



BUZZ POINTS



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BJP MAHILA MORCHA ORGANIZES

HEALTH CAMP FOR CANCER AWARENESS

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Minister Directs Coordinated Rain Response for Hyderabad

In response to persistent heavy rains, Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnab Prabhakar held a crucial teleconference with officials from multiple departments to ensure a coordinated and effective response.1 The meeting included top brass from the GHMC, Police, Hyderabad Metro Water Works, Traffic, District Revenue, Electricity, and Health departments.

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KTR Slams Revanth Over Silence on Karnataka's Almatti Plan

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 19: Escalating the political confrontation in , (BRS) working president (KTR) on Saturday launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister for what he described as "deafening silence" over 's recent decision to raise the height of the from 519 feet to 524 feet.

KTR warned that the proposed increase in the dam's height posed a "direct and grave threat" to Telangana's irrigation projects and farmers, especially in the erstwhile , , and districts, which depend heavily on water inflows from the . He described Karnataka's move as "nothing short of a death warrant for Telangana's farmers" and demanded that the State government immediately pursue both legal remedies and public protests to safeguard Telangana's riparian rights.

"While the Karnataka Congress government is openly jeopardising our water security, our Chief Minister is busy touring Delhi and staying silent. This negligence could leave vast stretches of our state barren," KTR said, addressing media representatives. He accused Revanth Reddy of



putting political camaraderie with the in Karnataka ahead of the interests of Telangana's people.

The BRS leader pointed out that it had been three days since the Cabinet cleared the proposal to raise the dam height, yet the Telangana government had not issued even a formal statement or lodged an objection with the .

"This silence is unacceptable. If the government continues to remain a mute spectator, BRS will not hesitate to launch a massive people's agitation to protect the rights of our farm-

ers," KTR warned. He also called for an all-party meeting to formulate a joint strategy and urged the Telangana government to immediately seek a stay on the project through legal channels, citing the interstate water-sharing agreements and the jurisdiction of the .

KTR's remarks come amid growing concerns among Telangana's farming community that the proposed elevation of the Almatti dam could further reduce water availability downstream, potentially crippling irrigation projects such as the and jeopardising

crop cycles in the southern districts.

While the Telangana government has yet to respond officially, political observers say KTR's aggressive stance signals the BRS's intent to position itself as the defender of Telangana's water and agrarian interests, especially as it seeks to regain lost ground ahead of upcoming elections.

The issue is expected to spark a major political flashpoint between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS in Telangana, with water-sharing disputes once again returning to the centre stage of state politics.

Tourism Conclave to be Held in to Attract Investments: Minister

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 19: the Minister for Tourism in , announced that the state will soon host a high-level Tourism Conclave aimed at boosting investments in the tourism sector. Speaking at the inauguration of the on Friday, the Minister said that the conclave is being organized under the directions of Chief Minister . The Tourism Department has already prepared a special action plan for this ambitious event, he added.

The Minister emphasized that the forthcoming conclave will play a crucial role in fostering employment generation, attracting investments, and improving infrastructure in Telangana's tourism sector. He en-

couraged entrepreneurs and industry stakeholders to invest in tourism-related ventures across the state, assuring them that the government will extend full support to those who come forward.

"Telangana has all the natural and cultural resources required to develop world-class tourism destinations. What we need now is to project our potential effectively and attract large-scale investments," the Minister noted. He pointed out that Telangana has not yet received the level of promotion and branding it deserves as a tourist destination, and the Tourism Conclave will serve as a platform to change this narrative.

He also called upon exhibitors, travel operators, and the hospitality sector to become brand ambas-

sadors for Telangana tourism, helping to elevate its profile on national and international platforms. The Minister said the government is planning new tourism policies that will provide incentives and facilitation support for investors, while also creating new avenues for local employment and skill development.

Highlighting the cultural richness of the state, Minister Rao announced that the government will be organizing the celebrations on a grand scale across the state from September 21 to 30. He revealed that the celebrations will kick off at the historic in Warangal, one of Telangana's most iconic heritage sites.

