



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

H 36° C

L 26° C

▶

Chenab Bridge connects Kashmir by rail; Vande Bharat launched

▶

PM Modi dedicates Chenab Bridge to the nation during J&K visit

▶

USBRL project now fully operational, connecting Kashmir year-round

TPN Correspondent | Jammu and Kashmir
India marked a major milestone in infrastructure today as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's highest railway bridge — the Chenab Railway Bridge — in Jammu and Kashmir. The bridge, part of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, now connects the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country by rail for the first time in history. The Prime Minister landed at the Air Force Station in Udhampur and later visited the Chenab Bridge site where he formally inaugurated

the iconic structure. Built over the Chenab River, the bridge is being hailed as an engineering marvel and a symbol of India's growing infrastructure capabilities. This visit marks PM Modi's first trip to Jammu and Kashmir following Operation Sindhur — a major cross-border response to the Pahalgam terror attack in April that resulted in the deaths of 26 people. In addition to the Chenab Bridge, the Prime Minister also inaugurated India's first cable-stayed railway bridge — the Anji Bridge — further enhancing connectivity in the region. He also flagged

off two new Vande Bharat Express trains connecting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra with Srinagar. With the launch of these projects, the entire 272-kilometre-long USBRL project becomes fully operational. Officials believe these infrastructural developments will significantly boost tourism, improve local connectivity, and contribute to the economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir. The projects fulfil a long-standing dream of providing uninterrupted, all-weather transportation to the Kashmir Valley, even during harsh winters and difficult terrain conditions.

KCR and Harish Rao Had Full Control Over Kaleshwaram Project

- Finance Department had minimal role, says Etala Rajender
- Project cost escalated from ₹63,000 crore to ₹82,000 crore
- Congress should to release full reports to the public

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
In a significant development in the ongoing investigation into the Kaleshwaram project, BJP MP and former Finance Minister Etala Rajender appeared before the Judicial Commission on Friday. Speaking to the media after the session, Etala made it clear that the entire control and knowledge

about the Kaleshwaram project rested with the then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and the then Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao. Etala stated that the Finance Department had a minimal

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Corona Cases Cross 5,300 in India

- Kerala tops the list; four new deaths reported in 24 hours
- 498 new Covid cases reported across India in a day
- Total active cases rise to 5,364; Kerala alone has 1,679
- Four deaths in 24 hours; Covid death toll now at 55

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Covid-19 pandemic is once again raising concerns across India, with the number of active coronavirus cases steadily in-

creasing. According to the latest bulletin issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at 8 am on Friday, the total number of active Covid cases in the country has risen to 5,364. In the past 24 hours alone, India recorded 498 new coronavirus cases. The surge has also led to four fresh fatalities — two from Kerala and one each from Punjab and Karnataka. With these,

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The Trump/ Musk breakup is now official?

Trump warns of canceling government contracts to Musk
Elon Musk hints at forming a new political party
Tesla shares fall 14 percent, losing \$150 billion

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The public fallout between Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk and former US President Donald Trump has escalated sharply, sending shockwaves through political and financial circles. Elon Musk, reacting strongly to recent events, has hinted at forming a new political party, signaling a significant shift in his political engagement. The dispute ignited when Musk criticized a recent government spending bill, calling it a "disgusting piece of garbage." Trump responded with threats to cancel government contracts awarded to Musk's companies. In retaliation, Musk warned about potentially decommissioning SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft. The tension further deepened as Musk alleged Trump's involvement in the Jeffrey Epstein files, which have not been made public. Musk tweeted, "Time to drop the really big bomb: [Donald Trump] is in the Epstein files. That is the real reason they have not been made public. Have a nice day, DJT!" Trump fired back via his social media platform Truth Social, expressing disappointment with Musk and accusing him of overreacting to the bill's EV mandate cuts. Trump said, "Elon is 'annoying',"

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PCC Executive And Cabinet Expansion Likely In June

- TPCC chief urges leaders to strengthen party from grassroots
- AICC In-Charge Meenakshi Meets CM Revanth
- Cabinet expansion and PCC committee appointments discussed

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud has indicated that the expansion of the Pradesh Congress Committee executive and the state cabinet is likely to be completed by the end of June. Addressing party leaders

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The Trump/Musk breakup is now official?

I asked him to go. I took away his EV mandate that made everyone buy electric cars that no one wanted... and he acted like a madman!” The escalating feud has severely impacted Tesla’s stock performance. Tesla shares plummeted 14 percent in a single day, wiping out over \$150 billion in market capitalization, with the company’s valuation dropping below the \$1 trillion mark for the first time this year, closing at \$916 billion. The stock has lost nearly 30 percent of its value so far in 2025, a sharp decline from the December 18 high of \$488.54 per share. Despite this, Musk asserted on X (formerly

Twitter), “Without me, Trump would have lost the election, Democrats would have controlled the House, and Republicans would have held the Senate 51-49,” underscoring his belief in his political influence. Musk’s active political stance marks a departure from his recent role as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the Trump administration, which ended on May 30. As tensions rise, the future of Musk-Trump relations remains uncertain, while Tesla’s market performance reflects the turbulence in this high-profile clash.

Corona Cases Cross 5,300 in India

the total number of Covid-related deaths during this new outbreak has reached 55. Kerala continues to report the highest number of active cases, standing at 1,679. The state is followed by Gujarat, West Bengal, and Delhi in terms of active case-load, health ministry officials said. The recent spike has triggered alarm among health authorities, who are closely monitoring the situation and urging people to follow safety protocols. Although the numbers remain signifi-

cantly lower than previous pandemic peaks, the upward trend is being treated seriously due to the potential for further spread. Public health experts have suggested that while vaccination coverage has helped control the severity, complacency could lead to faster transmission. States have been advised to enhance surveillance, test-trace-isolate strategies, and ensure hospital readiness in case of further escalation.

PCC Executive And Cabinet Expansion Likely In June

and workers, Goud laid out a roadmap to consolidate the party’s position and ensure its continued success, especially with the local body elections ahead. Welcoming AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan’s leadership, Goud said, “Putting a spotless person like Meenakshi garu in charge is an auspicious sign for the party.” He emphasized that special focus should now be placed on strengthening the Congress party across all levels—from village booths to district offices. Goud urged the party cadre to work with double enthusiasm since the Congress is now in power. “There is a chance of returning to power again only if the party works efficiently,” he warned, calling on MLAs to introspect and evaluate their performance honestly. He also stressed that the government, despite its humility in power, had implemented a slew of welfare schemes—from free bus services for women to Rs. 500 subsidized rice distribution. He acknowledged that party workers were facing challenges and said it was the leadership’s responsibility to motivate and coordinate them effectively. “The government is focusing on jobs, education, and medicine with seriousness, but it is not getting the publicity it truly deserves,” he observed, underlining the need to bridge that gap. Goud also highlighted the Congress party’s commitment to backward classes. “The Congress has the credit of giving 42 percent reservation to BCs and conducting a scientific caste survey,” he said, criticizing BJP leaders like Gadkari and Amit Shah, stating, “Such people should not be trusted to conduct a caste census.”

KCR and Harish Rao Had Full Control Over Kaleshwaram Project

role in the execution and financing of the project. “I have no role in the Kaleshwaram project matter. KCR formed a cabinet sub-committee for redesigning the project, and Harish Rao headed it. All decisions were taken there,” he said. He emphasized that technical aspects such as dam construction were handled exclusively by irrigation and engineering experts. “Politicians don’t have the technical knowledge to decide on dam locations or designs. At Medigadda, the dam was constructed based on water availability as advised by experts,” Etala added. Regarding financial implications, Etala informed the commission that while the initial cost of the Kaleshwaram project was pegged at ₹63,000 crore, it later escalated to ₹82,000 crore. However, he reiterated that the Finance Department was not involved in the loan processes related to the Kaleshwaram Corporation. “It was

entirely the irrigation department’s domain,” he clarified. “Even if a gun is pointed at my neck, I will speak the truth. The people of Telangana will expose those who are wrong,” said Etala. He urged the present Congress government to be transparent and release all reports related to the Kaleshwaram project. However, he warned against using the issue for political mileage and insisted that those accountable for the massive losses must face strict action. Etala also reminded the media and public that former CM KCR had repeatedly called Kaleshwaram his brainchild. “He has said this hundreds of times. Now, if there are irregularities, accountability must follow — irrespective of which party or post one holds,” he said, concluding his remarks with an appeal for justice and truth.

I told him the day I came out of jail that I would dethrone him

- CM Revanth Reddy launches ₹1,500 crore projects in Aleru
- Calls BRS a ‘Demon Rajya Samithi’

TPN Correspondent | Bhuvanagiri Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy delivered a fiery speech during his tour of Aleru constituency in Bhuvanagiri district on Friday, where he launched various development works worth ₹1,500 crore. Addressing a massive public meeting, Revanth took sharp aim at the previous BRS government, declaring that his life’s goal had been fulfilled the day he unseated the leader who sent him to jail. “I told him the day I came out of jail that I would dethrone him. Not only did I throw him out, but I also sat in that very chair. I had no other desire. I achieved my life’s mission,” said the Chief Minister, receiving thunderous applause from the crowd. “From now on, I will work like your elder brother, to fulfill your dreams.” Revanth Reddy also highlighted the state government’s plans to develop the Yadagirigutta temple and surrounding region. “We have reverted the name from Yadadri to Yadagirigutta. We will ensure devotees can rest peacefully on the hill and that autos can move freely. Sixty kilograms of gold will be used for the gopuram of the temple. We have constituted the Yadagirigutta Temple Development Authority (YTDA), similar to TTD,” he announced. The Chief Minister further revealed plans to develop educational institutions in Yadagirigutta to university standards and promised to clean and rejuvenate the Musi river. “We will bring Godavari water into Musi. If Sabarmati and Ganga can be cleaned, why not Musi?” he asked.



Accusing the previous regime of massive corruption, Revanth launched a scathing attack on BRS. “They looted the state in the name of golden Telangana. Vasalamarri village was demolished to create a model village, but KCR never looked back. He left Telangana buried under ₹8 lakh crore debt, cheated students, farmers, and movement activists.” He dismissed the BRS party as morally bankrupt and unfit to question the current government. “They couldn’t even complete a ₹2,000 crore SSELBC project despite having a ₹20 lakh crore budget. They turned Telangana into a Ravana forest. The leader himself admitted that demons joined his party. BRS is not Bharat Rashtra Samithi; it’s Deyyala Rajya Samithi,” he declared. Revanth Reddy ended his speech by vowing to clean up the system. “We will drive out the demons. If anyone tries to stop us, we won’t remain quiet. The people are with us. The party workers must rise and cooperate fully in this battle,” he said.

Telangana Will Not Accept Banakacharla Project: Uttam

AP’s Banakacharla project violates all inter-state water guidelines

TPN Correspondent | Telangana State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday strongly objected to the Andhra Pradesh government’s move on the Banakacharla irrigation project, asserting that Telangana will not accept the project under any circumstances. He alleged that the project blatantly violates all norms related to inter-state water dispute resolution, including the guidelines issued by the GRMB, CWC, and the Apex Council. Speaking to the media, Uttam revealed that he had already written detailed objection letters to Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, explaining how Telangana’s interests were being sidelined. He disclosed that Union Minister Patil assured him that the Centre had not yet received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh and, if one is received, it would be strictly scrutinized in line with legal provisions. Uttam Kumar Reddy warned that the Telangana government will take a strong stand and fight uncompromisingly if any injustice is done. “We will not tolerate any encroachment on Telangana’s rightful share of water. There is no question of backing down,” he asserted. He appealed to Telangana’s Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay to act swiftly and represent Telangana’s concerns before the Centre. The minister blamed the previous BRS government for failing to protect Telangana’s water rights. He alleged that during the last decade, while Telangana was entitled to 724 TMC of Krishna waters as per the original allocation, Andhra Pradesh was diverting up to 1,254 TMC annually with the BRS government’s silent cooperation. He claimed that this betrayal had severely impacted the state’s irrigation prospects.



