

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C



## SIT Moves SC To Lift Stay On Prabhakar Rao's Arrest

- SIT team reaches Delhi to file petition in Supreme Court
- Seeks to revoke arrest stay on Prabhakar Rao before Aug 5
- Officials allege misleading responses, seek custodial interrogation

**TPN | V. Krishna Kumar**  
**Telangana:** In a significant development in the ongoing phone tapping case that has rocked Telangana, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is moving the Supreme Court to lift the stay on the arrest of former SIB (Special Intelligence Bureau) chief Prabhakar Rao. The SIT alleges that Rao, one of the primary accused in the case, is not cooperating with the investigation and is obstructing the process by providing inconsistent responses. A special SIT team, including West Zone DCP Vijay Kumar and ACP Venkatagiri, has reached Delhi to pursue the

legal process. The petition is expected to be filed before the Supreme Court on Thursday, requesting that the interim protection from arrest granted to Prabhakar Rao be revoked to allow custodial interrogation. So far, Prabhakar Rao has appeared before the SIT five times and has been questioned for a cumulative 40 hours. However, officials claim that each time, his statements have been contradictory and evasive. While Rao claims that the phone tapping was done based on orders from higher authorities, arrested officers in the case have told investigators that they acted on Rao's instructions directly. Citing these contradictions and the alleged attempts to mislead the probe, the SIT believes that custodial interrogation is essential to uncover the full extent of the surveillance operation, which reportedly targeted political leaders, journalists, and key individuals during the previous regime.

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# ED Set To Crack Down On Betting App Promoters

Celebrities under scanner as money laundering probe deepens

ED targets YouTubers, actors, and influencers in betting app case

Money trail traced through hawala and digital wallets

Public demand strict arrests, not just investigations



**TPN | V. Krishna Kumar**  
**Special Desk:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has stepped in to launch a full-scale crackdown on individuals involved in the promotion and operation of illegal betting apps. With several police investigations failing to yield concrete action beyond FIRs and media reports, enforcement officials are now taking the matter forward under the stringent Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Following investigations by Hyderabad and Cyberabad Commissionerates, where cases were registered against 11 YouTubers and digital content creators, the police actions largely fizzled out. Some of the accused even approached the High Court preemptively and avoided full questioning, raising concerns over the seriousness of local law enforcement. The ED, however, appears determined to follow the money. Officials have registered cases against multiple celebrities, YouTubers, and social media influencers for allegedly promoting illegal betting apps in exchange for crores in payments routed via hawala. The ED has issued

notices and initiated asset recovery proceedings, suspecting the earnings were concealed or diverted through digital wallets. Among the high-profile names being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the betting app money laundering case are several prominent actors, television personalities, and digital influencers. These include Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda, Manchu Lakshmi, Pranita Subash, and Nidhi Agarwal. Others under the ED's scanner are Ananya Nagalla, Siri Hanumanthu, Sreemukhi, Varshini Soundararajan, Vasanthi Krishnan, Shobha Shetty, Amrita Choudhary, Nayani Pavan, and Neha Pathan. The list further extends to Pandu, Padmavati, Imran Khan, Vishnu Priya, Harsha Sai, Bhaiya Sunny Yadav, Shyamala, Tasty Teja, Ritu Choudhary, and Bandaru Sesahayani Supreeta. In addition to these public figures, the ED has also named individuals who are directly linked to the administration and digital promotion of the betting apps.

These include Kiran Goud, believed to be one of the main app administrators. Social media influencers Ajay, Sunny, and Sudheer, as well as the team behind the YouTube channel 'Local Boy Nani', are also accused of playing key roles in promoting the apps to large online audiences. The investigation into these figures revolves around allegations of accepting large sums of money—often routed through hawala channels—for endorsing or promoting betting platforms, which are under scrutiny for illegal financial activities. Investigators have begun tracking financial trails linked to digital wallets, promotional payments, and app-related revenue. According to sources, the investigation was launched after the ED secured initial evidence of money laundering and undeclared earnings related to betting promotions. Recent incidents, including crimes linked to betting addiction—such as theft, domestic

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## KCR Re-Admitted To Yashoda Hospital

Former CM returns to hospital as per doctors' advice after a week's rest

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has once again been admitted to Yashoda Hospital in Hyderabad. He was re-admitted on Thursday to the Somajiguda branch of the hospital following the advice of doctors who had earlier treated him for health-related issues. KCR was previously admitted and treated for fluctuations in blood sugar and sodium levels. After undergoing treatment, he was discharged on the 5th of this month with a recommendation for complete rest for one week and a follow-up for further medical evaluation. As advised, KCR returned to the hospital after a week of rest, and doctors have now begun conducting a fresh round of tests to monitor his current condition. Sources indicate that the admission is precautionary in nature and part of a



planned medical follow-up. Hospital authorities have not issued an official health bulletin yet, but sources close to the family suggest that KCR's condition is stable and that the visit is routine. Party leaders and supporters have been advised not to gather at the hospital to avoid crowding. The BRS leader's health has been a subject of close attention following his recent discharge, and the party has scaled back his public engagements in line with medical advice.



## Is Revanth Reddy Haunted By Vastu?

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
MLC and Telangana Jagruti president Kalvakuntla Kavitha launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of succumbing to Vastu fears and avoiding the state Secretariat. She alleged that despite the government spending hundreds of crores on constructing a grand new Secretariat, the CM continues to conduct his official reviews and meetings at the Command Control Center in Banjara Hills. Kavitha questioned, "Why is Revanth Reddy not entering the Secretariat? Is it fear of architecture?" She pointed out that changes have already been made to the CM's chamber due to Vastu concerns — including shifting his office from the 6th to the 9th floor and altering the route of entry. Highlighting this, Kavitha remarked that when in

Kavitha Questions His Absence From Secretariat

Kavitha dares Revanth to hold debate on women's promises



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## HCA President Jaganmohan Rao Arrested for Forgery, Says CID

Former minister Krishna Yadav's signature found to be forged

Fresh complaint filed over alleged misuse of HCA funds



**TPN | V. Krishna Kumar**  
**Telangana:** In a shocking development that has rocked the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), its president Jaganmohan Rao has been arrested by the Crime Investigation Department (CID) for allegedly forging documents to secure his position. According to a statement released by the CID, Jaganmohan Rao manipulated records related to Sri Chakra Cricket Club and used fake credentials to contest and win the HCA presidential elections. The CID revealed that the forgery involved the use of a



# Govt Releases ₹33 Crore For Handloom Loan Waiver

• 5,691 handloom workers to benefit from loan waiver  
• Orders for govt textile requirements to be finalized by September

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Handlooms and Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has announced that the state government has released ₹33 crore towards the loan waiver scheme for handloom workers, benefiting nearly 5,691 individuals across the state. He directed officials to expedite the process of verification and ensure prompt deposit of funds into beneficiaries' accounts. The Minister held a high-level review meeting with officials from the Handlooms and Textiles Department in Hyderabad, where he assessed the ongoing welfare schemes aimed at supporting the handloom sector. He emphasized the need to finalize orders for textiles required by various government departments by September and ensure the timely distribution of already received orders. In a significant development, Minister Tummala announced that the Konda Lax-



man Bapuji Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) will be permanently relocated from Hyderabad to Pochampally in Yadadri district within a year. This move is intended to boost regional development and strengthen Telangana's handloom legacy. He also urged officials to enhance the performance of Tesco showrooms and accelerate the production of 'Mahila Shakti'

sarees, a key product under the state's empowerment initiatives for women weavers. Textiles Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramayyar confirmed that the ₹33 crore allocation for loan waivers is ready and will be disbursed following the completion of verification. She also shared that ₹9.70 crore has already been provided to families of 194 deceased handloom workers under the 'Netannaku Cheyutha' scheme. Recognizing excellence in the field, the Minister felicitated National Handloom Award recipients Gajam Narmada and Guda Pawan from Puttapaka village. Wrapping them in a ceremonial Tummala shawl, he praised their achievements and reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare and recognition of the handloom community. Tummala assured that his department will continue to work diligently to uplift the handloom sector, stating, "It is a matter of pride to see Telangana handlooms receive national acclaim. Our government stands firmly with every weaver and artisan in the state."

# CM Relief Fund Cheques Distributed in Rahamatnagar

Corporator CN Reddy Hands Over Cheques as Part of Basti Bata



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
As part of the Basti Bata programme, Jubilee Hills constituency Corporator CN Reddy visited the homes of several beneficiaries in the Rahamatnagar division and personally handed over cheques under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). During his visit, CN Reddy distributed CMRF cheques worth ₹47,500 to Hasina of Karmika Nagar, ₹35,500 to Mohammed Atiq of HF Nagar, ₹37,500 to Mohammed Sharif, and ₹50,000 to Sabera Begum of Rahamatnagar. Speaking on the occasion, Corporator CN Reddy stated that the Chief Minister's Relief Fund is proving to be a boon for the poor. He emphasized that the state government under CM Revanth Reddy is fully committed to ensuring the welfare and healthcare support of underprivileged communities. Local division leaders also participated in the programme.

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## ED Set To Crack Down On Betting App Promoters

violence, and even murder—have pushed the issue back into public focus. In one case, a youth allegedly killed his father after being confronted over his betting losses. Despite such serious incidents, critics argue that local police actions have been half-hearted. Now, with the ED taking over,

the public hopes for concrete action—demanding arrests and permanent bans on such apps instead of temporary headlines and inactive FIRs. The focus now shifts to how far the ED will go in tightening its grip on what is turning into one of the largest digital crime networks in recent times.

## HCA President Jaganmohan Rao Arrested for Forgery, Says CID

falsified signature of former minister C. Krishna Yadav. Kavitha, the president of Sri Chakra Cricket Club, who is also associated with Gowlipura Cricket Club, was allegedly involved in handing over forged documents to Jaganmohan Rao. These documents were then used as the basis for his nomination in the HCA elections. Along with Jaganmohan Rao, CID officials have arrested HCA Treasurer Srinivasa Rao, CEO Sunil, Rajender Yadav, and Kavitha. Officials stated that all five individuals played a role in the conspiracy that led to the fraudulent election of Rao as HCA president. The matter surfaced following a complaint by TCA (Telangana Cricket Association) President Guruva Reddy, who alleged mis-

use of funds in the functioning of the HCA. During the course of the investigation, the CID uncovered the forgery and linked the accused to both the fabrication of documents and alleged financial irregularities. CID officials stated that a separate complaint related to misappropriation of HCA funds has also been registered and is under investigation. The arrests are expected to open a wider probe into the governance of the cricketing body. This incident has raised serious questions about transparency and integrity in the administration of cricket in Telangana, with calls growing for a complete overhaul of HCA operations and leadership.

## SIT Moves SC To Lift Stay On Prabhakar Rao's Arrest

Currently, the Supreme Court has granted protection from arrest to Prabhakar Rao until August 5. The SIT now aims to have that order quashed to proceed with further action. Officials believe that taking Rao into custody may lead to revelations about who exactly authorized the surveillance

and how far the phone tapping network extended. This move marks an aggressive step forward by the SIT as it attempts to untangle the political and bureaucratic web behind the illegal surveillance operation, which has stirred widespread concern across the state.

## Is Revanth Reddy Haunted By Vastu?

opposition, Revanth Reddy ridiculed BRS and KCR for adhering to Vastu, but now he appears to be walking the same path. "He throws challenges in front of cameras but hasn't said Jai Telangana even once," she added, questioning his sincerity toward the state. Kavitha further dared the CM to hold a public discussion at the Police Command Control Center on Congress' unfulfilled promis-

es to women. "Let's talk about the Mahalaxmi scheme, financial support, and other assurances. If Congress is serious, they should be ready for a debate," she asserted. The absence of CM Revanth Reddy from the Secretariat has triggered a debate in political circles, with allegations gaining strength over his Vastu apprehensions despite being critical of such beliefs earlier.

