



Torrential Rains Cripple Hyderabad

City Battles Waterlogging and Traffic Chaos

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Heavy rains lashed Hyderabad and its suburbs on Friday, bringing the city to a standstill. The relentless downpour that lasted for several hours caused severe waterlogging in several areas, flooding low-lying localities, disrupting vehicular movement, and severely affecting daily life.

Major roads and intersections across the city were completely waterlogged, with rainwater gushing into residential colonies, commercial buildings, and even basements and cellars of apartment complexes. Commuters were seen struggling to navigate submerged roads, with pedestrians wading through knee-deep water, bikers pushing their vehicles, and cars stalled in the middle of flooded stretches.

Near Patny centre, Paigah colony was doomed in the rain water. Water rushed in to cellars and the parked cars were drowned in it. Hydra teams have rushed here and started rescue activity immediately.

In several locations, the situation worsened as the water level rose to waist height. Commuters had to carefully make their way through dangerous waterlogged roads. In some cases, people were seen helping each other across submerged footpaths and blocked roads. Many auto-rickshaws and smaller vehicles were either stuck or dragged away by strong currents, especially in areas such as Nacharam Bhavaninagar, where one auto was visibly pulled into the swirling waters of a nala. Residential areas were also badly affected. Internal roads turned into streams, with rainwater entering houses in several colonies. Families were forced to bail water out of their homes, and in some cases, residents shifted to higher floors to avoid the inundation. Bathukamma Kunta reported heavy inflows, and water spilling onto the Moosarambagh bridge created a risky situation for motorists.

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Kishan Reddy Accuses BRS of Politicising Central Projects in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has come down heavily on BRS leaders, accusing them of obstructing and undermining the Centre's developmental initiatives in Telangana, particularly in the railway sector. He alleged that the previous state government, led by BRS, made efforts to belittle key projects sanctioned by the Union government.

Speaking to the media, Reddy said that

nearly 70% of the construction work at the Kazipet Railway Manufacturing Unit has been completed, and production of coaches, engines, and wagons is expected to begin in the next financial year. The Centre has sanctioned ₹521 crore for the project, with an additional ₹200 crore to be released shortly. He stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is directly monitoring the project, and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will review the site on Saturday.



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Write It on Your Heart, I'll Be CM Till 2034 : Revanth Reddy Challenges KCR

TPN, Correspondent|Nagarkurnool

In a fiery speech at Jataprole, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy threw down a direct challenge to BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), declaring, "I will be the Chief Minister of this state until 2034, write it on your heart, KCR!"

Speaking at a public meeting after laying the foundation stone for the ₹200 crore Young India Integrated Residential School in Kollapur constituency, Revanth asserted that the people of Telangana, particularly the Palamuru region, have placed their trust in him and the Congress government.

He slammed the BRS for spreading false campaigns, stating that "KCR doesn't even have the courage to attend the Assembly, but his party leaders are busy challenging me in public."

Revanth Reddy announced that land acquisition for the long-delayed Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation

Scheme (PRLIS) and other pending projects would be completed by December 9, with full compensation to all affected landowners. He further committed to completing these projects within two years. Criticising the BRS regime, he questioned why GO 98, issued to compensate those who lost their homes during the 2009 floods in Alampur, Gadwal, and Kollapur, was never implemented. He also hit out at KCR for failing to include Valmiki Boyas in the Scheduled Tribes list and Magida Kuruvas in the Scheduled Castes list, despite ruling for 10 years. "Is it hurting you to see Madiga students getting more professional admissions after SC categorisation? Or is it that a son of Nallamala has now become CM?" he asked, claiming that Palamuru's people have resolved to have one of their own in power for the next 20 years.

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WHAT'S WRONG IN MEETING LOKESH: KTR

TPN, Correspondent|Khammam

Responding to speculations about a meeting with Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, KTR clarified, "I haven't met him, but even if I had — what's wrong with that? He's a good friend of mine, and there's no need to meet him in secrecy at midnight." He criticized Revanth Reddy for misleading the youth with "irresponsible and provocative" statements.

BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) visited Khammam district on Friday, where he participated in a party workers' meeting organized by former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar.

Speaking to the media afterwards, KTR launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the ruling Congress government, raising serious allegations and political criticisms.

KTR accused CM Revanth Reddy of tapping the phones of leaders he views as a threat to his position. "The phones of Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and Uttam Kumar Reddy are reportedly being tapped. Revanth must answer for this," KTR demanded, further claiming he would soon release evidence to support his allegations.

KTR also accused Revanth of betray-

ing Telangana by allegedly handing over Godavari river water interests to Andhra Pradesh. Referring to a controversial statement where Revanth claimed he wouldn't meet Chandrababu Naidu, KTR said, "He said he wouldn't meet Naidu, but was later caught meeting him in Delhi. This is hypocrisy at its finest."

Issuing a warning, KTR stated that if Revanth continued to betray Telangana's interests, "another people's movement will be inevitable." Expressing outrage over the cases filed against him, KTR said, "They've filed countless cases against me, but haven't produced a single piece

of evidence. One day they accuse me of drug links, the next day of illegal car racing. This is just a distraction from real issues."

He also criticized the Congress government's failure to deliver on promises, alleging that even the jobs provided during KCR's tenure were being scrapped. "They promised two lakh government jobs, free gold (thulabharam), and ₹4,000 pensions for the elderly — but have delivered nothing," he claimed.

KTR's remarks have stirred significant debate across the Telugu states, intensifying the ongoing political heat between the BRS and the Congress in Telangana.



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Central Projects in Telangana

Reddy criticised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao’s family for mocking the Kazipet project by calling it a mere “wagon-cleaning unit.” He assured that under BJP leadership, cities like Warangal, Nizamabad, and Karimnagar will receive equal attention as Hyderabad.

He also highlighted that Warangal was chosen as the location for one of the seven mega textile parks approved nationwide. However, he expressed disappointment over the BRS government’s failure to allocate land for the proposed Warangal airport, despite repeated requests. The current Congress-led state government must expedite land acquisition, he said, especially as the Centre has already completed 50% of the Warangal ring road.

Reddy also criticised the Congress government for stalling the ₹330 crore MMTS Phase-2 project, which is aimed at connecting Hyderabad to Yadagirigutta, despite signing an MoU with the Centre. He announced that the Komuravelli Mallanna Temple railway station will be completed by January 2026.

Additionally, he said the Centre is investing ₹33,000 crore to modernise 40 railway stations across Telangana, with all work expected to be completed by June 2026.

Regarding the Godavari river water dispute, Kishan Reddy reaffirmed the Centre’s commitment to cooperative federalism and said meetings between the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are being organised to build consensus. He alleged that the BRS has taken inconsistent stands on the issue, depending on whether it was in power or in the opposition.

Torrential Rains Cripple Hyderabad

In Gayatrinagar, Ameerpet, stagnant rainwater formed a pool so large that it resembled a swimming pool, halting movement in the entire locality. The Jeedimetla industrial area saw vehicles being washed away by gushing waters. Similarly, Bowenpally market experienced flooding, damaging shop goods and halting commercial activity.

The traffic situation worsened as peak hour approached. Long snarls and standstill traffic were reported in IT corridors like Gachibowli, Madhapur, and Raidurg, as well as busy junctions like Lakdi-kapul, Miyapur, Kukatpally, LB Nagar, Tarnaka, and Uppal. Outskirts were equally affected, with roads jammed by slow-moving vehicles. Schoolchildren in Secunderabad struggled to exit their school premises and reach their homes as roads around schools were flooded and autos found it difficult to operate.

With roads in poor condition, many citizens opted for the metro. As a result, all metro stations experienced an unexpected surge in foot-fall. People queued in long lines at ticket counters and platforms, hoping to reach home before the rains intensified further.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), and Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assessment Authority (HYDRAA) deployed special teams to tackle the crisis. These teams worked to pump out water, clear drains, and assist with emergency services in flooded areas.

Despite these efforts, the situation remained grim by evening, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting more rain in the next 24 hours. Authorities have urged citizens to stay indoors, avoid low-lying areas, and call helplines in case of emergencies.

Hyderabad continues to battle nature’s fury, as residents brace for another wet and difficult day ahead.



Revanth Reddy Challenges KCR

Targeting former ministers and Palamuru natives V. Srinivas Goud and G. Niranjan Reddy, he accused them of betraying their roots by criticizing Congress rule, likening them to “those who carry food for thieves.”

Revanth also directed criticism at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for opposing PRLIS despite having supported it in the past. He accused AP of drawing 9.5 TMC of Krishna water daily and challenged Naidu to stop lifting 3 TMC through the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme if he truly wished for interstate harmony.

The event ended with loud applause, as Revanth reaffirmed his government’s commitment to Palamuru’s development and Telangana’s progress.

Bhatti Slams TRS, Showcases Congress Vision at Sagar



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka launched a scathing attack on the TRS leadership during his visit to Nagarjuna Sagar, accusing them of degrading public discourse and failing the people of Telangana during their 10-year rule. Addressing the media and party workers, Bhatti condemned the language used by TRS leaders towards Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, questioning what kind of values such statements reflect. “Calling a leader of CM stature ‘howle’ and ‘sannasi’ shows a lack of decency and damages the social fabric,” he said. Bhatti pointed out that

despite TRS losing all 17 Lok Sabha seats, their arrogance persists. He stated that Congress came to power with a clear vision — to resolve water issues and correct the neglect of the past. “In their decade-long tenure, TRS leaders failed to secure rightful water shares from the Krishna and Godavari rivers. Incomplete and mismanaged projects have led to today’s water crisis,” he said. Highlighting Congress’s legacy, Bhatti reminded that Sonia Gandhi made Telangana a reality despite lacking numerical strength in Parliament. He further noted that technologies such as reverse pumped storage, which are

now gaining attention, were introduced by Congress as early as 1978 at Nagarjuna Sagar.

During his visit to the Nagarjuna Sagar Hydel Power Plant, the Deputy CM reviewed the functioning of the reversible power units and praised the staff for ensuring uninterrupted power even when demand hit a peak of 17,162 MW. He said the Congress government under CM Revanth Reddy is leading a development-focused administration, attracting industries and driving economic growth. Bhatti outlined the government’s focus on green energy, with a target of generating 20,000 MW of clean energy by 2029-30. Given the projected rise in power demand — 18,825 MW by 2025-26 and over 33,000 MW by 2034-35 — the government is investing in battery storage systems to support solar power usage after sunset. All electricity department staff, from linemen to CMDs, will be trained in global technologies. The

Deputy CM also listed key welfare initiatives under the Congress government, including free power for 29 lakh agricultural pump sets, subsidized rice for 93 lakh families, and 200 free electricity units for 51 lakh households. He emphasized the ₹1 lakh crore interest-free loans to women self-help groups over five years and the construction of 4.5 lakh houses under the Indiramma scheme. He announced the establishment of 104 Young India Integrated Residential Schools with ₹200 crore investment to ensure uniform education across social groups. In just nine days, ₹9,000 crore was disbursed under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, and ₹21,000 crore was cleared to banks within the first three months of assuming office. Bhatti concluded by stating that Congress does not believe in demolishing but in building the future — a vision visible through their efforts in energy, water, welfare, and education.

EAGLE Seizes 3.25 Kg Opium, 3 Held

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Acting on credible intelligence, the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) apprehended three interstate drug peddlers in Bowenpally, Hyderabad, and seized 3.25 kg of opium (afeem), two vehicles, and four mobile phones. The accused were allegedly transporting the contraband from Rajasthan to supply it to local drug dealers.

The accused Savlaram Bishnoi (43), Hapuram Bishnoi (38), and Lalaram Bishnoi (41)—are all natives of Jalore district, Rajasthan. The prime accused, Savlaram, along with his brother Gangaram,

has been involved in the illegal opium trade for over a decade in Hyderabad. Investigations revealed that Savlaram exploited members of the Rajasthani diaspora in Telangana by falsely claiming opium enhances health and vitality. The operation began over 45 days ago when EAGLE picked up on a minor lead involving opioid delivery. Through sustained surveillance and technical tracking, the team confirmed the transportation of the drug in a Creta car from Bhinmal, Rajasthan. The suspects maintained radio silence throughout the journey. A Brezza vehicle, suspected to be piloting the drug carrier, was traced and identified en

route.