The Minister expressed confidence that these ini-

tiatives — the Tourism Conclave, the Travel and Tourism Fair, and the Batukamma celebrations — will together create a strong ecosystem for tourism growth in Telangana. By combining heritage, culture, nature, and modern infrastructure, the state can emerge as a leading tourism hub in India, he said.

Industry experts and stakeholders present at the Travel and Tourism Fair welcomed the government's proactive approach, stating that such initiatives would help showcase Telangana's untapped potential, attract global attention, and stimulate economic growth. With the upcoming Tourism Conclave, the government aims to place Telangana firmly on the global tourism map.



US UNIVERSITIES MAY COME TO TELANGANA: REVANTH

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 19: In a striking political broadside, , the Chief Minister of , compared his predecessor and (BRS) president to former , accusing him of running the state based on personal whims rather than sound policy.

Speaking at an event organised by the (PAFI) in New Delhi on Friday, Revanth Reddy remarked that while Trump had disrupted US immigration policies, KCR had similarly taken impulsive decisions that ultimately led to his political

downfall. "Telangana also had a Trump, but people drove him away," Reddy said, indirectly referring to KCR. "You can't think of something in your dreams at night and just implement it the next day."

The Chief Minister's comments drew attention not only for their sharp political tone but also for his assertion that restrictive US visa policies could, paradoxically, benefit Telangana's economy. Reddy suggested that if the US government under Trump-like leadership continues to deny

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BULLET TRAIN FROM HYDERABAD TO BANGALORE REQUESTED BY CM

Mr. Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister of , has stated that is witnessing rapid growth and will continue to be a major driver of the state's progress in the coming decades. Speaking at a conference organized in Delhi, the Chief Minister detailed his government's long-term plans and priority sectors for the development of Telangana by 2047.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 19: Revanth Reddy emphasized the crucial role of private sector participation in ensuring sustainable growth. He said that the state has designed a comprehensive plan titled "Telangana Rising 2047" to guide development efforts across various sectors, including infrastructure, environment, transportation, and industrial growth.

"More than one crore people live in Hyderabad today, and the city continues to attract migrants and investments from across the country," he said. "To accommodate this growth, we

are focusing on building world-class infrastructure and sustainable urban systems."

He highlighted the construction of the (RRR) around Hyderabad, which is expected to ease traffic congestion, promote regional connectivity, and accelerate economic activity in the surrounding districts.

Revanth Reddy also spoke about the expansion of the network. "Currently, the metro network covers about 70 kilometers,

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The Collector Emphasizes Building a Healthy State Through Proper Nutrition

In a bid to promote health and well-being across the district, the District Collector, stressed the importance of proper nutrition as a foundation for creating a healthy state. He made these remarks on Friday while releasing posters for the (Nutrition Month) programme at the Collectorate conference hall.

Addressing the gathering, the Collector said that Nutrition Month will be observed across the district until October 16, and urged all concerned departmental officials to work in coordination to ensure its success. He emphasized that continuous monitoring of the daily activities being held at Anganwadi centres is essential.

He directed the officials of the to focus on the physical and mental development of children enrolled in Anganwadi centres. Any cases of malnourished children must be identified early, and appropriate steps should be taken to bring



them back to a normal health condition, he said.

Highlighting the role of education, the Collector instructed the to create awareness among adolescent girls on personal hygiene and nutritional food habits. He said that such awareness will help young girls make informed health choices during their formative years.

Furthermore, he directed the to ensure that all pregnant women receive the necessary medical check-ups on time. Early detection and timely treatment of health issues in pregnant women are crucial for the well-

being of both mother and child, he noted.

The Collector also emphasized the need to identify Anganwadi centres that lack basic sanitation facilities, such as toilets, and instructed officials to take steps to provide them under the (MGNREGS). He stated that providing clean and safe infrastructure is essential to ensure a healthy environment for children.