# Mega Health Camp Held At NBT Nagar Basti Dawakhana

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

As per the directives of the Telangana State Government, a mega health camp was organized at the NBT Nagar Basti Dawakhana under the supervision of the Medical and Health Department to curb the spread of seasonal diseases in densely populated areas.



Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi formally inaugurated the camp and urged all residents of the basti to make full use of the medical services being offered. Speaking at

the event, the Mayor emphasized the government's commitment to public health and highlighted the need for preventive care during this monsoon season when seasonal illnesses tend

to rise. Doctors from various departments including general medicine, orthopedics, gynecology, and other specialties were made available at the camp to provide check-ups, advice, and necessary treatment for the attending residents. She encouraged people of all age groups to undergo health screening and use the free services provided under this initiative. The Mayor also praised the efforts of the Health Department in ensuring healthcare reaches every corner of the community.

# Raghunandan Rao demands quota for MPs in housing allotment

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BJP MP Raghunandan Rao has urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to allot a 40 percent quota to Members of Parliament in the selection of beneficiaries under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, a key initiative being implemented by the Telangana government. In a letter sent to the Chief Minister today, Raghunandan highlighted the need to include MPs in the decision-making process to ensure greater fairness and transparency. Raghunandan argued that like MLAs, MPs are also directly elected representatives of the people and should therefore have a say in identifying housing beneficiaries. He proposed that all 17 MPs from the state, irrespective of their political affiliations, be given the opportunity to participate in the process by reserving 40 percent of the total allotments for their recommendations. He stated in the letter, "The inclusion of MPs will not only



make the selection process more just but will also reinforce public trust in the implementation of the housing scheme." He emphasized that MPs are deeply connected with ground-level realities in their constituencies and are in a better position to identify deserving families. Raghunandan welcomed the integration of the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana funds with the state-run Indiramma scheme and lauded the government's efforts to provide housing for the poor. Reminding Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of his own tenure as an MP in the past, Raghunandan appealed for a favorable and swift response to his request. The BJP MP expressed hope that his proposal would be given due consideration and that the state government would work in a bipartisan spirit to uplift the underprivileged sections through more inclusive policymaking.

# Standing Committee Clears 16 Key Proposals in GHMC Meet

TPN | Srikanth Gurram

**Hyderabad:** The 5th Standing Committee meeting of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi at the Command Control Room in the GHMC headquarters. The committee approved 14 main items and two table items during the session. GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Additional Commissioners, Zonal Commissioners, and Standing Committee members including Bonthu Sridevi, Banothu Sujatha, Sameena Begum, Abdul Waheb, Parveen Sultana, Dr. Ayesha Humera, Mohammed Salim, C.N. Reddy and others participated in the meeting. Among the key approvals, the committee sanctioned a ₹5.6 crore project to strengthen the tank bund in Saroor-nagar and a ₹495 crore road widening project from Shastripuram ROB to the



Inner Ring Road. A ₹585 lakh perimeter wall construction in Gajularamaram and a ₹11.43 crore breakfast scheme through HKM Charitable Foundation were also approved. Further, the committee agreed to delegate certain administrative powers from the GHMC Commissioner to Additional Commissioners and Zonal Officials for improved efficiency in processing permits and approvals under the GHMC and TSB-PASS Acts. The two table items included revised

administrative sanction of ₹27.5 crore for Phase-II works at Ko-e-Maulali Dargah and permission to call tenders for a five-year maintenance license for 23 Foot Over Bridges at ₹13.59 crore per annum. Additionally, GHMC will provide support to sports infrastructure, crematorium maintenance, and food schemes while ensuring administrative decentralization for faster civic service delivery.



# TPCC Chief Slams Centre at Makhdoom Bhavan Event

- Mahesh Kumar Goud praises CPI leader Makhdoom’s legacy
- Criticizes Operation Kagar and Centre’s policies
- Calls for unity to protect democracy and secularism

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud participated in the re-opening ceremony of CPI’s historic headquarters, Makhdoom Bhavan, in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, he recalled the legacy of Makhdoom Mohiuddin, highlighting his contributions to literature, acting, and revolutionary struggles. “Makhdoom, born on Telugu soil, was not only a poet but also a passionate activist who led the armed struggle with Baddam Yella Reddy and Venkat

Reddy. His connection with Singareni workers was unmatched,” said Mahesh Kumar Goud. He also praised Makhdoom’s work in translating George Bernard Shaw’s plays into Urdu and remembered how Congress leaders had laid the foundation stone for the office back in 1974, emphasizing the historic ties between Congress and Communists. He launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government, saying, “Fascist rule is prevailing in the country. Operation Kagar is nothing but a

massacre, where even women and children were not spared. The Centre is trying to loot forest and mineral wealth in the name of security operations.” Goud added that democratic voices are being labeled as urban Naxals and traitors. “If we talk about secularism, we are targeted. Even educated people are now misusing Hindutva to gain political mileage,” he said. He also took aim at the Prime Minister over job losses and privatization. “He promised 2 crore jobs but is now



shutting down public sector units,” he stated. Goud expressed concern over the Election Commission’s role in recent developments, particularly in Bihar, calling the elimination of votes an anti-democratic move. “BJP

has weakened constitutional institutions, and even though honest people exist within the Election Commission, they are being pressured,” he said, urging all secular forces to unite and protect democracy.

## KTR Slams Govt Over Adulterated Toddy Tragedy, Seeks ₹20 Lakh Aid

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao reacted strongly to the adulterated toddy tragedy in Kukatpally, calling the incident extremely distressing. He demanded immediate intervention and accountability from the Congress-led state government. KTR urged the government to grant ₹20 lakh financial assistance to the families of those who lost their lives due to consumption of the adulterated toddy. He also appealed for better medical treatment for those who are still undergoing care at hospitals and called for strict preventive measures to avoid such incidents in the future. Criticizing the Congress government on the social media platform ‘X’, KTR said the state is being run like a “bulldozer regime” un-



der the banner of Indiramma Rajyam. He alleged that the promises made to the people were being ignored, and instead, the government is using its power in an oppressive manner. He questioned the fate of several key promises made by Congress before the elections, such as ₹4000 pen-

sions for the poor, the Mahalaxmi scheme, farmer loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, and electric scooters for girl students. “People voted for six guarantees, not for bulldozers,” he stated. KTR concluded his statement with a strong message to the people: “Jago Telangana Jago.”

## 42% BC Quota in Local Bodies Approved

Revanth Govt Fulfils Kamareddy Declaration, Says Minister Ponnam

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
Telangana BC Welfare and Civil Supplies Minister Ponnam Prabhakar announced that the Congress-led Praja Das government has approved 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. Speaking at a media conference held at the Secretariat’s G29 hall, the minister hailed it as a historic step in line with the Kamareddy Declaration and the vision of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Ponnam stated that the Revanth Reddy government enacted a new law under Acts 3 and 4, granting 42% reservation to BCs across politics, education, and employment. This followed the completion of a caste census survey initiated on February 4, 2024. The final report was submitted exactly one year later, on February 4, 2025, and the law has already been sent to the President for approval via the Governor. “The 19th cabinet meeting of the Praja Das government took a historic decision to ensure social justice for BCs by increasing their reservation to 42% in local bodies. This aligns with Rahul



Gandhi’s vision, as emphasized during the Bharat Jodo Yatra,” he said. The minister urged other parties to go beyond verbal support and help implement the reservation law effectively. He said the Telangana Congress government has set a national example by conducting an empirical caste census and using that data to legislate for increased representation. He cited court rulings that allow reservation adjustments based on local conditions and emphasized that the new quota was framed accordingly. “We have used that provision to address the genuine concerns of BC communities,” Ponnam said. Highlighting broader developmental goals, Ponnam recalled that Telangana was formed for

“jobs, water, and funds” and said that the government is delivering on that promise. He mentioned that over 60,000 government jobs have already been filled, and another 17,000 will be taken up soon through a new job calendar, with a total target of one lakh jobs by March. An officers’ committee will soon be formed to address various issues raised by state government employees, and their grievances will be resolved swiftly and transparently, he added. Ponnam concluded by reaffirming that the Congress government is not only committed to implementing social justice but also institutionalizing it to empower backward communities across Telangana through legal and policy frameworks.

## Two MLAs In Palakurthi? Congress Leader Slams Jhansi Reddy

**TPN Correspondent | Palakurthi**  
A major rift has surfaced within the Palakurthi Congress, with Market Committee Chairman and senior leader Hanumandla Tirupati Reddy launching a scathing attack on party in-charge Jhansi Reddy. In a surprising outburst, Tirupati Reddy alleged that Jhansi Reddy is overstepping her role and obstructing MLA Yashaswini Reddy from performing her duties. Tirupati Reddy remarked that people in the constituency are now openly saying there are “two MLAs” in Palakurthi, thanks to Jhansi Reddy’s growing dominance. “Despite her genuine desire to serve the people, MLA Yashaswini Reddy is not being allowed to function independently. Every initiative she takes is being



interfered with,” he said. He expressed disappointment that several loyal Congress workers who put in immense effort for the party’s success in the elections have now been pushed aside. “Ironically, those who worked against us during the elections are now being given key positions and access. This is deeply demoralizing,” Tirupati Reddy added. In a shocking revelation, he said he was the one who invited Jhansi Reddy back

from the United States to enter politics. “I asked her to join for the good of the party. But once she gained power, her behavior changed completely. I’ve urged her multiple times to change course, but she simply doesn’t listen,” he stated. These public accusations highlight the growing factionalism within the Congress unit in Palakurthi, raising concerns over party unity and governance in the constituency.

## Congress Fulfilling Promises with Public-Centric Governance

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Bellampalli MLA Gaddam Vinod Kumar has praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and TPCC President MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud for their commitment to public service through continuous engagement with citizens. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, the MLA said the Congress government, under the leadership of Revanth Reddy, is actively addressing public grievances and fulfilling its promises through direct interaction with officials and stakeholders. “Following the instructions of TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud

garu, our Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is participating in public representatives’ interaction programs every day. Special thanks to both for making public service a daily mission,” Vinod Kumar said. He stressed that the Congress party has always prioritized people’s issues and is now delivering on its promises through governance focused on welfare and resolution. “Public welfare is at the core of our administration. Every complaint is being addressed with the help of concerned departments,” he said. Highlighting the government’s commitment to transparency, he

noted that CM Revanth Reddy and Minister Utam Kumar Reddy have explained key facts related to Kaleshwaram and Krishna river water issues at Praja Bhavan, ensuring public awareness on important matters. In terms of constituency development, Vinod Kumar credited the Congress government and CM Revanth Reddy for taking up major road projects. “We have laid the road to Ugga Temple in Bellampalli and sanctioned ₹30 crore for roads in Nennel Mandal – something that hasn’t happened before,” he said. He added that special plans are underway for Kazipet

Mandal’s development and that Bellampalli Municipality has also placed a request for additional funds with the CM. He also brought attention to delays in constituency development due to lack of cooperation from the Forest Department. “I appeal to Minister Konda Surekha to intervene and ensure forest land issues are resolved for the benefit of the people, especially in dryland development,” he concluded. Vinod Kumar reiterated that Congress leaders at every level are focused on delivering public services with sincerity and commitment.