Highlighting the Kaleshwaram project as another instance of poor planning and misuse of resources, Uttam said, “If the ₹68,000 crore wasted on Kaleshwaram had been used for Krishna basin projects, they would have been completed by now.” He criticized the decision to construct the project at Medigadda instead of Thummidihatti, calling it a costly mistake. He also questioned, “Wasn’t it the previous BRS government that agreed to allocate only 299 TMC to Telangana and 512 TMC to Andhra Pradesh?” He called this a historic blunder that compromised the state’s rightful share. Uttam Kumar Reddy reaffirmed the Congress-led Telangana government’s commitment to protecting the state’s water interests, stating that they will fight at every forum if necessary to ensure justice for Telangana.

Phone Tapping Case

- Prabhakar Rao to Reach Hyderabad on June 8 Midnight
- Former SIB chief to appear before SIT on June 9

TPN Correspondent | Telangana In a major development in the sensational phone tapping case, former SIB chief Prabhakar Rao has been granted permission to return to India after the Indian Embassy in the United States issued an emergency transit warrant. The warrant was granted following a Supreme Court directive after Prabhakar Rao’s passport was officially cancelled. Sources confirm that Prabhakar Rao is scheduled to depart from the US and will arrive in Hyderabad at midnight on June 8. He is expected to appear before the SIT (Special Investigation Team) for



questioning on the morning of June 9, marking a crucial step in the ongoing investigation into the phone tapping scandal that has rocked the state intelligence community. The transit warrant was processed as an emergency request and was facilitated in coordination with the Indian judiciary and diplomatic channels. Officials clarified that this move is part of ongoing efforts to ensure cooperation from all accused involved in the conspiracy.

Prabhakar Rao is regarded as one of the key masterminds in the phone tapping operation, which allegedly involved unauthorized surveillance of political leaders, journalists, and activists during the previous government’s tenure. His return is expected to provide critical insights and evidence to the investigation, which has already seen several arrests and revelations. Authorities are making tight security arrangements for his arrival, and he is likely to be taken directly from the airport to a secure location for preliminary procedures before appearing before the SIT. This development comes amid growing political heat and widespread demand for accountability over the illegal surveillance scandal.

Powerful Telangana Under Congress Rule: Bhatti Vikramarka

Deputy CM counters BRS criticism, says surplus electricity and welfare are Congress hallmarks

TPN Correspondent | Mahbubnagar
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu strongly defended the Congress government's performance at a public meeting in Nawabpet after inaugurating 33/11 kV substations in Jadcherla constituency. Referring to pre-election claims made by TRS leaders, Bhatti said, "They said there would be no electricity if Congress came to power. But today, not only have we ensured uninterrupted supply, we are moving forward with the aim of surplus power." He highlighted that under Congress rule, both industrial output and living standards have

increased, leading to a spike in electricity demand. The peak power demand in March 2023 under TRS was 15,497 MW, whereas under Congress, it rose to 17,162 MW by March 2025 — yet the state did not face a single power interruption. The Deputy CM said the government has already prepared a detailed plan to meet the projected power demand of 33,775 MW by 2035. He noted that with a stable and strong power supply, Telangana is now drawing global investors and is well-positioned to compete with the world. Bhatti stated that no conspiracy or misinformation campaign can stop the rise



of Telangana. He said 90 lakh families are currently benefiting from the government's welfare programs. Among these schemes are 200 units of free electricity per household, six kilograms of fine rice

per person, a 40% hike in diet charges for school children, free reimbursement for higher education, and up to ₹10 lakh free medical treatment under Rajiv Aarogyasri. He also noted that educated youth are be-

ing offered government jobs and self-employment support through Rajiv Yuva Vikasam. The Deputy CM said the government has waived off up to ₹2 lakh in farm loans, credited directly to farmers' accounts, while also providing ₹12,000 annually under Rythu Bharosa and the same amount to landless agricultural laborers under Indiramma Aatmeeya Bharosa. Additionally, the homeless are being given ₹5 lakh to build houses, and pensions continue to be paid regularly to the elderly and widows. Recalling the promises made during the People's March padayatra, Bhatti said the Con-

gress government has released ₹70 crore in compensation to farmers who lost their land to the Udandapur reservoir project, fulfilling its commitment. He sharply criticized the previous TRS government for failing to deliver on irrigation projects like Palamuru, accusing them of turning a switch on and off for ten years without irrigating even an acre. Bhatti Vikramarka concluded by stating that this government belongs to the people and not the rulers. "We are committed to development with dignity. No amount of misinformation can derail Telangana's progress under Congress," he said.

Kishan Reddy Launches Forum to Boost Critical Minerals Sector



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Union Minister of Mines, Kishan Reddy, inaugurated the National Critical Minerals Mission Outreach Forum at the India Habitat Center on Friday, emphasizing the government's commitment to strengthening India's critical minerals sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the seminar, the Minister highlighted several key reforms that have transformed the minerals sector, including the transparent auctioning of mineral blocks. "So far, 34 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned, increasing accountability and attracting investments," he said. He added that more blocks are being prepared for auction to boost mineral exploration and extraction. Over the past three years, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken 445 exploration projects focused on

critical minerals, with funding allocated for 185 projects through the National Mineral Exploration Trust. The government has also forged bilateral agreements with countries like Australia, Argentina, and Chile to secure critical mineral supplies. Notably, the central government's company Kabil has commenced mining operations on 15,000 hectares in Catamarca province, Argentina. The Minister pointed out that the National Critical Minerals Mission, approved earlier this year with a budget of ₹16,300 crore, is a vital step towards India's energy security and self-reliance. Central government companies plan to invest an additional ₹18,000 crore in the mission. The focus is on extracting minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements essential for clean energy technologies. "By 2040, the demand for critical min-

erals in India is expected to increase four to six times. Currently, India imports 100 percent of these minerals," Kishan Reddy stated. He added that the mining sector is playing a crucial role in powering India's ambition to become a developed nation by 2047. This financial year, India surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, underscoring the importance of strengthening the minerals sector.

The government has also lifted import duties on 12 critical minerals, including cobalt powder, lithium-ion battery scrap, lead, and zinc, to encourage domestic processing and reduce dependency on imports. The Minister called for collaboration among government bodies, private sector companies, public sector undertakings, and academia to bolster the critical minerals processing industry. He urged industry representatives to invest in this sector and highlighted the role of the newly launched Outreach Forum in raising awareness about critical minerals, power security, and food security. Kishan Reddy encouraged public sector companies like Kabil, Kolindia Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited, and Singareni Collieries Company Limited to acquire mining blocks both within India and overseas to expand mining operations.

Supreme Court Issues Notices to KTR

Congress leader challenges Telangana HC verdict on ₹25,000 crore corruption remarks

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president and former Telangana minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over his allegations of massive corruption against the Congress government in the state. The court was hearing a petition filed by Congress leader Atram Suguna, who challenged an earlier Telangana High Court verdict that had quashed a case filed against KTR. KTR had earlier alleged that the Congress government in Telangana was involved in corruption worth ₹25,000 crore. In response, Congress leader Atram Suguna lodged a police complaint, leading to the registration of a case at the Utnoor police station. However, KTR sought relief from

the Telangana High Court, which ruled in his favor and ordered the quashing of the case. Dissatisfied with the High Court's order, Atram Suguna approached the Supreme Court. A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Karol took up the matter and, after reviewing the petitioner's arguments, issued notices to KTR. The apex court directed KTR to file his response within four weeks. This legal development is seen as a significant escalation in the political rivalry between the Congress and BRS in Telangana. The Supreme Court's notice puts the spotlight back on the corruption charges and the ongoing war of words between the two parties. Further proceedings in the case are expected to resume after KTR submits his reply.



Ponnam Slams BRS for Politicizing Gopinath's Illness

Congress Minister urges political sensitivity, calls out BJP-BRS nexus

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Minister Ponnam Prabhakar expressed concern over the health condition of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath and criticized BRS leaders for politicizing the situation. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, Ponnam said he had personally met Gopinath many times in his capacity as in-charge minister and is praying for his speedy recovery. He noted that Gopinath's deteriorating health has kept him away from public functions recently, and this should be a moment of concern, not political blame games. Ponnam condemned the attempts by BRS leaders to connect Gopinath's illness to the recent death of a BRS activist in Borabanda, calling it irresponsible and inappropriate. He said it is not right to politicize the illness of a sitting MLA or to use it as an opportunity for political manipulation. He also responded to internal BRS allegations blaming Congress leader Baba Fasiuddin for the activist's death, terming them baseless and driven by internal factionalism. Calling out BJP leader Etela Rajender, Ponnam demanded that he reveal the truth behind the internal dynamics that led to his own exit from BRS, urging him not to engage in political management or opportunistic alliances. He also accused the BJP and BRS of maintain-

ing a covert understanding, suggesting that Harish Rao's alleged secret meeting with BJP leaders was a clear indication of their coordination. Ponnam further slammed the BJP for siding with Andhra Pradesh on the Krishna river water dispute, stating that the party is failing to protect Telangana's interests. He urged the BJP leadership to respond responsibly and stop acting against Telangana in such critical matters.



No Politics on Vemulawada temple, Says Konda Surekha

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana Endowment Minister Konda Surekha has urged political parties to avoid politicizing the recent incident involving Rajanna Kodela. Speaking on Friday, she questioned what the BRS government had accomplished during its 10-year rule, especially regarding promised funds for the Vemulawada temple, which she said were never released. She blamed the plight of Kodela on the previous regime's neglect and said her government acted swiftly in response to the incident. Surekha highlighted that under the Congress-led government, significant developments were made, including the successful organization of Saraswati Pushkaram, which saw the participation of 30 lakh devotees without issues. She pointed out the expan-



sion work at Bhadrakali Temple costing crores and criticized the BRS for carving images of KCR for the Yadagirigutta temple gopuram made of 63 kg of gold, questioning their right to speak on religious matters. The minister also recalled various religious programs conducted during the Congress tenure, such as mass Deepotsavam,

river aartis, and Maha Kumbhabhishekam for Kaleshwaram and Yadagirigutta, questioning whether similar efforts were made during BRS rule. She accused BRS leaders of spreading falsehoods and likened their political responses to fabricated stories, urging people not to be misled. Surekha condemned the

internal conflicts within the BRS leadership and accused them of corruption during their decade-long rule, which she said left Vemulawada neglected. She reminded that Congress, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, approved the master plan and allocated funds for the temple's development, including expanding the Rajanna Temple and improving cowshed facilities. Addressing concerns over cow welfare, she mentioned that her government formed a veterinary team to care for sick cows at the temple and ensured their daily nutrition. She criticized BRS for never holding meetings about cowshed improvements during their rule and welcomed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent orders to build new cowsheds near Moinabad and Vemulawada.

