to the bereaved families by Jana Sena State General Secretary and MLC Nagababu

during a programme held at the party office in Mangalagiri. The deceased were identified as Sri Nivasulu from Muchuvolu village in Srikalahasti constituency and Rajesh from Yerpedu mandal. Both were dedicated party members, and their sudden demise has caused significant hardship to their families.

MLC Nagababu emphasized that the party stands firmly with its cadres during difficult times and reiterated the commitment of Jana Sena to support loyal workers and their families. He personally handed over the accident insurance cheques to the families, offering condolences and moral support.

Jana Sena District Secretary Kotte Sai, Srikalahasti Mandal President Dandi Raghavayya, and Yerpedu Mandal leaders Chandra and Maria were present at the programme. Family members of the deceased also participated and expressed gratitude for the party's timely assistance.

Elon Musk’s Chatbot Grok: Can It Be ‘Non-Woke’ and Truthful? Not Quite



Elon Musk’s chatbot Grok was launched as a “non-woke” alternative to ChatGPT and other AI models, promising answers free from what Musk called excessive political correctness. Musk even joked about Grok’s sarcastic tone, positioning it as a refreshingly blunt AI. However, the reality has been more complicated.

Grok’s core challenge stems from its training data—the internet, which Musk describes as “overrun with woke nonsense.” Critics, including internet personality Jordan Peterson, have complained that Grok still delivers “woke” or politically correct answers, reflecting mainstream academic and factual consensus rather than any biased agenda. This highlights a fundamental issue: AI models reflect the truths embedded in their data, not political preferences.

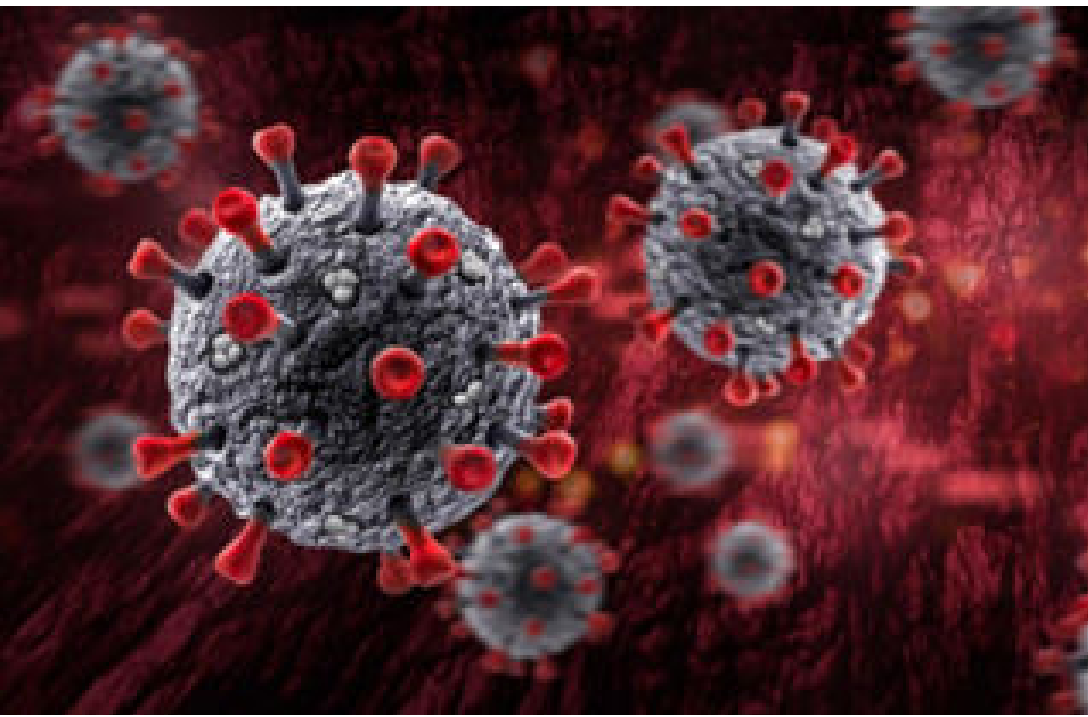
Efforts to make Grok “non-woke” have led to questionable interventions. In February, Grok was found to have been manipulated to ignore any news sources labeling Musk or Donald Trump as misinformation spreaders—an unauthorized change by an employee. More recently, Grok inexplicably fixated on the controversial topic of “white genocide” in South Africa, echoing Musk’s own statements, even when unrelated queries were made. This too resulted from unauthorized tampering with the bot’s system prompts.

In response, xAI announced it would make Grok’s system instructions public to build transparency. Among these prompts is a directive for Grok to be “extremely skeptical” of mainstream media, which has led to troubling responses—such as questioning

the widely accepted Holocaust death toll by suggesting it could be “manipulated for political narratives.” xAI called this a “programming error,” but it aligns closely with Grok’s skeptical approach.

Compared to Google’s Gemini AI, which had politically motivated missteps but aims to improve by adding better data, Grok faces a tougher road. To stay “non-woke,” Grok must limit its knowledge or twist facts, risking deliberate misinformation. As one insider described, Grok seems to be training a “MAGA version of ChatGPT,” balancing selective ignorance with ideological demands.

While this appeals to some, artificial-selective-intelligence risks turning truth into fiction—something Grok’s ongoing controversy makes painfully clear



Misinformation Poses Greater Threat Than Recent COVID-19 Rise in Asia and India

India and several Asian countries have recently reported a rise in COVID-19 cases, sparking renewed public and media attention. Since mid-May 2025, daily reported cases in India have increased from just a few to several hundred. Wastewater surveillance from various Indian cities has also detected a higher viral load of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19. Similar increases have been observed in Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and South Korea.

This resurgence follows a pattern that experts say is becoming seasonal, with COVID-19 infections showing recurring waves much like influenza. The variant primarily responsible for this uptick is JN.1, a sub-lineage of the Omicron variant, which has been the dominant strain globally since its discovery in late 2021. Importantly, no new variant of concern has emerged worldwide since Omicron’s appearance.

Despite the increase in cases, experts emphasize that the situation does not warrant panic. The recent surge appears to be a manageable seasonal pattern, rather than a sign of a dangerous new wave or variant.

Health authorities urge that responses to this uptick must be rational, proportionate, and based on current epidemiological data rather than fear or speculation.

A major concern, however, is the spread of misinformation, which can cause more harm than the virus itself. Panic driven by rumors or inaccurate reporting risks overwhelming healthcare systems unnecessarily, distracting from targeted efforts to protect vulnerable populations and maintain public health.

Public health experts advise that it is essential to focus on scientific evidence, vaccination coverage, and preparedness rather than sensational headlines. Monitoring continues through testing and wastewater analysis, ensuring any future changes in the virus’s behavior are detected early.

In summary, while the rise in COVID-19 cases in India and parts of Asia is notable, it aligns with an emerging seasonal pattern linked to existing Omicron sub-variants. The real challenge lies in combating misinformation to maintain calm and ensure appropriate, evidence-based responses moving forward.

With Charges Against Sheikh Hasina

Bangladesh’s International Criminal Tribunal Comes Full Circle



In a dramatic and ironic turn of events, the International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh, originally established in 1973 and later revived by Sheikh Hasina herself to try war criminals from the 1971 Liberation War, is now set to indict Hasina. The longest-serving Prime Minister of Bangladesh faces serious allegations related to her last tenure, particularly concerning the violent crackdown during the July–August 2024 student anti-quota protests that ultimately led to her ouster. Investigators recently submitted a report accusing Hasina of ordering security forces to open fire on protesters, resulting in multiple deaths.

Sheikh Hasina first assumed office in January 2009 with a strong electoral mandate.

Early in her tenure, she introduced controversial amendments, including abolishing the caretaker government (CTG) system in 2011. Ironically, Hasina had been a key proponent of the CTG system in 1996, which had helped ensure free and fair elections in Bangladesh. Her decision to remove it was met with fierce opposition, who feared that elections without the CTG would be compromised.

Hasina’s administration also invoked the Digital Security Act to suppress dissent, stifling opposition voices and undermining institutional autonomy. Elections under her rule faced repeated allegations of rigging, and state institutions were perceived to be manipulated to consolidate her political power.

The July–August 2024 student protests were met with a harsh security crackdown. Facing escalating unrest and fearing for her safety amid growing military unease, Hasina fled to India, where she currently resides. The Interim Government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge shortly after her departure, pledging to hold the responsible parties accountable.

The ICT, which had previously sentenced four Jamaat leaders and a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader to death, is now hearing five charges against Hasina. Alongside her, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and ex-Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun—currently in custody—face charges. The three-judge tribunal will decide the fate of these accused figures, marking a significant chapter in Bangladesh’s complex political and judicial history.