## Jagga Reddy Focuses On Inclusive Committees In Hyderabad Congress

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy chaired a crucial meeting at Gandhi Bhavan to review the Hyderabad district-level party structure and move towards reorganizing party committees with inclusivity and grassroots focus. He said that the meeting included detailed discussions on the Hyderabad district party committees, which span 15 Assembly constituencies and 2 Parliamen-

mentary segments. Speaking to the media, Jagga Reddy revealed that inputs were taken from sitting MLAs, MPs, DCC presidents, senior leaders, and those who contested elections. “We have collected the names proposed by the key leaders from each segment,” he said. He stressed that representation from all communities will be a top priority. “We suggested giving importance to BC, SC, ST, minority communities,

women, and all castes in the formation of the new committees. Social justice and representation will be key,” Jagga Reddy stated. Jagga Reddy further explained that loyalty to the party will play a major role in the selection process. “Those who have been with the Congress since the beginning will be given first priority, and those who joined the party later will be considered next. We are committed to fairness and rewarding party loyalists,”

he said. He announced that a meeting with observers and parliamentary constituency in-charges from three districts is scheduled for tomorrow to further consolidate decisions. “Once the list is finalized and approved by the TPCC Chief and in-charge, we will begin divisional-level meetings to strengthen the organization at the ground level,” he said. Jagga Reddy concluded by emphasizing that the party will move forward with coordina-



tion and consensus among all levels of leadership to build a

stronger Congress in Hyderabad.



# Narmada Wins National Handloom Award

Recognition for empowering 300 weaver families  
Narmada of Puttapaka to receive award from President Murmu

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar  
**Hyderabad:** Narmada, a skilled handloom entrepreneur from Puttapaka village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, has been selected for the prestigious National Handloom Award 2024 in the Marketing category by the Government of India. She will receive the award from President Droupadi Murmu, marking a proud moment for the Telangana handloom community. Narmada and her husband Narendra run Narendra Handlooms in Kothapet, Hyderabad. Since establishing the business in 2023, they have grown significantly — today, they operate 300 looms and employ 300 handloom families, primarily in the Nalgonda district and Puttapaka. Their dedication to the craft has resulted in sales worth ₹8 crore, a remarkable achievement for a venture that began with an initial invest-



ment of just ₹1 lakh. Speaking about the recognition, Narmada said, “Being selected for this national award is a reward for our hard work and our commitment to preserving the ancient handloom profession.” She also recalled the proud moment on March 17, when she

placed handwoven cloth before the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Narendra emphasized their commitment to innovation, saying they regularly create sarees with natural dyes, tailored to evolving customer preferences. He also highlighted the role

of their late father, whose guidance and inspiration helped them reach this level. “If women are encouraged, they can succeed in any field,” Narendra said, expressing pride in Narmada’s recognition. Currently operating in 10 Indian states, the couple plans to expand further and offer employment to even more handloom artisans. They also appealed to the Telangana state government to provide design inputs from time to time, which they said would help artisans stay competitive. Both Narmada and Narendra expressed heartfelt gratitude to the central government for the honour and acknowledged the many struggles behind their success. “This award has increased our responsibility. We will continue to uplift handloom families and promote the tradition across the country,” they said.

# Fire In DPS Bus: Major Mishap Averted

Students rescued safely, locals allege transport officials' negligence

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A major tragedy was narrowly averted on Thursday morning after a Delhi Public School (DPS) bus caught fire at Kalyani Estates in Krishna Reddypet, under Aminpur Municipality limits. The incident occurred while students were boarding the bus. Fortunately, all five children on board were safely evacuated before the fire spread. According to eyewitnesses, smoke and sparks began to appear from beneath the bus as it stood waiting for students. A watchman nearby noticed the signs and immediately alerted the driver. Acting swiftly, the driver safely evacuated all students from the bus. Fire department officials arrived quickly and extinguished the flames, but the bus had already sustained partial damage.



The bus is reportedly owned by the Patancheru branch of Delhi Public School. While no injuries were reported, the incident has sparked serious concern among parents and residents. Following the incident, locals strongly crit-

icized the Regional Transport Office (RTO), blaming its negligence for such incidents. They allege that routine fitness checks on school vehicles are either not being conducted properly or are being overlooked altogether. “DPS is known for its high standards, yet this fire accident raises alarming questions. Authorities must take children’s safety seriously. Strict implementation of vehicle fitness checks is essential,” demanded concerned citizens. The incident has once again underscored the urgent need for mandatory and timely fitness checks of school buses. Parents and residents are now calling for accountability from both the school administration and the transport authorities to prevent similar accidents in the future.



# Two Arrested for Robbing Elderly Woman

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Two individuals involved in cash robbery using children’s fake currency notes were apprehended by the Commissioner’s Task Force, South West Zone, along with Mangalhat Police. The accused, Syed Waseemuddin (34) from Yakutpura and Mohd Azam Ali alias Imran (34) from Vattapally, were caught after duping elderly women in the Mangalhat and Asif Nagar police station limits. Police recovered ₹20,000 in cash and a passenger auto worth a total of ₹1.2 lakh from them. The duo, both auto drivers, reportedly became friends in the city’s auto lane and con-

spired to make quick money due to their alcohol and smoking addictions. They bought fake ₹500 children’s play notes from a shop in Charminar and began targeting elderly women. One of their victims was a woman who had just withdrawn cash from an SBI branch. They offered her a lift, forcibly took her handbag, and swapped her real money with dummy notes. Two cases have been registered — Cr.No. 246/2025 at Mangalhat and Cr.No. 153/2025 at Asif Nagar — under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The arrests were made under the supervision of Inspector G. Santosh Kumar and Addl. Inspector P. Mahendar.

# Daughter, Mother, And Lover Kill Father, Dump Body In Pond



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a shocking case that has sent shockwaves across Telangana, a woman, along with her mother and boyfriend, brutally murdered her father and dumped his body in a pond. The incident, which initially appeared to be a suspicious death, was uncovered by Ghatkesar police following detailed investigation and CCTV analysis. The deceased, Vadluri Lingam, a security guard living in Muggula Basti, Kavadi Guda, Hyderabad, worked in an apartment in the Old City. His wife Sarada is employed as a GHMC sweeper. The couple had two daughters. Their elder daughter Manisha, who was married, had reportedly separated from her husband due to an extramarital affair with one Mohammed Javed, a friend of her husband. Unable to accept his daughter’s actions, Lingam had reportedly warned her several times and also began suspecting his wife of having an affair. Frustrated by his interference, Manisha conspired with her mother Sarada and boyfriend Javed to eliminate him. According to police, on July 5, Sarada mixed sleeping pills in toddy and gave it to Lingam. Once he fell unconscious, Manisha, Javed, and Sarada suffocated him to death. Shockingly, after the murder, Manisha went to a second show movie with her boyfriend to divert suspicion. Later that night, they booked a cab to Edulabad, convinced the driver that Lingam was asleep, and dumped his body in a pond. The incident came to light when Lingam’s body was found in the Edulabad pond on July 7, bearing injuries. Manisha had already filed a missing person’s report to mislead the investigation. However, police, suspecting foul play, scanned CCTV footage near the pond and unraveled the chilling murder plot. All three accused — Manisha, Sarada, and Javed — have been arrested and produced before court, which has remanded them to judicial custody. The case has raised serious concerns about rising domestic crime and the misuse of personal relationships for violent ends.

# Woman Ends Life After Falling Prey To Online Betting

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A tragic case of cyber fraud and betting addiction has come to light in Hyderabad, where a young woman took her own life after reportedly falling victim to an online scam. The incident occurred under the KPHB police station limits and has raised alarm over the growing impact of betting apps and cyber traps on vulnerable individuals. The deceased, identified as Anusha, was a native of Andhra Pradesh and had been living in Tulsi Nagar, KPHB, with her husband Venkanna Babu. The couple had been married for five years. According to police, Anusha came across a work-from-home offer on the Telegram messaging platform. Believing it to be a genuine opportunity, she initially paid ₹1,000 as part of a registration process. However, she was later lured into betting activities under the guise of completing online tasks, leading to mounting financial losses. Over time, Anusha lost close to ₹1 lakh in the scam and even sold gold ornaments from her home to cover further losses. Police say she developed a betting habit and grew increasingly anxious about her situation. Fearing humiliation and reprimand from her family, she took the extreme step. The KPHB police registered a case and shifted the body to Gandhi Mortuary, where a postmortem was conducted. The body has since been handed over to her family. Officials have urged the public, especially homemakers and unemployed individuals, to exercise caution when dealing with online job offers, particularly those circulated via social media and messaging platforms like Telegram and WhatsApp. The incident has once again highlighted the darker side of unchecked cyber fraud and online betting schemes spreading across the state.



# Serial Burglar Arrested, Gold Worth ₹31 Lakh Recovered

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A habitual night-time house burglar has been apprehended by the Commissioner’s Task Force, South West Zone, in coordination with LB Nagar Police of the Rachakonda Commissionerate. The accused, identified as Jaganatham Prabhu, 33, a mason residing in Upparpally, has been linked to multiple thefts across LB Nagar, Uppal, and Mailardevpally police limits. Authorities seized 31.456 tulas of gold ornaments, valued at ₹31 lakh, from his possession. Originally from Vaddepally, Nizamabad district, Prabhu has a long criminal history involving break-ins and gold thefts across Cyberabad. Despite a previous arrest by Narsingi police and a recent release on bail in May 2025, he resumed his criminal activities without change. He committed several thefts by breaking into homes at night and stealing cash and gold. Cases have been registered against him in LB Nagar, Uppal, and Mailardevpally under various sections of the BNS. He was earlier involved in theft cases dating back to 2013, including at Rajendranagar, Shamirpet, Narsingi, and Bhadrupura. The arrest was made under the supervision of South West Zone Task Force Inspector G. Santosh Kumar and LB Nagar Inspector K. Vinod Kumar, along with their teams.





# Eagle Special Focus On Malnadu Kitchen Drugs

Several doctors in the city were supplied with drugs from here  
Confirmed to have been supplied from Goa  
Evidence that kitchen owner Surya is running drugs internationally

**TPN | V. Krishna Kumar**  
**Special Desk:** The Eagle team has intensified its investigation into the sensational Malnadu Kitchen drug case that has rocked Hyderabad. Special teams have been deployed exclusively to crack the case. A list of drug-addicted customers is currently being compiled. Officials are digging deep into how the drugs reached Malnadu Kitchen, where they were sent from, and who all are in-

involved. In a startling revelation, the Eagle team found that drugs from Malnadu Kitchen were supplied to several doctors across the city. The kitchen's owner, Surya, allegedly sourced cocaine and MDMA from a Nigerian national named Nick based in Goa. The contraband was then transported via courier services to Malnadu Kitchen, from where it was distributed to pubs and high-profile

individuals. The investigation has unearthed that Surya is not just a restaurant owner but is allegedly operating an international drug network. Evidence suggests that drug supplies were processed on an order-by-order basis. So far, drugs have reportedly been sent to 20 pubs in Hyderabad and several restaurants, with door-to-door deliveries made to many celebrities.

The Eagle team has discovered that some city doctors are among those receiving drugs. Shockingly, a cash transfer of ₹1.8 lakh was made under the guise of “hospital treatment” for drug-related payments. During the raids, officials seized cocaine, ecstasy pills, and OG Kush oil that were concealed in the heels of women's sandals. It has been confirmed that Surya supplied drugs to at least 15 doctors in Hyderabad



via courier networks. Investigators have also found that Surya held drug parties along with three pub owners. Notices are now being prepared for these pub owners, who will be summoned for questioning next week. The scope of the investigation is rapidly expanding, and more shocking details are expected to emerge in the coming days.