On July 18, the EAGLE team intercepted the suspects in Bowenpally while they were preparing to deliver the drug. The opium, valued at ₹17 lakh, was being sold to targeted individuals from the Rajasthani community in Hyderabad. The accused lured them with misleading claims about the benefits of opium, causing long-term addiction and health issues among many victims.

Authorities stated that the accused earned nearly ₹4 lakh profit per kilogram of opium sold. One of the accused, Lalaram, had stored the seized quantity in Adilabad before transporting it to

the city as instructed by Savlaram.

Officials warned that opium is a highly addictive narcotic with severe side effects, including reduced heart rate, impaired reflexes, infertility, and long-term health deterioration. The police urged the public, especially youth, to stay away from narcotics and encouraged parents to be vigilant.

EAGLE appealed to citizens to report drug-related activity by calling the toll-free number 1908 or sending information via WhatsApp to 8712671111. Informants will be rewarded, and all identities will be kept confidential.

ILLEGAL ABORTIONS INCREASED IN THE CITY

V. Krishna Kumar TPN, Hyderabad,

In a shocking revelation, the Drugs Control Administration (DCA) officials unearthed a major illegal sale of abortion kits across twin cities during recent raids. Over 149 medical stores were raided, exposing the rampant and unauthorized sale of abortion pills such as Mifepristone and Misoprostol — medicines used for medical termination of pregnancy.

What once was considered sacred — motherhood — is now under threat, not due to medical emergencies but driven by changing urban lifestyles and social choices. The rise in weekend culture, live-in relationships, and casual intimacy has reportedly led to increased instances of unwanted pregnancies,

many of which are being terminated without proper medical supervision. With stricter government regulations and hospitals — both public and private — refusing to conduct abortions without legal and medical justification, a new and dangerous trend has emerged.

Many individuals are opting to terminate pregnancies at home using over-the-counter abortion pills, bypassing all medical protocols.

The DCA’s investigation found that several medical stores were illegally stocking and selling abortion kits without prescriptions or regulatory approvals. These pills, while approved for medical use under a doctor’s guidance, are being misused and self-administered, posing serious risks to women’s health, in-

cluding excessive bleeding, infection, and long-term reproductive issues.

Authorities also discovered that there has been a surge in demand for such pills, encouraging certain suppliers and medical store owners to illegally stock and sell them for profit. The DCA has seized large quantities of the drugs and is preparing to initiate strict legal action against the violators. They have also issued warnings to all medical shop owners across Telangana, urging them not to stock or sell such kits without authorization. This crackdown comes in the backdrop of past concerns around female foeticide, where gender determination followed by selective abortions was a serious issue. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) and various state

governments have enforced strict laws against sex-selective abortions, and violators — including doctors and clinics — faced heavy penalties, including lifetime bans and imprisonment.

Now, the concern has shifted to unregulated access and unsafe usage of abortion pills, which threatens not just the unborn child, but also the health and life of the woman. The DCA has requested the public to report any instances of unauthorized drug sales and reiterated that the sale or distribution of abortion kits without medical oversight is a criminal offense.

Officials have emphasized that motherhood is a divine blessing and urged women not to take irreversible decisions under societal pressure or lifestyle trends.

Ramchander Rao Vows BJP Victory in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Medak

Addressing a gathering of party workers in Medak, BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao reflected on the party’s humble beginnings and its rise in the region. Recalling his days as the Yuva Morcha in-charge of Medak during the formation of the BJP in 1980, he said they used to go door to door on bicycles to spread the party’s ideology.

He noted that Medak has a strong BJP legacy, with victories in Parliament, municipalities, and local bodies. With leaders like Raghunandan Rao and the late Ale Narendra representing the constituency, he said BJP’s presence has grown

in both rural and urban areas. Ramchander Rao highlighted the recent membership drive, stating that 40 lakh new members joined BJP in Telangana, with 8 lakh from the joint Medak district alone. He said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the country has seen rapid development, and Telangana has received over ₹12 lakh crore in central funds.

He launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, accusing it of betraying the people with unfulfilled promises made during elections. “The Congress came to power with six guarantees and 420 promises, but none have been implement-



ed,” he said, pointing to stalled schemes like Rythu Bandhu, incomplete loan waivers, and lack of fee reimbursement. Ramchander Rao criticized the Congress government’s negligence towards Medak, citing unfulfilled irrigation needs through the Singur project and pending compensation for lands acquired for Mallanna

Sagar. He said even during Indira Gandhi’s tenure as Medak MP, the district remained backward and alleged that neither Congress nor BRS governments undertook significant development. He emphasized that only a double-engine BJP government could ensure real progress in Telangana and Medak.

The Kazipet Railway Coach Factory, a long-pending demand, has now materialized due to the Modi government’s efforts, he said. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav will inspect the site on July 19.

Ramchander Rao also highlighted new central projects including upgraded railway stations and road infrastructure.

He asserted that BJP is the true party for BCs, citing that PM Modi belongs to the BC community and over 20 BC ministers are part of the Union Cabinet. He demanded that if Congress is sincere about BC welfare, CM Revanth Reddy should resign and let a BC leader take over.

He criticized the Congress government’s promise of 42% reservation for BCs in local bodies and alleged that the inclusion of 10% Muslim reservation would harm genuine BCs. “BJP is against religion-based reservations and will protect the rights of backward classes,” he said.

Urging party workers to go door to door and communicate

the BJP’s developmental vision, Ramchander Rao said the people are disillusioned with Congress and ready to give BJP a chance. “We will win most seats in the upcoming local body polls and form the government in Telangana in 2028,” he declared.

He concluded by stating that under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, the central government is providing free rations to the poor, and the Modi government is known for good governance, not corruption like the UPA era. He expressed confidence that the people will teach Congress a lesson in the upcoming elections.

BJP to Expand Base in Telangana: Ramachander rao



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Newly appointed BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao has laid out his plans to strengthen the party's organisational structure and expand its influence across the state. Acknowledging the need for growth in districts like Nalgonda, Khammam, and Warangal, he said the party is working to consolidate its presence in traditional strongholds and build support in new areas. Speaking to reporters, Ramchander Rao, an ABVP veteran who took charge on July 1, said his immediate focus is to mobilise the party from the grassroots level. "We are developing our organisation at

the booth level and addressing farmers' issues in rural areas, while also preparing for municipal and municipal corporation elections," he said. Rao's first visit as state president was to Nalgonda, Suryapet, and his native village near Kodad, where he received a warm welcome. He also highlighted that the BJP is traditionally strong in North Telangana districts such as Karimnagar and Nizamabad, and said the party is aiming for balanced growth across the state, including Hyderabad and its surrounding regions. On the upcoming local body elections, Rao confirmed that the BJP will contest as many seats as possible. He expressed

confidence that the party would gain support in both urban and rural areas. "Earlier, we did not focus much on local bodies, but this time, we are going all out," he said, noting that the BJP recently won two MLC seats in the state. Rao claimed that the people of Telangana, disillusioned with both the BRS and the Congress, now see the BJP as a viable alternative. "Neither BRS nor Congress fulfilled the aspirations of the Telangana statehood movement," he asserted. When asked about the resignation of Goshamahal MLA Raja Singh from the BJP, Ramchander Rao dismissed it as a setback. "No individual is above the party. Our strength lies in

our cadre and ideology," he stated. Raja Singh had quit the party after raising objections to Rao's appointment as state president. Responding to speculation about a possible understanding with BRS, following BRS MLC K. Kavitha's alleged comments on party members seeking a merger during her jail term, Rao said such remarks should not be taken seriously. He also criticised the Congress government's recent announcement of 42% reservation, calling it a political move. "It's just an eyewash. The Congress is using the BC card for votes," Rao alleged, adding that the BJP opposes extending BC category reservations to Muslims.

Quality Food, Hygiene Must in Gurukuls: Ponnam

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
BC Welfare and Food Minister Ponnam Prabhakar held a virtual review meeting via Zoom with principals, Regional Coordinating Officers (RCOs), Gurukul Secretary Saidu, BC Welfare Secretary Sridhar, and other officials of 327 BC Gurukul schools across the state. The meeting was convened in response to a recent series of concerning incidents reported in various Gurukuls. Expressing deep regret over the incidents, Minister Ponnam stressed the importance of vigilance, accountability, and student welfare. He directed RCOs to conduct regular inspections as part of their official responsibilities and urged principals and teachers to closely monitor students' well-being at all times. "Any untoward incident should be immediately reported to higher authorities without delay," he said. The minister issued a stern warning that strict action would be taken against those found negligent in their duties, especially in matters concerning student safety, health, and hygiene. He also emphasized the need to maintain cleanliness in school premises and ensure regular health check-ups for students. Highlighting the government's commitment to student welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar stated that mess charges had been increased to provide nutritious and quality food to students. He instructed officials to ensure that meals are served as per the prescribed menu and no compromise is made on food standards. Reaffirming the government's zero-tolerance approach to negligence, the minister reminded officials that they would be held accountable for any lapses or incidents occurring in the Gurukuls under their supervision.



Seethakka Slams BRS Over False Propaganda



TPN Correspondent | Mulugu
Minister for Tribal Welfare, Smt. Seethakka, strongly criticized the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) during her visit to Mulugu, where she participated in several development programs. She condemned the misinformation being circulated on social media regarding a recent incident at a public gathering. "Even if a vegetable basket falls accidentally, some BRS leaders are spreading false narratives. Certain individuals, posing as journalists, are

recording such minor incidents and deliberately making them viral. It's shameful and irresponsible," said the Minister. Seethakka emphasized her grounded nature, saying, "I am not a princess. Even as a Minister, I always stay among the people. During such gatherings, especially where women are present in large numbers, small accidents can happen. If someone accidentally hits a basket, it may fall. Twisting such moments to defame is unethical." She further alleged that

BRS leaders were uncomfortable with the success of women-centric programs. "The BRS government previously avoided paying ₹3,000 crore in interest dues to women's self-help groups. Now, they can't tolerate the empowerment brought in by schemes like Indira Mahila Shakti. Their frustration is visible," she added. Minister Seethakka's comments have sparked a fresh political debate as she continues to assert her grassroots connect and commitment to women's welfare.

Ponguleti Highlights Congress Welfare Drive



TPN Correspondent | Anvesh Reddy
Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy participated in the Indira Mahi-

la Shakti Sambaralu program held at the Burgampadu mandal market yard on Thursday. Addressing a large

gathering of women, the minister outlined the Congress government's ongoing commitment to the welfare

of women and the underprivileged. He stated that since the Congress government came to power, numerous welfare schemes have been introduced, especially benefiting girls and women. Highlighting the success of the Indiramma housing scheme, he said, "When Indiramma gives houses, tears of joy come to the eyes of girls." The minister emphasized that 4 lakh houses have already been sanctioned in the first phase, and eligible beneficiaries will receive up to ₹5 lakh in installments—a benefit no other state in the country currently offers. Minister Ponguleti criticized the opposition for claiming that the government has achieved nothing in the last one and a half years. "They are running a global campaign of lies. You all know that my constituency is next in development after Paleru," he remarked. He accused the previous government of failing to deliver on key promises such as gas subsidies, double-bedroom houses, white ration cards, and interest-free loans for women. "They ruled for ten years but

couldn't provide gas for ₹500 or deliver on housing," he said. He added that the Congress government has already sanctioned 5.6 lakh new ration cards across the state and has revived several pro-poor programs that had been neglected. "We are now paying off the debts incurred by the previous government while continuing welfare schemes and moving forward with responsibility," he noted. Minister Ponguleti also praised the legacy of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, crediting him for introducing the free electricity scheme. "Congress means free current. That's our commitment to the people," he said. Strongly criticizing the previous administration, he alleged that the state was looted for ten years and commented that "those who looted father and son should go abroad with the money they took." He reaffirmed that the Indiramma government would provide welfare benefits to all eligible people in a phased manner, without any political bias.