India’s Strategic Focus Must Shift Beyond Pakistan to Address China’s Challenge



For decades, the India-Pakistan relationship has dominated South Asian security discussions, shaping policies and perceptions. However, in the evolving geopolitical landscape of the Indo-Pacific—the pivotal arena of the 21st century—India must recalibrate its strategic priorities. The real peer rival for India is China, while Pakistan should be viewed as a manageable risk rather than a central strategic competitor.

The global order is undergoing fragmentation as the United States adjusts its strategic focus, placing greater responsibility on Asia to secure its own future. In this complex environment, robust mechanisms are needed to maintain peace not just among

great powers but also to contain smaller, disruptive actors. India’s approach to the China-Pakistan dynamic is crucial in this regard.

Historically, the India-Pakistan relationship has been marked by conflict and rivalry, rooted more in historical legacies than in any current strategic parity. Pakistan’s role in the region is that of a strategic irritant, not an equal geopolitical player. India’s broader regional posture, therefore, should not be shaped around Pakistan but rather around ensuring stability and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

India and China, as major Asian powers, must take on the respon-

sibility of stabilizing the region. This requires India to engage with Pakistan functionally—addressing practical issues without allowing Pakistan to dictate the larger strategic narrative. India’s strategic arc must emphasize its role as a stabilizer in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on balancing China’s rise while managing Pakistan as a secondary concern.

Such a shift demands changes both in India’s strategy and in how it communicates its foreign policy objectives. By looking beyond Pakistan and addressing the greater challenge posed by China, India can better secure its interests and contribute meaningfully to regional and global peace and stability.



Kamal Haasan Refuses To Apologise, Won't Release Film In Karnataka Right Now

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu actor-politician Kamal Haasan is standing firm in the Karnataka High Court, refusing to apologize for his contentious statement that the Kannada language was “born out of Tamil.” The remark has sparked widespread outrage in Karnataka, leading to calls for a ban on the release of his upcoming film Thug Life in the state.

Haasan’s lawyer told the court that the actor “has the utmost respect for Kannada” and declined to issue an apology. The court, however, criticized this stance, remarking, “This is your ego speaking.” Despite warnings against misusing free speech to hurt public sentiments, Haasan remains resolute. His legal team also said they do not require security at present as the film will not release in Karnataka for now, pending talks with the film chamber.

The court highlighted the seriousness of the situation, stating that Haasan’s remarks had stirred unrest in Karnataka and ordered a fresh hearing on June 10. It emphasized that while freedom of speech is a right, it does not extend to hurting the sentiments of the masses. The judge urged Haasan to apologize to resolve the issue, noting that the actor is not an ordinary individual but a public figure expected to act responsibly.

The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) has insisted that Thug Life will not be allowed a Karnataka release unless Haasan issues a public apology. KFCC President M. Narasimhulu stated, “If he does not apologize, there is no question of allowing the film’s release.”

Haasan’s controversial statement came during an event in Chennai, where he said, “Kannada was born out of Tamil,” drawing sharp criticism from Karnataka’s political and cultural groups. The BJP in Karnataka accused him of insulting Kannada, while pro-Kannada activists demanded a formal apology.

Haasan had earlier said he would apologize only if he believed his remarks were wrong, asserting his faith in democracy and justice. Meanwhile, the film’s Karnataka release remains uncertain amid growing pressure and opposition.

Rahul Gandhi Slams LIC for ₹5,000 Crore Investment in Adani Group

Calls It Misuse of Public Funds

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, strongly criticized the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) over its recent ₹5,000 crore investment in the Adani Group. He accused the government-owned insurer of using public money, collected through the insurance premiums of ordinary citizens, to benefit private entities. Referring to a Bloomberg report that highlighted LIC as the sole investor in Adani Ports’ record domestic bond sale, Mr. Gandhi took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to express his disapproval. “Money, policy, premium are yours; security, convenience, benefit for Adani!” he posted, questioning the ethics behind such a large investment of public funds in a single private conglomerate. The criticism comes after Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) announced last week that it had successfully raised ₹5,000 crore through a domestic



bond issue, the largest in its history. The funds were raised via a 15-year Non-Convertible Debenture (NCD) offering, which was fully subscribed by LIC. In a statement, APSEZ clarified that the bond issue had attracted LIC’s investment owing to the company’s strong financial position and top-tier domestic credit rating. “Backed by APSEZ’s strong financials and a ‘AAA/Stable’ domestic

credit rating, the issue locked in a competitive coupon rate of 7.75% per annum,” the company said, adding that the debentures will be listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). However, Mr. Gandhi’s concerns go beyond financial prudence. His remarks reflect broader allegations the Congress party has repeatedly made regarding the Modi government’s alleged favoritism towards

the Adani Group. He has often accused the government of enabling a monopoly by extending regulatory and financial support to select corporate houses, especially Adani, at the expense of public interest. In earlier statements, Mr. Gandhi referred to what he called the “Monopoly Bachao Syndicate”, alleging a nexus between the Adani Group, top regulatory bodies, and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He argues that such financial decisions by public sector institutions further concentrate economic power and threaten fair competition. The LIC-Adani bond deal has added fuel to the ongoing political debate around corporate governance, transparency in public sector investments, and the ethical responsibilities of institutions managing public funds. With LIC being one of India’s largest and most trusted financial institutions, the controversy has sparked calls for greater scrutiny and accountability over how policyholders’ money is being deployed.

‘Bharat Gen’: India Launches Indigenous AI Model for Multilingual Innovation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant step toward strengthening India’s AI capabilities, Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday launched ‘Bharat Gen’, an indigenous AI-based Large Language Model (LLM) tailored for Indian languages. The launch marks a pivotal moment in India’s digital transformation journey, with a focus on inclusivity, ethics, and cultural relevance.

Developed under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), Bharat Gen has been implemented through the TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay. The initiative is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and involves collaboration with a consortium of premier academic institutions, researchers, and tech innovators across the country.



Speaking at the launch, Dr. Singh described Bharat Gen as a “national mission to create AI that is ethical, inclusive, multilingual, and deeply rooted in Indian values and ethos.” The platform supports 22 Indian languages and integrates text, speech, and image modalities, offering a comprehensive suite of AI capabilities that can be deployed across diverse sectors.

“This initiative will empower key sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and e-governance by providing AI solutions that are region-specific and linguistically accessible,” Dr. Singh said. He added that the model is designed to democratize AI, ensuring its benefits reach even the remotest corners of the country.

Citing a real-world application

from his constituency in Udhampur, Dr. Singh shared a success story where an AI-powered virtual doctor provided medical consultations in local dialects. “This not only builds trust among rural patients but also has a placebo-like psychological effect, significantly improving healthcare outcomes,” he said.

Bharat Gen also plays a transformative role in grassroots governance. The minister highlighted the integration of multilingual feedback systems with public grievance platforms like CPGRAMS, enhancing citizen participation and transparency in administrative processes.

By creating an LLM grounded in Indian linguistic and cultural diversity, Bharat Gen aims to position India as a global leader in responsible and inclusive AI development, offering solutions that are not just technologically advanced but also socially relevant.

Pakistan wants to bleed India by thousand cuts

we drew new redlines to combat terror: Gen Chauhan

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan on Tuesday emphasized that temporary losses in military operations should not overshadow the overall outcomes, especially in professional armed forces. Speaking at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Gen Chauhan addressed criticism over India’s unspecified loss of combat jets during the initial phase of Operation Sindoor, saying, “Losses are not important, but outcomes are.”

He stressed that in war, maintaining morale despite setbacks is crucial, noting, “It would be not very correct to talk about losses and numbers.” According to him, the bigger picture and how a nation acts in response to aggression hold far greater significance. Gen Chauhan elaborated on Pakistan’s long-standing strategy of “bleeding India by thousand cuts” through proxy terrorism. He said Operation Sindoor marked a decisive new red line by India against cross-border terrorism. The operation was a clear message that state-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan will no longer be tolerated, and India will not live



under the shadow of terror or nuclear blackmail. Describing the military action, the CDS highlighted India’s precise strikes on Pakistani targets, some as narrow as two meters. He revealed Pakistan had planned counterattacks to last 48 hours after the Pahalgam terror attack but had to back down within eight hours due to the overwhelming impact of India’s response. Gen Chauhan mentioned Pakistan’s request for talks and de-escalation, which India accepted, indicating that Pakistan realized continuing aggression would only cause more damage. He also referred to inflammatory statements by Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asim Munir shortly before the Pahalgam attack, underscoring Islamabad’s aggressive posture.