## Protest Over Unfinished 2BHK Houses In Lenin Nagar

Beneficiaries occupy incomplete homes, allege delay and injustice



**TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy**  
Tension is mounting in Lenin Nagar of Meerpeta Corporation under Maheshwaram constituency, where several beneficiaries have forcefully occupied incomplete double bedroom houses, demanding immediate allotment. The protest erupted in survey number 119, where construction has been pending for the past seven years. The beneficiaries, who were promised homes during the previous government's tenure, claim they were forced to vacate their huts years ago on assurances that they would be given 2BHK homes under the state housing scheme. With the project still incomplete, frustration has turned into occupation and protest. “We were told our huts would be removed and replaced with houses. But seven years have passed, and they are still lying to us. We won't leave from here until our houses are allotted,” said one of the agitating victims, who along with others, has entered the unfinished buildings and is staging a sit-in. Amidst the ongoing agitation, fresh allegations have emerged

from local landowners and other nearby beneficiaries, claiming that some individuals who illegally entered the houses have paid money to unknown parties in exchange for allotment. They argue that such actions are unjust and rob genuine locals of



their rightful homes. Residents are now demanding a transparent inquiry into the delay, alleged corruption, and irregular allotments. They have urged the government to intervene and complete the construction swiftly, ensuring justice to all rightful beneficiaries. With tensions simmering, the issue has brought renewed focus on the long-stalled double bedroom housing promises made to economically weaker sections under the previous regime.

## Dhammakka Seva Yatra Held at Bhadrachalam Temple

**TPN | Anvesh Reddy**  
**Bhadrachalam:** On the occasion of Ashada Pournami, a sacred Dhammakka Seva Yatra was conducted with religious fervor at the Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy temple in Bhadrachalam, located in Kothagudem district. The event was held in honor of Pokala Dhammakka, the tribal devotee credited with discovering the deity's idol centuries ago. Temple priests and officials led the rituals in the presence of Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy's idol and an idol of Dhammakka, marking her

devotion and contribution to the temple's legacy. Dhammakka, a tribal woman, had found the idol of Lord Rama in a nearby hillock and began performing pujas, which laid the foundation for the revered temple that stands today. Since 2014, the temple has organized the Dhammakka Seva Yatra annually, drawing tribal devotees from surrounding hamlets. This year's procession included offerings of forest produce, fruits, and flowers, accompanied by Vedic chanting and traditional musical instruments. The yatra took place



with the participation of temple priests, staff, and tribal elders. Later, all participants gathered at the Bada Mandapam for the Lord's daily ceremonial service, making the Ashada Pournami celebrations spiritually vibrant and culturally rooted.

## MLA Kavvampally Offers Prayers on Guru Pournami

Special pujas performed at Sai Baba temple in Gangipalli

**TPN Correspondent | Manakondur**  
Manakondur MLA Dr. Kavvampally Satyanarayana performed special pujas at the Sai Baba temple in Gangipalli village on Thursday, marking the auspicious occasion of Guru Pournami. The MLA was warmly welcomed with a Poornakumbha by the temple trustees and priests upon arrival. During the visit, the temple priests offered tirtha and prasada to the MLA and blessed him after the rituals. The event drew attention from local leaders and devotees, who gathered to witness the spiritual observance. MLA Kavvampally was accompanied by Manakondur Mandal Congress President Nandagiri Ravindrachary, Market Committee Chairman Marri Odela Yadav, Vice Chairman Ramidi Tirumal Reddy, and several key Congress party leaders and supporters. Among those present were Tal-



lapalli Sampath Goud, Vala Anjith Rao, Muddasani Srinivas Reddy, Dyava Srinivas Reddy, Ramidi Srinivas Reddy, Cheliganti Sampath, Mukkera Satish Kumar, M Ramakrishna, Kondra Suresh, Madupu Prem Kumar, Irfan, Matangi Sahadev, Anjaiah, Kanakam Kumar, Gollena Komuriah, Kumbham Chiranjeevi, Bakarapu Ramesh, Sunil, Gattu Sridhar, Mahender Goud, Ravula Ravigoud, Ramana, and others. The visit highlighted the MLA's connection with the community and his commitment to preserving religious and cultural traditions in the region.

## Gurus Honoured on Guru Purnima by BJP SC Morcha Leader S Kumar

**TPN Correspondent | Peddapalli**  
On the occasion of Guru Purnima, BJP SC Morcha National Secretary S Kumar felicitated teachers and coaches from various sports and arts disciplines at the GM Colony Sports Ground in Godavarikhani town on Thursday. The event recognized the invaluable service of mentors who have been shaping talent across the coal belt region for decades. Speaking at the event, S Kumar said it was a privilege to honour the teachers who have contributed immensely to building a strong generation of sportspersons and artists. “The coal belt region is known for its excellence in arts and sports, and behind every successful athlete or performer, there is a dedicated teacher,” he said. He highlighted that thousands of students trained by these teachers have excelled in their fields and secured jobs in police, CISF, CRPF, and various government departments due to their achievements in sports. The event was attended by BJP SC Morcha General Secretary Kasipet Shivaji, BJP Janagama Mandal President G Bhumaiah, senior leaders Mahavadi Ramanana, Janahita Srinu, E Upender, Srinath, Vishwanath, Tadagonda Narsay, S Harish, Kallepalli Srinivas, Biyala Mahender, Medagoni Ravi, Raju, Chandrasekhar, and many local players. **Cricketer Coach – Kiran Kumar Yadav:** Started his cricket journey in 1975, represented Nizam College and Karimnagar U-19, and founded Godavari Blues Cricket Club in 2002. He has provided continuous cricket training for over 23 years and trained more than 3,000 youth.

**Kung Fu Masters – M Rajesham and Disciples:** Rajesham has trained over 40,000 people in Kung Fu over the last 40 years. His students – G Narayana, K Raswamy, K Ramulu, and Mujahid – have also become well-known masters and trainers.

**Fitness Trainers – Radium Srinivas and Narsing:** Honoured for their 25 years of service in training Singareni workers and youth in physical fitness.

**Dance Master – Gauri Shankar:** With 30 years of dedication to dance, Gauri Shankar has trained hundreds of dancers, including participants of state-level programs, TV shows like Dance Baby Dance, and even Telugu film industry personalities. Notably, Bigg Boss fame Sohail is his student. His achievements also include an entry in the Limca Book of Records. Despite coming from a modest background, he continues to inspire and train youth with passion. The felicitation program stood as a tribute to these unsung heroes who have been the backbone of local talent development for decades.



## Eatala Honours Toppers At Guru Puja Event In Antvelli

**TPN Correspondent | Medchal**  
BJP MP Eatala Rajender attended a special event organized at the Antvelli Zilla Parishad School in Medchal constituency on the occasion of Guru Puja. The event celebrated academic excellence, with the school's Class 10 toppers and their parents being felicitated. Speaking at the gathering, Eatala congratulated the students, particularly highlighting that 14 students secured first division and the school's top performer scored 534 marks in the recently released SSC results. He expressed his joy at witnessing students honouring their parents by washing their feet, symbolizing gratitude and reverence.

Eatala emphasized that a child's first teachers are their parents—first the mother, then the father—and next the school teacher, who imparts knowledge. “Gurus are those who dispel darkness and bring light,” he said. He cautioned against blindly following Western culture, praising India's joint family system. “Grandparents once taught children respect and values. Their absence today is having a negative impact,” he noted. Stressing that poverty should not be seen as a curse, Eatala recalled his own childhood, saying, “I studied in a social welfare hostel. That's why I launched a programme to ensure every hostel student receives a proper rice



meal.” He remarked that students from poor backgrounds, when given proper education, become more empathetic administrators. “They understand the people's struggles better than convent-educated elites,” he said. The MP called on teachers to go

beyond academics and teach students the importance of human values and social responsibility. Senior BJP leaders including Nanda Reddy, District Incharge Sudarshan Reddy, Municipal President Shailaja Hari, Jagan Goud, and others participated in the programme.



# How the Taliban Has Become a Pawn in the India-Pakistan Strategic Rivalry

Afghanistan, long a focal point of geopolitical rivalry, has once again emerged as a critical theatre in the ongoing power play between India and Pakistan. The Taliban's return to power in 2021 has only sharpened the strategic contest, with both nations leveraging diplomatic and security tools to assert their influence over Kabul, albeit through very different approaches. India's recent abstention at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on a resolution urging political inclusion and human rights reforms in Afghanistan reflects its cautious, pragmatic stance. India's UN envoy Parvathaneeni Harish explained the move as a rejection of symbolic gestures, emphasizing the need for tangible efforts to combat terrorism in the region. India's approach remains focused on maintaining a degree of diplomatic engagement, providing humanitarian assistance, and quietly building influence—particularly through trade infrastructure like the Chabahar Port and regional energy projects such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline. Meanwhile, Pakistan continues to walk a tightrope. Despite its accusations that the Taliban are sheltering anti-Pakistan militant outfits like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Islamabad maintains high-level diplomatic



ties with the Taliban regime. This dual strategy, marked by engagement on one hand and denial of responsibility

on the other, allows Pakistan to sustain influence while deflecting international scrutiny. A recent comment by Bilawal Bhutto, suggesting that JeM

chief Masood Azhar may be hiding in Afghanistan and that Pakistan lacks the capacity to act alone, reflects Islamabad's strategy of plausible deni-

ability. Afghanistan's strategic location and resources add further stakes. It serves as a gateway to Central Asia and is rich in minerals and energy transit potential. The control of upstream river systems also makes Afghanistan crucial to Pakistan's water security, while India views these dynamics as potential leverage in the future. The presence of radical groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Afghanistan adds a dangerous layer. Historically linked to the Taliban, these groups ran training camps and aided insurgencies in Kashmir. A 2022 UN report indicated JeM had eight training facilities in Nangarhar, while LeT maintained camps in both Nangarhar and Kunar provinces. India remains concerned that a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan could again become a launchpad for cross-border terrorism. For India, the challenge lies in balancing pragmatic diplomacy with security concerns, while ensuring the Taliban doesn't become a tool for proxy terror used by Pakistan. Sustained international pressure through platforms like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and strategic alignment with global allies remain essential to countering this evolving threat.



## Xi Jinping's Absence: A Familiar Silence, Not a Crisis

Speculation surrounding Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent disappearance from the public eye—from May 21 to June 5—has once again captured global media attention. His decision to skip the BRICS summit has only added fuel to the fire, with some commentators questioning the stability of his leadership and even suggesting political turmoil within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). However, history suggests such speculation is not only premature but also often misplaced. This isn't the first time Xi has vanished from public view and triggered global curiosity. In fact, similar instances have occurred in the past. In 2012, a year before Xi officially became President, his unexplained absence led to intense speculation, though it was later attributed to a minor injury. Again, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Xi remained out of public view for extended periods, prompting rumors that ultimately proved unfounded. One reason such rumors thrive is the inherent opacity of the Chinese political system. The CCP guards information about its top leadership closely. Public appearances and state announcements are tightly choreographed, and deviations from routine are rarely explained. In this environment, any prolonged absence by a senior leader, especially someone as central as Xi Jinping, naturally attracts attention.

That said, there is no concrete evidence pointing to political instability or leadership challenges. The most likely explanation remains the simplest one: a personal health issue or a routine medical check-up. In China's political culture, especially under Xi, public disclosure of health matters is seen as a sign of weakness and a potential threat to political continuity. Leaders have traditionally avoided revealing such information to prevent creating uncertainty within the Party and among the population. Moreover, Xi remains firmly entrenched in power. Having secured an unprecedented third term in 2022, he has consolidated control over the Party, the military, and the state. There is little to suggest any organized pushback against his leadership. The Chinese system is not designed to allow easy or public dissent at the highest levels, and no visible signs of unrest or elite infighting have emerged. Ultimately, Xi Jinping's temporary absence is neither extraordinary nor necessarily alarming. It reflects the opaque, carefully managed nature of Chinese governance rather than any immediate political crisis. While the global media may continue to speculate, seasoned observers of Chinese politics know that silence, in this context, often says less than it seems.