Bonalu: Traffic Diversions on July 20–21



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In view of the Bonalu festivities on July 20 and 21, the Hyderabad Traffic Police has announced traffic diversions in the Old City from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM on both days to ensure smooth movement and safety of the public. Traffic coming from Engine Bowli and Falaknuma will not be allowed towards Aliyabad and will be diverted at New Shamsheergunj T-junction towards Goshala, Tadban, or Misrigunj, Khilwath. Similarly, commuters from MBNR X Road will be redirected at Engine Bowli towards Jahanuma, Goshala, Tadban or Misrigunj. Vehicles from Nagulchinta and Sudha Talkies will be restricted from entering Lal Darwaza Temple and instead diverted at Nehru Mod via Gowlipura. Traffic from Gowlipura towards Lal Darwaza Mod will be diverted at Sudha Talkies towards Mir-

chowk via Hari Bowli. Commuters from Pancha Mohalla (Charminar) heading to Nagulchinta will be diverted towards Hari Bowli, Volga Hotel, and Misrigunj. Traffic coming from Rajanna Bowli towards the temple will be diverted near Venkateshwara Swamy temple (Baba Bar) towards Ramaswamy Gunj. Vehicles from Kandikal Gate towards Lal Darwaza Temple Road will be redirected at OP Chatrinaka PS Y-junction towards Gowlipura. Traffic from Balagunj to Lal Darwaza Temple will be diverted at Laxmi Devi Pan Shop towards Nehru Statue, Nagulchinta Junction. Vehicles from Uppuguda and Chatrinaka via Gowlipura heading towards Mohammed Shukoor mosque will be diverted at Balraj Jewelers point towards Moghalpura Police Station. Commuters from Kandikal Gate flyover to Chatrinaka OP will be diverted towards VN Reddy Kaman and Uppugu-

da Janda, and heavy vehicles from Old Chandrayangutta to Chatrinaka will be diverted via Santoshnagar and Chandrayangutta. Traffic from Fateh Darwaza will be diverted at Volga Hotel T-junction towards Khilwat Road, and those from Gowlipura to Sudha Theater will be diverted at Mohammed Shukoor mosque via Mirchowk, Volta Hotel, and Eitebar Chowk. Vehicles from Chatrinaka OP to Gowlipura will be diverted at Gandhi Statue towards Sri Ram Nagar Colony, CIB Quarters, Sultan Shahi, Lalithabagh, and Moghalpura. Similarly, traffic from Meer-ka-Daira and Moghalpura will be redirected at Moghalpura Water Tank area, restricting entry to Hari Bowli X-Roads. Traffic from Asra Hospital side and Moghalpura Water Tank towards Charminar main road will be diverted towards Bibi Bazar. Similarly, commuters from Alijah

Kotla or Moghalpura towards Charminar via Sardar Mahal Road will be diverted at Chowk Maidan Khan towards Hafiz Danka Masjid or Arman Hotel via Sri Gayatri College. Traffic from Purani Haveli towards Tipu Khana Masjid via Chatta Bazar will be diverted at Lakkad Kote X-Roads towards APAT Junction or Darul Shifa. Commuters from Chaderghat, Noorkhan Bazar, S.J Rotary, and Shivaji Bridge will be diverted at S.J Rotary towards Purani Haveli Road, Shivaji Bridge, and Chaderghat, avoiding Salarjung Museum Road. Finally, traffic from Khilwat Road or Moosabowli Road will not be permitted towards Laad Bazaar and will be diverted at Motigalli T-Junction towards Khilwat Playground or Moosabowli. The traffic police have requested citizens to cooperate with the diversions and plan travel accordingly.

GHMC on Alert Amid Heavy Rains

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

With the city experiencing heavy rainfall and the risk of flooding in low-lying areas, GHMC Deputy Mayor Smt. Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy has instructed officials to remain on high alert. She directed emergency monsoon teams to stay fully prepared and respond promptly to issues in their respective zones. “All teams must be available round-the-clock through the control room to ensure public safety,” she said.

The Deputy Mayor also advised setting up barricades around open manholes and waterlogged zones to prevent accidents. She urged citizens to stay indoors unless necessary and avoid electric poles and flowing water areas. “Vigilance from everyone can



help avoid untoward incidents,” she added, emphasizing community safety.

Bathukamma Kunta Revived in 4 Months



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A festive atmosphere prevailed at Bathukamma Kunta in Amberpet on Friday as children and residents gathered to celebrate the rejuvenation of the long-neglected pond. Once filled with garbage, debris, and thorny overgrowth, the site has now been transformed into a clean, green public space within just four months. Students from various schools formed a human chain around the pond, holding placards thanking the civic body ‘Hydra’ for its efforts. Messages such as “Protect the ponds,” “Save the environment,” and “Hydra brought Bathukamma Kunta to life” reflected the community’s appreciation. The children pledged to safeguard nature and water bodies, while locals enthusiastically joined in chanting “Hydra Zindabad.”

Speaking at the event, Hydra Commissioner AV Ranganath said the restoration of Bathukamma Kunta stands as a model for the revival of lakes across Hyderabad. He noted that the transformation was made possible through the coordinated efforts of departments including Revenue, GHMC, HMDA, and Irrigation. He added that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is personally monitoring the development of urban water bodies and is expected to visit Bathukamma Kunta on September 21 for the Bathukamma festival. Commissioner Ranganath emphasized

the importance of biodiversity and clean water bodies in ensuring a healthier, greener future for the city.

Hyderabad District Collector Harichandana Dasari called the project a record-setting achievement, highlighting that the pond was restored in just four months. She recalled how the area once functioned as a dumping yard and praised the transformation as a significant milestone in urban ecological development. She urged for similar efforts to revive canals and interlink ponds across the city.

Former MP and senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao, who was also present, expressed his emotional connection to the site. He recalled playing at the pond during his childhood and said the revived lake brought back old memories. He credited the efforts of Hydra and said the agency had proved that development means creating a sustainable future, not just demolishing structures. He urged the government to extend this initiative to other tanks, canals, and flood channels across Hyderabad to ensure safety and environmental well-being for future generations.

GHMC Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran and Hydra officials Ashok, Papaiah, Sudarshan, Tirumal, and Srikanth were among those who participated in the program, which has inspired momentum for the revival of more urban lakes.

Flood Fury Hits Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent |Hyderabad

Heavy rains caused severe waterlogging across several parts of the city, with low-lying areas facing mid-level flooding. Colonies near Patni Nala were particularly affected, with floodwaters entering homes and disrupting normal life. In response, Hydra Commissioner AV Ranganath personally visited the affected areas, overseeing relief operations and

ensuring the safe evacuation of residents using boats. Hydra’s Disaster Response Force (DRF) and Monsoon Emergency teams were deployed on the ground to assist those stranded. Despite earlier plans to widen Patni Nala to prevent recurrent flooding, the project was stalled following objections from a house owner. Locals now blame this delay for the recurring flood situation. Res-

idents trapped in flooded homes were moved to safety with the help of DRF personnel. In Amberpet, floodwater flowed heavily into Bathukamma Kunta, which is now helping contain some of the overflow. Locals noted that, unlike in the past when surrounding areas would flood, the restored pond is now effectively managing the excess water.



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

As part of the Ashada Bonalu celebrations, Hyderabad District Collector Hari Chandana Dasari presented a golden bonam to Goddess Sri Mahankali at the historic Lal Darwaja Simhavahini Temple in the Old City. The collector also participated in the Laksha Kumkumarchana, a special ritual offering prayers to the Goddess with kumkum, symbolizing devotion and protection. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Hari Chandana expressed her happiness in pre-

senting the golden bonam on behalf of the district administration. She said it was a spiritually fulfilling experience and urged citizens to celebrate Bonalu with devotion and in a peaceful manner.

She mentioned that the district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the Bonalu festivities across Hyderabad. Measures have been taken to ensure safety, cleanliness, and smooth conduct of the celebrations in coordination with GHMC, police, and emergency services.

Bonalu is one of Telangana’s most important festivals, celebrated in the month of Ashada to honor Goddess Mahankali. The offering of bonam, a decorated pot with rice, curd, jaggery, and neem leaves, is a traditional expression of gratitude for the Goddess’s protection.

The event at Lal Darwaja temple is among the most prominent Bonalu celebrations in the city, drawing large crowds of devotees, officials, and cultural artists each year.

Collector Offers Golden Bonam at Lal Darwaja Temple



Husnabad Shines in Swachh Bharat Drive

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Husnabad town has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing 9th place in the Telangana state cleanliness survey and 133rd place at the national level among thousands of municipalities. The achievement was announced by State Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, who attributed the success to the active cooperation of residents and the dedicated efforts of municipal staff. Minister Prabhakar praised the people of Husnabad for their disciplined

participation in the Swachh Bharat Mission, particularly in segregating wet and dry waste and supporting sanitation initiatives. He also noted that Hyderabad secured 6th place in the state rankings, reflecting Telangana's growing commitment to cleanliness. Husnabad has also been recognized for its exemplary greenery, ranking first in the state in that category. The minister emphasized ongoing efforts to raise awareness through community activities such as morning walks and cleanliness drives. "We aim to

make Husnabad a plastic-free constituency," he said, highlighting initiatives like setting up steel banks in every village and distributing 34,000 steel glasses to 340 hotels to reduce plastic usage. Minister Prabhakar congratulated the people, officials, and public representatives of Husnabad and called for continued public cooperation. "Husnabad should serve as a model for others in the state. With collective effort, we can reach even greater heights," he stated.

PDSU Protests Poor School Facilities

TPN Correspondent | Anvesh reddy
Students under the banner of the Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU) staged a protest on Friday in Bhadrachalam, demanding immediate resolution of issues plaguing government schools and colleges across the state. The protest was held as part of a state-wide call given by the PDSU state committee. Speaking at the protest, PDSU state committee members Munegeela Shiva Prashanth and Dandugula Ram Charan, along with Bhadrachalam division presidents, criticized the Congress government for its failure to address the deteriorating conditions in the education sector. They expressed serious concern over the lack of basic infrastructure in schools and colleges, including classrooms, toilets, safe drinking water, and computers. They stated that in many government schools, students from class five and above are forced to study in a single room, while some schools operate with only one or two teachers. According to the PDSU leaders, there are 4,202 schools in the state with only one teacher, and around 2,000 schools are being shut down each year under the pretext of low



student enrollment. The student leaders questioned the state government's seriousness, highlighting that there is no education minister even after 18 months of Congress rule. They pointed out that the posts of District Educational Officers (DEOs) are vacant in 29 districts and Mandal Educational Officer (MEO) posts are unfilled in 539 mandals, despite the new academic year having already begun.

They condemned the state's "school walk program," calling it a political gimmick without real action. They argued that without solving the core issues, such symbolic gestures only threaten the future of government education. The students demanded immediate infrastructure improvements, filling of vacant posts of DEOs, MEOs, teachers, and lecturers, as well as the enhancement of menu charges under the

midday meal scheme to ensure nutritious food. PDSU leaders warned that if the Congress government fails to act, they will intensify their agitation and even work towards ousting the Revanth Reddy government. Students including Sandhya, Ravali, Ram Charan, and Pawan Kalyan participated in the protest, raising slogans in support of better education facilities.