Bakrid Sales Pick Up Pace in Hyderabad Ahead of Festival

Cattle and goat markets see huge rush across the city



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
As Hyderabad prepares for the grand celebration of Bakrid this Saturday, the city is witnessing a significant surge in the sale of sacrificial animals. Cattle, goats, and sheep have flooded the markets from various corners of the country including Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and even international destinations, drawing enthusiastic buyers

from the Muslim community. Bakrid, or Eid al-Adha, is one of the two most important festivals for Muslims across the globe, celebrated with religious fervor and communal harmony. This festival commemorates the unwavering faith and devotion of Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim (Abraham), who was willing to sacrifice his beloved son Ismail as an act of obedience to Allah's command. Moved by his faith,

Allah replaced Ismail with a ram at the last moment, and the tradition of Qurbani (sacrifice) was born—honored to this day by millions of Muslims through the ritual slaughter of animals. As per Islamic tradition, the sacrificial animal is divided into three parts—one-third is distributed to the poor, another to relatives and friends, and the remaining portion is kept by the family. Families gath-

er early in the morning for prayers, after which the sacrifice is carried out in accordance with Islamic customs. In Hyderabad, major animal markets have sprung to life with brisk sales, especially in areas like Mehdiapatnam, Malakpet, Bahadurpura, and Chandrayangutta. Many affluent buyers are participating in auctions to purchase premium quality animals, often brought in from distant regions or imported to meet high-end demand. Traders are reporting good sales and expect a further spike as the festival draws closer. Beyond its religious significance, Bakrid also emphasizes the spirit of charity, compassion, and community bonding. The festival holds immense cultural and spiritual value for Muslims, coming just after the holy month of Ramadan. True Point News extends heartfelt Bakrid wishes to all Muslim brothers and their families. May the festival bring peace, unity, and blessings to all.

Double Murder Shocks Rajendranagar

Elderly couple brutally killed in Budvelu apartment
Assailants posed as physiotherapists; police suspect pre-planned attack
CCTV footage, special teams deployed to trace killers

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A gruesome double murder has sent shockwaves across the Budvelu Jana Chaitanya Venture area under the Rajendranagar police station limits in Rangareddy district. Sheikh Abdullah (70), a retired bank employee, and his wife Rizwana (65), a retired lecturer, were brutally murdered on the 5th floor of Abridge Residency Apartment on Thursday. According to the apartment residents, the elderly couple were visited by two unidentified individuals claiming to be physiotherapists. One of the suspects wore a face mask, while the other was disguised in a burqa. Eyewitnesses reported that the person in the burqa interacted with the apartment watchman before gaining entry. The watchman stated that both individuals went upstairs together and left separately—one after 40 minutes, followed by the other a short while later. Suspicion arose when the couple failed to respond to repeated calls, prompting locals to inform the police. Upon



arrival, police teams, along with a clues team and a dog squad, began a detailed investigation and collected forensic evidence from the scene. Senior officials including Rajendranagar DCP Srinivas visited the crime scene and are personally monitoring the probe. Investigators are looking into various angles, including whether the motive was financial or personal en-

mity. Preliminary reports suggest the attack was planned, as the intruders seemed to have specific knowledge about the couple. CCTV footage from the apartment premises has been secured, and special teams have been formed to track down the assailants. The brutal nature of the attack and the method of entry suggest that the victims were targeted intentionally. The police are

also verifying the identities and movements of all visitors on the day of the incident. The double murder has left the locality in fear and mourning. Neighbors described the couple as quiet, respectable individuals who lived a peaceful retired life. Authorities have assured swift action in tracing the perpetrators and urged the public to come forward with any relevant information.

Hyderabad Police Tighten Security for Bakrid

CP C.V. Anand inspects key check posts ahead of festival

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In preparation for the upcoming Bakrid festival, Hyderabad City Police have intensified security measures across the Commissionerate limits to ensure peaceful and incident-free celebrations. Check posts have been set up in sensitive and high-traffic areas, and surveillance has been significantly increased. Hyderabad Commissioner of Police and Director General, Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, conducted surprise inspections today at several key check posts, including Goshalaguda, MJ Bridge, Hasannagar, and Bandlaguda. During his visit, he interacted with police personnel on duty and reviewed the security arrangements at each location. CP C.V. Anand issued clear instructions to officers and field staff to maintain heightened vigilance and ensure that Bakrid celebrations are conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner. He emphasized the importance of preventing any inconvenience to the public, particularly during festival-related gatherings and processions. He also appealed to the citizens of Hyderabad to extend their cooperation with the police in maintaining law and order, assuring that all necessary precautions are being taken to protect the safety and harmony of the city during the festive period. The Hyderabad Police have deployed additional forces and are closely monitoring public areas and entry points to the city. The department has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all communities to celebrate Bakrid.




Car Catches Fire on Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A sudden fire broke out in a moving car on the Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge on Friday evening, sparking panic among commuters and causing significant traffic disruption in the area. The incident occurred around 4:30 PM, as the vehicle was heading towards Road No. 45. Fortunately, the occupants of the car managed to escape before the flames spread further. Videos and images shared by netizens on social media showed plumes of smoke rising from the burning vehicle, with many reporting that a fire engine was delayed due to a traffic jam near the Mindspace Flyover but was on its way to the site. The Cyberabad Police, in an update on X (formerly Twitter), stated, "As of 4:32 PM, traffic on the Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge towards Road 45 is slow due to the incident. Madhapur traffic police are on the ground managing the situation and are working to ease the congestion." Authorities have not yet confirmed the cause of the fire. Traffic movement in the vicinity was severely impacted, with police advising motorists to expect delays and cooperate with the ongoing management efforts until normalcy is restored.



Traffic Diversions for Bakrid Prayers at Mir Alam Tank Eidgah

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In anticipation of large congregations for Eid-ul-Azha (Bakrid) prayers at Mir Alam Tank Eidgah on Saturday, June 7, 2025, the Hyderabad Traffic Police have announced temporary traffic diversions and designated parking arrangements to ensure smooth movement and public safety. The restrictions will be in effect from 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM, covering key approach routes to the Eidgah. Traffic from Puranapul, Kamatipura, and Kishanbagh Vehicles heading towards Mir Alam Tank Eidgah from

Diversions from 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM on June 7

these areas will be permitted through Bahadurpura X Roads during the restricted hours. However, general vehicular movement towards Eidgah and Tadban will be diverted to the

Dr. Manmohan Singh Express Flyover, connecting Zoo Park to Aramgarh. Devotees attending the prayers will be directed to park their vehicles either beside the Zoo Park wall or at the open space opposite Masjid Allah-ho-Akbar. Traffic from Shivarampally and Danamma Huts Traffic will be allowed through Danamma Huts X Roads during the prayer timings. However, regular traffic towards the Eidgah will be diverted at Danamma Huts towards Shastri-

puram and NS Kunta. For the convenience of worshippers, parking has been arranged at the Modern Petrol Pump in front of the Eidgah main road, inside and outside the Mir Alam Filter Bed, a single line stretch from Sufi Cars to Modern Petrol Pump (for four-wheelers), and between Yadav Parking and Legacy Palace. Traffic from Kalapather Vehicles from Kalapather will be allowed through Kalapather L&O Police Station. Normal traffic intending to proceed

towards Eidgah will be diverted at this point towards Mochi Colony, Bahadurpura, Shamsheregunj, and Nawab Saheb Kunta. Devotees arriving from this direction may use parking facilities near the Mass Material shop and Indian Oil Petrol Bunk. Heavy Vehicle Movement From 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM, heavy vehicles approaching Bahadurpura from Puranapul will be redirected via Ziyaguda and City College, if necessary. Those coming from Shamshabad, Rajendra Nagar, and Milardevpally will be allowed through the Dr. Manmohan

Flyover. Similarly, vehicles going from Bahadurpura towards Shamshabad and Rajendra Nagar will also be routed via the flyover until the congregation disperses. The Hyderabad Traffic Police have appealed to all commuters to make note of the above diversions and cooperate with law enforcement to ensure the peaceful conduct of Bakrid prayers. Citizens are advised to plan their travel accordingly and follow real-time traffic updates via @HYDTP (Facebook) and @HYDP (Twitter). In case of emergencies or travel-related queries, commuters can reach the Traffic Helpline at 9010203626.

Natural farming is key to international market demand

₹35,000 crore deposited into farmers' accounts so far in Telangana
Government to establish oil palm factory and buffer stock of fertilizers

TPN Correspondent | Husnabad
Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao gave a clarion call to farmers, urging them to align agricultural practices with both domestic needs and global market demands. Speaking at the Rythu Mahotsavam held in Husnabad, the Minister emphasized that increasing farmers' income should be the core goal of agricultural policy, and this can be achieved only by cultivating crops that humanity truly needs and doing so sustainably. He pointed out the alarming overuse of chemical fertilizers, noting, "If our grandfathers used two kg of urea, today we are using 150 kg." Stressing the importance of returning to nat-

ural and organic fertilizers, he said this shift is essential if Telangana's produce is to gain acceptance and demand in international markets. Tummala strongly advocated for evidence-based farming, urging farmers to learn from agricultural university VCs, scientists, professors, and experienced farmers. "What our land needs, what brings more income – that's what we should grow," he said. Citing the irony of importing vegetables from other states, he envisioned a future where Telangana supplies vegetables to foreign nations. Highlighting the Telangana government's efforts to protect farmers' interests, the Minister revealed that ₹35,000 crore has already been de-

posited in farmers' accounts under various welfare schemes. He assured that the next installment of financial support will reach farmers before the sowing season begins this year. He urged the central government to act responsibly "The Centre must buy grain from the farmers at the Minimum Support Price it has announced. It should also support the oil palm sector and not just make promises." Tummala cautioned against politicizing agriculture, stating, "On this issue, both the government and opposition should work in unity for farmers' welfare." Finally, he called on farmers to actively participate in the three-day Rythu Mahotsavam by expressing their



challenges and sharing their field-level experiences. He concluded with a vision: "Let Husnabad be filled with greenery and dairy prosperity in the days to come."

Liquor Seized in Train Raid from Goa to Hyderabad

STF and DTF teams seize 48 bottles aboard
Vasco da Gama Express

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a major crackdown on the illegal transport of non-duty paid liquor, the Special Task Force (STF) and District Task Force (DTF) teams conducted surprise raids aboard the Vasco da Gama Express, following directions from Director of Enforcement Shanas Qasim. During the operation, officials seized 48 liquor bottles being illegally transported. The STF teams boarded the train at Shadnagar and carried out inspections until Kacheguda, identifying and confiscating the illicit stock during the journey. The raid was led by STF B, C, and D Circle Inspectors Biksha Reddy, Venkateshwarlu, and Nagaraju, along with 35 personnel from the Secunderabad DTF team. Officials confirmed that the seized liquor was brought from Goa and was being smuggled without paying the required duties. Authorities stated that strict action would be taken against those involved in transporting non-duty liquor, and such raids will continue to curb illegal alcohol trade in the region.



Mahabubnagar MLA Slams Etela Rajender

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Mahabubnagar MLA Yonnem Srinivas Reddy criticized former minister Etela Rajender's remarks on the collapse of the Medigadda project in the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme. Addressing concerns over the formation of the PC



Ghosh Commission, which was set up to investigate planning, design flaws, financial irregularities, and technical issues related to the project, Srinivas Reddy highlighted that the CAG report pointed to corruption, lack of supervision, and poor quality in the project execution. He mocked BJP leaders for forming factions and issuing notices to Etela Rajender, stating that mistakes require accountability and inquiry even

at the highest levels, including the Prime Minister. Comparing the current commission to historical ones following post-independence, he said many prominent leaders had to appear before similar bodies. Srinivas Reddy noted the project cost surged from ₹82,000 crores to ₹1,20,000 crores and distanced himself from the payment of ₹538 crores to VAPCO for the DPR, asserting he had no role in the design or execution. He blamed the Kalvakuntla family, including Chief Minister KCR, for the irregularities, revealing that BRS had received electoral bonds worth ₹1,400 crores from 2018 to 2023, which were allegedly tied to the Kaleshwaram project. He questioned why the BJP did not push forward during the commission proceedings and said the political family acts as if notices to KCR are equivalent to serving God. The MLA demanded that KCR appear before the commission soon so the public can know the truth. He also urged leaders Harish Rao and KCR not to delay their response. The issue remains a focal point of political debate as investigations continue into the Medigadda project collapse and its financial and technical failures.