## 70 Years of Nationalisation: Lessons from SBI, LIC, and Air India

Nearly seven decades ago, the Indian government under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru undertook a major shift in economic policy by nationalising three key service sector entities — State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), and Air India. As SBI celebrates the 70th anniversary of its nationalisation in 2025, and LIC approaches the same milestone in 2026, the divergent paths these entities have taken reflect how successive governments have balanced public ownership, profitability, and strategic importance. All three were rooted in the services sector — aviation, banking, and insurance — industries that directly touch the lives of citizens. Nehru's decision to nationalise was based not on industrial dominance, but on the ability of these sectors to influence economic and social outcomes. Unlike his daughter Indira Gandhi, who later expanded nationalisation into industrial sectors like coal and textiles, Nehru focused on essential services. SBI, formed from the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank of India in 1955, has become the country's largest and most resilient commercial bank. Its role has extended beyond traditional banking. From supporting the government during the 1962 war with China, to raising billions of dollars during the 1991 balance of payments crisis, and leading financial inclusion efforts through Jan Dhan accounts, SBI has acted as a strategic financial arm of the state. Despite concerns over governance — particularly around the government's dominant role in appointing top leadership — there is little momentum toward privatising or significantly disinvesting from SBI, given its strategic value and profitability. LIC, nationalised in 1956, has been a pillar of

India's life insurance market. With over 57% market share in first-year premium income, it continues to outperform all private insurers combined. The government listed LIC on the stock market in 2022, offloading a 3.5% stake, with potential to reduce its ownership to just above 50%. However, further disinvestment remains unlikely in the near term, as LIC is both profitable and essential to the government's economic strategy. Like SBI, LIC has often been used to stabilise markets and execute large financial operations at the government's request. Air India, in contrast, tells a different story. Originally launched by the Tata Group in 1932 and nationalised in 1953, the airline suffered from chronic inefficiency and financial losses, especially after the aviation sector opened to private players in 1994. A poorly managed merger with Indian Airlines in 2007 worsened its finances. After years of mounting losses and failed turnaround attempts, the government finally privatised Air India in 2022, returning it to the Tata Group. Though the airline's revival has faced turbulence, the government is no longer burdened with its losses — a key success of the divestment policy. The experience of these three entities underlines a core principle of India's public sector policy: enterprises retained under government ownership must be financially sound, strategically relevant, and non-dependent on taxpayer bailouts. The 2021 public sector policy reaffirmed this logic — strategic assets like SBI and LIC should remain in public hands, while others, like Air India, can be better managed in the private sector. The nationalisation journeys of SBI, LIC, and Air India offer valuable lessons on when the state should own, support, or step away from running businesses.





# Pawan Kalyan Congratulates PM Modi on Receiving Top Civilian Honours from Brazil, Ghana, Namibia

TPN | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has extended heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for receiving the highest civilian honours from Brazil, Ghana, and Namibia during his recent five-nation diplomatic tour. This prestigious recognition has raised the total number of international awards conferred upon the Indian Prime Minister to 27 — a feat hailed as a moment of pride for the entire nation.

In a message shared on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Pawan Kalyan praised Mr. Modi's exceptional leadership and global statesmanship. "This rare achievement stands as a proud moment for every Indian and a testament to the Prime Minister's exemplary statesmanship and diplomatic skills," he wrote.

Pawan Kalyan highlighted that since assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has significantly elevated India's global stature. Under his leadership, India has strengthened bilateral ties and established strategic relationships with countries across continents, including both global powers and smaller developing nations.

The honours bestowed upon PM Modi by Brazil, Ghana, and Namibia are symbols of deep respect and recognition for his consistent efforts to foster international cooperation, promote peace, and encourage global economic and cultural partnerships. They also reflect India's growing influence in international affairs



and its commitment to building strong South-South cooperation.

Pawan Kalyan, who also serves as the president of the Jana Sena Party, noted that such global recognition not only enhances India's image abroad but also serves as inspiration for Indian citizens

to continue striving for excellence in all spheres.

As diplomatic engagements continue to play a crucial role in shaping India's future, the accolades received by Prime Minister Modi during this tour further cement his position as a prominent global leader.

## Next Dalai Lama Will Be from a Democratic Nation, Not China: Arunachal CM Pema Khandu



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has asserted that the next Dalai Lama will be born in a democratic and free country, clearly stating that it will "definitely not be China."

In an interview with PTI Videos, Khandu emphasized that while the selection process for the next Dalai Lama begins only after the incumbent passes away, there is clarity on one key point: the next spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism will come from a place where democracy and freedom of expression are upheld.

"There is no democracy in China. So wherever there is democracy... it can be anywhere in the world," Khandu said,

when asked whether the next Dalai Lama would be from China or elsewhere.

The Chief Minister, a practicing Buddhist and follower of the 14th Dalai Lama, said that although he doesn't personally know the intricacies of the selection process, all procedures are well-established by the Gaden Phodrang Trust. He added that the selection would begin only after the passing of the current Dalai Lama.

However, Khandu expressed hope that the 14th Dalai Lama will continue to live a long and healthy life. "His Holiness himself said he would live to be around 130. So we all pray and hope for that," he said.

Addressing China's objections to the Dalai Lama's succession, Khandu questioned Beijing's involvement, noting, "There is no Dalai Lama institution in China. It is recognized by Tibetan Buddhists and mainly in the Himalayan region." He also reaffirmed that the Dalai Lama institution, which has existed for over 600 years, will continue, and that all heads of Buddhist traditions have agreed on this during the spiritual leader's 90th birthday celebrations.

## No vacancy for CM post in Karnataka: Siddaramaiah dismisses leadership change buzz

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday firmly dismissed speculation about a change in leadership in the state, stating unequivocally that there is "no vacancy" for the chief minister's post. He asserted that he would continue to serve the full five-year term.

Addressing reporters in the national capital, Siddaramaiah responded to growing rumours that he may step down to make way for his deputy, D.K. Shivakumar, later this year. "Is there any vacancy for chief ministership? I am very much here before you. I am the chief minister of Karnataka," Siddaramaiah said, reinforcing that both he and Shivakumar are on the same page regarding leadership stability.

The clarification comes amid internal discussions and murmurs within the Congress party, with a section of MLAs reportedly backing Shivakumar to take over



the top post. However, both leaders have publicly maintained a united front.

Siddaramaiah, who is currently in New Delhi, is scheduled to meet senior Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. The visit has further fuelled speculation about possible changes in the state leadership, although party sources indicate it is a routine consultation.

"There is no discussion about leadership change. I have been given a five-year mandate, and I intend to complete it," Siddaramaiah reiterated.

Since forming the government in 2023 after the Congress's emphatic victory in the Assembly elections, there have been periodic talks of a rotational power-sharing agreement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.



## I will retire in August 2027, subject to divine intervention: Vice President Dhankhar

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday remarked that he would retire in August 2027, "subject to divine intervention," during an address at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). His lighthearted comment drew laughter from the audience as he reflected on the end of his term, which is scheduled to conclude on August 10, 2027.

Dhankhar, who was elected as India's 14th Vice President in 2022 after serving as the Governor of West Bengal, was speaking at a university event focused on India's intellectual and cultural evolution. He used the platform to urge a revival of India's indigenous knowledge systems and cultural heritage, which he believes are key to the nation's rise as a global power.

"Our growth on the global stage must be accompanied by a resurgence of our intellectual and cultural gravitas," Dhankhar said. He emphasized that the strength of a nation lies not only in its economy or military might, but in the originality of its ideas and the enduring relevance of its values.

The Vice President also expressed concern over how India's own intellectual contributions were often overlooked in favor of Western ideologies. He criticized what he called a post-independence continuation of colonial attitudes, where indigenous perspectives were dismissed as "primitive relics," while Western theories were upheld as universal truths.

"Even after independence, we continued to selectively remember our past and ignored the richness of our own insights," he said.

Calling for greater academic autonomy and critical thinking, Dhankhar stressed the need for Indian institutions to lead global thought in fields like philosophy, ethics, and governance.

The Vice President's comments were well received by the academic audience, setting the tone for a broader conversation about reclaiming India's intellectual sovereignty.

## Tharoor Recalls Sanjay Gandhi's Role in Emergency, Stresses Vigilance to Safeguard Democracy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor has urged citizens to remain vigilant in protecting India's democratic values, as he reflected on the Emergency period declared under former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977.

In a reflective article published in the Malayalam daily Deepika, Tharoor emphasized that the Emergency should not merely be seen as a "dark chapter" in India's history, but as a period that holds enduring lessons about the fragility of democratic systems.

Tharoor particularly highlighted the role of Sanjay Gandhi, the younger son of Indira Gandhi, in enforcing harsh measures under the guise of reform. He cited the infamous forced sterilisation drives carried out across rural India, where coercion and violence were widely reported in an attempt to meet arbitrary population control targets. Additionally, he noted that urban areas, especially New Delhi, witnessed mass demolitions of slums, leaving thousands homeless without any concern for their welfare.



"These actions, carried out in the name of discipline and order, often devolved into cruelty," Tharoor wrote, warning that the true cost of authoritarian governance is always borne by the most vulnerable. He stressed that democracy is a "precious legacy" that must not be taken for granted. "Let the Emergency serve as a lasting reminder to people everywhere," he urged.

While acknowledging that today's India is markedly different—more confident, more developed, and in many ways a stronger democracy—Tharoor cautioned that the dangers of democratic backsliding still exist. "The lessons of the Emergency remain relevant in troubling ways," he concluded, urging citizens to remain alert to threats that may come disguised as administrative efficiency or national discipline.



# Trump announces 50% tariff on copper effective August 1

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a major trade policy move, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 50% tariff on copper imports, effective August 1, 2025. The announcement was made via his Truth Social platform on Wednesday, following what the administration described as a national security review.

“Copper is necessary for semiconductors, aircraft, ships, ammunition, data centers, lithium-ion batteries, radar systems, missile defense systems, and even hypersonic weapons, of which we are building many,” Trump stated. He emphasized the importance of securing domestic supply chains for critical materials used in defense and high-tech industries. The decision marks another step in Trump’s broader strat-



egy to reassert American manufacturing dominance and reduce reliance on foreign raw materials. It follows earlier tariffs on steel, aluminum, and rare earth elements during his previous term. The announcement had an immediate impact on global markets. U.S. Comex copper

futures surged to record highs on Tuesday, when Trump first signaled the move. Analysts suggest that the tariff could lead to higher costs for manufacturers who rely heavily on copper, potentially affecting sectors from electronics to renewable energy. While the administration

frames the tariff as a national security measure, critics argue it may lead to trade tensions and increase production costs for American companies. Some industry groups and economists have also raised concerns about inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions. This latest action adds to the Trump administration’s increasingly protectionist trade agenda, with more tariff announcements expected in the coming weeks as part of a broader “America First” policy shift. The White House has not yet specified which countries will be most affected or whether exemptions will be granted for key allies. As the August 1 implementation date approaches, both industry stakeholders and global trade partners are closely watching for potential responses or retaliatory measures.



## US Sanctions UN Investigator Francesca Albanese Over Gaza War Criticism

TPN Correspondent | UN

The Trump administration has imposed sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, citing her outspoken criticism of Israel’s ongoing military campaign in Gaza. Albanese, an Italian human rights lawyer, has called Israel’s actions a “genocide” and has urged global sanctions to pressure the country to end its offensive.

The U.S. decision follows months of diplomatic pressure aimed at removing Albanese from her post — efforts that have so far failed. The move coincides with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Washington for high-level meetings, including talks with President Trump. The State Department accused Albanese of leading a “campaign of political and economic warfare” against both the U.S. and Israel.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, announcing the sanctions on social media, said, “We will always stand by our partners in their right to self-defence.” The practical implications of the sanctions, such as travel restrictions or asset freezes, remain unclear.