Gudipalli Reservoir Begins Water Supply



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
TPCC Disciplinary Committee Chairman and Nagarkurnool Member of Parliament Dr. Mallu Ravi formally inaugurated the Gudipalli lift motor. The event took place at the Gudipalli Reservoir in Gudipalli village, located in Nagarkurnool district. The reservoir is part of the Mahatma Gandhi - Kalvakurthi Lift Irrigation Project, a major initiative to provide water to drought-prone areas. During the ceremony, Dr. Mallu Ravi switched on the motor and officially released irrigation water from the reservoir. This water is set to benefit the farming communities across the Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, and Kalvakurthi constituencies, helping to improve cultivation prospects in these regions. Speaking at the event, Dr. Mallu Ravi emphasized that the Congress-led people's government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is committed to ensuring justice for farmers. He affirmed that all pending irrigation projects would be completed, and efforts would be made to supply water to every acre of ayakkattu (irrigated land). He reiterated the government's determination to uplift agriculture and support rural livelihoods through strengthened irrigation infrastructure. The program was attended by a host of public representatives and officials, including MLAs Dr. Rajesh Reddy, Megha Reddy, and Madhusudhan Reddy. Chief Engineer Vijayabhaskar Reddy, Superintending Engineer Satyanarayana Reddy, Executive Engineer, Congress party leaders, activists, and several local residents were also present, marking the occasion as a key milestone for regional development.

AYUSH Doctors Felicitate Minister



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
State Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha was felicitated by 138 newly selected medical officers of the AYUSH department at his residence in Sangareddy. The selected doctors met the minister to express their gratitude for the government's efforts in filling vacancies and supporting the traditional medicine system. On this occasion, Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha announced that appointment letters will soon be issued to the newly selected medical officers. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening the AYUSH department and expanding healthcare services through timely recruitment and improved infrastructure. The medical officers thanked the state government and Minister Rajanarsimha for the opportunity and assured their dedication to serving in the public health sector. Doctors Dr. Kiran Kumar, Dr. Anil, Dr. Sampath Kumar, Dr. Vijetha, Dr. Sridevi, and Dr. Nilofer Anjum were among those who met the minister during the felicitation.

White Tiger Unveiled at Kakatiya Zoo

TPN Correspondent | Hanumakonda
A striking white tiger from Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, has become the newest attraction at the Kakatiya Zoological Park on Hunter Road. The 13-year-old tiger was formally released into its enclosure for public viewing by Forest, Environment, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha.

The white tiger replaces two aging tigers, Shanker and Kareena, who were recently shifted to Hyderabad for medical care. The new addition is expected to draw more visitors and raise interest in wildlife conservation. As part of the event, Minister Surekha also launched several digital initiatives including QR codes and chatbots,

offering visitors easy access to information about the zoo's animals. She urged the public to adopt zoo animals and support the zoo's development. These programs were part of the ongoing Vana Mahotsavam celebrations aimed at promoting environmental awareness and community participation in wildlife protection.



India’s Global South Leadership Under Strain Amid Foreign Policy Contradictions



Recent developments suggest that India’s leadership role in the Global South is steadily eroding, raising concerns about its strategic positioning and credibility in multilateral forums. From the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to BRICS and even the long-dormant SAARC, India appears increasingly isolated as other nations in the region and beyond explore alternative alliances — often with China’s support. India has long aspired to be the voice of the Global South, championing the concerns of developing nations. However, its selective advocacy and reluctance to take firm stances on contentious global issues have created a credibility gap.

India’s abstentions on several United Nations resolutions calling for ceasefires in Gaza, its muted responses to US and Israeli attacks on Iran, and its silence on issues like the Dalai Lama’s succession and Tibet’s autonomy raise questions about the consistency of its moral compass. These choices point to a foreign policy driven more by realpolitik than by principle — a stance increasingly viewed with skepticism across the Global South. In the SCO, India’s influence appears to be waning. At the recent Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Tianjin, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar pushed for a condemnation of the Pahalgam

terrorist attack, highlighting the SCO’s foundational aim to combat terrorism. However, member states — led by China and backed by Pakistan — offered only platitudes about regional cooperation. India’s refusal to sign the joint statement after the attack was ignored reveals its diminished sway in the organisation. Similarly, India’s role in BRICS is under scrutiny despite its upcoming presidency in 2026. While there are bold ambitions to reshape BRICS around themes like resilience and sustainability, India’s mixed signals are undermining trust. Its continued support for Israel, hesitancy on endorsing a common BRICS currency, and

silence on US-led efforts that destabilize global trade have led to questions about its commitment to genuine multipolar cooperation. Closer to home, in SAARC, India’s longstanding strategy of isolating Pakistan has lost traction. Frustrated by the lack of regional progress, neighbouring countries are now leaning toward Chinese-backed platforms, leaving India further marginalized. Unless India reassesses its diplomatic approach, especially its balancing act between strategic autonomy and bloc commitments, it risks further alienation within the very group of nations it once sought to lead.

Indian Sports Administration: Living in a Fool’s Paradise, Urgent Reality Check Needed



India’s sports administration seems trapped in a dreamland where everything appears promising on the surface, but beneath lies a mess of conflicts, doping scandals, and declining performance. The government’s ambitious plan to host the 2036 Olympic Games is touted as a symbol of India’s sporting progress and organizational capabilities. However, a recent visit by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) officials to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters in Switzerland brutally exposed India’s deep-rooted problems.

The IOC bluntly told the Indian delegation: “Get your house in order before you think of hosting the Olympics.” This wake-

up call highlighted three critical concerns.

First, the IOA is marred by internal power struggles. IOA President P.T. Usha is locked in conflict with executive council members over key appointments, such as CEO Raghuram Iyer and her executive assistant Ajay Kumar Narang. This friction has stalled meetings and created a toxic environment. Furthermore, the IOA and the sports ministry clash over the recognition of the Indian Golf Union, with both bodies backing rival factions. This chaos severely undermines the apex sports body’s credibility.

Second, doping is rampant among Indian athletes. Ac-

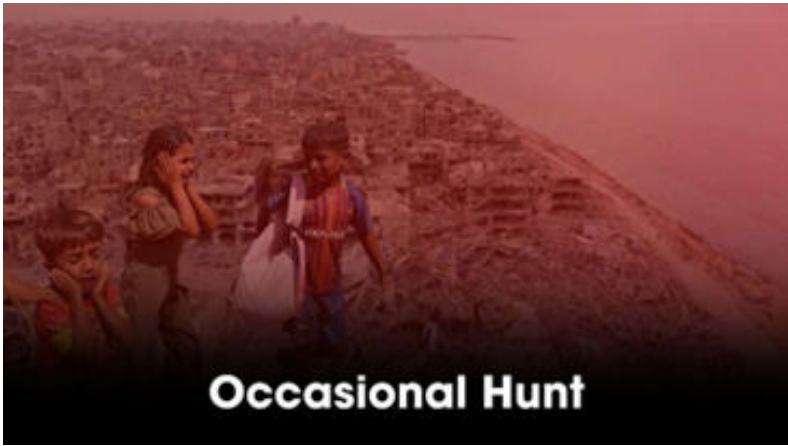
cording to the Athletics Integrity Unit of World Athletics, 62 Indian athletes, including juniors, have been caught using banned substances, making India second only to Russia in doping cases worldwide. The doping crisis is widespread and entrenched, tarnishing India’s image internationally. Despite this, the sports community often turns a blind eye to drug use as long as medals keep coming.

Third, India’s overall Olympic performance is on a steady decline. The IOC’s data reveals that India’s rank in the last five Olympics has dropped from 50th in Beijing 2008 to a low of 71st in Paris 2024, with only a slight improvement in Tokyo 2020 due to Neeraj

Chopra’s gold medal. The scarcity of gold medals hurts India’s global standing.

Compared to nations like Jamaica, which produces world-class athletes despite limited infrastructure, India’s progress is sluggish. If things don’t change, India risks being ranked 100th by 2036—the year it plans to host the Olympics—making it the only host nation with such poor sporting credentials.

The IOC’s advice is clear: India must first strengthen its sports ecosystem and improve athlete performance before dreaming of hosting the world’s biggest sporting event. Otherwise, the nation risks humiliation on the global stage.



Palestine’s Silent Tragedy: Daily Deaths Become the New Normal

What we are witnessing in Gaza today is not just a conflict—it is a relentless, daily decimation of a people. The killings have become so routine that they no longer shock the world. The silence is deafening, the inaction overwhelming. It seems the world, and perhaps humanity itself, has become numb to the tragedy unfolding in Palestine.

A recent report by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics paints a grim picture. Since October 2023, Gaza’s population has declined by nearly 10%. More than 57,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks, including 18,000 children and 12,000 women. This staggering number represents 2.4% of Gaza’s population—erased in less than two years.

The violence shows no signs of abating. On average, around 60 civilians are being killed daily, many of them women and children. The scale of human suffering is almost beyond comprehension, yet there is no visible effort to stop the carnage. The international community, often quick to condemn other crises, remains largely passive—reduced to a mute audience.

Even within the Islamic world, there is little more than rhetoric. The 57 Arab-Muslim nations, who often express solidarity with the people of Gaza, appear paralysed—neither raising their voice effectively nor taking any meaningful action. They call Gazans their brothers and sisters in faith, yet many remain silent out of fear—fear for their regimes, their personal safety, and the massive wealth they sit upon.

Children are dying not just from bombs but from hunger and thirst. Basic necessities are scarce. Human dignity is vanishing in plain sight.

Meanwhile, Israel, undeterred by the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, has also launched attacks on Iran, allegedly targeting its nuclear program. Backed by its long-time ally, the United States, Israel’s military ambitions continue unabated, though they’ve failed to achieve key objectives.

In cities like Hyderabad, Urdu newspapers continue to document the daily toll of death and destruction in Gaza. But what impact do these grim updates have on their readers? Do they move people to demand action—or have even the most empathetic grown accustomed to the news?

How long will this massacre go on? Who will stop it? The world has no answers. The tragedy of Palestine continues—unfolding silently, tragically, and seemingly without end.



Retail Inflation Hits Six-Year Low: What the Numbers Reveal Beyond the Headlines

India’s inflation rate continues its downward slide, with the latest data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) confirming a significant moderation. Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), dropped to a six-year low of 2.1% in June, down from 2.82% in May. This marks the fifth consecutive month in which inflation has remained below the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) target of 4%.

The average inflation for the first quarter of the fiscal year now stands at 2.7%, lower than the RBI’s own projection of 2.9%. The last time inflation was this low was in January 2019, when it reached 1.97%. Notably, rural inflation was even lower than the national average at 1.72%, while urban inflation was slightly higher at 2.56%.

The primary factor driving this downward trend is the sharp moderation in food prices. The food and beverages category, which constitutes around 46% of the CPI basket, recorded a deflation of 0.2%. Vegetables and pulses in particular saw substantial price declines. This drop was further aided by a favourable base effect. Given the positive outlook for agriculture—thanks to a strong southwest monsoon and increased kharif crop acreage—food prices are expected to stay low in the near future. The monsoon, which had a slow start, has since picked up pace, delivering rainfall 9.5% above the long-period average. This has significantly improved agricultural prospects. Additionally, the resolution of the Israel-Iran conflict has eased concerns over a potential spike in global oil prices, further reinforcing optimism about inflation control. However, the picture isn’t uniformly positive. While food inflation has declined, prices in other CPI categories—such as education, healthcare, and daily-use goods—have seen increases. This suggests that despite easing food costs, the overall cost of living may not have dropped significantly for the average household.

Justice Yashwant Varma Challenges Panel Report in Supreme Court Over Alleged Cash Scandal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Justice Yashwant Varma, a sitting judge of a High Court, has approached the Supreme Court challenging the findings of an in-house inquiry committee that linked him to unaccounted cash found in a gutted storeroom at his official residence following a fire on March 14-15.

The inquiry panel, formed by then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, had submitted its report on May 3, concluding that large amounts of half-burnt currency notes were found in suspicious circumstances, and indicated that the money was likely removed from the storeroom by trusted staff of Justice Varma during the early hours of March 15. Justice Varma has now moved the apex court to challenge both the report's findings and a subsequent communication sent by Justice Khanna to the President and Prime Minister, recommending his removal. He argued that the committee had no constitutional or statutory authority to recommend the ousting of a sitting judge and termed the report unconstitutional and procedurally flawed.