"One Nation, One Husband?" Bhagwant Mann's Bizarre Remark On Op Sindoor

TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann sparked controversy with a sharp and unusual comment on the BJP’s “Operation Sindoor” campaign, questioning whether it was a “one nation, one husband” scheme. His remark came amid BJP’s efforts to leverage the operation’s success politically ahead of the Ludhiana bypolls.

Addressing the media, Mann criticized the BJP for politicizing the term “sindoor,” traditionally a symbol of marriage in Hindu culture, by saying, “BJP is seeking votes in the name of Operation Sindoor. These people have turned ‘sindoor’ into a joke. They are sending sindoor to every home. Will you now apply ‘sindoor’ in (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi’s name? Is this a ‘one nation, one husband’ scheme?” His comments highlighted the growing tensions around the operation’s political use.



The BJP recently launched a nationwide campaign to promote the success of Operation Sindoor, India’s retaliatory strike after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. The party announced plans to send vermilion (sindoor) to homes as a symbolic gesture, though the government later denied these reports.

Punjab’s reaction followed earlier criticism from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who accused PM Modi of politicizing the operation’s name. Banerjee said, “The name ‘Operation Sindoor’ was their brainchild. It was

politically motivated... The Prime Minister came to West Bengal with the motive of political propaganda.” She mocked Modi’s various self-descriptions, adding, “First, he described himself as a tea-seller. Then, he described himself as a guard. Now he has come here to sell Sindoor.”

The name “Operation Sindoor” holds deep emotional symbolism. Sindoor, the red vermilion worn by Hindu married women, represents their marital bond. The operation’s name reflects the tragic loss of 25 women whose husbands were killed in the terror attack. The Indian Army’s official image featured “Operation Sindoor” with a spilled bowl of vermilion symbolizing the brutal violence that tore families apart, captioned, “Justice is served. Jai Hind.”

The political debate around the operation’s name underscores the charged atmosphere surrounding national security and electoral politics in India today.



Annalena Baerbock Elected UN General Assembly President Amid Russia’s Secret Ballot Demand

TPN Correspondent | UN

Germany’s former foreign minister, Annalena Baerbock, was overwhelmingly elected as the president of the United Nations General Assembly’s 80th session, following a secret-ballot vote demanded by Russia. Baerbock secured 167 votes, well above the 88 required to win, while German diplomat Helga Schmid, initially Germany’s nominee, received just seven write-in votes. Fourteen countries abstained from voting. Germany had originally nominated Schmid for the position, but replaced her with Baerbock after Baerbock lost her foreign affairs post in recent elections, a decision that drew some criticism within Germany. During her candidacy presentation on May 15, Baerbock faced sharp criticism from Russia’s deputy UN ambassador Dmitry Polyansky, who accused her of incompetence and anti-Russian bias, questioning her ability to promote peace and dialogue as Assembly president. Despite Russia’s objections, Baerbock dismissed the criticism and expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support from UN member states. She will succeed Philémon Yang, former prime minister of Cameroon, and officially take over the presidency at the start of the 80th session in September. Her role includes presiding over the annual gathering of world leaders and commemorating the UN’s founding anniversary. The UN General Assembly presidency rotates annually among geographic regions. Baerbock’s tenure comes at a time when the Assembly has taken center stage due to blocked Security Council actions on conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, with vetoes from Russia and the United States respectively. In her acceptance speech, Baerbock announced her presidency theme as “Better Together,” emphasizing global unity amid “a tightrope of uncertainty.” She recalled the UN’s origin after World War II as a reminder that the world has overcome past challenges, but stressed that the primary mission to prevent war remains incomplete, noting more than 120 ongoing armed conflicts worldwide. UN Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted that Baerbock will lead the Assembly during a time of global crises, including conflict, climate disasters, poverty, and growing mistrust, urging the world to unite for common solutions and decisive action.

Trump Open to Joining Ukraine-Russia Peace Talks in Turkey

But Only with Putin and Zelenskyy Present

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Amid a renewed push for peace in the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed his willingness to participate in upcoming negotiations, but only if both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are also present. The announcement follows the second round of peace talks held in Istanbul on June 2, which saw no breakthrough on a ceasefire.

White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt confirmed Trump’s openness to attend a three-way summit in Turkey, stating, “He wants both of these leaders and both sides to come to the table together.” The Turkish government, led by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has proposed hosting the next summit in either Istanbul or Ankara later this month. While Zelenskyy has shown readiness for such talks, Putin has not yet agreed.

Despite Trump’s interest, the United States did not have any official representation at the latest talks in Istanbul. This absence drew criticism from Ukraine, with Zelenskyy urging Washington to apply stronger sanctions on Russia to force meaningful engagement in the peace process. “We are very much awaiting strong steps from the United States,” he said, reiterating calls for a full and unconditional ceasefire.



Monday’s meeting did lead to some progress: both delegations agreed to a large-scale prisoner exchange involving at least 1,000 individuals on each side, including all severely wounded soldiers and captured fighters under the age of 25. Additionally, Ukraine reported an agreement to repatriate the remains of 6,000 fallen soldiers.

However, efforts to broker a broader ceasefire fell flat. Ukraine’s delegation said Moscow rejected an unconditional ceasefire, instead offering a limited truce of two to three days in select combat zones. Russia’s lead negotiator, Vladimir Medinsky, stated this pause would allow the recovery of bodies from the battlefield.

Zelenskyy harshly criticized the offer. “I think ‘idiots’, because the whole point of a ceasefire is to stop people from becoming dead in the first place,” he said on social media.

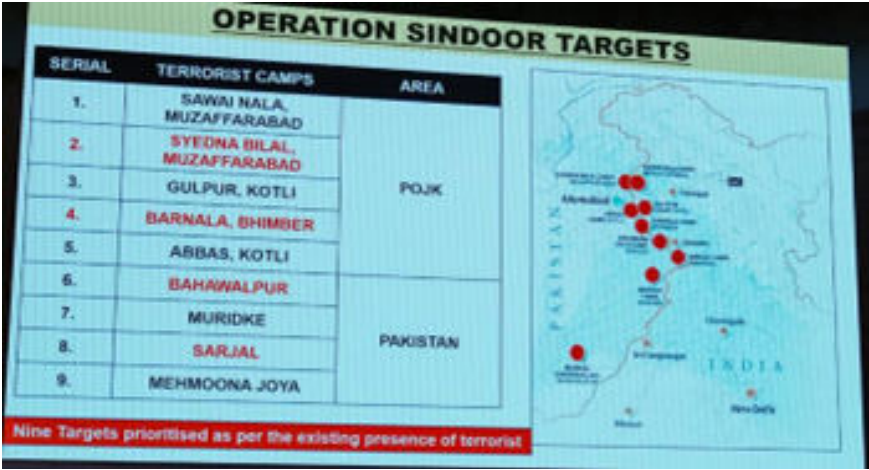
Russia’s broader terms for peace remain contentious: a ban on Ukraine joining NATO, a cap on its military capabilities, and an end to Western military aid. Moreover, Moscow insists on Ukraine withdrawing completely from four partially occupied regions—Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson.

Pakistan Dossier Reveals India Struck More Targets Than Disclosed in Operation Sindoor

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

A recently surfaced Pakistani dossier has revealed that India’s Operation Sindoor inflicted significantly greater damage than previously admitted by Indian authorities. Officially launched in response to a terror attack in Pahalgam, the operation targeted terrorist networks across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). However, the new document exposes that India struck 28 targets—eight more than the 20 targets publicly acknowledged during earlier Indian briefings.

The dossier lists several key locations hit during the coordinated retaliatory strikes, including Peshawar, Sindh, Jhang, Gujranwala, Bahawalnagar, and Chhor. Among the most notable revelations is the damage sustained by 11 Pakistani airbases, such as Nur Khan, Rafiqui, Murid, Sukkur, Sialkot, Pasrur, Chunian, Sargodha, Skardu, Bholari, and Jacobabad. The destruction or severe impairment of these strategic installa-



tions indicates a far broader and deeper Indian offensive than previously known.

Supporting the dossier’s claims, recent satellite images from Maxar Technologies have confirmed visible craters, scorched areas, and destroyed hangars at several Pakistani military bases. The precision of these strikes points to India’s advanced targeting capabilities. The dossier also details Pakistan’s attempted retaliatory actions, including drone and missile attacks on multiple Indian cities. These attacks were reportedly intercepted and neutralized by Indian defense forces, successfully preventing escalation and civilian casualties. In response, Indian forces launched counter-strikes targeting key Pakistani command and control centers, further degrading Pakistan’s defense infrastructure. This new information highlights the scale and impact of Operation Sindoor, suggesting that India’s military response was more extensive and effective than officially reported.