Congress Eyes Grassroots Strengthening in Karimnagar Meet

Party must work harder in power to retain people's trust: TPCC chief

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee held a review meeting of the Karimnagar Parliament Constituency at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, chaired by TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud. AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan attended the meeting as the chief guest. Senior Congress leaders including Whip Adi Srinivas, MLC Balamuri Venkat, MLA and DCC President Kavampalli Satyanarayana, and former Minister T. Jeevan Reddy were

also present. Addressing the gathering, TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud praised Meenakshi Natarajan's leadership, calling her arrival as a flawless in-charge a positive sign for Telangana Congress. He emphasized that now is the time for the party to operate with double the enthusiasm, as being in power brings greater responsibility. "If we want to continue in power, we must work harder than ever before," he asserted. Mahesh Kumar Goud urged party workers and leaders to focus on rebuilding the party from the booth level

and to make a concerted effort to carry government welfare schemes directly to the people. He pointed out that several programs—from free bus travel to affordable rice—have already been implemented but need wider awareness among the public. The TPCC President also acknowledged dissatisfaction among some party workers and emphasized the need for greater coordination to eliminate such frustration. He stated that the government is placing a strong focus on employment, health, and education, but its performance is not

being adequately publicized. He hinted that both the PCC executive and the state cabinet may see expansion later this month. Calling Telangana a model state for the country, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Congress takes pride in conducting a scientific survey and providing 42% reservation to BCs. He urged sitting MLAs to improve their public outreach to ensure better results in upcoming local body elections and said the party would continue its efforts to resolve minor organizational issues through internal coordination.

Banned Drug Seized in Karimnagar

Banned skin care soap containing Permethrin, Cetrimide, and Menthol seized

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar
In a significant crackdown on the illegal circulation of banned medicines, the Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, has seized a prohibited drug combination from a medical distributor in Karimnagar. The banned product, a medicated skin care soap containing Permethrin IP 1.0%, Cetrimide IP 0.5% and Menthol IP 1.0%, was found during a raid on PLN Pharma Distributors. The product, branded as 'Dr. Ethix's MediSkin Medicated Skin Care Soap', was illegally manufactured by Maxwell Pharma, located at Industrial Plot No. 6 & 7, Sector 5, Parwanoo, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. It was manufactured for Dr. Ethix's Products and Services Pvt. Ltd., Guindy, Chennai, despite the Government of India's prohibition on this combination in 2018. Acting on specific intelligence inputs regarding the illegal sale of banned drugs, DCA officials from the Karimnagar zone conducted a surprise inspection at the premises. The seized soap contained the fixed-dose combination (FDC) of Permethrin + Cetrimide + Menthol, which the Central Government banned on September 7, 2018, citing a lack of therapeutic justification. The inspection was carried out by Sri M. Srinivasulu, Assistant Director, Karimnagar, and Sri P. Karthik Bharadwaj, Drugs Inspector, Karimnagar. Officials have initiated further investigations and assured that stringent legal action will be taken against all parties involved in the illegal manufacture and distribution of the banned drug. Authorities have reiterated that the manufacture, sale, and distribution of prohibited drugs is a serious offence, posing significant risks to public health. The DCA is intensifying surprise checks across the state to curb the circulation of banned and unsafe medicines, ensuring public safety. The department has urged medical shops and distributors to remain vigilant and refrain from stocking or selling banned medicines, warning that violators will face strict consequences under existing drug control laws.



Indiramma Housing Scheme Expanded to Cities to Support Urban Poor

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad:
The Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is now focusing on constructing Indiramma houses in urban areas to ensure that poor families living in city slums can own homes without risking their livelihoods. State Revenue, Housing, and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced this development during a recent review of the housing project. Minister Srinivasa Reddy explained that many poor families in Hyderabad's slums prefer to stay close to the city due to livelihood concerns. Earlier, the government built 42,000 houses away from Hyderabad, but only about 13,000 were occupied. Considering this, the government has decided to build multi-storey Indiramma houses (G+3) within city limits, starting with 16 slum areas in Hyderabad. Similar plans are in progress for other cities, including Warangal, Nizamabad, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, and Karimnagar. The Minister also highlighted the government's focus on tribal welfare. So far, 22,016 Indiramma houses have been sanctioned for tribal communities across the state, including 13,266 houses in tribal development areas such as Bhadrachalam, Utnoor, Eturunagaram, and Munnur. Officials have been directed to quickly identify beneficiaries and begin construction. Srinivasa Reddy stressed that the government is committed to proactively sanctioning and building Indiramma houses, with continuous monitoring to ensure progress. He pointed out that no other state government has invested as much as five lakh rupees per house for the poor. The state is determined to fulfill its promise to provide housing to every eligible citizen under this scheme. Officials have been urged to work diligently to ensure the timely completion of this housing initiative, which aims to improve the living standards of Telangana's urban and tribal poor.



Will Nepal Witness the Return of the Monarchy? A Nation at a Crossroads

On June 1, Kathmandu witnessed dramatic scenes as a massive pro-monarchy rally, led by former Home Minister Kamal Thapa, attempted to march toward Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's residence. The crowd chanted slogans calling for the restoration of the Hindu monarchy, abolished in 2008. Police responded with force—batons and tear gas—ultimately arresting Thapa and several others. Hours later, they were released. This protest is part of a growing wave of monarchist sentiment sweeping through Nepal, driven by economic hardship and public frustration with corruption among republican leaders. Ironically, Thapa, who once suppressed anti-monarchy protests as Home Minister during the 2006 uprising, is now leading calls to restore the very system he helped dismantle

The monarchy in Nepal was abolished following a mass uprising against King Gyanendra's rule, resulting in the country's transition to a Republic. International support, particularly from India, the U.S., and China, endorsed the change. The King vacated the Narayanhiti Royal Palace, which was later converted into a museum. Yet, almost two decades later, dissatisfaction with the current political system has sparked a resurgence in royalist activity. Smaller political parties, intellectuals, and even members of the royal family are joining the call for a return to constitutional monarchy. King Gyanendra himself has become more visible, attending public events and meeting with pro-monarchy leaders. His return from Pokhara recently drew thousands to welcome him—highlighting the depth of public discontent.

However, constitutional hurdles make any real change improbable. Nepal's current Constitution has no provision for reinstating a monarchy. A two-thirds majority in Parliament would be required to amend it—an unlikely feat given the monarchists' limited representation. Most major political parties remain firmly opposed to such a reversal. Though monarchists are trying to court support from India and China, both nations have shown little interest in supporting a royal restoration. Even within the royal family, uncertainty looms over succession, as former King Gyanendra's son lacks public support, while his grandson is still studying abroad. For now, a return of the monarchy seems more symbolic than feasible—a reflection of public disillusionment, but not yet a political reality.



An Appeal to End the Poison of Primetime TV Debates



This is not just an opinion but an urgent appeal to everyone involved in India's primetime television debates—participants, organizers, and sponsors alike. We are all witnessing how these debates have become toxic battlegrounds filled with abuse, shouting matches, and polarizing rhetoric. The recent incident where a ruling party spokesperson hurled vile insults at an opposition member is just one example of a disturbing trend. These debates prioritize sensationalism over substance, creating an “us vs them” mindset that spills over from studios to society, deepening divisions.

Indian democracy, the world's largest, has always thrived on vibrant, respectful debates rooted in liberty and equality. Yet today, public discourse—especially on TV and digital platforms—has turned poisonous, filled with hate, misinformation, and personal attacks. Instead of constructive dialogue addressing urgent issues like unemployment, education, and healthcare, debates have become arenas of mudslinging and emotional manipulation, undermining democratic values.

The deliberate use of inflammatory language targeting religion, caste, and regional identities

further divides society. Social media amplifies this, creating echo chambers that demonize the “other” and fuel hostility. This toxicity has even led to real violence, threatening India's pluralistic fabric. Media owners, anchors, politicians, and spokespersons must remember that democracy depends on dissent, protest, and critique. But when abuse replaces argument, voices are silenced, creating fear and discouraging participation. This erosion of trust weakens democratic institutions and corrupts public discourse.

Moreover, misinformation spreads rapidly, distorting public opinion and enabling manipulation by those in power. Parliament and newsrooms have become stages for insults and sensationalism instead of reasoned debate.

To save our democracy, we must collectively demand civility, fact-based discussion, and mutual respect. Democracy is not just about elections—it is about how we speak and listen to each other. Only through respectful dialogue and true listening can we protect democracy from being corroded by the poison of prime-time debates.

RCB Clinches Maiden IPL Title but Victory Parade Cancelled

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finally ended their 18-year wait for an Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy by defeating Punjab Kings in a thrilling final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on June 3, 2025. In a tense battle of nerves, RCB channeled years of frustration and heartbreak to secure a narrow six-run victory, lifting their maiden IPL championship.

The victory was more than just a win—it was a cathartic moment for the team and its passionate fanbase. The iconic chant, “Ee Sala Cup Namde” (This time the Cup will be ours), turned into a celebratory declaration: “Ee Sala Cup Namudu” (The Cup is ours this time). Led by captain Rajat Patidar and cricket legend Virat Kohli, RCB played with determination and grit, sealing a commanding finish to a dramatic season.

The triumph held special significance for Virat Kohli, who has long been associated with the team and faced personal highs and lows in his IPL journey. “This moment is right up there, but five levels below Test cricket,” Kohli remarked after the win, highlighting the prestige and challenge of international cricket while celebrating

the IPL milestone.

Plans were underway for a grand victory parade in Bengaluru on June 4 to honor the team's historic success. The celebrations were scheduled to begin at 3:30 pm from Vidhana Soudha, the seat of Karnataka's state government, proceeding to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, RCB's home ground. Fans eagerly awaited the parade to cheer their heroes and revel in the citywide jubilation.

However, the planned victory parade has now been cancelled. Bengaluru police reportedly denied permission, citing security and logistical concerns. This decision disappointed many fans who had hoped to take part in the live celebrations and witness their champions up close.

Despite the cancellation, the spirit of RCB's victory remains undiminished. The team's historic win marks a significant chapter in IPL history, bringing joy and pride to Bengaluru and cricket enthusiasts across India. While the parade may not take place, the memories of this triumph will surely live on in the hearts of RCB supporters for years to come.