Albanese has actively supported the International Criminal Court’s efforts to investigate alleged Israeli war crimes and issued a recent report naming U.S. companies allegedly complicit in supporting Israel’s military and settlement activities. Her July 1 report accused Western defense, tech, shipping, and real estate firms of profiting from Israel’s actions in Gaza and the West Bank.

Critics say the sanctions are an attempt to silence an independent UN expert for doing her job. Human Rights Watch condemned the move, warning that it undermines international justice and human rights mechanisms.

Israel has dismissed Albanese’s claims as “legally groundless” and “defamatory,” accusing her of ignoring Hamas’ actions in the conflict. The war, which began in October 2023, has killed over 57,000 Palestinians and displaced millions, while also leaving Gaza’s health infrastructure in crisis.

# Bangladesh's Ousted PM Sheikh Hasina Indicted for Crimes Against Humanity

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was formally indicted on Thursday, July 10, 2025, by the country’s International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in a case related to crimes against humanity. The charges stem from a deadly crackdown on student-led protests that erupted between July and August 2024, shortly before her government was overthrown. According to local media reports, including bdnews24, the ICT has also named former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and ex-Inspector General of Police Abdullah Al Mamun as co-accused in the case. The tribunal alleges that the trio orchestrated violent suppression tactics to quell the mass upris-



ings, which led to widespread casualties and human rights violations. Of the three, only Mamun is currently in custody. He has reportedly pleaded guilty and has filed a petition to become a state witness, potentially providing key testimony against

his former political superiors. The tribunal stated that the trial would proceed in absentia for Hasina and Khan, both of whom remain outside Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina fled the country on August 5, 2024, shortly after her Awami League govern-

ment was toppled by a popular uprising. She is believed to be residing in India, though New Delhi has not made any official statements regarding her status or potential extradition. Hasina, who had been one of South Asia’s most powerful leaders for more than a decade, has denied all charges. In a recent statement, she accused Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus of conspiring against her, claiming, “Yunus planned to kill me.” The indictment marks a dramatic fall from power for the once-dominant political figure and sets the stage for a highly charged legal battle. It also signals a continued reckoning with the political violence and unrest that defined the final months of her tenure.

# Russia Launches Another Devastating Missile and Drone Attack on Kyiv, Two Killed

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Kyiv, Ukraine – July 10, 2025: Russia unleashed another intense wave of missile and drone strikes on Ukraine’s capital early Thursday morning, just a day after executing the largest aerial assault since the beginning of the war, now in its third year. Ukrainian officials confirmed that two civilians were killed in the latest barrage, which triggered widespread fires and destruction across multiple districts of Kyiv.

According to Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kyiv Regional Administration, the victims were caught in the shelling as Russian forces targeted both residential and strategic infrastructure areas. “These people were killed by the Russians. This is a terrible loss. My condolences to their families and loved ones,” Tkachenko stated in a press briefing.

Emergency services rushed to extinguish fires that broke out in residential buildings damaged by the strikes. Photos from the scene showed rescue workers battling flames engulfing rooftops, while debris littered the streets. The attack



adds to the growing toll on civilians in the capital, who have endured weeks of escalating aerial bombardment.

The Ukrainian military reported that several cruise missiles and Shahed-type drones were launched in the assault, with air defense systems managing to intercept most but not all of them. Despite these efforts, missile fragments and success-

ful strikes caused considerable structural damage and civilian casualties. This latest attack comes on the heels of Wednesday’s unprecedented onslaught, described by Ukrainian authorities as the most extensive and coordinated aerial offensive of the war so far.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reiterated calls for stronger Western air defense

support, stating that continued aggression from Moscow threatens civilian safety and critical infrastructure across the nation.

As the war enters a more brutal phase, Kyiv residents are left bracing for further strikes, even as emergency responders work tirelessly to limit the damage and save lives amid the chaos.

## Indian-Origin Student Pilot Dies in Mid-Air Collision in Canada



TPN Correspondent | Taiwan

In a tragic aviation accident in Canada, a 21-year-old Indian-origin student pilot, Sreehari Suresh from Kerala, lost his life in a mid-air collision alongside his classmate, 20-year-old Savanna May Royes, a Canadian citizen. The fatal crash occurred on Tuesday morning near Steinbach South Airport in southern Manitoba, just 400 metres from the runway used by Harv’s Air pilot training school.

Both victims were student pilots at Harv’s Air and were conducting routine flight exercises in single-engine Cessna aircraft. According to Adam Penner, president of the training school, the two were practising takeoffs and landings when their planes collided during an attempted landing. Though both aircraft were equipped with radios, preliminary reports suggest that neither pilot saw the other in time to avoid the crash.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) confirmed that both pilots were pronounced dead at the scene. No passengers were onboard either aircraft.

The Consulate General of India in Toronto expressed deep sorrow over Sreehari Suresh’s death and is in contact with his family, local authorities, and the flight school to provide support. In a statement posted on X (formerly Twitter), the Consulate said, “With profound sorrow, we mourn the tragic passing of Mr. Sreehari Suresh, a young Indian student pilot, who lost his life in a mid-air collision near Steinbach, Manitoba. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.”

Sreehari had already earned his private pilot licence and was pursuing a commercial pilot certification. He was among hundreds of international students training at Harv’s Air, a reputed aviation school founded in the early 1970s. The school currently trains around 400 pilots each year from across the globe.

The tragic incident has left the aviation training community in mourning and raised questions about mid-air safety during pilot training exercises.



# NIIF Set to Close First Phase of \$1 Billion Private Markets Fund II with \$700 Million

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), India's quasi-sovereign investment platform backed by the Government of India, is preparing to make the first closure of its latest Private Markets Fund (PMF II). According to sources close to the development, the first close—expected within the next couple of months—will secure commitments totaling around \$700 million.

PMF II is part of NIIF's ongoing strategy to deepen its presence in India's alternative investments space. The \$1 billion fund is designed to back high-growth, scalable businesses across sectors such as healthcare, financial services, consumer, and technology, with a focus on long-term value creation. The fund will primarily target equity investments in India's mid-market segment, complementing NIIF's existing infrastructure and strategic investment platforms.

NIIF's Private Markets strategy is aligned with the government's broader objective to mobilize institutional capital for the country's development needs. The upcoming closure reflects strong interest from both domestic and global institutional investors, including sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and development finance institutions.

This marks the second vehicle under NIIF's Private Markets strategy, following the success of



the first PMF. With the first close nearing completion, NIIF is poised to ramp up deal-making activity in the coming quarters, supporting India's growing private sector through patient capital.

NIIF currently manages capital across three funds: the Master Fund (focused on core infrastructure), the Fund of Funds (which backs other fund managers), and the Strategic Opportunities Fund (which makes growth equity investments). With PMF II, NIIF aims to expand its investment footprint into emerging and innovation-led sectors.

The fund's final close is expected to reach the full \$1 billion target, reinforcing NIIF's role as a key institutional investor in India's long-term economic growth.

# Reliance Jio Delays IPO Plans Beyond 2025, Focuses on Growth and Valuation

Reliance Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, has postponed its much-anticipated initial public offering (IPO) beyond this year, according to two sources familiar with the development. The delay marks a significant shift in strategy for one of India's most valuable and closely watched companies.

Valued by analysts at over \$100 billion, Jio was widely expected to go public in 2025. However, the company is now focusing on expanding its revenue streams and subscriber base to strengthen its valuation before entering the public market, a source explained. Jio aims to grow its core telecom business while also accelerating development in its broader digital ecosystem, including platforms related to payments, content, and enterprise solutions.

The decision to hold off on the IPO comes amid a period of rapid digital transformation in India, where Jio continues to be a dominant player. With more than 470 million sub-

scribers, the company remains at the forefront of India's telecom market, but is now keen to consolidate gains and show stronger financial performance before listing.

Meanwhile, the IPO for Reliance Retail, another major arm of Ambani's business empire, is also not expected before 2027 or 2028, according to one of the sources.

The delay in Jio's public debut could be seen as a move to maximize long-term value, especially as global and domestic markets remain volatile. Investors, while disappointed by the delay, are likely to watch closely how Jio's business evolves in the coming quarters as it builds toward what could be one of India's largest-ever IPOs.



# India's \$2 Trillion Export Dream Faces a Silent Bottleneck: Compliance



India aims to achieve \$2 trillion in exports by 2030, a goal fueled by surging global demand and a wave of digitally empowered businesses. But while the ambition is clear, a major hurdle stands in the way: a slow, fragmented, and outdated compliance system—especially for small and mid-sized exporters.

Today's export landscape has evolved beyond large manufacturers. It now includes MSMEs and digital-first entrepreneurs from cities like Surat, Jaipur, and Kochi, who sell everything from apparel to candles on global platforms like Amazon, Etsy, and Instagram. MSMEs contribute nearly 45% of India's exports, with their value tripling in four years. Yet, their

growth is often stifled by the complexity of compliance.

For many first-time exporters, the journey begins with daunting registration requirements—IEC codes, KYC checks, and export council memberships. A single delay or mismatch, such as a bank account not updated in the IEC profile, can derail shipments and cost orders. And the challenges don't stop there.

Post-shipment, exporters must chase FIRAs or eBRCs from banks to prove payment receipt—often waiting 7–15 days. Without these, GST refunds or RoDTEP incentives are blocked, impacting cash flow. The process is manual, opaque, and unforgiving—leaving many small exporters overwhelmed.

However, fintech is changing this narrative. New platforms are automating KYC, documentation, and compliance workflows—embedding them into day-to-day operations. Instant FIRAs, smart invoice matching, and unified dashboards are reducing delays, increasing transparency, and restoring confidence.

India's \$2 trillion target won't be achieved through policy alone. Removing these hidden frictions will be key. With the right digital infrastructure, compliance can become a seamless part of business—not a barrier. That's the shift India's new wave of exporters needs to thrive on the global stage.

# NBFCs Double Loan Advances to ₹48 Lakh Crore, Says Finance Minister Sitharaman

Gross loan advances by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) have surged significantly, doubling from ₹24 lakh crore in March 2021 to ₹48 lakh crore as of March 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced at the NBFC Symposium 2025 on Wednesday. Highlighting their growing role in India's financial ecosystem, Sitharaman emphasized that NBFCs have become a vital source of credit for traditionally underserved and excluded segments. "NBFCs are no longer shadow banks," she remarked, adding that their stronger regulation and compliance frameworks demonstrate their increasing significance in the broader economy. The Finance Minister pointed to recent RBI regulatory steps—such as the recalibration of risk weights on bank lending and a more accommodative financial environment—as key factors enhancing credit prospects for the sector. She urged NBFCs to pass on the benefits of reduced funding costs to end-users, especially following recent RBI measures aimed at eas-



ing financial conditions. Sitharaman also reaffirmed the government's support for the NBFC sector, stating, "We remain committed to a consultative approach. Issues raised during consultations will be examined with due attention." The Minister called for deeper collaboration between NBFCs and banks, particularly through co-lending arrangements. She advocated for the institutionalisation of such partnerships, supported by a seamless digital co-lending infrastructure, standardized onboarding processes, and interoperable servicing platforms. These efforts, she said, would help increase credit flow to priority sectors while enhancing risk-sharing and operational efficiency. Sitharaman acknowledged the evolution of some systemically important NBFCs, noting that many now operate with governance and compliance standards on par with banks. This progress, she added, paves the way for robust NBFCs to eventually transition into full-fledged banks, strengthening the overall financial system.