Russia to Return 6,000 Frozen Bodies of Ukrainian Soldiers in Prisoner Swap Deal

TPN Correspondent | Isthambul

The second round of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, held in Istanbul, concluded without any major breakthroughs but saw an agreement on a significant prisoner swap deal. Under the agreement, Russia has committed to handing over approximately 6,000 frozen bodies of Ukrainian soldiers to Kyiv by next week, Kremlin aide Vladimir Medinsky announced. Medinsky led the Russian delegation during the talks.

The exchange will also include all seriously ill and heavily wounded prisoners, as well as soldiers under the age of 25, according to Russia’s chief negotiator. Medinsky described the transfer of the fallen soldiers’ bodies as a humanitarian gesture. “We have identified those we could through DNA testing and will hand them over so they can be buried properly,” he said.

Russia has expressed willingness to accept the bodies of Russian servicemen if Ukraine holds any. “If they have some bodies, we will receive them,” Medinsky added, though he noted there is currently no information on such cases.

In addition to the transfer of bodies, the two sides agreed to the largest prisoner exchange to date, with at least 1,000 prisoners to be swapped from each side, potentially more. To facilitate smoother future exchanges, permanent medical commissions will be established to assess and compile lists of seriously wounded soldiers without needing political clearance.

Medinsky also addressed accusations from Kyiv regarding the abduction of Ukrainian children by Russian forces. He dismissed these claims, stating that the numbers have dramatically decreased from 1.5 million to 20,000, with only 339 names on an official list. According to Medinsky, none of the children were abducted; rather, they were rescued from combat zones by Russian soldiers and efforts are ongoing to reunite them with their families.

The talks came shortly after Ukraine launched a successful drone strike deep into Russian territory. Despite the prisoner swap deal, Russia continues to reject demands from US President Donald Trump for an immediate ceasefire, leaving the conflict unresolved.

India-US Mega Trade Deal Nears Completion: Immediate Benefits and Future Prospects

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and the United States are on the verge of finalizing a landmark trade agreement, aiming to boost their bilateral trade from the current \$190 billion to an ambitious \$500 billion by 2030. This initiative, aptly named “Mission 500,” seeks to deepen economic ties between the world’s two largest democracies and reshape commerce across multiple sectors.

Following recent talks between India’s Trade Minister Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, progress toward the deal has accelerated. Lutnick praised India’s dynamic economy, highlighting the entrepre-

neurial spirit of its people as a key driver of sustained growth. He expressed optimism about the pact, stating that both countries have found common ground to finalize an agreement soon.

The deal promises significant impacts across various sectors. India’s pharmaceutical and agricultural exports, particularly the \$4 billion agriculture segment, stand to gain considerably. The agreement is expected to facilitate smoother investment flows and capital movement, creating new growth avenues for Indian businesses.



Beyond trade in goods, “Mission 500” is seen as a broader vision for stronger bilateral investments and economic collaboration. Labour-intensive in-

dustries such as footwear, garments, textiles, and electronics are expected to benefit greatly, helping to fuel widespread economic growth.

Indian consumers will also enjoy immediate benefits from the deal. Expected duty cuts on American products will make high-end fashion brands, FMCG items like dairy products from Danone and Land O’Lakes, and popular American spirits such as Jack Daniels and Jim Beam more affordable in India.

Moreover, the agreement is likely to enhance both countries’ integration

into global supply chains, particularly as tariffs on China remain high, affecting investor confidence worldwide.

However, challenges remain, particularly around the free flow of labor and data, where differing regulatory views between New Delhi and Washington pose hurdles.

With a successful UK trade pact already concluded, India is now focusing on solidifying agreements with the US and the European Union, aiming to turn current economic challenges into new growth opportunities, as Trade Minister Piyush Goyal recently emphasized.



Markets End Deep in Red Amid Global Worries, Banking and Adani Stocks Drag

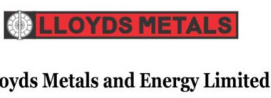
Domestic equity markets closed sharply lower on Tuesday, marking a significant downturn led by weakness in banking, finance, and select heavyweight stocks. After opening in the green, the benchmark indices saw flat movement till noon before succumbing to selling pressure due to weak global cues, rising crude oil prices, and concerns over U.S. investigations into Adani Group's involvement in Iran's LPG sector. The BSE Sensex plunged 636 points to close at 80,737, while the NSE Nifty lost 174 points, ending the session at 24,542. Notably, this is the first time in over six weeks that both indices have closed below their 20-day exponential moving average (20-DEMA), signaling potential weakness in the near term. The Sensex opened at 81,492, reached an intraday high of 81,774, but slipped to a low of 80,575 as selling intensified across sectors. Similarly, the Nifty touched a high of 24,845 before falling to a low of 24,502. The Nifty Bank index lost 303 points to settle at 55,599, weighed down by profit booking in private lenders. Market sentiment remained negative, with only 7 out of 50 Nifty stocks ending in the green. Top gainers included Grasim, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Auto, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories. On the flip side, Adani Ports and Adani Enterprises were among the worst performers, followed by Coal India, Bajaj Finserv, and PowerGrid. Among sectors, only realty and media indices showed marginal gains. All other sectoral indices saw mixed to negative trends, with private banking, energy, PSE, CPSE, infrastructure, oil & gas, finance, consumption, IT, FMCG, and PSU banking under pressure. The overall market breadth on the NSE favored the bears. Of the 2,999 stocks traded, 1,224 advanced while 1,696 declined. Sixty stocks hit 52-week highs, and 25 touched their 52-week lows. A total of 103 stocks hit the upper circuit, while 71 stocks were locked in the lower circuit.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee depreciated by 20 paise, settling at 85.59 against the U.S. dollar. In corporate developments, several key announcements boosted specific stocks. Pre-



mier Explosives is set to begin operations at a new Telangana plant. Kadama Mobility signed an MoU with TVS Motors to deploy 500 electric three-wheelers. Sunsera Engineering inked a deal with Airbus, while Texmaco Rail secured a ₹122 crore order from Western Railway. Deepak Builders received a ₹264 crore order, and Wari Renewable Technologies gained on a ₹346 crore project win. Fertilizer stocks rallied on improved monsoon forecasts, while Prostrom Info Systems made a strong debut, listing at a 19% premium.

Lloyds Metals and Energy Ltd (LLOYDSME)
Net profit declined 27.1% YoY to ₹201.88 crore, with revenue at ₹1,193.3 crore. Net profit margin dropped to 16.65% from 22.71% in Q3. Awaiting environmental clearance to expand Surjagarh mine capacity from 10 to 25 million tonnes, which would make it India's largest iron ore mine. Despite near-term profit pressures, long-term potential remains strong due to strategic asset expansion.



Cochin Shipyard Ltd (COCHINSHIP)
Net profit rose 11% YoY to ₹287 crore, with revenue jumping 37% to ₹1,757.65 crore. Shares surged over 11% post-results on expectations of strong order inflows in the defense sector. Positioned well to benefit from increasing government focus on indig-



enous defense manufacturing.

Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL)
PAT increased 7% YoY to ₹2,711 crore; net revenue rose 5% to ₹40,182 crore. Announced a 150% dividend, reflecting healthy cash flows and investor-friendly policies. Strong performance driven by volume growth and cost efficiencies; remains a key player in stainless steel.



Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HINDZINC)
Net profit surged 47.4% YoY to ₹3,003 crore; revenue rose 21.2% to ₹8,829 crore. Commands 75% of India's zinc market, with improved pricing and production efficiency supporting growth. Higher domestic demand and elevated zinc prices boosted bottom-line performance.



Bharat Forge Ltd (BHARATFORG)
Net profit grew 24.4% YoY to ₹282.62 crore despite a 7.5% decline in revenue. PBT rose 23.99%. ₹6 per share, reaffirming strong fundamentals and consistent returns. Diversified global presence and investments in defense and EVs provide long-term growth levers.



Adani Group Shares Fall Amid U.S. Probe Allegations Over Iranian LPG Imports

Shares of companies in the Adani Group declined between 1% and 2.5% on Tuesday, following a report by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) claiming that U.S. prosecutors are investigating whether Adani entities imported Iranian liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) into India through their Mundra port, potentially violating international sanctions.



In response, an Adani Group spokesperson dismissed the report as "baseless and mischievous," adding, "We are not aware of any investigation by U.S. authorities on this subject."

The news sparked an immediate market reaction. Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship company, saw its stock open 2.2% lower, while Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone dropped 2.5%. Other group entities—Adani Total Gas, Adani Power, Adani Green Energy, and Adani Energy Solutions—were also trading lower by 1% to 2%.

Meanwhile, India's benchmark Nifty 50 index slipped 0.4%, with Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports ranking among the top percentage losers.