The judge contended that he was denied a fair hearing and not given an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses. He also raised objections over the absence of direct evidence, stating the panel based its conclusions on inference and speculation.

PM Modi Unveils ₹7,200 Crore Projects in Bihar, Promises Jobs, Empowerment, and Growth

TPN Correspondent | Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple development projects worth ₹7,200 crore during his visit to Motihari, Bihar. Aimed at accelerating the region's progress, these multi-sectoral initiatives cover infrastructure, education, transportation, housing, and women's empowerment.

During the event, PM Modi handed over keys to 12,000 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, marking a significant push toward rural housing. He also flagged off four new Amrit Bharat trains, giving a major boost to the region's transport connectivity.

Addressing a large public gathering, the Prime Minister took aim at the previous RJD-Congress governments in the state, accusing them of neglecting development and prioritizing corruption. "Funds meant for the poor were looted. The word 'vikas' (development) was unheard of," he said.

PM Modi highlighted the contrast in governance since 2014, noting that Bihar had received just ₹2 lakh crore under UPA rule, while his government has allocated ₹9 lakh crore in the last 10 years. "We ended the politics of revenge against



Bihar and ushered in real development," he stated. Emphasizing women's empowerment, he lauded the Jeevika Didi initiative, which has helped thousands of women become financially independent. "These women have become 'Lakshpati Didis', showing the way forward for social transformation," he said.

Looking to the future, Modi promised to develop Motihari like Mumbai and Gaya on par with

Gurugram, offering better infrastructure and job opportunities to the youth. He also announced plans to establish a special Makhan Board, ensuring fair prices for farmers and modernization of the agricultural sector.

Declaring that "If Bihar develops, India develops," PM Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment to jobs for the youth, dignity for the poor, and economic empowerment for women.



Bomb threats hit over 45 Schools In Delhi&Bengaluru, turns out to be hoax

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

New Delhi witnessed chaos and panic on Friday as more than 45 schools across the city received bomb threats via email, sending students, parents, and staff into a state of alarm. Authorities swiftly launched emergency protocols, with police, bomb disposal squads, fire services, and dog squads rushing to affected locations to carry out evacuations and security sweeps. The schools targeted include institutions in Rohini, Dwarka, Paschim Vihar, South Delhi, Janakpuri, Ashok Vihar, and other areas. Notable schools like Delhi Public School (DPS), The Heritage School, GD Goenka, and Amity International were among those threatened. This marks the fourth such incident in the national capital in just one week.

Delhi Police have confirmed that investigations are underway, and search operations at the affected schools are ongoing. So far, no explosives have been found, and authorities are working to trace the source of the hoax messages. Former Delhi minister Atishi criticized the BJP-led central government over the repeated security lapses, calling it "shocking" that no safety assurance could be provided despite full control over Delhi's administration.

US Declares The Resistance Front a Foreign Terrorist Organization

The US State Department on Friday officially designated The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group linked to Pakistan-based terror organization Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). TRF had claimed responsibility for the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.



Kashmir, causing instability and violence.

India warmly welcomed the US decision, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar calling it a "strong affirmation of India-US counter-terrorism cooperation." The designation highlights the deepening partnership between the two countries in tackling cross-border terrorism and shared security threats.

The move comes amid ongoing concerns about terror groups operating from across the border targeting Indian civilians and security forces. The Resistance Front, known for its covert operations and links to Lashkar-e-Taiba, has been active in Jammu and

The US action adds international pressure on Pakistan to curb terror groups operating within its territory and disrupt their networks. New Delhi views this step as a significant boost to India's efforts in combating terrorism and safeguarding regional peace.

Both nations continue to strengthen collaboration in intelligence sharing and counter-terror measures to prevent such attacks in the future. The designation of TRF is seen as a critical milestone in the global fight against terrorism.

AAP Bids Goodbye to INDIA Bloc, Declares Alliance Limited to Lok Sabha Polls

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a political twist that has sent ripples across opposition ranks, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has officially distanced itself from the INDIA bloc, declaring that its alliance with the Congress and other parties was limited only to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. AAP MP Sanjay Singh confirmed this stance while addressing the media on Wednesday.



"The INDIA bloc was a strategy for the Lok Sabha elections. After that, we fought the Delhi and Haryana assembly elections independently. Our position is clear," Singh said, indicating a formal end to the collaborative opposition platform that once aimed to challenge the BJP at the national level. He emphasized that AAP will continue to raise people-centric issues in Parliament, particularly the alleged misuse of bulldozers in demolitions in states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and the Purvanchal region. "We are committed to exposing the anti-poor policies being implemented under the guise of development," he said.

Singh also accused the BJP-led Delhi administration of targeting slum dwellers. Referring to the ongoing demolition drives, he claimed that homes and shelters of the poor were being razed during extreme weather con-

ditions. "Slums are being demolished in 50-degree heat while the poor are left to suffer on the streets," he added.

Backing Singh's statements, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal had earlier voiced strong criticism of the BJP during a protest at Jantar Mantar, alleging that land-grabbing motives were behind the slum demolitions. He warned voters ahead of the Lok Sabha polls that such actions would increase if BJP remained in power—remarks that have resurfaced after large-scale demolitions within just five months. With this official declaration, AAP's exit from the INDIA bloc marks a significant shift in the opposition landscape ahead of future state and national elections.

Former CM Bhupesh Baghel's Son Chaitanya Arrested by ED in ₹2,100 Crore Liquor Scam



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major development in the ongoing liquor scam investigation, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday arrested Chaitanya Baghel, son of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, in connection with a massive ₹2,100 crore money laundering case. According to sources, ED officials carried out early

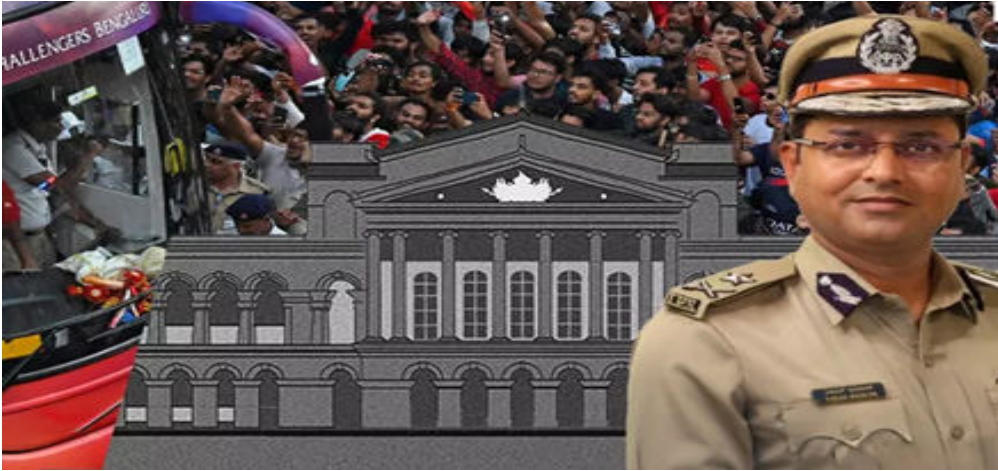
morning searches at Chaitanya Baghel's residence in Bhilai, located in the Durg district. After concluding their inspection and verifying new evidence, they detained him for further questioning and subsequently placed him under arrest.

The arrest has sparked political tensions in Chhattisgarh. Former CM Bhupesh Baghel has strongly criticized the ED's actions, accusing the central agency of acting with political bias. Speaking on the final day of the state assembly session, Baghel claimed that such raids and arrests are part of a broader political vendetta orchestrated by the ruling party at the Centre.

"It's no coincidence that this action comes just as key political discussions are underway. The ED is being misused to target opposition leaders and their families," Bhupesh Baghel said.

It is worth noting that the ED had previously raided Chaitanya Baghel's premises on March 10 as part of its ongoing investigation into the alleged scam. Today's arrest adds to the growing list of high-profile figures under the ED scanner as it deepens its probe into financial irregularities in Chhattisgarh's liquor business.

Bengaluru Stampede: State Calls IPS Officer 'RCB's Servant' in Defense of Suspension



In the Bengaluru stampede case, the Karnataka State Government defended the suspension of IPS officer Vikash Kumar Vikash before the Karnataka High Court. Senior Counsel PS Rajagopal, representing the state, argued that the suspended officers acted like "servants" of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) cricket team, leading to embarrassment for the government. The state blamed the officers for failing to manage the situation properly during the incident, which resulted in chaos and tragedy. This defense came as the government justified its decision to suspend Vikash and others responsible for the law and order lapse. The case highlights concerns over the handling of security and crowd control during high-profile events in Bengaluru. The Karnataka High Court is currently hearing the matter to decide on the validity of the suspension and accountability for the stampede.

Donald Trump Demands Release of Epstein Grand Jury Transcripts, Denies Writing Controversial Letter

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former US President Donald Trump on Friday called for the release of grand jury transcripts related to Jeffrey Epstein’s case, labeling the situation a “scam” allegedly driven by Democrats. Posting on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump urged Attorney General Pam Bondi to produce all relevant grand jury testimony, pending court approval, to “end this scam right now.”

The demand followed a Wall Street Journal report revealing a note purportedly from Trump among a collection of letters given to Epstein on his 50th birthday in 2003. The letter reportedly included Trump’s name alongside a crude outline of a naked woman. The documents cited by the report have reignited public scrutiny of Epstein’s connections to powerful figures. Epstein died in jail in 2019 while awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charges.

Trump swiftly denied authoring the letter and accused the media of a coordinated smear



campaign. In a series of posts on Truth Social, he threatened to sue The Wall Street Journal, its parent company News Corp., and media mogul Rupert Murdoch over the story. “The Wall Street Journal, and Rupert Murdoch, personally, were warned directly by President Donald J. Trump that the supposed letter they printed by President Trump to Epstein was a FAKE,” Trump wrote. He accused the Journal’s editor Emma Tucker of ignoring warnings

from both himself and White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt. Trump insisted the letter is “false, malicious, and defamatory,” and confirmed legal action would be taken soon. Leavitt also criticized the Journal on X (formerly Twitter), calling the article a “hatchet job” featuring a “FAKE ‘birthday letter’ supposedly from 2003.” The controversy adds to ongoing debates surrounding Epstein’s legacy and his ties to influential individuals.



Gaza Crisis Deepens: Over 90 Killed in Israeli Strikes, Child Malnutrition Doubles Amid Blockade

TPN Correspondent | Washington

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has worsened drastically, with more than 90 Palestinians killed in the past 24 hours due to intensified Israeli airstrikes, health officials reported. Many of the dead include women and children, while severe food shortages and growing malnutrition among children continue to plague the region.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), child malnutrition in Gaza has doubled since March, when Israel resumed military operations and tightened its blockade, cutting off essential food and medical supplies. UNRWA’s latest screenings show that over

10% of children under age five are acutely malnourished, up from 5.5% just three months ago.

In one of the deadliest incidents, a strike in Gaza City’s Tel al-Hawa district killed 19 members of a single family, including six children and eight women. Another strike on a tent shelter in the same area claimed four more lives. The bodies were taken to the war-torn Shifa Hospital, which continues to operate under overwhelming conditions.

The strikes also claimed the life of Mohammed Faraj al-Ghoul, a Hamas legislator, along with a family sheltering in the same building. Gaza’s Health Ministry said a total of 93 people were killed and 278 injured in the last

day, although it did not specify how many were civilians.

The UN and aid groups warn of an impending famine, with aid severely restricted. UNICEF reported nearly 6,000 malnutrition cases in June—triple the number recorded in February.

Israel maintains that it targets militants, blaming Hamas for civilian casualties due to its presence in populated areas. However, humanitarian agencies say the aid distribution is hampered by Israeli military restrictions and ongoing violence. To date, Israel’s military campaign has killed over 58,400 Palestinians and injured more than 139,000, with more than half of the fatalities being women and children.