# FinMin Likely to Finalise Relief Package for OMCs' ₹41,000 Crore LPG Losses

The Finance Ministry is expected to soon finalize a compensation package for state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) to address the massive losses incurred from selling LPG cylinders below market prices. According to official sources, the move is aimed at supporting Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), which have reportedly faced cumulative losses of over ₹41,000 crore due to under-recoveries on domestic cooking gas sales. The losses stem from the government's decision to keep LPG prices affordable for consumers, even as global energy prices surged. A senior official confirmed that the Finance Ministry is actively reviewing the OMCs' request for compensation and is working on finalizing the amount and the mechanism for the payout. "We have received the request. It is under consideration. We are looking at the amount of under-recovery and discussing the modalities for compensation," said the official. The relief is expected to be funded through additional revenue generated from the hike in excise duties on petrol and diesel implemented in April 2025. This move provided the government with fiscal headroom to support critical sectors like energy while maintaining a balance between consumer welfare and corporate viability.



In October 2022, the government had approved a one-time grant of ₹22,000 crore to partially offset the then-estimated ₹28,000 crore losses of OMCs for selling LPG at subsidized rates. However, continuing global price volatility and efforts to shield consumers from high fuel prices have pushed the loss figures even higher since then. The proposed package is likely to be taken up by the Union Cabinet soon. If approved, it will mark another significant intervention to stabilize the energy sector and ensure the financial health of key public sector enterprises.



# Man Rides Scooter to Ladakh, Internet Stunned by Viral Journey

A video of a man travelling to Ladakh on a Suzuki Access scooter has taken the internet by storm, leaving viewers both amazed and skeptical. While the Himalayan region is typically conquered on rugged, high-powered motorcycles, this adventurous rider chose a modest scooter to take on one of the most challenging terrains in India.

Shared on Instagram on June 27, the now-viral video captures the rider maneuvering through a range of extreme conditions — from rocky trails and steep mountain highways to narrow, snow-covered roads and icy stream crossings. The

visuals are dramatic and captivating, especially considering the scooter's small engine and urban design. Despite that, the rider confidently handles each stretch, earning his two-wheeler the nickname “Lord Access.”

One frame shows the scooter crossing a shallow stream littered with stones, another shows it winding up through treacherous mountain roads, and there's even a breathtaking shot of the scooter riding past walls of snow. Packed with travel bags, bottles, and essentials, the vehicle clearly wasn't part of a stunt — it was geared for a serious, long-distance trip.

The video sparked a wave of reactions online, with social media users calling the journey everything from “crazy” and “unbelievable” to “inspiring.” Many praised the rider's determination and courage, while others were stunned by how a vehicle meant for city rides could survive such a punishing adventure.

This unconventional journey is now being hailed as proof that it's not always about the machine — sometimes, it's about the mindset. The man and his scooter have become unlikely heroes of the travel community, turning Lord Access into a new symbol of grit and passion.



# Are You Really Middle Class? Viral Reddit Post Sparks Heated Debate

A Reddit post questioning who actually qualifies as “middle class” in India has gone viral, igniting a fierce online debate and forcing many to reevaluate their assumptions. Shared on July 8, the post highlighted the vast range of lifestyles among people who all identify as middle class — from luxury penthouse dwellers with multiple cars to working-class individuals with modest incomes.



The Redditor began by recounting stories of affluent families who label themselves as middle class. “Let me share a tale of father's friend,” the user wrote. “He lives in a huge penthouse, has 8 staff round the clock, and owns 6 cars — yet he considers himself middle class. In my own home, we have 5 full-time staff and 4 cars, and we can afford international vacations. But still, my parents claim we're middle class.”

The post then added a contrasting perspective. “My driver, who earns decently but far less than us, also considers himself middle class. And interestingly, the maid in his house believes she's middle class too.”

The post concluded with a pointed and thought-provoking question: “If everyone is middle class, who is upper class and who is lower class?”

The comment section quickly filled with strong opinions. Some users expressed frustration over how the term “middle class” has become a vague and often misused identity marker in India. Others argued that the label is now more about perception and social conditioning than actual income or lifestyle.

The post has sparked a nationwide conversation, pushing people to confront class privilege, wealth denial, and how blurred the lines of socioeconomic status have become in modern India.

# Polish Tourists Highlight Garbage Near Taj Mahal, Internet Reacts Strongly

A video posted by Polish travel vloggers has stirred up a heated debate online after it showed garbage and sewage near the Yamuna River behind the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra. Shared on Instagram by the user @podroznik-dowynajecia, the clip has gone viral, dividing social media over whether the video was constructive criticism or a misrepresentation of India.



The footage shows a group of foreign tourists reacting to the sight and smell of trash in the area, with one woman covering her nose with a scarf. At one point, a tourist comments, “Where is the Taj Mahal? It stinks terribly. Worse than Chennai.” The remark sparked particular outrage, as many felt it unfairly stereotyped Indian cities.

While the video received backlash from some viewers, the vloggers were quick to clarify their intent. In the caption, they wrote, “India is a great country. We would never think to hate this great part of the world. There are many clean and beautiful places. We plan to return soon and share videos from this better side of India.”

Despite the clarification, the video has triggered polarized responses. Critics questioned why the tourists sought out the dirtiest spots. One user wrote, “Why go where there are no roads? Why follow the stench? Just visit the good places, not the landfills.” Another added, “Your behaviour is more disgusting than the mess you're judging.”

However, many supported the vloggers, arguing that the clip highlights a real issue—lack of proper waste management around major tourist sites. Some users urged the government to treat such criticism as a wake-up call and prioritize sanitation and civic upkeep in heritage zones.

Whether seen as offensive or eye-opening, the video has once again spotlighted the urgent need for better cleanliness around India's most treasured landmarks.

# Australian Vlogger Says “India Can Go From Rich to Poor in Seconds,” Video Triggers Online Debate

A video shared by Australian content creator Jeremy Franco has gone viral for its stark observation about India's socioeconomic contrasts, sparking a wave of mixed reactions on social media. In the Instagram clip, Franco remarks, “India can go from rich to poor in two seconds,” citing the jarring shift in surroundings as he stepped out of a luxury shopping mall into a much poorer area nearby.

The clip shows Franco walking through a posh mall filled with high-end international brands like Gucci and Dior. Moments later, the footage cuts to scenes of congested streets, informal markets, and visibly underprivileged neighborhoods. The video is overlaid with text stating, “India is poor and rich at the same time,” and the caption reads, “India has duality, you never know what she's going to give.”

This blunt commentary on India's wealth disparity has divided the internet. Some viewers



agreed with Franco, appreciating the honest portrayal of India's socioeconomic contrasts. They argued that the visible inequality is a reality and not something to shy away from. “He's just stating facts. That's exactly what you experience in Indian cities,” one user wrote.

However, others felt the comparison was oversimplified and sensationalist. Critics pointed out that every country has contrasting layers of wealth, and cherry-picking visuals to emphasize poverty perpetuates stereotypes. “You could do the same thing in Los Angeles or Rio,” a commenter said. Another added, “This ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ lens needs to go.”

Despite the backlash, the video has reignited conversations around India's economic divide and the perceptions of foreign tourists. Whether seen as an honest reflection or a narrow portrayal, Franco's post has undeniably struck a nerve — once again highlighting the complex narrative of modern India.

# Google's July 2025 Pixel Drop Brings Free AI Pro Subscription for Pixel 9 Pro, Circle-to-Search Gets Smarter

Google has surprised Pixel users with an early Pixel Drop for July 2025, introducing several AI-powered features across its ecosystem. The biggest highlight is a free one-year Google AI Pro subscription exclusively for Pixel 9 Pro users — a plan that typically costs ₹1,950 per month in India.

This subscription unlocks access to advanced Gemini models, including Gemini 2.5 Pro and Deep Research on 2.5 Pro, along with limited access to the Veo 3 video generation model. Pixel 9 Pro users also get to try Google's AI filmmaking tool Flow, powered by Veo 3, and enhanced image-to-video capabilities via Veo 2 in Whisk, with up to 1,000 monthly AI credits.



Another major update is the expansion of Circle-to-Search with AI Mode to users in India and the US. This mode now supports text-based prompts with in-line citations, offering a richer search experience. Google is also adding in-game help, allowing users to search for walkthroughs and tips based on their exact location within a game, without leaving the app.

The Pixel Drop doesn't stop at smartphones. Google has also introduced Gemini support on Pixel Watches running Wear OS 4 or later. Users can now interact with Gemini using natural language to send messages, get directions, plan trips, summarize emails, or even remember personal details — all from their smartwatch.

In addition to AI features, Pixel 9 Pro users benefit from 2TB of cloud storage shared across Gmail, Drive, and Photos. With this update, Google continues to weave powerful generative AI into everyday experiences, making Pixel devices smarter, more helpful, and deeply integrated with its AI ecosystem.



# India Women Clinch Historic Maiden T20I Series Win Over England

India scripted a landmark moment in women's cricket history by securing their first-ever T20I series win against England with a commanding six-wicket victory in the fourth match of the five-game series. The triumph gave India an unassailable 3-1 lead, making the final match in Birmingham a dead rubber.

The Indian spin attack was pivotal to the win. Radha Yadav (2/15), young sensation Shree Charani (2/30), and Deepti Sharma (1/29) restricted England to just 126 for 7. This disciplined bowling effort was complemented by sharp fielding that kept the pressure on throughout.

England, led by stand-in captain Tammy Beaumont in the absence of Nat Sciver-Brunt, failed to gain momentum after losing both openers early. Beaumont briefly resisted with a 16-ball 20,



but regular wickets stifled their innings.

India's chase began with a fluent 56-run opening stand between Shafali Verma (32) and Smriti Mandhana (31), setting a strong foundation. Despite losing both openers in quick succession, Jemimah Rodrigues (24\*) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (26) calmly guided the team home with 18 balls to spare.

Kaur praised the team's preparation and execution: "I'm really proud of the way we played. Everyone understood their roles and delivered."

India had previously never won a T20I series against England, either at home or away, making this victory even more significant. It also comes at a crucial time as India builds momentum ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England next year.

# PSG Crush Real Madrid 4-0 to Reach Club World Cup Final

Paris Saint-Germain delivered a stunning performance to thrash Real Madrid 4-0 in the semi-finals of the FIFA Club World Cup, setting up a high-stakes final clash with Chelsea. The match, played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, marked a bitter reunion for Kylian Mbappe, who faced his former club for the first time since his transfer to Madrid.

PSG, the reigning European champions, wasted no time asserting their dominance. Ousmane Dembele opened the scoring in the 6th minute, capitalizing on a defensive lapse, and Fabian Ruiz doubled the lead just three minutes later. Ruiz struck again before halftime, while Goncalo Ramos added a late fourth to complete a humiliating defeat for the 15-time European champions.

Despite key absences—Willian Pacheco for PSG and Trent Alexander-Arnold and Dean Huijsen for Madrid—the French side's fluid attacking play overwhelmed Xabi Alonso's team. Lucas Beraldo filled in seamlessly in defense, while Dembele and Ruiz were unstoppable in midfield and attack.

Mbappe, starting his first match of the tournament, struggled to make an impact against his old teammates. His former club, however, showed they've



moved on, putting on a clinical display that left Madrid chasing shadows.

The match was effectively over by halftime, with PSG leading 3-0 and Real Madrid failing to register any serious threat. By the time Ramos scored the fourth in the 87th minute, Alonso had already withdrawn Jude Bellingham and Vinicius Jr. in a symbolic concession.

PSG now march into the final with momentum and confidence. With a treble already in sight—including the French league title and their maiden Champions League win—Luis Enrique's side looks poised to complete a historic season with Club World Cup glory.

# Wimbledon 2025: Iga Swiatek Storms Into Semi-Finals, Set for Clash With Belinda Bencic

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek advanced to the semi-finals of Wimbledon 2025 after a commanding straight-sets win over Russia's Liudmila Samsonova on Wednesday. Swiatek claimed a 6-2, 7-5 victory in one hour and 49 minutes, marking her place in the semi-finals of all three Grand Slam tournaments this year.