Officials who attended the event included District Welfare Officer, District Rural Development Officer, District Project Officer, and Deputy District Medical and Health Officer. They as-

sured their full cooperation in implementing the Poshan Maah activities effectively.

By stressing the importance of proper nutrition, health check-ups, personal hygiene, and infrastructure, Collector Kumar Deepak reiterated the district administration's commitment to improving the overall health standards and reducing malnutrition among children and women. He called upon all departments to work collectively to make the Nutrition Month campaign a grand success and take the district one step closer to achieving the goal of a healthy state.

BJP State President Lauds Role of Vedic Education in Nation Building

Bharatiya Janata Party State President N. Ramchandra Rao recently visited the Shri Vedavyasa School Trust in Kuntlur village near Nagole, where he engaged with students and faculty. During his visit, the senior leader delivered a stirring address, underscoring the vital role of traditional Vedic education in shaping the future of the nation. He extended his commendations to the institution for its pivotal contribution to societal growth and the overall development of India.

In his remarks, Ramchandra Rao emphasized that Vedic learning is not merely an academic pursuit but a comprehensive system that instills piety, patriotism, and deep-rooted cultural values in young minds. He described it as the moral bedrock of society, the cultural pride of the country, and a guiding



light for students. The BJP leader reflected on his own experiences, stating that his daily life is typically consumed by political affairs and addressing the difficulties faced by the public and workers. However, he expressed that visiting the school offered a unique and profound sense of connection to the nation's rich Vedic heritage, culture, and dharma. He described the experience as a rare privilege and a true blessing.

Drawing a parallel to India's historical eminence, Ramchandra Rao affirmed that the

country's greatness stems from its ancient Vedic knowledge. He recalled a time when esteemed universities like Nalanda and Taxila were at the forefront of national progress, with Vedic wisdom at their core. He acknowledged that in the current generation, these traditional values are often overlooked. Yet, he said, schools like the Shri Vedavyasa Trust are playing an essential part in preserving this heritage.

The State President concluded his speech by congratulating the school for its dedicated

efforts in transforming its students into true reflections of the country and its culture. He praised them for their crucial work in safeguarding India's future at a time when the preservation of its traditional identity is more important than ever. He conveyed that the school's commitment is a powerful example of how ancient wisdom can be a catalyst for modern progress, ensuring that the next generation remains connected to its roots while building a prosperous future.



WHY YOU HAVE ORDERED TO BEAT SUPPORTERS OF Mr. NAIDU? CM QUESTIONED KTR

In a sharp political attack by the Chief Minister of Telangana, has questioned (KTR) over his alleged secret late-night meeting with, a Minister in the government and the son of former Chief Minister.

Speaking to media representatives, Revanth Reddy said, "Why did KTR meet Lokesh secretly in the night? This is a question only he can answer. There is no reason for anyone else to comment on Lokesh in this matter — this question is specifically for KTR."

Revanth referred to the incidents that took place in Hyderabad following the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh last year. He alleged that supporters of Naidu who had gathered on the streets in Hyderabad were forcibly dispersed and even beaten by the police during that

period.

The Chief Minister questioned KTR over this, saying, "When Chandrababu Naidu was arrested, several of his supporters came onto the roads in Hyderabad to protest. Why did you not tolerate them? Why did you order action against them? You made sure they were beaten on the roads. If that was your stand then, what is the purpose of your sudden secret meeting with Lokesh now?"

Revanth's remarks appear to be aimed at highlighting what he views as KTR's double standards — cracking down on supporters of the (TDP) during a politically sensitive time, but later meeting its leader's son privately.

The comments come amid heightened political tensions in the Telugu states, with both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh witnessing shifting alli-

ances and strategic outreach ahead of the coming elections. While KTR has not yet responded to these fresh allegations, political observers say Revanth's remarks are designed to put the (BRS) on the defensive by questioning its political intent and consistency.

Revanth's statement has sparked reactions within political circles, with Congress leaders backing his comments and demanding clarity from KTR, while BRS leaders have dismissed the remarks as an attempt to distract from governance issues.