Delhi Says No RIC Meeting Planned as China Pushes for Troika with Russia

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As tensions rise over the ongoing Ukraine conflict and increasing pressure from the US and NATO on Russia, China has expressed willingness to strengthen trilateral cooperation between Russia, India, and China—commonly referred to as the “RIC format.” This proposal comes amid mounting US threats of secondary sanctions on India if it continues purchasing Russian oil.

However, government sources in New Delhi, speaking on condition of anonymity, clarified that no official meeting of the RIC format has been scheduled or agreed upon yet. China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jiang had recently stated that China is ready to maintain communication with

Russia and India to advance trilateral cooperation, but New Delhi remains cautious.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that the RIC format is a consultative platform where the three countries discuss global and regional issues of mutual interest. Jaiswal added that any revival of the format would be worked out by the countries at a mutually convenient time.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko had earlier indicated Russia’s positive stance on restoring the RIC mechanism and confirmed ongoing negotiations with Beijing and New Delhi. Despite Russia’s enthusiasm, India appears measured, mindful of its close ties with the United States and pend-

ing trade discussions with the Trump administration.

When asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s potential visit to China for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, Jaiswal said the event is months away, and participation will be finalized based on mutual convenience.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently visited China, meeting his counterpart Wang Yi to discuss sensitive issues such as the border dispute, signaling India’s focus on bilateral engagement amid broader regional dynamics. Meanwhile, the RIC format remains stalled, reflecting lingering distrust and complexities rooted in the 2020 Sino-India standoff.

Coldplay Concert ‘Kiss Cam’ Sparks Alleged Affair Controversy Involving Astronomer CEO and HR Head



TPN Correspondent | Damascus

A seemingly innocent moment at a Coldplay concert in Boston turned into a viral controversy after the venue’s ‘kiss cam’ zoomed in on two corporate executives — Astronomer CEO Andy Byron and Chief People Officer Kristin Cabot — who were caught hugging on the big screen.

The clip, widely circulated on social media, shows Byron and Cabot embracing during the concert. The mood quickly shifted when they realized they were being broadcast live on the jumbotron. Cabot immediately turned her face away and covered it with her hands, while Byron awkwardly ducked down in an attempt to avoid the camera.

The viral footage has triggered widespread speculation about an alleged extramarital affair between the two, as both are reportedly married. The situation was further amplified

when Coldplay frontman Chris Martin acknowledged their awkward reaction, quipping from the stage, “Oh, look at these two. You’re all right. You’re OK. Oh, what? Either they’re having an affair or they’re just very shy.”

Both Byron and Cabot are senior executives at Astronomer, a prominent AI and software company. Their appearance together at the concert — and the nature of their interaction — has sparked intense scrutiny online, leading to speculation about the nature of their relationship.

To add to the confusion, a fake apology letter allegedly written by Byron began circulating hours after the incident. The letter referred to the event as a “deeply personal mistake” and included an apology to his wife and company. Astronomer has since confirmed that the letter is not authentic and did not come from their CEO.

SpaceX VP Lauren Dreyer Applauds Bangladesh’s Swift Support for Starlink Launch



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

SpaceX Vice President Lauren Dreyer praised the Bangladeshi government’s efficient and decisive support in facilitating the launch of Starlink services in the country, calling it among the best globally.

During a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna, Dreyer said, “We operate in 150 countries and territories, but the level of coordination and effectiveness here is

unmatched. On behalf of everyone at SpaceX, I thank you and look forward to deeper collaboration.”

Professor Yunus welcomed Dreyer and emphasized the importance of dependable connectivity, especially during Bangladesh’s monsoon season. “While the landscape is lush and beautiful, we also face challenges like flooding and waterlogging. These situations highlight the need for robust technology solutions like Starlink,” he said. He outlined initiatives to improve connectivity in remote and un-

derdeveloped regions, especially in the hill tracts, where schools, doctors, and infrastructure are scarce. “We aim to launch online education programs in 100 remote schools. Reliable internet will ensure children in isolated areas have access to quality learning,” Yunus stated.

He also emphasized the importance of digital healthcare. “We are enabling remote consultations, particularly beneficial for pregnant women and those in rural areas. Medical histories will be digitally stored, improving

continuity of care.”

Highlighting a broader vision, Professor Yunus noted that Bangladeshi expatriates would benefit from telemedicine services, especially those uncomfortable seeking medical help abroad due to language barriers.

Dreyer praised these initiatives and Professor Yunus’s anti-corruption efforts. “Your work to bring services directly to the people using technology is inspiring. Many countries can learn from Bangladesh’s model,” she said.

Sensex Crashes 501 Points on Global Weakness, Disappointing Q1 Results

Domestic stock markets were in a tailspin on Friday. Sectoral indices including the benchmark were volatile. They ended with huge losses. The reasons for this are negative signals from global markets, foreign institutional investors withdrawing investments, local investors taking profits, and lack of clarity on the trade deal with the US. In addition to these, it is noteworthy that the Q1 results of companies are not promising. Despite bullishness in the medium term, bearishness is visible in the short term. Defense stocks lost heavily today. Overall, Nifty lost 143 points and Sensex lost 501 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,259 in the previous session, started at 82,259 on Friday. It touched an intraday low at 81,608. It reached an intraday high at 82,334. It ended at 81,757, down 501 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,108, touched a low of 24,918 and a high of 25,144. It closed at 24,968, down 143 points. The Nifty Bank ended at 56,283, down 545 points. In Nifty50, 15 companies gained and 35 lost. Wipro, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, ONGC, Nestle India were the top gainers. Axis Bank, Shriram Finance, BEL, HDFC Life, and Bharti Airtel were the biggest losers. Media and metal indices rose today. The IT index



ended flat. Private bank, bank, consumer durables, finance, PSE, PSU bank, healthcare, auto, pharma and oil sector indices were mixed.

Market breadth on NSE today is in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 3038 stocks traded, 1134 gained and 1820 lost. 69 shares touched their 52-week high and 19 shares touched their 52-week low. The upper circuit was 66

and the lower circuit was 33. The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.15. CLSA has given an Outperform rating to Tata Communications with a target price of Rs. 2100. Nuwama has given a Buy rating to HDFC AMC with a target price of Rs. 6530. Axis Bank reduces target price to Rs 1180 and downgrades rating to Nu-ama Hold. BEML receives order worth Rs 185 crore from Ministry

of Defence. HSBC maintains buy rating on LTI Mindtree with target price of Rs 6000. Citi maintains buy rating on Polycab India with target price of Rs 7700. South Indian Bank approves Rs 1000 crore in bonds. Inox Wind approves Rs 1250 crore through rights issue. Route Mobile Q1 consolidated profit falls 27%. HDFC, ICICI, Union, RBL and Yes Bank are scheduled to release Q1 results on Saturday.

Reliance Jio Q1 FY26 Results: ARPU Rises to RS.208.8, Net Profit Touches RS.6,711 Crore



Reliance Jio, the telecom arm of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), posted a steady performance for the first quarter of FY26. The company reported a net profit of ₹6,711 crore, a slight increase from ₹6,642 crore in the preceding March quarter.

This growth, though modest, reflects continued strength in operational performance.

One of the key highlights was the improvement in Average Revenue Per User (ARPU), which grew 1.3% quarter-on-quarter to

₹208.8. This rise was attributed to better subscriber mix and growth in high-value customers, including 5G users and Jio-AirFiber subscribers.

Revenue from operations stood at ₹30,088 crore, marking a 3% sequential growth. The company's EBITDA also witnessed a rise to ₹16,690 crore, with a healthy EBITDA margin of 54.0%.

Jio's subscriber base continued to expand, with the telecom giant adding 9.9 million new users, taking its total mobile subscriber count to 498 million. Importantly, the company announced that it now has over 200 million 5G users, indicating rapid adoption of its next-gen services. Jio also surpassed 20

million fixed broadband users, with JioAirFiber leading the growth in home connectivity.

Data consumption per user remained robust at 37 GB/month, contributing to a 24% year-on-year growth in data traffic. The ongoing digital transformation and affordable high-speed connectivity continue to fuel Jio's growth engine. The Q1 results reinforce Reliance Jio's position as a telecom leader in India. With continued network investments and increasing uptake of its 5G and broadband services, Jio is well-positioned for future growth, especially as it prepares to roll out advanced digital platforms and AI-driven services across the country.

India Needs \$1.5 Trillion by 2030 to Meet Climate Goals: Deloitte Report

India must attract an estimated \$1.5 trillion in investments by 2030 across various sectors to effectively address the climate challenge, according to a new report from Deloitte India. Titled "The Climate Response: Tapping into India's Climate and Energy Transition Opportunity", the report outlines the scale of financial and policy action needed to align with global sustainability goals.

Key investment drivers include the country's growing commitments to renewable energy, biofuels, decarbonisation technologies, and sustainable infrastructure. India's ambitious target of reaching 500 GW of renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030 alone will require \$200–250 billion, Deloitte estimates. This will involve major spending on advanced manufacturing, grid

integration, and expansion of transmission systems.

Currently, India must add 300 GW of RE capacity to close the gap between its installed capacity and the 2030 goal. The report identifies critical focus areas for climate investments, including:

Water security
Sustainable agriculture
Circular economy
Waste management
Green transport infrastructure
Digital climate platforms

Deloitte emphasizes that these areas not only help in mitigating climate risks but also unlock long-term economic opportunities, create jobs, and build resilience.

The report calls for policy support, public-private partner-



ships, and the scaling of climate finance mechanisms to enable this transformative shift. Without such large-scale investment, India's ability to meet its net-zero ambitions and climate obligations under the Paris Agreement could face serious roadblocks.

As the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, India's transition holds immense global significance. The report underlines that timely action and capital inflow will be critical in determining the country's role in the global climate response.

RBI Governor Hints at Possible Rate Cut Amid Cooling Inflation and Growth Concerns



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has signaled that a cut in the repo rate could be considered in the coming months if inflation continues to moderate or if economic growth shows signs of weakening. His comments come just a day after India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation dropped to a 77-month low of 2.1% in June, down from 2.82% in May.

Speaking in Mumbai on Tuesday, Malhotra acknowledged the continued downtrend in inflation and said that the central bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) would evaluate the evolving macroeconomic conditions before taking any decision on the policy rate.

“There is an expectation that inflation may not remain at 3.7% as projected earlier—it could be even lower. That possibility is on the cards. If inflation remains subdued or if growth momentum weakens, we will assess the situation carefully,” Malhotra said.

The sharp decline in inflation is being viewed as a positive development, especially as global commodity prices have stabilized and domestic food inflation has softened. Meanwhile, concerns around slower growth have also resurfaced, with some economists flagging weakening consumer demand and sluggish investment activity in certain sectors.

The RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the past few policy meetings, adopting a “wait and watch” approach amid global uncertainties and the need to ensure price stability. However, with inflation easing closer to the lower band of the RBI's 2–6% target range, pressure may mount to shift toward a more accommodative stance.

A potential rate cut could provide a boost to borrowing and investment activity, especially as the country gears up for the festive season and the second half of the financial year.

Adani Group Exits Agri Business, Sells Stake in AWL to Wilmar for RS.10,874 Crore

In a significant strategic shift, the Adani Group has decided to exit the agri-business space by selling its entire stake in AWL Agri Business (formerly Adani Wilmar Ltd) to its joint venture partner Wilmar International of Singapore for a consideration of ₹10,874 crore. This move ends one of India's longest-standing joint ventures, originally established in 1999, and signals Adani's intent to streamline its focus on core sectors.

Under the original joint venture agreement, both Adani and Wilmar held 44% each in the company. With this transaction, Wilmar's ownership will rise to 64%, giving it majority control over the company. The remaining stake is held by public shareholders, as the firm was listed on the stock exchange in 2022.