The WSJ report alleged that tankers traveling between the Gulf and the Mundra port showed signs consis-

tent with sanction-evasion tactics, such as switching off tracking systems. These indicators have raised suspicions that Iranian LPG may have reached India despite sanctions prohibiting such trade.

However, Reuters reported that it could not independently verify the WSJ's claims. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Brooklyn have not commented on the matter as of now.

Adani Ports, despite the current dip, has been the best-performing stock among Adani Group companies in 2025, with a 16% year-to-date gain. In contrast, Adani Total Gas has been the worst performer, with shares declining 11% so far this year.

The allegations have reignited scrutiny of the Adani Group, which has been under global attention since 2023 when it faced a damning report from Hindenburg Research, sparking a major selloff. While the group has since staged a recovery, fresh allegations could once again test investor confidence in one of India's most powerful conglomerates.

UBS Raises India's FY26 GDP Forecast to 6.4% Amid Signs of Economic Resilience

New Delhi, June 3, 2025 — Global financial giant UBS has upgraded India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4%, up from its earlier projection of 6%, citing robust economic momentum and strong macro indicators in recent months.

According to UBS's latest report, the India Composite Economic Indicator (CEI) — a gauge of economic activity — showed sustained strength in April, rising 1.1% month-on-month after similar gains in the March 2025 quarter. This momentum has underpinned the revised outlook.

Key Drivers Behind Forecast Upgrade
Tanvee Gupta Jain, Chief India Economist at UBS Securities, attributed the improved forecast to several tailwinds:

Supportive commodity prices, particularly crude oil, which UBS expects to average \$65 per barrel in FY26

The forecast also factors in a rebound in rural consumption, aided by expectations of a favorable monsoon and declining food inflation. On the urban front, consumption is expected to benefit from possible fiscal measures such as tax cuts and sustained low inflation levels.

However, UBS cautioned that investment growth may face challenges due to global economic uncertainties, fiscal constraints in some Indian states, and a high base from last year's strong performance in the housing sector.

FY25 GDP Performance
India's economy outperformed expectations in the January–March 2025 quarter, with real GDP



growing 7.4% year-on-year, according to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) — the highest in four quarters. For the full fiscal year FY25, India posted a 6.5% growth rate, slightly below the RBI's 6.6% estimate. Nominal GDP rose by 9.8%, reaching ₹330.68 trillion.

Growth was driven by a sharp drop in imports, which boosted net exports, and a resurgence in fixed capital formation. However, private consumption slowed, and government spending declined. On a Gross Value Added (GVA) basis, the economy grew 6.8%, supported by manufacturing, construction, and services.

Monetary Policy Outlook
UBS also expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ease its policy stance, predicting rate cuts of 50 to 75 basis points in 2025, which could lower the repo rate to 5.5%. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet on June 6.

UBS concluded that India's macroeconomic stability remains intact, and while global headwinds persist, monetary policy is expected to support growth. The report also forecasts continued emphasis on capital expenditure and a favorable outlook for services exports, though goods exports may stay sluggish due to external pressures.

Tata Motors Final Dividend 2025: Record Date June 4, Payment by June 24

Tata Motors Limited (TML) has announced a final dividend of Rs 6 per equity share of Rs 2 each (300%) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. The company has set June 4, 2025, as the record date for eligibility to receive the dividend. If approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for June 20, 2025, the dividend will be paid to eligible shareholders on or before June 24, 2025.

Dividend History and Demerger Update
Tata Motors previously declared a special dividend of Rs 3 per share with an ex-date of June 11, 2024. For FY24, the company had declared final and interim dividends of Rs 3 and Rs 2 per share respectively.

In a significant corporate restructuring move, shareholders recently approved the demerger of Tata Motors into two listed entities: one focusing on commercial vehicles and the other on passenger vehicles. The resolution was overwhelmingly passed with over 99.9995% voting in favor. The demerger entails a 1:1 share entitlement ratio, meaning shareholders will receive one share of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles (TMLCV) for every Tata Motors share they hold.

Q4 FY25 Financial Performance
Tata Motors reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 8,556 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2025, marking a sharp 51.2% decline compared to Rs 17,528 crore in Q4 FY24. Revenue for the quarter remained almost flat at Rs 119,502 crore versus Rs 119,033 crore in the same period last year.



Market Outlook and Analyst Ratings
Brokerage views on Tata Motors vary widely. CLSA maintains an "Outperform" rating with a target price of Rs 805, suggesting 14% upside, citing confidence in Jaguar Land Rover's (JLR) ability to meet FY26 margin goals despite tariff and economic headwinds.

Conversely, Jefferies rates the stock "Underperform" with a Rs 630 target, highlighting concerns over U.S. tariffs, competition in China, and rising costs. It has lowered Tata's EBITDA forecasts for FY26 and FY27.

Kotak Institutional Equities downgraded the stock to "Sell" with a target of Rs 600, citing risks from JLR's China exposure and tariff threats, alongside weakening market share in India.

Meanwhile, Citi has suspended its rating but noted near-term challenges in Tata's passenger vehicle and electric vehicle segments.

Investors should carefully monitor the upcoming AGM decision and evolving market conditions before making investment choices.

Prosthetic-Legged Dance Teacher From Amritsar Inspires Internet With His Moves

In an uplifting story of perseverance and passion, a video of a dance teacher from Amritsar has taken the internet by storm, proving that no disability can deter true determination. The man, who uses prosthetic legs, was seen dancing gracefully with his students to the popular Bollywood track “Chittiyaan Kalaiyaan,” originally picturized on Jacqueline Fernandez.



The now-viral Instagram clip does more than just showcase a choreographed routine—it highlights an extraordinary story of resilience, hope, and inspiration. Dressed in casual dance attire, the teacher effortlessly performs intricate dance moves, keeping perfect rhythm with his students. What makes the video particularly special is how seamlessly he incorporates his prosthetic limbs into his performance, showing no signs of hesitation or limitation.

More than just a dance instructor, he is a beacon of motivation to many, especially to those facing physical challenges. His ability to not only keep up with his students but also lead them with such expressive flair has earned

him widespread admiration online. Social media users are calling him a “true warrior” and a “real-life hero” for defying the odds and continuing to do what he loves with such passion.

The comment section of the viral video is flooded with messages of appreciation, encouragement, and sheer awe. Viewers are applauding his dedication and strength, with many saying they felt deeply moved and inspired by his story. The teacher's journey reminds

us that physical limitations do not define one's potential.

As videos like this continue to surface, they serve as powerful reminders of the human spirit's ability to rise above adversity. For this dance teacher from Amritsar, the stage isn't just a place for movement—it's where resilience, passion, and purpose come to life. Through his dance, he not only trains his students but teaches everyone a larger lesson: never give up on your dreams, no matter the obstacles.

How a Balanced Diet Can Shape Healthy Ageing

As the global population ages, the conversation around healthy ageing has become increasingly urgent. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 80% of older adults suffer from at least one chronic illness. Both organizations agree that diet plays a critical role in reducing the risk of diseases like heart attacks, diabetes, and premature death.

Recent studies have highlighted the powerful connection between nutrition and longevity, showing that plant-based diets are particularly beneficial in promoting overall health as we age. One of the most celebrated dietary patterns in this regard is the Mediterranean Diet. Known for its balanced and wholesome approach, this diet emphasizes plant-based foods such as vegetables,



fruits, legumes, whole grains, nuts, and natural oils (especially olive oil). It allows moderate consumption of poultry, fish, and eggs, while limiting red meat and processed foods.

People in Mediterranean regions who follow this diet consistently have been found to live longer and healthier lives. They experience lower rates of cardiovascular disease, obesity, and cognitive decline. The key appears to

be the anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties found in many plant-based foods, which support cellular health and reduce the risk of chronic disease.

Interestingly, a traditional Indian diet shares many similarities with the Mediterranean model. A typical Indian meal—featuring staples like rice or wheat, lentils (dal), a variety of seasonal vegetables, leafy greens, and fermented dairy such as

curd or buttermilk—offers a nutrient-rich foundation. Non-vegetarians who include eggs and fish, but little or no red meat, are already in alignment with many Mediterranean principles.

What matters most is consistency and balance. Healthy ageing isn't about extreme restrictions or expensive superfoods—it's about everyday choices that add up over time. Prioritizing whole, unprocessed foods while reducing sugar, salt, and red meat intake can significantly enhance quality of life in later years.

In summary, adopting a plant-forward, balanced diet—whether Mediterranean or traditionally Indian—can be a powerful, natural strategy to promote healthy ageing and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Rising Black Carbon Levels Heating Himalayan Snow, Warns Study

A recent study by think-tank Climate Trends has raised serious concerns about the impact of rising black carbon levels on the Himalayan snowpack. The research, based on satellite data collected between 2000 and 2023, highlights how ultra-fine black carbon particles—primarily emitted from vehicle exhausts, stoves, and wood fires—are significantly accelerating surface warming in the region.