This exchange marks yet another round of verbal sparring between the ruling Congress in Telangana and the opposition BRS, underscoring the charged political atmosphere as both parties prepare for upcoming electoral battles.

BJP Mahila Morcha Organizes Health Camp for Cancer Awareness

As part of the nationwide "Seva Paksha" initiative to mark the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP Telangana Rashtra Mahila Morcha organized a comprehensive medical and cancer screening camp for public welfare. The health and awareness program, aimed at encouraging a safe and healthy lifestyle, was officially inaugurated by BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchandra Rao. The initiative, held to promote health protection and facilitate early disease detection, saw the participation of numerous citizens eager to avail themselves of the free services.

The medical camp provided a crucial platform for promoting public well-being, with a special focus on cancer awareness and screening. The presence of a dedicated cancer screening bus underscored the seriousness of the campaign. Organizers articulated that the primary objective was to educate the community about the importance of preventive health measures and timely check-ups, which can be life-saving. In an era where health con-



cerns are paramount, such grassroots initiatives play a significant role in bridging the gap between awareness and access to healthcare, especially for vulnerable populations.

Speaking at the launch, N. Ramchandra Rao commended the Mahila Morcha for their dedicated effort, highlighting the party's commitment to social responsibility. He stated

that the event embodies the spirit of public service advocated by the Prime Minister. The health camp served as a tangible example of how political organizations can contribute meaning-

fully to community welfare, moving beyond traditional political activities to focus on the tangible needs of the people. This blend of political engagement and social outreach garnered appreciation from attendees who benefited from the provided medical facilities.

A number of prominent political figures and district-level leaders graced the occasion with their presence, signaling widespread support for the cause. The distinguished guests included Sri Malareddy, Smt. Shilpa Reddy, Sri NVSS Prabhakar, Sri Subhash Reddy, Sri Phani, and Sri Krishna, among others. Their participation further elevated the profile of the event and underscored the collective resolve of the party to address critical health issues. The successful execution of the camp demonstrated the power of coordinated action in delivering essential services to the public, setting a positive example for future community welfare endeavors. The organizers' focus on early diagnosis and lifestyle modifications offered a valuable resource to all who attended, reinforcing the message of proactive healthcare.

Officials' Apathy Stalls Repossession of Encroached Tribal Lands in

In a glaring case of administrative apathy, revenue officials in are reportedly dragging their feet in reclaiming tribal (agency) lands that have been encroached upon in of. Despite explicit directives from the Project Officer (PO) of ITDA, to immediately take the lands into government custody, local revenue authorities have allegedly failed to act.

The issue came to light over seven months ago when re-

ports surfaced that two influential non-tribal businessmen had illegally occupied tribal lands in survey numbers 17 and 18 of Muthyampet village. According to local sources, the encroachers seized about 1.12 acres of land — including 34 guntas previously earmarked for distribution as house sites to landless tribal families — and even set up an unauthorised mini rice mill without obtaining any permissions or a trade license

from the village panchayat. The village is categorised as an agency area where protective laws such as and are in force, which prohibit land transfers to non-tribals.

Following media reports and multiple complaints from villagers, the Utnoor ITDA PO ordered a detailed probe and directed the to survey the disputed lands. Even, the District Collector of Mancherial, instructed the additional collector to ensure a

full inquiry into the illegal rice mill. Under mounting pressure, the Mandal Revenue Inspector Bhuman and surveyor Vinod conducted a field inspection on January 2 and confirmed that the 1.12 acres were indeed encroached. They submitted their report to the Tahsildar, who forwarded it to the ITDA PO.

Acting on this, the ITDA PO issued written orders on February 6, instructing the Tahsildar to take posses-

sion of the encroached agency land and ensure police security during the eviction to maintain law and order. However, despite these clear directives from both the Collector and the ITDA PO, the process to reclaim the land has not progressed. Villagers allege that political backing is preventing revenue officials from acting.