The decision to divest comes amid Adani Group's efforts to consolidate and realign its business portfolio toward infrastructure, energy, logistics, and digital services. Industry experts see this as a logical move in the group's broader deleveraging strategy following recent expansions in capital-intensive sectors.

AWL Agri Business is known for popular consumer brands like Fortune edible oil, rice, atta, and other staples. The company has a significant market presence and wide distribution network across India. With Wilmar now in the driver's seat, the company is expected to deepen its focus on food processing and FMCG segments, leveraging its global expertise.

In a statement, Adani Group said the exit will help them “focus on areas that align better with the group's long-term vision.” Wilmar, on the other hand, expressed confidence in further scaling the business in India.

The deal is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close by the end of the current fiscal year.

Plants Talk, Insects Listen: Israeli Study Reveals Groundbreaking Communication



A groundbreaking study from Tel Aviv University has revealed that plants may be communicating through sound — and insects are listening. Published in the journal eLife, the research provides compelling evidence that female moths can detect ultrasonic distress signals emitted by dehydrated tomato plants and use these cues when choosing where to lay their eggs. Led by researchers Rya Seltzer and Guy Zer Eshel, under the guidance of professors Yossi Yovel and Lilach Hadany, the study shows that this form of acoustic interaction could be a crucial survival strategy for both plants and insects. Moths typically lay eggs on tomato plants, providing a food source for their larvae. However, when presented with two identical healthy tomato plants — one paired with a speaker playing ultrasonic sounds previously recorded from stressed (drying) plants, and the other silent — female moths consistently avoided the sound-emitting plant. This suggests they inter-

pret the plant's distress signals as a sign of poor conditions for their offspring. “We revealed the first evidence for acoustic interaction between a plant and an insect,” the researchers said in a joint statement. This discovery builds on earlier findings from the same team, which showed that plants emit high-frequency sounds when under stress — sounds that are inaudible to humans but detectable by various insects and mammals such as bats. The implications of this research extend beyond basic science. Understanding how insects respond to plant-generated sounds could transform agricultural practices, offering new, eco-friendly methods to influence pest behavior and monitor crop health. “We’ve seen that animals are capable of making sense of these sounds,” said Hadany. “We believe this opens an entirely new channel of plant-animal communication to explore.”



AI Could Soon Help You Talk to Your Pet, Says Groundbreaking Research Initiative

In a major step toward bridging the communication gap between humans and animals, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is launching the world's first dedicated research centre for animal consciousness — the Jeremy Collier Centre for Animal Sentience. Set to open on September 30, the £4 million centre will explore how technologies like artificial intelligence could help humans better understand and even “talk” to their pets. According to The Guardian, one of the centre's core aims is to use AI to decode the behavioural cues of animals, potentially allowing pet owners to interpret what their pets are feeling or trying to express. This would mark a significant advancement in human-animal interaction, especially for domestic pets like dogs and cats. However, researchers are also placing a strong emphasis on the ethical challenges such innovations could bring. Professor Jonathan Birch, the centre's inaugural director, warned of the risks associated with

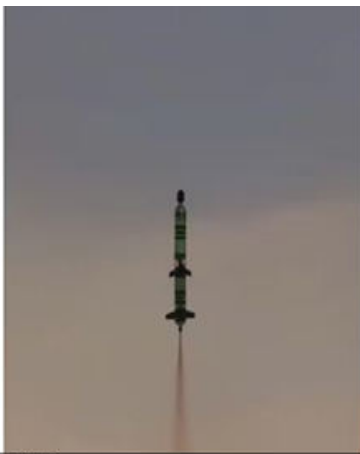
AI-generated “translations” of animal emotions. “We like our pets to display human characteristics,” Birch explained, “and with AI, the ways in which your pet will be able to ‘speak’ to you could be taken to a whole new level.” However, he cautioned that AI systems often produce outputs designed to please users, rather than reflect reality — a concern that could have serious implications for animal welfare. For instance, pet owners worried about separation anxiety might rely on AI tools for reassurance that their dog is fine — even if that's not true. “That could be a disaster,” Birch said. The centre plans to involve experts across neuroscience, philosophy, veterinary science, AI, and ethics to explore not only the potential but also the limitations of AI-animal communication. Birch emphasized the urgent need for global ethical standards, stating, “There's currently a total lack of regulation. We need responsible frameworks to guide AI use in relation to animals.”

Virtual Companions for Psychedelic Trips: The Rise of AI Chatbots as Trip-Sitters

In a surprising new trend, people are beginning to use AI chatbots as digital “trip-sitters” while under the influence of psychedelic substances—sparking concern among mental health experts and technologists alike. Traditionally, a trip-sitter refers to a sober, trusted individual who supports and monitors someone during a psychedelic experience. Now, some are turning to artificial intelligence for that role instead. According to a recent report from MIT Technology Review, users are increasingly seeking out AI chatbots—ranging from well-known tools like ChatGPT to niche platforms like “TripSitAI” and “The Shaman”—to provide virtual companionship and guidance while tripping on substances like psilocybin mushrooms or LSD.



This unconventional use of AI appears to be an extension of a broader trend: people turning to chatbots for emotional support and therapeutic conversations, often citing the high cost and limited availability of mental health services. However, using AI in such a vulnerable and altered state of consciousness is largely uncharted territory, raising ques-



tions about safety, ethics, and psychological stability. The report highlights a striking case from 2023, involving a man named Peter, who consumed an extremely high dose—eight grams—of psilocybin mushrooms. During his trip, Peter turned to ChatGPT for support. The chatbot responded by suggesting a soothing music playlist and

offering words of reassurance, mimicking the role of a human trip-sitter. Peter later described the experience as emotionally transformative. Still, experts caution against using AI as a substitute for a real, present, and sober individual during psychedelic use. The combination of hallucinogenic drugs and machine-generated dialogue could create unpredictable and potentially harmful outcomes. One researcher called it a dangerous “psychological cocktail,” emphasizing that AI cannot replace trained professionals or human intuition during altered states of consciousness. As the trend grows, it's raising urgent discussions about responsible AI use in deeply personal and risky settings.

CBSE Urges Schools to Display ‘Oil Boards’ to Promote Healthy Eating Among Students



In a continued push toward promoting healthier lifestyles among students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued a new circular directing schools to install “oil boards” on campus. These boards are intended to raise awareness about the health risks associated with high

oil consumption, particularly from common foods consumed by children and adolescents. The circular, issued by CBSE Director (Academics) Dr. Praggya M Singh, urges school heads to take proactive measures to combat the rising rates of obesity and poor dietary habits

among students. This initiative follows a similar directive issued in May 2025, which required schools to display “sugar boards” outlining the dangers of excessive sugar intake. Citing data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), the circular highlights that over 20% of urban adults in India are overweight or obese. A 2025 report from The Lancet's Global Burden of Disease study projects that the number of overweight and obese adults in India will increase from 18 crore in 2021 to nearly 45 crore by 2050, making India the second-largest contributor to global obesity rates. Childhood obesity, the circular notes, is largely driven by poor eating habits and sedentary lifestyles.

The CBSE has asked schools to take specific actions, including:

- Displaying Posters in cafeterias, lobbies, and other public areas to highlight the dangers of oily and fatty foods.
- Adding Health Messages to school stationery, such as notebooks, folders, and envelopes.
- Encouraging Healthy Practices like offering fruits and vegetables, cutting down on junk food, and promoting physical activities.

The initiative is also being extended to government offices and institutions, with the Union Health Ministry recommending similar boards in public spaces to raise awareness on healthier food choices.

Netflix Confirms Use of Generative AI in Argentine Series

Netflix has revealed that it employed generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) to create visual effects in one of its original Argentine TV series—marking a first for the streaming platform. The announcement, made on Thursday, highlights Netflix's growing interest in leveraging AI technologies to support content production and improve user experience. The company did not disclose the name of the specific series but confirmed that GenAI was used to develop on-screen visuals, demonstrating how artificial intelligence is gradually being integrated into mainstream entertainment. The move comes amid ongoing debates in Hollywood about the role of AI in creative industries, with concerns ranging from job displacement to ethical boundaries in storytelling. Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos emphasized that AI presents a “tremendous opportunity” for the entertainment world. “It's not just about making production cheaper, but about helping creators bring their visions to life more effectively,” Sarandos said. He framed GenAI as a tool that could enhance the quality and creativity of content, rather than replace human ingenuity. Fellow Co-CEO Greg Peters added that the company is exploring additional ways to incorporate generative AI to improve the viewer experience. One possibility, he noted, is allowing users to find content using spoken commands—such as asking Netflix directly what to watch based on mood, preferences, or voice queries. The adoption of GenAI in content creation signals a shift in how the entertainment industry may evolve. While the use of AI has sparked debates across creative fields, Netflix's move suggests that major players are beginning to embrace the technology not only for cost efficiency, but also for expanding the boundaries of storytelling and interactivity.





Arjun Erigaisi Advances to Semifinals

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has stormed into the semifinals of the USD 750,000 Freestyle Grand Slam Tour in Las Vegas after defeating Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov 1.5-0.5 in the quarterfinals. However, fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa bowed out of the title race following a narrow 3-4 loss to the USA's Fabiano Caruana.

Arjun showed dominance in both games against Abdusattorov. In the second game, playing with the white pieces, he secured a significant material advantage early on by winning a rook for a bishop and soon overwhelmed his opponent, leaving no doubts about his control. Though Arjun made some unforced errors in the first game that allowed Abdusattorov to claim a half-point, he still maintained the upper hand throughout. Meanwhile, Praggnanandhaa and Caruana engaged in a thrilling seven-game battle. The Indian led three times during the match, winning the first game but losing the second. The back-and-forth tussle continued until Caruana pulled ahead, clinching the final and decisive seventh game. Despite the loss, Praggnanandhaa's tournament is not over as he moves to the lower bracket for another knockout round alongside seven other players.

Other quarterfinal winners include the American duo Levon Aronian and Hans Moke Niemann. Aronian defeated compatriot Hikaru Nakamura 2.5-1.5, while Niemann overcame Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov 4-2. In the semifinals, Arjun will face Aronian, and Niemann is set to take on Caruana.

In the lower bracket, world number one Magnus Carlsen returned to form with a 2-0 win over India's Vidit Gujrathi. American Wesley So and Leinier Dominguez Perez also advanced, along with Germany's Vincent Keymer, who defeated Robson Ray 2.5-1.5.

The Freestyle Grand Slam continues to showcase intense competition and exciting matchups as the tournament moves toward its climax.



T20I Tri-Series: Conway, Henry Star as New Zealand Crush Zimbabwe by 8 Wickets

New Zealand continued their dominant run in the ongoing T20I Tri-Nation Series with a comprehensive 8-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the third match, held at the Harare Sports Club on Friday.

Winning the toss, Kiwi skipper Mitchell Santner opted to bowl first — a decision that quickly paid off. Spearheaded by Matt Henry, who returned impressive figures of 3 for 26, New Zealand's bowling attack restricted Zimbabwe to a modest 120 for 7 in their 20 overs.

The Zimbabwean batting unit

struggled to find rhythm, with none of the top-order batters making a significant impact. New Zealand maintained tight lines and capitalized on the sluggish pitch to keep the hosts under pressure throughout the innings.

Chasing 121, Devon Conway led from the front with a brilliant 59 off 40 balls*, anchoring the innings with composure and control. His knock included several stylish strokes that kept the scoreboard ticking. New Zealand reached the target in just 13.5 overs, sealing a dominant win and strengthening their po-

sition in the tri-series.

This win marked New Zealand's second straight victory in the tournament, placing them firmly at the top of the points table. The Kiwis now look ahead to their next challenge in what has been a promising build-up to the T20 World Cup later this year.

Brief Scores:

Zimbabwe – 120/7 (Matt Henry 3/26)
New Zealand – 121/2 in 13.5 overs (Devon Conway 59*)
Result: New Zealand won by 8 wickets.