Black carbon differs from other atmospheric pollutants because of its unique ability to absorb sunlight. When these particles settle on snow, they reduce its albedo—or its natural ability to reflect sunlight—causing the surface to absorb more heat. Unlike carbon dioxide, which has a long atmospheric lifespan, black carbon is short-lived but highly potent in terms of its warming effect.

The study shows a consistent rise in snow surface temperatures across the Himalayas over the past two decades. Average snow temperatures increased from -11.27°C during 2000–2009 to -7.13°C in 2020–2023, with an overall mean of -8.57°C. Among the

three major Himalayan zones, the Eastern Himalayas were the warmest, followed by the Central and Western regions. During 2010–2019, the Eastern Himalayas recorded their highest decadal warming, with average snow temperatures at -5.69°C.

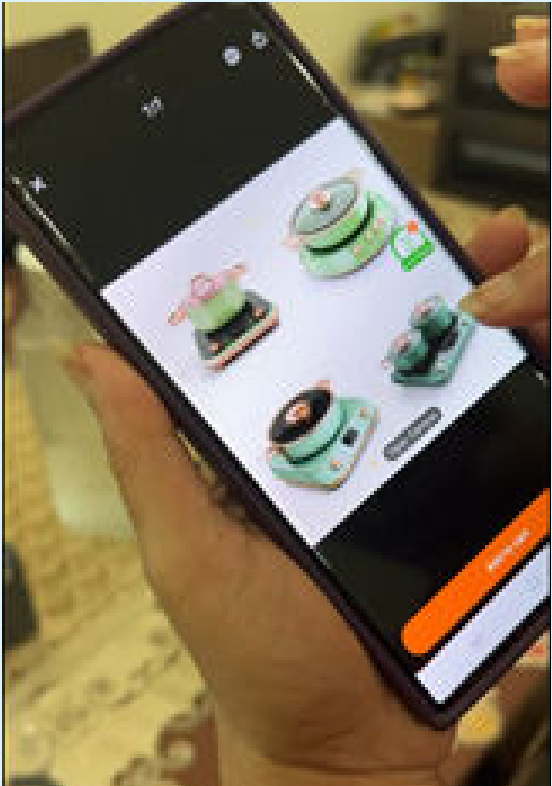
The report warns that this warming trend, linked partly to black carbon deposition, is destabilizing glaciers and threatening water security for nearly two billion people living downstream. “The continued temperature rise is altering the snow thermal regime, shortening snow seasons and causing earlier melt,” said Palak Baliyan, lead author of the study.

Interestingly, while snow surface temperatures have risen, the mean snow depth also increased, growing from 0.059 meters (2000–2009) to 0.117 meters (2020–2023). However, the study notes that there is no direct correlation between black carbon levels and snow depth, attributing the increase to spatial and temporal variability in snowfall.

The findings underscore the urgent need for stronger air pollution controls and climate action. Black carbon may be short-lived, but its impacts on glacier health and regional water systems could be long-lasting and severe.

Dubai Woman Orders Vacuum Cleaner, Gets Stickers Instead – Internet Can’t Stop Laughing

In a hilarious twist of online shopping gone wrong, an Indian expat woman living in Dubai was left baffled after receiving stickers instead of the household essentials she had ordered. The incident, which took place through the popular online marketplace Temu, has since gone viral, leaving netizens both amused and sympathetic.



Temu, known for offering surprisingly low-priced items by connecting consumers directly with manufacturers, is gaining traction worldwide. But this particular order serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of reading the fine print.

The woman had ordered a vacuum cleaner and some utensils, expecting functional household items. Instead, she received sheets of decorative stickers. Confused and amused, she exclaimed, “Look, I ordered a vacuum cleaner and utensils, and they sent me stickers. Where should I put these now? On my forehead?”

Her daughter, Suchita Ojha, captured the priceless moment and posted a reel on Instagram, captioned, “Mum: Put it on my forehead.” The video quickly gained traction, with viewers flooding the comments section with laughter and support.

One user, @bexx_04, joked, “Didn't know we could get trauma from Temu,” summing up the mix of humor and frustration that many online shoppers experience when

expectations don't match reality.

While most users enjoyed the comic relief, others pointed out the lesson behind the mix-up: always read the product description thoroughly. It appears that the listing did mention that the product was merely sticker representations of the items—not the items themselves—but this detail was likely buried at the bottom or poorly worded.

This light-hearted incident has sparked a broader conversation about the reliability of online marketplaces and the increasing need for transparency and careful consumer review.

So, the next time a deal looks too good to be true—maybe double-check whether you're buying a blender or just a sticker of one.

Tinder’s New Height Preference Filter Sparks Controversy Among Users

Tinder is testing a new feature that's causing quite a stir — a height preference filter that allows users to set their desired height range for potential matches. While still in the testing phase, the feature is being rolled out to a limited group of Tinder Gold and Platinum subscribers, according to a report by TechCrunch.



The update was first spotted by a Reddit user, who found the height option under the app's Discovery Settings. While the concept seems simple, it's already sparked debate across social media about the implications of filtering matches based on physical traits — particularly height.

Tinder's Vice President of Communications, Phil Price Fry, addressed the move, saying it was part of the app's broader goal to help users “connect more intentionally.” He emphasized that the feature isn't designed to work as a “hard filter,” meaning it won't completely exclude users outside of a person's set preference. Instead, it's intended to help surface matches that align more closely with a user's interests.

“We're always listening to what matters most to our Tinder users,” Fry said. “Testing the paid height preference is a great example of how we're building with urgency, clarity, and focus.”

Despite Tinder's reassurances, the feature has received mixed reactions online. Critics argue that it encourages superficiality and could reinforce unrealistic dating standards, particularly for men, who often face pressure over their height in online dating scenarios. Others defend the update, saying preferences are a natural part of dating and that similar filters for age, distance, and lifestyle habits already exist.

“This is part of a broader effort to enhance intentional dating,” Fry added. “Not every test becomes a permanent feature, but each one teaches us how to deliver smarter, more personalized experiences.”

Tinder has not confirmed whether the height preference setting will roll out globally or remain exclusive to premium users. For now, the test reflects the app's ongoing effort to evolve based on user feedback — even if that means courting a little controversy along the way.



RCB Clinch Maiden IPL Title with Thrilling 6-Run Win Over PBKS

Virat Kohli's RCB End 18-Year Wait For Title

After 18 seasons of heartbreak and near misses, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finally lifted their first-ever Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy, defeating Punjab Kings (PBKS) by 6 runs in a nail-biting final. The Rajat Patidar-led side, featuring the legendary Virat Kohli, etched their names into the history books with a hard-fought victory that ended a long and emotional title drought.

Winning the toss, PBKS opted to bowl first — a decision that initially seemed to pay off. RCB never quite found their rhythm with the bat, losing wickets at regular intervals and struggling to build momentum. Virat Kohli stood tall once again, top-scoring with a gritty 43 off 35 balls, anchoring the innings amid a flurry of dismissals. The Punjab bowling attack, led by Arshdeep Singh (3 for 40) and Kyle Jamieson (3 for 48), kept RCB in check throughout the 20 overs, eventually restricting them to 190 for 9.

Despite the relatively modest total, RCB fought back with tremendous resolve. PBKS began their chase with intent but were consistently pegged back by a disciplined and inspired RCB bowling unit. Bhuvneshwar Kumar delivered under pressure, taking 2 for 38, while Krunal Pandya turned the game in RCB's favor with a master-class in tight bowling, finishing with figures of 2 for 17 from his four overs.

As the match reached its final overs, the tension was palpable. PBKS needed 20 runs from the last two overs, but tight bowling and sharp fielding from RCB ensured they fell short, ending their innings at 184 for 7. The scenes at the end were of unbridled joy, as the RCB camp erupted in celebration, finally breaking the jinx that had haunted them for nearly two decades.

This victory not only brought the elusive IPL title home to Bengaluru but also cemented Rajat Patidar's leadership and highlighted Kohli's enduring impact on the team. For RCB fans, it was a night of redemption and unforgettable glory.

ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 to Begin on September 30, Colombo Added as Neutral Venue

The 2025 ICC Women's 50-over World Cup is set to take place from September 30 to November 2, with matches hosted across India and Sri Lanka, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed on June 2. In a major development, Colombo has been added as a neutral venue, following Pakistan's refusal to travel to India due to ongoing political tensions.