Frustrated by the inaction, local youth submitted a fresh complaint to the District

Collector on September 16, urging swift recovery of the tribal lands. Villagers fear that without immediate intervention, the illegally occupied land — meant to benefit landless tribal families — will be permanently lost.

With months slipping by and officials remaining passive, the residents of Muthyampet now anxiously await a decisive move from the administration to protect their rightful lands.



Minister Directs Coordinated Rain Response for Hyderabad

In response to persistent heavy rains, Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar held a crucial teleconference with officials from multiple departments to ensure a coordinated and effective response.1 The meeting included top brass from the GHMC, Police, Hyderabad Metro Water Works, Traffic, District Revenue, Electricity, and Health departments. Citing the severe difficulties faced by residents over the past three days and a weather forecast warning of more heavy rainfall ahead, the Minister issued a series of urgent directives aimed at public safety and swift relief operations. Minister Prabhakar stressed the importance of readiness, instructing officials to be on continuous duty and to immediately address any complaints, particularly from people in low-lying areas.2 To facilitate public communication, he mandated that toll-free helpline numbers be widely publicized through television and social media. The Minister also called for re-



habilitation centers to be fully equipped with all necessary facilities for displaced residents. Emphasizing the need to prevent accidents, he ordered the deployment of police personnel at railway underbridges to guide motorists safely. GHMC staff were instructed to constantly monitor manholes to prevent accidents, while the public was advised to exercise extreme caution around electric poles and wires.3 The Minister also directed officials to use mobile messaging to send timely alerts to residents about potential heavy rainfall and to appeal to them to avoid leaving their homes unless absolutely necessary during peak intensity. Further directives focused on public health and safety. The Minister instructed that the purity of drinking water supplies be strictly tested and that appropriate precautions be taken to prevent contamination. He urged heightened vigilance in the low-lying areas of slums. The Minister also issued a stern warning to citizens against the dangerous practice of opening manhole covers and stressed the importance of seamless coordination among all departments, including Hydra, GHMC, and the police, to ensure a unified and efficient response to the city's rain-related challenges.



Telangana and New Jersey Leaders Discuss Future Collaborations

In a significant diplomatic engagement, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met with New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy in Delhi on Friday to explore avenues for collaboration across various sectors.1 The high-level meeting brought together key leaders to discuss potential partnerships in technology, infrastructure, and cultural exchange. Governor Murphy was accompanied by his wife and a delegation of representatives from the state of New Jersey, underscoring the importance of the dialogue.

The leaders engaged in extensive discussions on a wide range of topics, with a strong focus on shared priorities for development.2 The agenda included education, where the two sides explored opportunities for academic partnerships and student exchange programs.3 Green energy was another central point, with both leaders discussing potential collaboration in sustainable technologies and renewable energy projects. The conversation also touched upon the entertainment industry, particularly the cinema sector, hint-

ing at future ties in film production and cultural exchange. On the infrastructure front, discussions revolved around modern urban transport solutions, including metro systems, which are a key part of Hyderabad's growth plan.4 A notable subject was the ambitious Musi Riverfront project, an initiative close to the Chief Minister's heart. The Governor showed keen interest in this large-scale urban development plan. During the meeting, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy eloquently presented his government's

long-term vision for Telangana under the "Telangana Vision @2047" initiative. He detailed the state's strategic efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth over the next two decades. Revanth Reddy also highlighted Telangana's pre-eminent position as a powerhouse in India's IT and pharmaceutical sectors, showcasing the state as an attractive destination for foreign investment and technological cooperation.5 His comprehensive presentation aimed to establish Telangana as a key partner for New Jersey on the global

stage. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both leaders expressing optimism about the future of their relationship. The direct engagement between the heads of government is expected to lay the groundwork for formal agreements and partnerships, strengthening economic and cultural ties between Telangana and the American state of New Jersey. The presence of the Governor's delegation suggests a mutual desire to transform the discussions into tangible projects and initiatives.