Why India Is Urging FATF to Ease Rules for UPI Payments

The global payments landscape is at a critical juncture as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) prepares to decide on reforms to its Recommendation 16 (R.16) in June 2025. This international body sets anti-money laundering (AML) standards that significantly impact digital payments worldwide. The core issue under debate is whether to continue exempting traditional card payments from certain reporting requirements while denying the same relief to instant payment systems (IPS) like India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), despite IPS often having equal or superior security measures. Currently, FATF's rules favor card net-

works, widely used in developed countries, assuming they are less risky. However, evidence contradicts this. UPI handled over \$2.2 trillion in transactions in FY 2023-24, with a fraud rate below 0.01%, lower than many card payment systems in OECD countries. UPI employs real-time monitoring, dual-factor authentication, and strong regulatory oversight, making it highly secure. Yet, IPS systems do not receive the same regulatory exemptions, putting them at a competitive disadvantage. India, along with countries like Brazil, Indonesia, and Malaysia, has strongly pushed FATF to adopt a fairer approach—treating payment systems

with similar risk profiles equally. The FATF Secretariat has even suggested a middle ground: exempt IPS that meet specific AML and counter-terrorism financing (CFT) standards. Still, some FATF members remain hesitant to make this change. This hesitation risks perpetuating an outdated framework that favors legacy Western card networks over innovative payment solutions emerging in developing countries. Such bias undermines the FATF's goal of technology-neutral and globally inclusive standards. It also raises questions about the organization's legitimacy and fairness in the eyes of the Global South, where IPS are critical for finan-



cial inclusion. India insists that if equitable treatment for IPS is not included, the entire R.16 reform should be postponed. With FATF's current leadership prioritizing financial inclusion, sidelining

IPS would contradict this focus. The world watches as FATF decides whether to embrace innovation and fairness or cling to legacy rules that hinder progress.



PM Modi to Attend G7 Summit in Canada, Thanks Mark Carney for the Invitation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has confirmed his participation in the upcoming G7 Summit in Canada, signaling a positive shift in India-Canada relations. Modi will attend the summit, set to take place from June 15 to 17, following an invitation from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The news puts an end to weeks of speculation about whether Modi would attend the summit, marking the first time since 2019 that India will be represented at the G7, despite not being a formal member. India is often invited due to its

status as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies.

Modi took to social media to announce his visit, revealing that he had spoken with Carney on the phone to thank him for the invitation. He also congratulated Carney on his recent election victory, reinforcing the growing warmth between the two countries. "As vibrant democracies bound by deep people-to-people ties, India and Canada will work together with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests," Modi posted. This marks a departure from the era under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

during which tensions between India and Canada escalated due to various diplomatic and political disagreements. Modi's message of mutual respect signals a new chapter in the bilateral relationship, with both nations poised to collaborate on shared global challenges. Modi's visit to Canada for the G7 Summit is seen as a sign of India's growing influence on the world stage, further cementing its role as a key global player. The summit, which will bring together leaders from the world's major economies, is expected to discuss a wide range of pressing global issues.

26/11 Mumbai Attack: Delhi Court Extends Tahawwur Rana's Judicial Custody Till July 9



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A Delhi court on Friday extended the judicial custody of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, until July 9. The decision came after Rana was produced before the court via video conferencing at the conclusion of his earlier remand period.

Special Judge Chander Jit Singh passed the order during the proceedings and also sought a health status report from Tihar Jail authorities by June 9. The directive followed concerns raised by Rana's legal counsel regarding his deteriorating health condition.

Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian national, is considered a close associate of David Coleman Headley (also known as Daood Gilani), the main conspirator behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Headley, a U.S. citizen of Pakistani descent, had conducted reconnaissance missions ahead of the attacks and is currently serving a 35-year sentence in the United States after turning approver.

Tahawwur Rana was extradited to India earlier this year after the U.S. Supreme Court, on April 4, dismissed his final plea challenging the extradition. He had been in U.S. custody for his involvement in separate terror plots, including one targeting a Danish newspaper.

Rana's arrest and extradition are viewed as a significant step in India's ongoing efforts to bring all perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks to justice. The brutal assault on Mumbai began on November 26, 2008, when 10 heavily armed Pakistani terrorists infiltrated the city via sea and targeted multiple high-profile locations — including the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Oberoi Trident Hotel, and the Nariman House Jewish center.

Over 166 people, including foreign nationals, lost their lives in the nearly 60-hour siege, which remains one of the deadliest terror attacks on Indian soil. Investigations into the wider network of conspirators are ongoing.

Kamal Haasan, DMK, AIADMK Candidates File Nominations for Rajya Sabha Polls in Tamil Nadu



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant political development, six candidates, including top actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) president Kamal Haasan, filed their nomination papers on Friday for the June 19 Rajya Sabha biennial elections from Tamil Nadu. All six are expected to be elected unopposed, filling the vacancies of members retiring on July 24, 2025.

Kamal Haasan, whose MNM allied with the ruling DMK ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, submitted his nomination papers at the Secretariat in Chennai in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. The move marks Haasan's formal entry into parliamentary politics after his active cam-

paigning for the DMK alliance in the previous general elections. Also filing nominations were three candidates from the DMK: SR Sivalingam, a senior party leader from Salem, P. Wilson, a prominent advocate and sitting Rajya Sabha MP re-nominated by the party, and Ruqayya Malik alias Kavignar Salma, a poet, writer, and DMK office-bearer.

The AIADMK, led by general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, nominated: I.S. Inbadurai, Advocate Wing Secretary, and M. Dhanapal, a former MLA and Chengelpet East District Presidium Chairman.

All six candidates submitted their

papers to Returning Officer B. Subramaniam, Additional Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Several political leaders and allies were present, including Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, Congress' K. Selvaperunthagai, and CPI(M)'s P. Shanmugam. The elections were announced by the Election Commission last month to fill the seats of outgoing Rajya Sabha members, including MDMK's Vaiko and PMK's Anbumani Ramadoss. Given the strength of the respective parties in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, a contest is unlikely, and all candidates are expected to be elected unopposed.

Indian Navy to Commission First Next-Gen Anti-Submarine Ship 'Arnala' on June 18

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

New Delhi, June 6, 2025 — Marking a major milestone in India's maritime defense capabilities, the Indian Navy will commission its first next-generation Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), named 'Arnala', on June 18 at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) under a public-private partnership with L&T Shipbuilders, 'Arnala' is the lead ship of a 16-vessel fleet being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹13,000 crore. The ship will be formally inducted into service in a ceremony presided over by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan.

Designed for subsurface surveillance in coastal and shallow waters, 'Arnala' is also equipped to carry out search and rescue operations, mine laying, and low-intensity maritime combat missions. With its advanced sonar systems and maneuverability, the ship will enhance India's ability to detect and neutralize submarine threats, especially enemy submarines operating close to the coastline.

The ASW-SWC project is being jointly executed by two of India's premier shipyards — GRSE in Kolkata and Cochin Shipyard Limited, each tasked with building eight ships. The induction of these vessels will significantly augment the Navy's coastal defense

preparedness and underwater warfare capabilities.

Named after the historic Arnala Fort off the Vasai coast in Maharashtra, the ship symbolizes India's maritime legacy and strategic vision. The Navy said in a statement, "The ship is designed to have a formidable presence at sea. Its robust construction and advanced capabilities ensure that it can withstand the challenges of the maritime domain, safeguarding India's waters from emerging threats."

'Arnala' represents a significant step toward the Navy's goal of indigenous defense manufacturing and operational modernization.



“With The Man Who Lost His Mind?” Trump Rejects Talks Of A Call With Musk

TPN Correspondent | Washington
Less than 24 hours after a fiery exchange of words and social media attacks, rumors circulated about a potential phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, aimed at de-escalating their very public dispute. However, the damage had already been done. Elon Musk’s companies saw their valuation tumble by over \$150 billion, while Trump faced mounting allegations threatening to shake his presidency.

A Missed Call?

Reports initially suggested that President Trump’s aides had scheduled a call with Musk for Friday morning, which was later confirmed by a White House official. However, just hours before the call was to take place, another official contradicted the statement, claiming there were no plans for a conversation.

In an early morning phone interview with ABC News, Trump dismissed the idea with a sharp



jab, saying, “You mean the man who has lost



his mind?” Trump added that he was “not par-

ticularly” interested in speaking with Musk and implied that it was Musk who sought the conversation, not the other way around.

The Fallout: A Bitter Break-Up

This public snub came after a volatile week that saw the relationship between the two billionaires go from friendly to explosive. Their falling-out centered around the controversial ‘One Big Beautiful Bill,’ which Trump passed, removing tax cuts for electric vehicle manufacturers, including Tesla. Musk, who had fought fiercely to retain these tax incentives, saw Tesla’s stock plummet by over 14%, wiping out \$150 billion in value.

Musk, feeling betrayed, publicly reminded Trump that his political career owed much to Musk’s financial and moral backing during the 2024 election. The once-close relationship between Trump and Musk, which had been characterized by mutual praise, appeared to be irreparably damaged after these events.

School Bombing in Northwest Pakistan Highlights Ongoing Threat to Education

TPN Correspondent | Peshawar

A government high school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Tank district was bombed early Friday morning by unidentified assailants, in yet another attack targeting educational institutions in northwest Pakistan, police confirmed.

The explosion occurred in Akbari village, under the jurisdiction of the Gul Imam police station. According to police sources, the attackers used explosives to destroy the school building, causing several classrooms to collapse. No casualties were reported, but the infrastructure suffered significant damage.

No militant group has claimed responsibility so far. However, local authorities suspect splinter factions of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which are known to operate in the Tank district and have a history of targeting schools — particularly those educating girls.

These attacks are part of a long-standing campaign by extremist groups opposing formal education, especially for girls. According to figures compiled by local non-governmental organizations, over 450 schools have been destroyed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the past decade alone. Many students have been forced to either abandon their education or study amid the ruins of damaged buildings.



This incident follows a deadly school bus explosion in Balochistan that killed five people, including three children, underscoring the persistent risks faced by students and educators across Pakistan’s volatile regions.

The Pakistani Taliban held sway in many parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and nearby tribal areas for years until military operations pushed them back. However, sporadic violence continues, with educational institutions remaining prime targets. The 2012 attack on Malala Yousafzai in Swat Valley — a vocal advocate for girls’ education — shocked the world and brought global attention to the issue. Malala later became a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The latest attack serves as a grim reminder that the battle for safe, accessible education in Pakistan’s northwest is far from over.

Japan’s Ispace Loses Contact With Moon Lander ‘Resilience’ After Touchdown Attempt

TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

Japanese space startup Ispace has announced it was unable to re-establish communication with its uncrewed lunar lander Resilience following a touchdown attempt on the Moon early Friday morning. The mission, dubbed Hakuto-R Mission 2, was Ispace’s second bid to achieve a successful lunar landing after a failed attempt in 2023.



Resilience was aiming to make Ispace the first private company outside the United States to land a spacecraft on the Moon. The planned touchdown was scheduled for 4:17 a.m. JST (1917 GMT, Thursday), following a meticulously planned hour-long descent from lunar orbit.

According to a live data feed provided by Ispace, the lander’s altitude abruptly dropped to zero just before the expected landing time. However, no confirmation of a successful landing or subsequent data transmission was received. The company stated that it is currently analyzing telemetry data to determine what went wrong during the critical final moments of the descent.

“We have not been able to establish communication with the lander after the expected touchdown time,” Ispace said in a statement. “We are continuing to investigate the situation and will

provide updates as soon as we have more information.”

This marks the second unsuccessful attempt by Ispace to land on the Moon. Its first mission in April 2023 ended in failure when the lander crashed during the final descent phase due to a navigation error.

Despite the setback, Ispace remains one of the leading contenders in the private lunar exploration sector, aiming to provide commercial transport services to the Moon in partnership with international space agencies and commercial partners.

Industry analysts say while the mission may not have ended in success, it reflects the growing ambition and capabilities of private aerospace firms in advancing space exploration beyond Earth orbit.

Former Nepal PM Madhav Kumar Nepal Charged in Patanjali Land Misappropriation Case

TPN Correspondent | Brussels

Kathmandu: In a significant political and legal development, Nepal’s anti-corruption body has filed a graft case against former Prime Minister and CPN-Unified Socialist chairman Madhav Kumar Nepal, along with 93 others. The charges relate to a land misappropriation scandal involving Patanjali Yogpeeth-Nepal.



The Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Authority (CIIAA) on Thursday formally accused Madhav Nepal of facilitating the questionable purchase of government and public land in the Kavre district, roughly 40 kilometers from Kathmandu. The land was reportedly allocated for Patanjali Yogpeeth to establish a yoga center and herbal farming project — a venture said to be backed by Indian spiritual leader and Patanjali founder Baba Ramdev.

The CIIAA alleges that the transaction was carried out in violation of land acquisition norms and that Nepal, during his tenure, played a key role in bypassing regulatory processes to benefit the or-

ganization.

As a direct consequence of the chargesheet, Madhav Nepal, a sitting member of Nepal’s federal parliament, has automatically lost his parliamentary seat — in accordance with the country’s legal provisions disqualifying indicted individuals from holding public office.

The filing of the case has stirred political waters in Nepal, with opposition parties demanding broader investigations into alleged collusion between political figures and foreign-linked entities. Patanjali’s land dealings in Nepal have long been under scrutiny, with civil society groups raising concerns over transparency, land use, and national interest.

This marks one of the most high-profile corruption cases in recent Nepalese political history, implicating a former prime minister and a prominent political leader. The case now heads to the Special Court, where proceedings will determine the extent of legal culpability of Madhav Nepal and others involved in the deal.

US Army Develops 3D-Printed Skin to Heal Soldiers’ Battle Wounds

The US Army is advancing cutting-edge bioprinting technology to produce 3D-printed skin and tissues that could revolutionize battlefield medicine. In collaboration with the University of Hawaii, the US Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center (DEVCOM CBC) has launched a research initiative aimed at treating soldiers’ injuries more effectively — particularly severe burns and wounds.



Bioprinting uses bio-inks made from living cells, proteins, and nutrients to create three-dimensional, functional replicas of human tissues and organs. The technology holds immense potential for military medicine, enabling rapid tissue repair and even organ regeneration on the battlefield or in remote areas.

Under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), DEVCOM CBC and the University of Hawaii are executing two joint work statements (JWS). One of these focuses on developing advanced organ models using bioprinting. Dr. Jason Barnhill, an associate research professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), is partnering with DEVCOM CBC’s bioengineering expert Priscilla Lee to create tools for evaluating chemical compounds and responses in

human tissue. Dean Sam Shomaker of JABSOM highlighted the global impact of the project, saying, “These efforts have the potential to save the lives of frontline soldiers and civilians. Introducing innovative biofabrication technologies to remote regions supports not only USINDOPACOM’s mission but global humanitarian efforts.” Lee is specifically researching immune responses using bioprinted cell culture models, which could lead to new biomaterials for treating wounds from burns, toxic gas exposure, and antibiotic-resistant infections.

Bioprinting stands as a beacon of innovation in medicine, with its ultimate goal being the ability to print entire organs using a patient’s own cells. If successful, this technology may redefine how we treat injuries — both in combat zones and in hospitals worldwide.

“Markets Soar on RBI Rate Cuts, Global Cues; Nifty Closes Above 25,000, Sensex Gains 746 Points”

Domestic stock markets showed strength today. They closed with huge gains on Friday. Positive signals from global markets, RBI cutting the repo rate by 50 basis points and the cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points, signaling more cuts in the future, and inflation falling below the target of 4% gave strength to the indices. Shares of realty, banking and finance sectors gave impetus to this. This ended two consecutive weeks of losses in the markets. In total, Nifty rose by 252 points and Sensex by 746 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,442 in the previous session, started at 81,434 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 81,140. It reached an intraday high of 82,299. Finally, it closed at 82,188 with a gain of 746 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,748, touched a low of 24,671 and a high of 25,029. It closed at 25,003, up 252 points. The Nifty Bank rose 817 points to settle at 56,578.

In the Nifty50, 46 companies gained while 4 lost. Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finance, JSW Steel, Axis Bank, and Maruti were the top gainers. HDFC Life, BEL, Bharti Airtel, and Sun Pharma were the biggest losers. Today, realty, finance, metal, private bank, auto, consumer durable, PSU bank, oil, IT, telecom, and FMCG indices rose. The me-



dia index lost heavily.

Market breadth turned in favour of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2993 stocks traded, 1673 gained and 1229 lost. 95 stocks touched their 52-week highs and 18 stocks touched their 52-week lows. The upper circuit was 93 and the lower circuit was 59.

The rupee strengthened by 16 paise to settle at 85.63 against the dollar. CLSA downgraded Shobha Realty to Underperform from Hold. Bajaj Holdings sold 0.65% stake in Bajaj Finserv for Rs 2002 crore in a block deal. Bernstein gave positive ratings to SBI Life and HDFC Life. Today, most of the banking, finance and AMC companies reached 52-week highs. It is learnt that India has asked the US to reduce the universal tariff by 10% as part of the trade deal. Dalmia Bharat, ACC and Dalmia Bharat have been given a Nuvoco reduce rating. Jagil Prepaid Ocean has taken 100% stake in GreenEdge Enterprises. 40 lakh shares changed hands in National Aluminium. 2.2 crore shares changed hands in NTPC Green.

Adani Group’s Tax Contribution Soars to Rs 74,945 Crore in FY25, Up 29%



The Adani Group announced a significant 29% increase in its total tax contribution to the exchequer for fiscal year 2025, reaching Rs 74,945 crore compared to Rs 58,104 crore in FY24. This growth reflects the company’s expanding business operations and its commitment to tax transparency as part of its broader Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework.

Out of the total tax contribution, direct taxes amounted to Rs 28,720 crore, while indirect taxes contributed Rs 45,407 crore. Other contributions, including social security benefits for employees, totaled Rs 818 crore. To give context, the Rs 74,945 crore tax paid by the group is nearly equivalent to the cost of building the entire Mumbai Metro network or hosting a modern Olympic Games.

Key contributors within the group’s portfolio include Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), Adani Cement Limited (ACL), Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), and Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL). The tax details are disclosed through independent annual reports of seven publicly listed Adani

entities, including Adani Energy Solutions Limited, Adani Power Limited, Adani Total Gas Limited, and Ambuja Cements Limited. Additionally, the figures incorporate taxes paid by NDTV, ACC, and Sanghi Industries, which are held by these entities.

The Group has also published a detailed document titled ‘Basis of Preparation and Approach to Tax’ on the websites of its listed companies. This document offers a comprehensive breakdown of global taxes paid, including direct taxes, indirect taxes collected on behalf of stakeholders, and other contributions.

Emphasizing transparency, the Adani Group stated that this voluntary initiative aims to build stakeholder trust and promote accountability in global tax practices. The group continues to balance rapid growth with social responsibility, focusing on transforming India’s infrastructure while creating long-term value. An independent professional agency has verified the group’s global tax contribution for added credibility.

RBI Slashes Repo Rate by 50 bps to Spur Growth, Shifts Policy Stance to Neutral

In a significant move aimed at stimulating economic growth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 6, 2025, reduced the policy repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.50%. This marks the second rate cut this year, following a cumulative reduction of 100 bps since February 2025.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, while delivering the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statement, emphasized that the decision is aligned with the central bank’s medium-term inflation target of 4% (within a +/- 2% band), while simultaneously supporting growth recovery. With this adjustment, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate now stands at 5.25%, and both the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate have been revised to 5.75%.

In addition to the repo rate cut, the RBI also announced a reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points, bringing it down to 3.0% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL). This cut will be implemented in a staggered manner throughout the year to infuse durable liquidity into the banking system.

The RBI has also revised its monetary policy stance from “accommodative” to “neutral,” signaling a cautious approach ahead. “Monetary



policy space has narrowed after recent rate cuts. From here, our stance will depend on incoming data and evolving global conditions,” Governor Malhotra noted.

For FY26, the central bank projects real GDP growth at 6.5%, with quarterly estimates ranging between 6.3% and 6.7%. CPI inflation is projected to average 3.7% for the year, assuming a normal monsoon, with risks deemed evenly balanced.

The move reflects the RBI’s balancing act between fostering growth and maintaining price stability in a volatile global economic environment.

Gold Loan Stocks Surge as RBI Proposes Higher LTV Limit for Small Loans



Gold loan stocks saw a notable rally on Friday, June 6, 2025, after RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra proposed a hike in the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio for small-ticket gold loans. The new guideline suggests increasing the LTV ratio to 85% for gold loans up to ₹2.5 lakh, compared to the current limit of 75%. This change is aimed at boosting lending flexibility for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

The announcement triggered sharp buying in shares of gold-financing firms. Muthoot Finance surged over 7% intraday, trading at ₹2,450.40 against its previous close of ₹2,294.60. Manappuram Finance also rose more than 5%, touching ₹248.46 from an opening price of ₹234.84. IIFL Finance and other lenders in the gold loan segment witnessed similar upward momentum.

The LTV ratio defines the maximum loan one can receive against the pledged gold. A higher LTV ratio means customers can borrow more money for the same gold value, which

is expected to increase loan disbursements and widen the customer base for gold financiers. This move is also seen as a potential earnings booster for NBFCs specializing in gold-backed lending.

The RBI’s revised proposal comes as a shift from earlier draft norms, which had suggested a uniform 75% LTV cap for both banks and NBFCs. In addition to the LTV hike, the RBI also announced simplified operational norms, including no mandatory credit appraisal for small-ticket loans and relaxed end-use monitoring, especially for non-PSL loans.

Governor Malhotra noted that final guidelines would be released by today or Monday morning, emphasizing regulatory clarity and compliance consistency.

The announcement followed a broader 50 basis points repo rate cut to 5.50%, sparking optimism across the financial and banking sectors.

Customer Allegedly Finds Ants in Maggi Ordered from Zepto Café

Company Responds Amid Rising Concerns

A customer's shocking discovery of ants in a bowl of Maggi noodles ordered from Zepto Cafe has sparked outrage on social media. The incident, highlighted in a viral Instagram video, shows four bowls of noodles — one empty and three partially eaten — with multiple dead ants clearly visible at the bottom. The post quickly gained traction, amassing over two million views.

Tagging Zepto's official handle, the customer wrote, "@zeptonow this is disgusting. However, I'm shocked to see their cafe still operating with deceptive offers like 'Buy 1 get 1 free' — serving food with insects is unacceptable! They're prioritizing fast delivery over hygiene and health."

Zepto, a 10-minute quick-commerce food delivery platform, responded in the comments section: "Hey! At Zepto, we take quality seriously, and we regret any inconvenience caused if this product doesn't meet your expectations. Please DM us your order details so we can address this promptly at Zepto speed!"



In response, the customer replied, "@zeptonow we got our refunds gladly, but what about this kind of food which we consumed? These were just ants. What if there was a cockroach or any other insect? This is all about hygiene! People can get food poisoning — we expect better food quality, not just fast deliveries."

This isn't the first time Zepto's food safety practices have been questioned. In a recent inspection, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found "serious non-compliance" at Zepto's Dharavi warehouse in Mumbai. Issues included fungal growth on food, expired items, and poor storage conditions. As a result, the FDA has suspended the food business license for that warehouse, raising broader concerns about the company's overall food safety standards.

"It Matches Your Outfit!" – Chef Fiona Afshar's Patterned Pasta Wins Over the Internet

What happens when culinary creativity meets fashion? Chef Fiona Afshar has answered that question with her latest viral creation — patterned pasta inspired by the vibrant designs of clothing brand Mister Zimi. In a visually mesmerizing reel, Chef Fiona showcased her unique process of transforming simple pasta dough into an edible work of art, gaining over 2 million views and an outpouring of praise from across the internet.