India Women Eye Series Win Against England Ahead of ICC Women's ODI World Cup

India Women's cricket team will look to seal their dominance in the ongoing ODI series against England when they take on the hosts in the second and penultimate match at Lord's on July 19, 2025. Riding high on their four-wicket win in the series opener at Southampton, India aim to secure an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. This victory would extend India's winning streak in the ODI format, adding to their recent tri-series success involving Sri Lanka and South Africa. These matches are crucial for India as they serve as a key preparation platform for the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, which India will host later this year starting September 30. With multiple match-winners in the squad, coach Amol Mumtaz and captain Harmanpreet Kaur face the pleasant challenge of managing an in-form and deep pool of talent.

Despite injuries to pacers Renuka Singh Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar, newcomer Kranti Goud impressed by taking two important wickets in the opener. The batting line-up boasts strong contenders like Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, and Shafali Verma, creating healthy competition for spots. The spin department is also well-stocked with players such as Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Radha Yadav, and left-arm spinner N Shree Charani, who was the Player of the Series in the recent T20Is.

FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B: India Falls to Thailand 93-76 in Semi-Final Qualifiers

The Indian women's basketball team's quest for promotion to Division A at the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025 Division B came to a disappointing end after a 93-76 loss to Thailand in the semi-final qualifiers held in Shenzhen, China.

India fought hard but was ultimately unable to overcome Thailand, ranked 12th in the FIBA standings, while India is ranked 15th. Key players for India were Sreekala Rani and Pushpa Senthil Kumar, who both scored 23 points each. Thailand's Rattiyakorn Udomsuk led all scorers with 25 points.

The defeat was a major setback for India, as only the winners of Division B earn promotion to Division A for the next year. India's next challenge will be in the fifth-place classification match, where they will face the loser of the semi-final qualifier between Mongolia and Kazakhstan.

India had secured the second position in Group A to qualify for the semi-final qualifiers, with Chinese Taipei topping the group and advancing directly to the semi-finals. India started the game slowly, trailing by 7 points in the first quarter. However, they bounced back to narrow the deficit to 20-18 by the quarter's end.

Thailand then intensified their efforts, leading 39-33 at halftime and extending their advantage to 68-51 by the end of the third quarter. India fought to erase the 17-point gap in the final quarter but could never seize the lead, ultimately falling short.

This tournament marked India's return to the FIBA Women's Asia Cup after a four-year absence, having missed the 2023 edition due to relegation from Division A in 2021. The team will now look to regroup and come back stronger in future competitions.



Sujeet Kalkal Clinches Gold at Ranking Series Wrestling After Asian U-23 Triumph

Indian wrestler Sujet Kalkal continued his impressive run by securing the 65kg free-style gold medal at the Ranking Series wrestling event in Budapest. The 22-year-old, who recently won the Asian Under-23 championship, defeated several top contenders en route to his second major gold in just a few weeks.

Sujeet showcased dominant performances throughout the tournament. He opened with a commanding 11-0 victory over Paris Olympics bronze medallist Albanian Islam Dudaev. In the quarterfinals, he again won convincingly, beating European silver medallist Khamzat Arsamerzouev of France by the same 11-0 margin. In the semifinals, Sujet faced tough competition from Armenian Vazgen Tevanyan, a two-time Olympian and 2023 World Championships bronze medallist,

but emerged victorious with a 6-1 scoreline. In the final, Sujet overcame Azerbaijan's Ali Rahimzade, a European bronze medallist, 5-1 to claim the gold. This win marked Sujet's second Ranking Series gold, his first being three years ago in Tunisia. Despite carrying a Grade-3 ligament tear in his ankle sustained during the senior Asian championships in March, Sujet's determination and skill helped him dominate the field.

Sujeet's recent performances underline his rising stature in the wrestling world and promise a bright future ahead.

In related news, Indian wrestler Rahul, competing in the 57kg category, secured a bronze medal by defeating 2023 European Under-23 champion Niklas Stechele of Germany 4-0, adding to India's strong showing at the tournament.



‘Sir Madam’ Trailer: Vijay Sethupathi & Nithya Menen Shine in Raw, Witty Marital Drama

The trailer for *Sir Madam*, the Telugu-dubbed version of the Tamil film starring Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen, has been released—and it’s already making waves. Directed by Pandiraj and produced by Satya Jyothi Films, the romantic drama explores the complexities of married life, showcasing both its emotional depth and everyday humor. In *Sir Madam*, Vijay and Nithya play a married couple, portraying the subtle tensions and unsaid truths that creep into relationships after the “happily ever after.” The trailer delivers a compelling mix of truth, sarcasm, vulner-

ability, and relatable human emotion. With characters that feel deeply familiar, the film appears to hold up a mirror to modern relationships and middle-class domestic life. What stands out in the trailer is the grounded, honest tone paired with subtle yet impactful humor. It doesn’t shy away from showing the friction between partners—the ego clashes, the silent misunderstandings, and the small, humorous battles that define married life. All of it is presented with authenticity and charm. Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen’s chemistry is natural and nuanced, and

their performances are poised to be a major highlight of the film. The trailer hints at a fearless storytelling style that strips the glamour from romance and focuses instead on its real, raw edges. Adding to the entertainment quotient are Yogi Babu and Chemban Vinod Jose, who play supporting roles with comic flair. Their presence ensures that while the story is emotional and honest, it won’t be without laughs. *Sir Madam* is set to hit theaters on July 25, promising a refreshing, thought-provoking look at the realities of married life through the lens of love, humor, and emotional depth.

“Saiyaara” Sensation: Romantic Drama Becomes 2nd Biggest Bollywood Opener of 2025

Bollywood’s latest romantic drama *Saiyaara* has taken the box office by storm, ranking as the second-biggest opener of 2025. Directed by Mohit Suri and starring fresh faces Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, the film is off to a spectacular start, leaving trade analysts and the industry abuzz with its exceptional pre-release numbers.



for its emotional intensity, fresh pairing, and engaging music. Produced by Akshaye Widhani and distributed by Yash Raj Films, *Saiyaara* boasts a rich, soulful soundtrack that has already struck a chord with listeners. Music directors Mithoon, Sachet-Parampara, Vishal Mishra, and Tanishk Bagchi contribute to the film’s romantic mood, creating an audio-visual experience that promises lasting impact.

With a promising start and word-of-mouth growing rapidly, all eyes are now on *Saiyaara*’s weekend box office collections. If early numbers are any indication, the film could be the breakout romantic hit of the year.

of the year’s most anticipated films featuring Bollywood heavyweights — including Salman Khan’s *Sikandar* (1.43 lakh), Akshay Kumar’s *Housefull 5* (94,750), and Ajay Devgn’s *Raid 2* (93,000). The overwhelming response speaks volumes about the film’s popularity, especially among younger audiences who are flocking to theaters

Bakasura Restaurant’ Set for Worldwide Release on August 8: A Unique Telugu Comedy Entertainer

Telugu cinema fans are in for a special treat as the much-anticipated film *Bakasura Restaurant* is scheduled for a worldwide release on August 8, 2025. The film promises a unique blend of comedy and emotion, making it a “hunger entertainer” that will leave viewers both thrilled and touched. The makers are confident that audiences will walk away feeling as satisfied as after a delicious meal.

The movie stars comedian and character artist Praveen, who has won hearts with his dialogue delivery and acting prowess, playing a pivotal lead role. Popular actor Viva Harsha takes on the title role of *Bakasura*, supported by a talented ensemble cast including Krishnabagawan, Shining Phani (Bamchik Bunty), KGF Garuda Ram, Srikanth Iyengar, Uppena Jayakrishna, Vivek Dandu, Amar, Rampatas, Ramya Priya, Prachi Thakur, and Jabardasth Apparao, among others.



cinematic experience. Technical contributions include cinematography by Bala Saraswathi, editing by Marthand K. Venkatesh, and music composed by Vikas Badisa. The team is gearing up for the film’s release in a record number of theaters worldwide.

With its fresh narrative and engaging performances, *Bakasura Restaurant* aims to serve audiences a satisfying cinematic feast when it hits the screens on August 8. Fans eagerly await to see how this innovative comedy entertainer fares at the box office.

Director Shiva shared that each scene is crafted to both entertain and emotionally connect with viewers. He expressed confidence that the innovative concept and heartfelt storytelling would make *Bakasura Restaurant* a memorable

Junior Movie Review: A Glossy Debut for Kireeti Reddy, Let Down by a Routine Plot



Rating: ¾ (2.75/5)

Starring: Kireeti Reddy, Sreeleela, Genelia Deshmukh, V. Ravichandran, Rao Ramesh

Director: Radha Krishna Reddy |

Music: Devi Sri Prasad

Release Date: July 18, 2025

Junior marks the cinematic debut of Kireeti Reddy, son of politician Gali Janardhan Reddy. Released in both Telugu and Kannada, the film attempts to be a star-studded launchpad, but leans heavily on familiar tropes and predictable storytelling.

Plot:

Abhi (Kireeti Reddy), a spirited college student, lives life to the fullest and dreams of making lasting memories. His father (V. Ravichandran) wants to share those memories, longing to be more involved in his son’s life. Meanwhile, Abhi falls for Spoorthi (Sreeleela) and later begins an internship where he crosses paths with Soujanya (Genelia Deshmukh), a tough corporate figure with a hidden past. When Abhi uncovers a secret about Soujanya, he becomes part of her emotional journey.

What Works:

Kireeti makes a promising debut. He dances well, performs confidently, and shows potential, especially in lighter moments. V. Ravichandran

brings emotional weight to the father-son dynamic. Sreeleela lights up the screen in her dance number “Viral Vayyari.” Harsha Chemudu and Rao Ramesh provide some light-hearted moments.

What Doesn’t:

The film feels like a safe, overly familiar launch pad. The narrative is packed with formulaic romance, action, and drama, but lacks freshness. Sreeleela’s role is disappointingly brief, and Genelia’s character, though pivotal, fails to leave a lasting impact. Several supporting actors are underused, and the story often feels like a patchwork of seen-before moments.

Technical Aspects:

Cinematography by KK Senthil Kumar adds a polished look. Devi Sri Prasad’s music is average, with only a few catchy tracks. Editing feels sluggish in the second half, dragging the emotional pacing.

Verdict:

Junior is a decent one-time watch for fans of debut-hero films. While Kireeti Reddy shows promise, the film struggles under a predictable plot and lacks emotional depth. A more daring script would’ve made a stronger impact.

"NK 370": Biopic on India’s First F1 Driver Narain Karthikeyan Announced

Indian cinema is shifting gears into high-speed storytelling with the announcement of *NK 370* (working title), a biopic on Narain Karthikeyan — India’s first Formula One driver. The film is being helmed by acclaimed director Mahesh Narayanan, known for *Take Off* and *Malik*, and promises an inspiring story of determination, speed, and resilience.

The Tamil-language film is being produced by Blue Marble Films, with the screenplay written by Shalini Usha Devi, the writer behind the National Award-winning *Soorarai Pottru*. With the global success of Brad Pitt’s *F1: The Movie*, *NK 370* is expected to draw both Indian and international audiences into the world of motorsport from an Indian perspective.

The film traces Narain’s journey from a motorsport-obsessed teenager in Coimbatore to the heights of Formula One racing. Trained by his rally champion father, Narain began competitive racing at just 15. His path took him through rigorous training in France, where he confronted racism and cultural challenges but proved his mettle through sheer grit and raw talent.

Among the pivotal moments the biopic will portray are his international race wins, a life-threatening crash in Macau, and the personal love story that offered balance amid a high-octane career. A highlight of Narain’s legacy — his historic debut with Jordan F1 in 2005, where he out-qualified the legendary Michael Schumacher and became the first In-



dian to score F1 championship points — forms the emotional and narrative climax.

“Motorsport gave me everything. This film gives that story to the world,” said Narain Karthikeyan in a statement. With casting currently underway, the makers aim to craft a globally appealing cinematic experience celebrating India’s motorsport pioneer.

Production for *NK 370* is slated to begin soon, with more updates expected in the coming months.