A Glimpse of Telangana's Latest Developments

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is charting a clear path for the state with the "Telangana Vision-2047" document, which outlines a strategic plan for urban, semi-urban, and rural development. He also engaged with New

Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy to foster international partnerships in sectors ranging from green energy to infrastructure. On the domestic front, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar held a teleconference to coordinate a multi-departmental response to

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heavy rains, focusing on public safety and immediate relief. Social and Civic Issues Civic problems are at the forefront of local

news.1 The Karimnagar Municipal Corporation is launching a strict campaign to combat roadside garbage dumping using fines and public shaming.2

Meanwhile, the residents of Balapur village are grappling with poor sanitation, with former leaders coming under fire for their inaction. In a disturbing

incident, a domestic dispute in Kokapet ended in a murder, while a separate land dispute in Vikarabad escalated into a public confrontation.

Community and Cultural

Initiatives

The Bharatiya Janata Party is actively engaging in community service. A medical and cancer screening camp was organized by the BJP Telangana Rashtra Mahila Morcha as part of the "Seva Paksha"

initiative to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. Additionally, BJP State President N. Ramchandra Rao visited a Vedic school, where he praised the institution for its role in preserving India's cultural heritage.

Six Tiger Cubs, Including Three White Tigers, Born at Nehru Zoological Park

The Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad is abuzz with activity following the successful birth of six tiger cubs, a landmark event that stands as one of the largest such occurrences at the facility in recent years. This major breeding success has added a new roar to the park, bringing the total number of new arrivals to six from two separate litters. The first litter consists of three normal Bengal tiger cubs, born to parents Prabhas and Mala. Their arrival has been met with great enthusiasm, marking a new generation of these magnificent felines at the park. In a separate development, another pair, Druva and Tara, gave birth to three white tiger cubs, a unique occurrence that adds to the park's impressive collection of these rare animals. The



successful breeding of both normal and white tigers is a testament to the meticulous care and conservation efforts undertaken by the zoo's staff. According to Telangana Zoo Parks Director Dr. Sunil S Hiremath, both mothers and their cubs are currently in a healthy and stable condition and are being closely monitored. The births are not just a point of pride but also a significant step forward in the zoo's conservation program for en-

dangered species. The successful procreation of the cubs highlights the zoo's commitment to maintaining a robust and genetically diverse population of tigers. By preventing inbreeding and introducing new bloodlines, the zoo ensures the long-term viability of the species under its care. This joyous occasion is part of a broader trend of successful breeding at the facility. The zoo has also announced that it is on track for another ma-

jor event, with a female Himalayan Black Bear confirmed to be pregnant. This marks the first time the zoo is attempting to breed this species, and officials are hopeful for the birth of at least two cubs. Furthermore, the zoo has welcomed the births of around 80 other animals this year alone, including Black Bucks, Sambar Deer, and Four-Horned Antelopes, showcasing a remarkable period of growth and conservation success.

Hyderabad Psychiatrist Pioneers VR Therapy for Flight Anxiety

A new and innovative solution to a common phobia has emerged from Hyderabad, where a senior psychiatrist has launched a pioneering virtual reality (VR) therapy program to help individuals conquer their intense fear of flying. Dr. Jyothirmayi Kotipalli has collaborated with a US-based VR and Augmented Reality (AR) company, Imagineate, to introduce a comprehensive three-part Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy (VRET) program designed to safely guide patients through the entire process of air travel. This groundbreaking initiative provides a controlled, immersive environment for those who suffer from aviophobia. Using 360-degree virtual reality, the program carefully simulates every stage of a journey,



from the moment a person enters the airport terminal to their final exit at the destination. The immersive experience allows individuals to confront their anxieties in a secure space, guided by real-time therapeutic support and coping mechanisms. Dr. Kotipalli's approach aims to provide clinically backed mental health support that is both accessible and effective, addressing a condition that can often have a significant personal and professional toll on people's lives.