The video begins with Chef Fiona crafting dough in a spectrum of vivid colors. Each hue is carefully kneaded and rolled into thin sheets using a pasta machine. She then cuts out playful shapes such as stars using customized cutters. These patterned dough sheets are artfully layered and rolled into cylindrical pasta shapes before being left to dry.

Once cooked, the final pasta pieces look like something straight out of a fashion runway — colorful, intricate, and almost too pretty to eat. The dish was finished with a light drizzle of oil and sauce, allowing the design to remain the star of the plate. "Bringing @misterzimi's vibrant



patterns to life on pasta. A playful blend of art and flavour. Who says your plate can't wear prints?" she captioned the post.

Social media users flooded the comments with admiration. One user wrote, "It matches your outfit!! Just when I think your creativity cannot get cuter ... bam!" Another added, "So beautiful and incredible technique! Not sure how appetising it is, but I love them!!"

From food lovers to fashion enthusiasts, Fiona's latest pasta art has captured imaginations worldwide. It's not just a recipe — it's a celebration of creativity on a plate. As one fan summed it up: "I aspire to make my food look this beautiful! Wow! Just wow!"

Snapchat Launches Apple Watch App With Scribble and Dictation Support

Snapchat has officially expanded its presence to the Apple Watch, introducing a dedicated app that lets users stay connected on the go. Announced on Thursday, the new Apple Watch app allows users to preview incoming messages and respond using Scribble, Dictation, or emojis. While users can't send Snaps or initiate new chats directly from the watch, the app offers a streamlined way to stay in touch through simple interactions. It requires watchOS 9.0 or later and is now available for free on the Apple Watch App Store.

This launch extends Snapchat's footprint beyond smartphones, tablets, and web browsers, aligning with the platform's goal of being available across all commonly used devices. Snapchat, which currently boasts over 900 million users worldwide, emphasized its commitment to keeping people connected across an increasingly diverse device ecosystem.

Interestingly, the Apple Watch functionality isn't



entirely new—users have long been able to mirror Snapchat notifications from their iPhones. However, this stand-alone app brings added convenience with direct support for Apple Watch input methods like Scribble and Dictation.

In parallel, Snapchat has also introduced its popular Lens Studio on iOS and the web, previously available only as a desktop application. The move aims to make augmented reality (AR) creation more accessible. Now, iPhone users can design and publish lenses using AI-powered tools directly from their devices. Creators can incorporate Bitmojis and use AR effects to develop personalized and expressive Lenses.

While the desktop version of Lens Studio remains the go-to for professional developers, the mobile and web versions open the door for casual users and budding creators. Lens Studio is now available for free on the iOS App Store and online at lensstudio.snapchat.com.



Chenab Rail Bridge: Inside the Tech Powering the World's Tallest Railway Bridge

The Chenab Rail Bridge, hailed as the highest railway bridge in the world, is set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a milestone in India's infrastructure journey. Located in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, the bridge spans 1,315 meters across the deep Chenab River gorge and is a part of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

Constructed by Afcons Infrastructure under the Konkan Railway Corporation, the bridge towers 359 meters above the riverbed—making it 35 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower. With a total project cost of ₹1,486 crore, the Chenab Rail Bridge has a designed lifespan of 120 years and is built to withstand wind speeds of up to 266 kmph and train speeds of 100 kmph.

The bridge's unique two-rib steel arch with open spandrel design ensures strength and flexibility. Each of its massive steel segments weighs 34 metric

tonnes and was installed using the world's tallest cable crane, supported by a 127-meter-high pylon—taller than Delhi's Qutub Minar.

To withstand the harsh environment and seismic activity in the region (zone V), the bridge is made from weathering steel, which resists corrosion and adapts to extreme temperatures ranging from -20°C to 45°C. Its 5.84 lakh kilometers of welds—almost equal to the distance between Jammu Tawi and New Delhi—were tested using Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing, a first for Indian Railways.

For safety, over 100 advanced sensors are embedded throughout the structure. These are part of a real-time Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) system that tracks wind, load, vibration, and temperature. If any abnormal readings are detected, automated alerts are sent to halt train movement, ensuring complete operational safety.

Woman Books Ola Ride for Just 180 Metres to Escape Street Dogs, Internet Amused

In a quirky yet relatable moment that has gone viral on social media, a woman booked an Ola Bike ride to travel a mere 180 metres — and the reason has left netizens both amused and sympathetic. Captured in a short video shared by the rider, the clip begins with the Ola driver arriving at the pickup point and asking the woman for the one-time password (OTP). However, when he checked the destination, he was visibly surprised to find it was just 180 metres away.

Perplexed, the rider asked if she had made a mistake in selecting the drop location. The woman calmly respond-



ed that the address was correct. She explained that she took the ride simply to avoid a group of aggressive street dogs in the area.

The incident, which quickly gained traction online, struck a chord with many who understand the fear and anxiety that can come from encountering stray animals, especially in areas where dog attacks are not uncommon. The video, shared on Instagram, has received thousands of views and comments, with users calling the woman's decision both practical and brave. "She did what she had to. Street dogs

can be terrifying!" commented one user. Another joked, "This has to be the most justified short ride in Ola history." Some viewers praised her quick thinking, while others shared similar experiences of altering their walking routes or waiting for help to pass through areas with street dogs.

While the ride may have been unusually short, it highlights a larger concern about stray dog safety in urban areas. In the end, the woman's decision sparked a broader conversation online — and gave the internet a moment of levity and relatability.

Norway Chess 2025: Gukesh Overcomes Wei Yi, Sets Up Final Clash with Caruana as Carlsen Battles Erigaisi

World Champion D. Gukesh continues to press hard for the Norway Chess title after a crucial victory over China's Wei Yi in the ninth round of the prestigious Stavanger tournament. With one round remaining, Gukesh sits second with 14.5 points, just half a point behind five-time World Champion Magnus Carlsen, who edged past American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana in a tense battle.



Gukesh's win came after Wei Yi missed a critical Bishop move on the 40th turn, allowing the Indian prodigy, playing White, to seize the advantage and force a resignation. This marked Gukesh's third classical victory in the tournament, following wins against Carlsen and fellow Indian Arjun Erigaisi. Reflecting on the match, Gukesh said, "I'm happy with today's game and hopeful for another strong performance in the final round."

The final round promises a gripping finish: Gukesh will face Caruana, while Carlsen takes on Erigaisi. Carlsen's recent comeback win against Caruana, capitalizing on a late blunder, boosted his chances of clinching his seventh Norway Chess title since 2016. "This win improves my situation a lot. Erigaisi will fight hard, so I'm ready for a battle," Carlsen

commented.

Meanwhile, American GM Hikaru Nakamura, with 13 points, remains in contention but will need favorable outcomes elsewhere.

In the women's section, two-time world rapid champion Koneru Humpy lost to China's Lei Tingjie, missing a chance to secure the title. Humpy now trails Ukrainian GM Anna Muzychuk, who leads by two points after a dominant win over Chinese world champion Ju Wenjun. The final round will be decisive for the women's crown as well.

Thursday's results set the stage for a thrilling conclusion in both the open and women's categories at Norway Chess 2025.

Rob Walter Named New Head Coach of New Zealand Men's Cricket Team

Rob Walter has been appointed as the new head coach of the New Zealand men's cricket team across all three formats, replacing Gary Stead. Walter, 49, officially takes charge ahead of New Zealand's upcoming tour to Zimbabwe, which includes a T20 tri-series against Zimbabwe and South Africa, followed by a two-Test series.



Walter's coaching resume is impressive. He previously served as South Africa's limited-overs coach from January 2023 until April 2025, leading the team to the semifinals of the 2023 ICC World Cup and the Champions Trophy in ODIs, as well as the final of the T20 World Cup last year. Before his stint with South Africa, Walter was well-established in New Zealand domestic cricket, coaching Otago for five years and working with Central Districts.

Gary Stead, who coached New Zealand's team since 2018, stepped down from the limited-overs roles earlier this year but had intended to remain Test coach. However, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) preferred appointing a single coach to oversee all formats, prompting the search for a replacement.

Rob Walter expressed enthusiasm about the

new role, saying, "It's an amazing opportunity to work with such a talented group of players and support staff during a period filled with global events and major bilateral series. I just can't wait to get started."

NZC chief executive Scott Weenink praised Walter's credentials, stating, "Rob is a world-class coach with an outstanding pedigree. His success domestically in New Zealand and on the global stage with South Africa makes him the ideal candidate to lead the Black Caps."

Walter's appointment marks a new chapter for New Zealand cricket as the team looks to build on its strong performances in recent years under his experienced guidance.

Nations League Semifinal: Yamal Shines as Spain Thrills Past France 5-4

Spain's teenage sensation Lamine Yamal stole the spotlight with two goals, leading Spain to a thrilling 5-4 victory over France in the Nations League semifinal on June 5, 2025, in Stuttgart. The 17-year-old outperformed French stars Desire Doue and Ousmane Dembélé, helping Spain secure a place in the final against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal on June 8.

The match, billed as a clash between young talents, turned out to be the highest-scoring game in Nations League history. Spain dominated early, racing to a commanding 5-1 lead before France mounted a late but ultimately insufficient comeback.

Nico Williams opened the scoring

in the 22nd minute after a brilliant assist from Mikel Oyarzabal, who skillfully maneuvered past two defenders. Minutes later, Mikel Merino extended the lead to 2-0, capitalizing on a quick one-two with Oyarzabal. Despite threats from France's Théo Hernandez hitting the crossbar and saves by Spain's goalkeeper Unai Simón denying efforts from Doué, Mbappé, and Dembélé, Spain remained relentless.

A penalty earned by Yamal after a foul by Adrien Rabiot saw the young striker confidently convert to make it 3-0. Pedri quickly followed, expertly chipping past the French goalkeeper. France was awarded a penalty due to a foul by Pedro Porro,



which Mbappé converted, but Yamal answered back, slotting in Spain's fifth goal.

France scored three late goals, including a debut goal from substitute Rayan Cherki and an own goal from Spain's Daniel Vivian, before Cherki assisted Randal Kolo Muani in stoppage time. However, the comeback fell short.

Yamal said, "It was a great game. In the end, it was a little close, but we played very well and deserved to win."

Spain now looks ahead to the final showdown with Portugal, eager to claim the Nations League title.

Piyush Chawla Retires from All Forms of Cricket After Two-Decade-Long Career

Indian leg-spinner Piyush Chawla on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, bringing the curtains down on a career that spanned over two decades and saw him lift two World Cups with Team India.

The 36-year-old made the announcement through an emotional Instagram post, stating, "After more than two decades on the field, the time has come to bid adieu to the beautiful game. Though I step away from the crease, cricket will always live within me."

Chawla was a member of India's historic 2007 T20 World Cup-winning squad and the 2011 ODI World Cup team. He represented India in 3 Tests, 25 ODIs, and 7 T20Is, taking 43 wickets in total across formats.

"From representing India at the highest level to being part of the victorious 2007 T20 and 2011 ODI World Cup squads, every moment in this incredible journey has been nothing short of a blessing," he wrote.

Chawla also enjoyed a fruitful IPL career, playing for multiple franchises including Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings, and Mumbai Indians. He was part of KKR's 2014 title-winning squad and famously scored the winning runs in the final



against Punjab Kings.

He extended his heartfelt thanks to his coaches, the IPL franchises, and especially his late father. "A special mention to my late father, whose belief in me lit the path I walked. Without him, this journey would never have been possible," Chawla said.