Samsonova provided a tough contest early on, matching Swiatek in the opening games of the first set. However, Swiatek saved an early break point and quickly took control, fending off four more break points and reeling off seven consecutive games to lead 6-2, 3-0. Samsonova responded with back-to-back breaks to level the second set at 4-4, but Swiatek maintained her composure, earning her fifth break of the match and converting her second match point to seal the win.

Swiatek now faces Switzerland's Belinda Bencic, who reached her maiden Wimbledon semi-final with a gritty 7-6(3), 7-6(2) win over Russian seventh seed Mira Andreeva. Bencic, the 2020 Olympic gold medalist and former top-10 player, finally broke her quarter-final curse at the All England Club, having never pro-



gressed beyond the Round of 16 in her previous eight attempts. She also becomes the first Swiss woman to make the Wimbledon semi-finals since Martina Hingis in 1998.

In the men's draw, Novak Djokovic continued his quest for a record-equalling eighth Wimbledon title. The Serbian legend overcame a spirited effort from Italy's Flavio Cobolli, prevailing 6-7(6), 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 to reach a record 14th semi-final at the tournament. Djokovic will next face world No. 1 Jannik Sinner, who ended Ben Shelton's run with a straight-sets win: 7-6(2), 6-4, 6-4.

# India A Men's Hockey Team Thrashes Ireland 6-0, Continues Euro Tour Dominance

The India A Men's Hockey Team continued their commanding form on their European tour, registering a resounding 6-0 win over Ireland in their second encounter at the Hockey Club Oranje-Rood in Eindhoven. This dominant performance follows their 6-1 victory in the opening match against the same opponents.

India began strongly once again, with Uttam Singh breaking the deadlock early. Team captain Sanjay soon doubled the lead with a composed finish. The momentum stayed firmly with India as midfielder Mohammed Raheel Mousen netted twice in quick succession, showcasing his attacking prowess. The rout was completed by goals from Amandeep Lakra and Varun Kumar, sealing a clean sheet victory for the men in blue.

Coach Shivendra Singh expressed his satisfaction post-match, stating, "We've had two really strong games against Ireland. The team is executing our strategies well, and I'm pleased with the balance we're building. We aim to keep this momentum going against France next." India A is now set to face France on Sat-



urday, July 12, at the same venue. The team will then go on to play against England, Belgium, and hosts Netherlands over the next two weeks.

In the tour opener, India A displayed similar dominance, beating Ireland 6-1. That game saw goals from Uttam Singh, Amandeep Lakra, Aditya Lalage—who scored a brace—Selvam Karthi, and

Boby Singh Dhama. Ireland managed only a consolation goal as India maintained solid defensive organization.

India A is scheduled to play two matches each against Ireland, France, and the Netherlands, in addition to one match each against England and Belgium. So far, their form suggests they are strong contenders to finish the tour on a high.

# ENG vs IND 3rd Test Day 1: Joe Root's Steady Fifty Anchors England at 153/2 at Tea

England's seasoned batter Joe Root showcased his trademark composure as he guided his team to a solid 153 for 2 at tea on Day 1 of the third Test against India at Lord's on Thursday, July 10, 2025. Root remained unbeaten on 54, alongside Ollie Pope, who supported him well with a fluent 44\*, as England recovered from an early jolt in the first session. After winning the toss and electing to bat first on a surface offering some assistance to seamers early on, England's openers Ben Duckett (23 off 40) and Zak Crawley (18 off 43) cautiously negotiated the first hour. India's pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Akash Deep, and Mohammed Siraj bowled probing spells without immediate success, but kept the pressure tight with disciplined lines.

It was young pacer Nitish Kumar Reddy who made the breakthrough for India, striking twice in the same over to dismiss both Duckett and Crawley. His double blow reduced England to 39 for 2, shifting momentum momentarily in India's favour.

However, Root and Pope calmly rebuilt the innings with an unbroken 114-run partnership. Root, in particular, was methodical, picking his moments and rotating the strike effectively. This half-century marked Root's 67th in Test cricket, underlining his immense experience and value in the English middle order.



Pope, too, looked assured at the crease, playing confidently off the back foot and countering India's bowlers with calculated risk.

With England at 153/2 in 49 overs at the tea break, the hosts will aim to capitalise on their strong platform heading into the final session of the day, while India will be looking to break the partnership quickly to regain control.

Brief Score: England 153/2 in 49 overs (Joe Root 54\*, Ollie Pope 44\*; Nitish Kumar Reddy 2/35)





# Dhanush Begins Filming High-Octane Action Thriller with ‘Por Thozhil’ Director Vignesh Raja

Dhanush, the powerhouse performer and four-time National Award-winning actor, has jumped straight into his next project following the massive success of Kuberaa, where he stunned audiences with his gritty portrayal of a beggar. Titled D54 for now, the film marks an exciting collaboration with Por Thozhil director Vignesh Raja and promises to be a high-octane action entertainer.

Without taking a break, Dhanush has already commenced shooting for the film, with production beginning today. The makers describe the film with the gripping tagline: “Sometimes staying dangerous is the only way to stay alive,” hinting at a dark, intense narrative. The official announcement poster sets the tone — it features Dhanush standing solemnly in the middle of a burning cotton field, his head bowed, hinting at a character who’s been pushed to the edge and forced to fight back.

This marks Vignesh Raja’s next major venture following the critically acclaimed Por Thozhil, and expectations are high for another edge-of-the-seat thriller. Dhanush is set to deliver another layered performance in what looks to be a gritty and emotionally charged action role.

Joining him is rising star Mamitha Baiju, known for her charm and growing popularity, as the female lead. The supporting cast includes seasoned actors like KS Ravi Kumar, Suraj Venjaramoodu, and Jayaram, adding weight and depth to the ensemble. The film is being produced by Ishari K Ganesh on a grand scale, en-



suring top-notch production values.

With such a stellar combination of talent, D54 is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated action thrillers in Tamil cinema.



# Mahavatar Narsimha Trailer Unleashed: A Mythical Battle to Restore Dharma

The much-anticipated trailer of Mahavatar Narsimha, the first chapter in the Mahavatar Cinematic Universe (MCU), has finally been released — and it promises a visually spectacular and emotionally powerful mythological epic. With a grand theatrical release slated for July 25, the trailer sets the stage for a gripping battle between divine power and demonic tyranny. The trailer opens with a fierce portrayal of the demon king Hiranyakashipu, who is shown undertaking severe penance (Tapasya) to please Lord Brahma. His reward — a near-invincible boon — sets him on a destructive path, spreading darkness across the world. But the greatest threat to his rule emerges not from outside, but from his own son Prahlada, a fearless devotee of Lord Vishnu. As Prahlada’s devotion intensifies, the divine prepares to intervene. The trailer crescendos with the awe-inspiring arrival of Lord Vishnu in his fearsome Narasimha Avatar, a part-li-

on, part-human incarnation that emerges to destroy Hiranyakashipu and restore Dharma. The action, emotional beats, and stunning visuals promise a cinematic experience rooted in Indian mythology yet told with modern storytelling flair. Produced by Hombale Films in association with Kleem Productions, Mahavatar Narsimha features cutting-edge animation and state-of-the-art visuals. The film has been crafted to deliver an immersive 3D experience and will release in all major South Indian languages along with Hindi. Directed by Ashwin Kumar and produced by Shilpaa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai, this mythological spectacle marks a significant step in bringing Indian epics to a global stage through the lens of high-end animation and cinematic storytelling. With its release just around the corner, Mahavatar Narsimha is set to redefine mythological cinema.

# Will Suhas Deliver a Hit with ‘Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama’?

Young and versatile actor Suhas is on a roll, doing back-to-back projects, and his latest film Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama is gearing up for release on July 11, 2025. The buzz around the film has picked up, especially after the trailer struck a chord with audiences. It showcases Suhas in a light-hearted, fun-filled avatar — a refreshing shift from the intense roles he’s known for.

What makes Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama special is that it marks Suhas’s first full-fledged commercial outing. Known for his performances in emotional and realistic dramas, this film sees him stepping into the shoes of a mainstream hero — complete with comedy, dancing, and action. The trailer hints at a blend of laughter, family emotions, and mass entertainment.

Veteran actor Ali joins the cast in a key role as

Suhas’s uncle, adding to the film’s family drama appeal. The film seems to strike a balance between humor and emotional depth, potentially catering to a wide section of the audience.

Suhas was last seen in Uppu Kappurambu alongside Keerthy Suresh, where he delivered a moving performance as a burial ground worker. The film earned decent reviews and praise for Suhas’s emotional depth, especially on OTT platforms like Amazon Prime.

With just a week between his last release and Oh Bhama Ayyo Rama, the spotlight is firmly on Suhas to see if he can deliver yet another successful outing. If the trailer is any indication, this film could very well mark a turning point in his career, establishing him as a bankable lead in commercial cinema.



# “Marshal”: Karthi Embarks on a Sea Adventure in His 29th Film

Tamil star Karthi is all set to explore uncharted waters—literally—with his 29th film titled Marshal. Known for his versatility, Karthi will now be seen in a sea-based period action-adventure thriller, a first in his career. The film is being helmed by director Tamizh and produced by Dream Warrior Pictures, a banner known for backing impactful cinema.

Following the completion of Sarthaar 2 and the upcoming release of Va Vathiyar, Karthi is keeping up his momentum with Marshal, which promises a never-before-seen avatar of the actor. Set against a historic maritime backdrop, the film is expected to deliver a gripping tale of courage, conflict, and survival at sea.

The official announcement of the film’s title came on July 10, 2025, along with a traditional puja ceremony that marked the beginning of the shoot. With high expectations and a fresh genre for Tamil cinema, the buzz around Marshal is already strong.

Joining Karthi in the film is actress Kalyani Priyadarshan, who plays the female lead. The film also boasts a stellar ensemble cast including Sathyaraj, Prabhu, Lal, Eswari Rao, Murali Sharma, and John Kokken, all of whom are set



to play significant roles.

The music for Marshal will be composed by Sai Abhyankar, adding another layer of excitement for fans eager to hear a rousing soundtrack that matches the film’s adventurous tone.

With a fresh genre, an experienced cast and crew, and a compelling storyline set at sea, Marshal is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Tamil films in Karthi’s career.

# Priyanka Chopra’s Powerful Simplicity on Esquire India’s Cover

As anticipation builds for her upcoming film SSMB29 alongside superstar Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra Jonas makes a striking statement with her latest Esquire India cover. The global icon showcases a look that’s both commanding and minimal, proving once again that less can indeed be more. Wearing a reimagined pinstripe jacket over a sleek black bralette, Priyanka balances structure with ease. The tailored lines of the jacket contrast beautifully with the simplicity of the bralette, creating a modern, bold aesthetic. It’s an outfit that doesn’t scream for attention but commands it nonetheless. Her makeup follows the same quiet strength. A rich berry lip stands out against an otherwise understated palette, while her textured hair adds a sense of raw elegance. There’s no elaborate set or exaggerated styling—just Priyanka,



the camera, and her unwavering presence. What truly sets the cover apart is how it leans into subtlety. It doesn’t rely on over-the-top fashion or heavy glamour. Instead, it allows Priyanka’s poise and expression to lead. Her gaze is confident, grounded, and deliberate—a visual reminder of her lasting impact in both fashion and film. With SSMB29 already generating excitement, this cover serves as a calm but confident pause. It’s not a promotional push, but rather a reflection of where Priyanka stands today: experienced, powerful, and in full control of her narrative. She doesn’t just step into the frame—she defines it. In a world that often equates bold with loud, Priyanka Chopra’s Esquire feature is a lesson in restraint and strength. It’s proof that presence isn’t about noise—it’s about knowing exactly who you are and owning it.