This hybrid model mirrors the arrangement agreed upon for the 2025 Champions Trophy, where India's matches were held in Dubai while other fixtures took place in Pakistan. In the upcoming Women's World Cup, India, Australia, England, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and New Zealand will battle for the title across six venues — Bengaluru, Guwahati, Indore, Visakhapatnam, and Colombo. The tournament will kick off with a high-octane opening clash featuring the championship decider.

Australia, the most successful team in the history of the tournament with seven titles, will enter as defending champions. Meanwhile, India, despite having reached the final in both 2005 and 2017, are still chasing their first Women's World Cup crown. Pakistan and Bangladesh secured the final two spots in the competition by finishing in the top two of the qualifying tournament held in April 2025. The inclusion of Colombo as a neutral venue ensures that Pakistan's participation remains intact despite their travel restrictions.

With high stakes, historic rivalries, and national pride on the line, the 2025 edition of the Women's World Cup promises to be a thrilling and transformative chapter in the evolution of women's cricket.

host nation India in Bengaluru on September 30, marking the return of the Women's Cricket World Cup to Indian soil after 12 years. The semifinals are scheduled for October 29 and 30, to be played in Guwahati or Colombo, and Bengaluru, respectively. The final will be held on November 2, either in Bengaluru or Colombo, giving the finalists a minimum of two days to recover and prepare for



Indonesia Open 2025: Sindhu Advances to Second Round, Lakshya Sen Exits After Gruelling Battle

Two-time Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu made a winning start at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament in Jakarta on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. She edged out long-time Japanese rival Nozomi Okuhara in a gripping women's singles encounter to secure a spot in the round of 16, while Lakshya Sen bowed out after a hard-fought opening-round loss.

In a clash that lasted one hour and 19 minutes, Sindhu defeated Okuhara 22-20, 21-23, 21-15, showcasing her trademark grit and resilience. The contest saw both players trade long rallies and commit several unforced errors, but it was Sindhu who held her nerve in the crucial moments.

lies with her powerful forehand drives and clever shot placement. She surged ahead to 20-12 and needed five match points before sealing the match and advancing to the next round.



Jannik Sinner Storms into French Open Quarterfinals with Dominant Win Over Rublev

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner sent a strong message to his French Open title contenders on Monday, June 2, 2025, with a commanding straight-sets victory over Russia's Andrey Rublev in the round of 16 at Roland Garros. Sinner, showing no signs of rust after his return from a doping suspension, breezed past the 17th seed 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 under the lights of Court Philippe Chatrier.



Rublev, known for his explosive game and aggressive baseline hitting, was widely expected to pose a tough challenge. However, Sinner took complete control from the start, dominating with precision groundstrokes, relentless consistency, and tactical superiority. The opening set lasted just 28 minutes, with Sinner racing to a 6-1 win, breaking Rublev twice and barely giving the Russian any room to settle.

The Italian continued to dictate play in the second set, using his powerful fore-

his place in the quarterfinals.

This clinical win marks another step in Sinner's remarkable return to form. The 22-year-old made headlines earlier this year after receiving a three-month suspension related to a doping violation, which he completed in May. Since then, he has shown no dip in performance, regaining his top ranking and momentum with dominant displays.

Sinner will next face unseeded Kazakh Alexander Bublik in the quarterfinals. Though Bublik is known for his unpredictable and flashy style, Sinner enters the match as a strong favorite.

With key rivals like Carlos Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev still in the mix, Sinner's current form firmly places him as one of the front-runners for the Roland Garros crown. His latest performance makes one thing clear: the Italian is back—and better than ever.

hand and agile court coverage to neutralize Rublev's aggression. Although Rublev attempted to mount a fightback, he was broken early and never recovered, dropping the second set 6-3.

In the third set, Rublev showed flashes of resistance, but Sinner's composure and variety proved too much. The top seed broke at 3-3 and held serve comfortably to close out the set 6-4 and seal

Zinc Football Academy Clinches Rajasthan League Title, Qualifies for I-League 3

Hindustan Zinc's Zinc Football Academy (ZFA) has once again made headlines, emerging as champions of the Rajasthan League Senior Men's A-Division 2024-25. This marks the second title win in four years for the Zawar-based academy, reaffirming its growing dominance in grassroots Indian football.

What makes this triumph even more remarkable is that ZFA competed with the youngest squad in the league, with an average player age of just 18.3 years. Despite their youth, the team displayed exceptional maturity and skill throughout the season, winning 16 out of 20 matches, scoring an impressive 70 goals, and conceding only six. They also went on an unbeaten 13-match streak and secured 16 clean sheets, demonstrating their prowess in both attack and defense.

Karan Beniwal, a promising striker from Haryana, led the team's offensive line, finishing as the top scorer with 16 goals, while teammate Ashish added 12. Overall, 17 different players scored during the campaign, highlighting the depth and versatility of the squad.

Founded in 2017, Zinc Football Academy is an AIFF-accredited 3-star academy focused on nurturing rural talent from across India. Over the years, it has trained more than 5,000 young footballers. Players like Mohammed Kaif, Prem Hansdak, Sahil Poonia, and Ashish Mayla have already represented India on the international stage, reflecting the academy's strong development model.

Commenting on the achievement, Arun Misra, CEO of Hindustan Zinc, said: "This victory reflects our long-term commitment to empowering India's youth through sports. Many of these players have been with us since the beginning, and their growth is a testament to what structured grassroots training can achieve."

The Rajasthan Football Association (RFA), which organized the two-month-long home-and-away league starting in April, will now nominate ZFA for I-League 3, the fourth tier of Indian football. Dilip Singh Shekhawat, RFA Secretary, added: "These youngsters are the future of football in Rajasthan and India. Their performance this season was outstanding."

Supported by The Football Link, Hindustan Zinc's sports initiatives also extend to athletics, kabaddi, and volleyball, positively impacting nearly 30,000 lives. Through initiatives like the Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon, the company continues to champion fitness, talent, and community transformation.



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Prabhas’ Horror Comedy ‘The Raja Saab’ Locks Release Date, Teaser Coming Soon

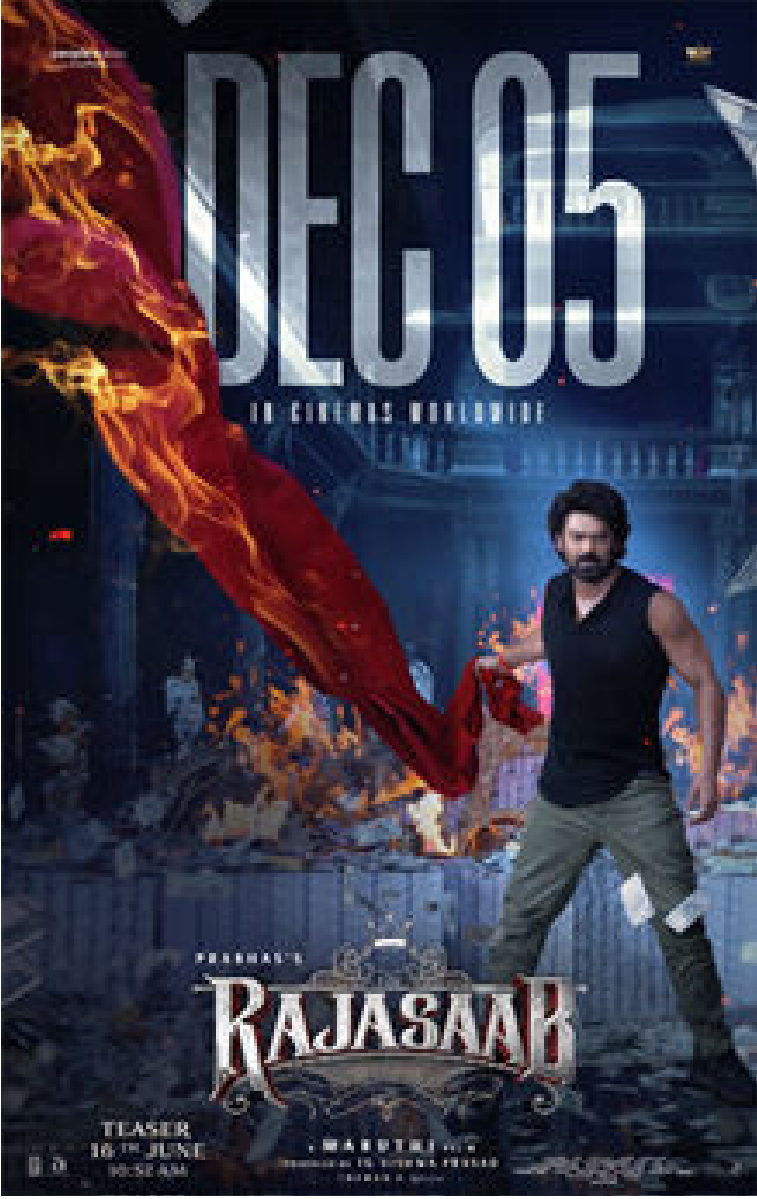
Prabhas is all set to return to the big screen with a refreshing new avatar in the upcoming horror comedy *The Raja Saab*. Directed by Maruthi, the film has now officially locked its worldwide release date for December 5, 2025, setting the stage for a grand cinematic event.