Starting his career at just 15, Chawla made headlines when he bowled out Sachin Tendulkar with a googly in the Challenger Series in 2005-06. He ends his domestic career with over 1,000 wickets — a remarkable achievement for a modern leg-spinner.

India Announces Final 25-Member Squad for AFC Asian Cup Qualifier Against Hong Kong

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has confirmed a trimmed 25-player squad for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Hong Kong on June 10. Head coach Manolo Marquez made the announcement after assessing performances during the recent international friendly tour in Thailand.

Initially, a 28-member squad was named for the Thailand tour, where India faced a 2-0 defeat in a FIFA international friendly. Following the match, goalkeeper Hrithik Tiwari and defenders Mehtab Singh and Subhasish Bose were released from the squad and are set to return to India. The remaining players have now shifted to Bangkok to prepare for the critical qualifier.

India began their qualification campaign in March with a goalless draw against Bangladesh. With all four teams in the group currently level on one point each, the upcoming fixture carries added pressure and significance.

In Wednesday's friendly against Thailand, India showcased moments of creativity and resilience, but were undone by defensive errors



and missed chances. Thailand capitalized with goals from Benjamin Davis (8') and Poramet Arjvilai (59') to secure the win. Despite the loss, Marquez noted encouraging signs of progress as the team focuses on regrouping for the crucial encounter with Hong Kong.

Final 25-member squad for the Hong Kong match:

Goalkeepers: Vishal Kaith, Gurmeet Singh Chahal, Amrinder Singh
Defenders: Naorem Roshan Singh, Rahul Bheke, Chinglensana Singh, Anwar Ali, Boris Singh, Sandesh

Jhingan, Asish Rai, Abhishek Singh
Midfielders: Suresh Wangjam, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Ayush Chhetri, Udanta Singh, Lalengmawia Ralte, Liston Colaco, Ashique Kuruniyan, Brandon Fernandes, Nikhil Prabhu

Forwards: Sunil Chhetri, Edmund Lalrindika, Manvir Singh, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Lallianzuala Chhangte

Head Coach: Manolo Marquez

India will aim to gain momentum and secure a vital three points in their quest for AFC Asian Cup qualification.

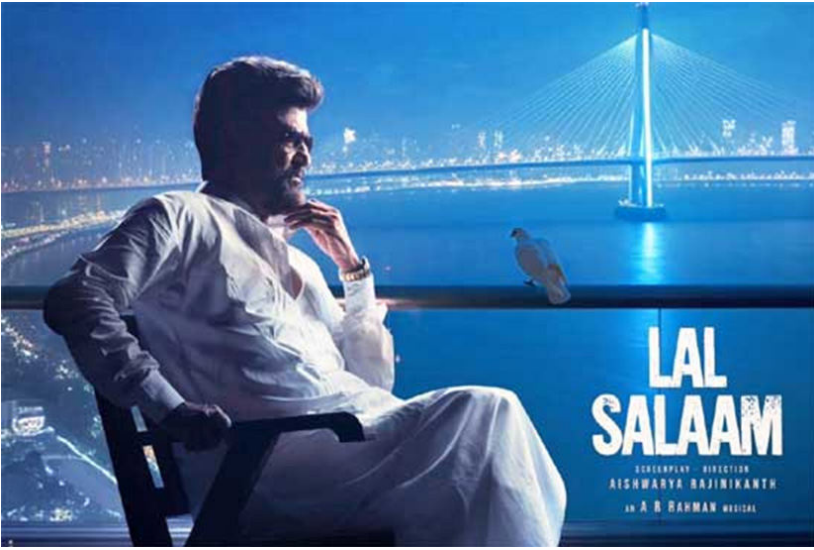


Rajinikanth’s Lal Salaam Lands on OTT with Extended Cut — But Misses a Key Element

Over a year after its theatrical debut, Aishwarya Rajinikanth’s *Lal Salaam* has finally arrived on OTT, now streaming on Sun NXT. Featuring Vishnu Vishal and Vikranth in lead roles and a special appearance by Rajinikanth, the film struggled to find its footing in cinemas and failed to leave a lasting impact despite the hype surrounding its release.

The digital version comes with an extended cut, including additional scenes not seen in theatres. While this may sound appealing to fans, it remains uncertain whether the added footage improves the film’s pacing or simply elongates an already criticised narrative. Many viewers felt the film lacked emotional depth and suffered from uneven storytelling — shortcomings that even a powerful music score by AR Rahman couldn’t fully redeem.

One notable disappointment with the OTT release is the absence of the Telugu version. Although it was released theatrically in both Tamil and Telugu, the digital platform currently only offers the Tamil version. No official update has been provided regarding the Telugu release, leaving a section of the audience underserved.



The film, produced by Lyca Productions, features a strong supporting cast including Senthil, Jeevitha, Thambi Ramaiah, Ananthika Sanilkumar, Vivek Prasanna, and Thangadurai. Despite the presence of familiar names and promising themes, *Lal Salaam* received lukewarm reviews upon its initial release and failed to make waves even during its Hindi television premiere.

With minimal buzz surrounding the film’s quiet OTT launch, the question remains whether this digital second chance can breathe new life into *Lal Salaam*, or if its moment in the spotlight has already passed. For now, the film remains a missed opportunity — extended cut or not.

Housefull 5: A Comedy That Drowns in Its Own Chaos

Housefull 5, the latest installment in the long-running comedy franchise, attempts to blend absurdity with mystery aboard a luxury cruise — and fails spectacularly. Directed by Tarun Mansukhani and written by Sajid Nadiadwala, the film is a chaotic mess that sacrifices logic, coherence, and smart humour for loud gags and relentless tomfoolery.

Set during the 100th birthday celebration of a UK billionaire on a cruise ship, the film opens with a murder by a masked killer. More deaths follow, leading to the arrival of two bumbling British-Indian cops and an over-the-top Interpol chief (played by Nana Patekar) who’s armed with beedis and folk dance moves. Instead of tightening the mystery, the film spirals into an illogical frenzy, packed with cringe-inducing comedy and dragged-out gags.

Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, and Abhishek Bachchan play three men claiming to be “Jolly,” each accompanied by their respective “wives” — played by Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, and Jacqueline Fernandez. The women serve little purpose beyond dance numbers



and feeble comic relief. Supporting roles from Chitrangada Singh, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, and Dino Morea fail to add any meaningful substance.

The humour relies heavily on slapstick, dated pop culture references, and callbacks to previous *Housefull* films — with little success. Johnny Lever replaces Boman Irani as Batuk Patel, Nikitin Dheer channels his Chennai Express persona, and Sanjay Dutt and Jackie Shroff show up as characters named Baba and Bhiddu. Even these nostalgic touches can’t rescue the film.

Ultimately, *Housefull 5* is a tone-deaf attempt at comedy, buried under layers of absurdity and hollow spectacle. It may entertain die-hard franchise fans, but for most viewers, it’s a painful ride through cinematic chaos. A 1.5-star misadventure that should’ve stayed ashore.

Akhil Akkineni Marries Zainab Ravdjee in an Intimate Ceremony, Grand Reception to Follow

Tollywood star Akhil Akkineni has officially tied the knot with his longtime girlfriend, Zainab Ravdjee, in a serene and private wedding ceremony held in the early hours of Friday, June 6, 2025. The couple, who have been in a steady relationship for over three years, got engaged on November 26, 2024, and have now begun their marital journey with blessings from close family and friends.

The ceremony, which followed traditional Hindu customs, took place at the residence of Akkineni Nagarjuna, Akhil’s father and veteran actor. The wedding was intentionally kept low-key to respect the couple’s preference for privacy, despite the buzz surrounding the Akkineni family. The intimate event saw the presence of select industry personalities, including megastar Chiranjeevi, actor Ram Charan, and filmmaker Prashanth Neel, among other close associates.

Zainab Ravdjee comes from a well-known and respected family. Her father, Zulfi Ravdjee, is a reputed figure in the construction industry. The union of these two prominent families has generated considerable attention, with wedding pictures now circulating widely on social media, earning admiration for their simplicity and elegance.

While the wedding itself was a quiet affair, celebrations are far from over. The Akkineni family is set to host a grand reception on June 8 at Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad. The guest list reportedly includes top names from the film fraternity, politics, business circles, and beyond, making it one of the most anticipated events of the season.



With this union, Akhil and Zainab have not only sealed their love story but also brought together two influential families. Fans and well-wishers across the country have flooded social media with blessings and congratulatory messages for the newlyweds.

Suriya’s Ambitious Film Vaadivaasal Reportedly Shelved After Long Delay

In a disappointing turn of events for Tamil cinema fans, the much-anticipated project *Vaadivaasal*, starring National Award-winning actor Suriya, is rumored to have been shelved. The ambitious period drama, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Vetrimaaran, has been in development for over three years, but recent buzz from Kollywood circles suggests that the film may no longer be moving forward.

Sources close to the production claim that the delay was primarily due to the unavailability of a completed bound script. Despite early preparations and multiple rounds of discussion, Vetrimaaran reportedly could not finalize the screenplay, prompting Suriya to step away from the project. The actor was expected to take on a dual role, portraying both a father and son in a storyline centered around Jallikattu, the traditional and culturally significant bull-taming sport of Tamil Nadu.

Initially touted to begin filming in the latter



half of 2025, with a grand release planned for Pongal 2026, *Vaadivaasal* had generated immense excitement. The collaboration between Suriya and Vetrimaaran was seen as a dream team by many, especially given their individual successes and passion for rooted, socially relevant stories.

The project also had the backing of some major industry names, including

veteran producer Kalaipuli S. Thanu and popular music composer GV Prakash Kumar, adding to its prestige. However, the apparent shelving of *Vaadivaasal* has triggered mixed reactions—ranging from disappointment among fans to speculation about whether the film could be revived in the future.

For now, it seems that *Vaadivaasal* will remain a missed opportunity in Tamil cinema, unless official confirmation offers a different update. Fans are still hopeful that the film might eventually see the light of day with the right creative momentum.

Deepika Padukone Reportedly Dropped from Kalki 2 After Exit from Spirit

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone, who recently embraced motherhood, is reportedly navigating a turbulent phase in her career. Following her alleged removal from Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s upcoming project *Spirit*, fresh reports indicate that she may now be dropped from *Kalki 2*, the much-anticipated sequel starring Prabhas.

According to a report by Bollywood.mobi, Deepika’s recent request for “shorter work hours” post-childbirth has reportedly led to friction on the

sets of *Kalki 2*. The makers are now said to be reconsidering her role in the film altogether, although no official confirmation has come from either the production team or the actress herself.

This comes on the heels of her reported fallout with the *Spirit* team, where disagreements over remuneration and allegations of “unprofessional behaviour” led to her exit. While neither Deepika nor the filmmakers have publicly addressed the issue, industry

insiders suggest that her changing priorities after motherhood may be contributing to the tension.

The *Kalki* franchise, with its massive scale and ensemble cast, is one of the most ambitious sci-fi epics in Indian cinema. The first part, *Kalki 2898 AD*, features Deepika Padukone in a key role alongside Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, and Kamal Haasan. Fans had anticipated her continued presence in the sequel, making the latest developments particularly surprising.

Despite the speculation, Deepika remains one of Bollywood’s most bankable stars. However, the current reports raise questions about how the industry accommodates actors’ personal transitions — particularly motherhood — and the balance between professional expectations and personal well-being.

As *Kalki 2* prepares to move forward, all eyes are now on the producers’ final decision and whether Deepika will be part of the sprawling sci-fi saga’s next chapter.