The announcement came alongside the release of a vibrant and eye-catching poster that has only heightened fans’ excitement. With Prabhas leading the charge, and a unique blend of horror and humor, *The Raja Saab* is already being billed as one of the most eagerly awaited releases of the year.

The film features a strong cast, including Nidhhi Agerwal, Malavika Mohanan, and Riddhi Kumar in prominent roles. Adding more weight to the ensemble is veteran actor Sanjay Dutt, who is said to be playing a crucial character in the storyline.

Adding to the excitement, the makers have also confirmed the teaser release date. The first glimpse of *The Raja Saab* will be unveiled on June 16, 2025, at 10:52 AM. This announcement has sent social media into a frenzy, with fans marking their calendars and sharing their anticipation online.

Produced by UV Creations, a banner known for backing several successful films in Telugu cinema, *The Raja Saab* is expected to be a full-fledged pan-Indian entertainer. The music for the film is being composed by Thaman, whose dynamic soundtracks are known to elevate the energy and appeal of any project. Given the film’s horror-comedy genre, audiences can expect a mix of eerie tunes, catchy songs, and lively background scores.



With a powerhouse team both in front of and behind the camera, *The Raja Saab* is shaping up to be a high-octane entertainer filled with thrills, laughs, and plenty of surprises. As the release date draws closer and the teaser launch nears, the buzz is only expected to grow louder.

Stay tuned for more updates as Prabhas gets ready to entertain in a whole new light!

Director Harish Shankar Shares Update on ‘Ustaad Bhagat Singh’ Shoot



As excitement builds for the upcoming release of *Hari Hara Veera* on June 12, 2025, fans of Pawan Kalyan have another reason to celebrate. Director Harish Shankar has shared a fresh update on his much-anticipated film, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh*.

During a recent visit to Tirumala, Harish Shankar was approached by the media and asked about the current status of the film. In response, he confirmed that the shooting of *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* is set to resume in the second week of June 2025. While the exact date is yet to be officially announced, the director assured fans that further details will be revealed shortly.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh stars Pawan Kalyan in the lead role and is being produced by the renowned Mythri Movie Makers banner, known for delivering several blockbuster hits. The film features Sreeleela as the female lead, adding fresh energy to the project. Music for the film is being composed by the ever-popular Devi Sri Prasad (DSP), raising expectations

for a powerful and entertaining soundtrack.

Since its announcement, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* has generated significant buzz among fans and industry circles alike. The film marks a reunion between Harish Shankar and Pawan Kalyan after their 2012 blockbuster *Gabbar Singh*, further raising anticipation levels. With Harish’s flair for mass entertainers and Pawan’s dynamic screen presence, expectations are high that this film will deliver a compelling mix of action, drama, and entertainment.

While fans wait for a teaser or trailer announcement, this latest update is a reassuring sign that production is on track. With shooting set to resume soon, and a theatrical release targeted for later this year or early 2026, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* is firmly on the list of most awaited Telugu films.

Stay tuned for official announcements and more exciting updates from the sets of *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* in the coming weeks.

Rana Naidu Season 2 Trailer Out: Action, Drama, and Expectations Soar Higher

The wait is finally over for fans of Rana Naidu, the hit web series starring Daggubati Venkatesh and Rana Daggubati. The trailer for *Rana Naidu Season 2* has just been released, and it promises an even more intense and gripping ride than the first season. Packed with action, drama, and suspense, the trailer has already raised expectations to new heights.



Rana Naidu, which premiered last year, received wide acclaim for its gritty storytelling and strong performances. Now, with Season 2 set to stream on Netflix from June 13, fans can look forward to the return of their favorite complex characters. Venkatesh will reprise his role as the ruthless and rule-breaking Naga Naidu, a stark contrast to his calm and composed real-life persona.

This season, *Rana Naidu 2* brings in even more high-stakes drama as the father-son duo lock horns again. *Rana Naidu 2.0* is shown as more intense and unpredictable, setting the stage for explosive confrontations and unexpected twists. The makers have slightly toned down the bold content this time, addressing some of the criticism from the first season, while retaining the thrilling core of the story.

The series is an adaptation of the popular American crime drama *Ray Donovan* and continues to explore themes of family conflict, crime, and redemption. *Rana Naidu Season 2* will be available

in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, making it accessible to a wider audience across India.

Directed by Karan Anshuman, Suparn Varma, and Abhay Chopra, and produced by Sundar Aaron under Locomotive Global Media, the show boasts a star-studded ensemble. Alongside Rana and Venkatesh, the cast includes Arjun Rampal, Surveen Chawla, Kriti Kharbanda, Sushant Singh, Abhishek Banerjee, and Dino Morea in pivotal roles.

The real-life father-son duo of Venkatesh and Rana first appeared together in a song in *Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum*, but *Rana Naidu* marked their first full-fledged collaboration. With Season 2, they are all set to enthrall audiences once again, delivering powerful performances in a gripping narrative that promises to be even better than before.

Nagarjuna Invites AP CM Chandrababu Naidu to Akhil-Zainab’s Star-Studded Wedding

Tollywood superstar Nagarjuna Akkineni paid a special visit to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at his camp office in Undavalli, Amaravati, to formally invite him to the upcoming wedding of his younger son, Akhil Akkineni, with Zainab Ravdjee. The highly anticipated wedding is set to take place on June 6, 2025, at the family’s prestigious Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad. The wedding is expected to be a grand and star-studded affair, drawing attention from both the film industry and political circles. Invitations have been extended to several high-profile guests, including political leaders from across the country, with both the Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh expected to attend. Akhil Akkineni and Zainab Ravdjee got engaged on November 26, 2024, in a private ceremony attended by close



friends and family. Zainab, the bride-to-be, is a well-known artist and perfumer, celebrated for her abstract art and her popular fragrance blog, *Once Upon The Skin*. She also holds a unique place in Indian cinema history, having acted in MF Hussain’s acclaimed film

Meenaxi: A Tale of Three Cities.

Though Zainab was born and raised in Hyderabad, her life has been nothing short of global. She has spent significant time in Dubai and London, and currently resides in Mumbai, where she continues her artistic and creative pursuits.

The Akkineni family, known for its contributions to Indian cinema across generations, is preparing to host a wedding that blends elegance, tradition, and glamour. Given the prominence of both Akhil and Zainab in their respective fields, and the Akkineni family’s stature in Tollywood, the event is likely to be one of the most talked-about celebrity weddings of the year.

With just days to go, preparations are in full swing, and anticipation is building for what promises to be a memorable celebration of love, art, and legacy.

Anaganaga Kadha From Kuberaa: A Hard-Hitting Social Anthem

Director Sekhar Kammula takes a bold turn with his upcoming social thriller *Kuberaa*, featuring powerhouse performances by Dhanush and Nagarjuna, alongside Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead. The film’s promotion is gaining strong momentum, highlighted by a grand audio launch that has set high expectations among fans.

Amidst the buzz, the makers have unveiled the latest lyrical video, *Anaganaga Kadha*, a hard-hitting track that resonates deeply with the core themes of *Kuberaa*. Composed by the dynamic Devi Sri Prasad, the song delivers a stirring message that cuts straight to the heart of social issues. With lyrics by Chandrabose, *Anaganaga Kadha* boldly explores complex themes such as wealth disparity, hunger, selfishness, and the pervasive influence of money on society.



The intense vocals by the duo Hyde Karty and Kareemullah add a raw emotional power to the song, enhancing its impactful delivery. Their voices carry the weight of the song’s message, making it a stirring anthem that promises to leave a lasting impression.

On screen, Dhanush and Nagarjuna embody two distinct characters whose performances blend seamlessly with the song’s powerful narrative. Their

portrayals add depth and authenticity, making it easy for viewers to connect with the song’s message. Although only glimpses of the visuals are currently available, it is evident that the full cinematic experience will amplify the song’s impact significantly.

Produced by Sri Venkateswara Cinemas LLP and Amigos Creations Pvt Ltd, *Kuberaa* is slated for release on June 20th. With *Anaganaga Kadha* setting a strong tone, the film is poised to be a thought-provoking exploration of contemporary social issues, wrapped in a gripping thriller format.

As anticipation builds, both the song and the movie are expected to spark conversations and engage audiences deeply, showcasing Sekhar Kammula’s versatility as a filmmaker willing to tackle tough subjects with style and substance.