The therapy is built upon the well-established psychological principle of exposure therapy, which involves gradually exposing an individual to their phobia to reduce their fear response. By leveraging technology, the VRET program bypasses the need for costly and impractical real-world exposure. The sessions are meticulously designed to desensitize patients, with the first part navigating the user through the airport environment, including security checks and gate areas.

The second part immerses them in the flight itself, from takeoff and in-flight turbulence to landing, all while receiving expert guidance to manage anxiety. The final part completes the journey by simulating the arrival and exit from the destination airport. The collaboration between a local mental health expert and a global technology firm highlights Hyderabad's position at the forefront of combining medical science with cutting-edge innovation. This unique blend of expertise offers a new paradigm for treating phobias and other anxiety-related disorders. Dr. Kotipalli's new venture provides a hopeful and empowering tool for countless individuals, offering them the chance to overcome their anxieties and embrace the freedom of travel.

Former Minister Slams RTC Fare Hike

The search results confirm the core of the user's prompt. There is a recent statement by former minister Harish Rao criticizing a 50% fare hike by the Telangana RTC for special festival buses during Bathukamma and Dussehra.1 The results also show that the RTC has responded, clarifying that the hike is only for special buses, not regular ones, and is permitted under a government order from 2003.2 This distinction is key to a balanced news report. The search results also mention similar past incidents and the political back-and-forth between BRS and Congress on these issues.3 I now have all the necessary information to craft the 500-word article, incorporating the former minister's condemnation, the specifics of the fare hike, the timing, and the RTC's counter-clarification. I will ensure the final piece is a cohesive, neutral news report, using a single heading and avoiding repetitive phrasing. Harish Rao Slams Congress Government Over Festive RTC Fare Hike

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao has launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government, vehemently criticizing the decision to increase RTC bus fares by 50% during the Bathukamma and Dussehra festivals.4 Calling the move a "shameful exploitation," Rao accused the Congress government of burdening the people at a time meant for celebration and joy.5 The steep hike, which he claims is affecting all bus services including Palke Velugu, is being implemented on buses meant for passengers traveling to their hometowns for the holidays, he said.6

The former minister condemned the fare hike as a "crime," questioning the government's priorities.7 He argued that instead of facilitating travel for lakhs of people during the festive season, the administration is imposing a massive financial burden.8 Rao stated that the additional 50% fare, being collected under the pretext of operating "festival special buses," is nothing short of exploitation.9 He pointed out that this increase is being enforced on regular bus services, which are simply being rebranded with "festival special" signboards to justify the exorbitant prices.10 This, he says, is a "public nuisance" and not a genuine effort to serve the people.11

Harish Rao's criticism places the RTC fare hike within a larger political narrative, questioning the very essence of "people's rule" promised by the Congress government.12 He contended that such an attitude deprives the people of Telangana of the happiness and spirit of their cherished festivals. The BRS leader's remarks highlight the ongoing political tug-of-war between the former and current ruling parties, with the opposition consistently holding the government accountable for its policy decisions.

While the BRS leader alleges that regular bus fares have been raised, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TG-SRTC) has clarified that the fare hike applies only to special buses operated during the festival season.13 Citing a government order from 2003, the corporation stated that such fare adjustments are necessary to cover the additional operational costs of running services during peak demand, especially considering the possibility of buses returning with fewer passengers.14 Despite this clarification, the public outcry and political condemnation continue, with many feeling that the festive season has become a period of financial hardship rather than a time of celebration, thanks to the increased travel costs.



Etala Rajender Blends Social Service with Political Demands

In a significant event combining social service with a direct political message, Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender participated as the chief guest at a free blood donation, eye, and dental camp organized in the Medchal Urban District. The program is part of a 15-day service initiative by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to commemorate the birth anniversaries of Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mahatma Gandhi, following a nationwide call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking at the event, Rajender not only praised the humanitarian effort but also used the platform to launch a scathing critique of the state government's handling of recent floods and infrastructure damage. The service camp drew hundreds of participants eager to contribute to a noble cause. Rajender highlighted that the donated blood would be crucial for those battling diseases like thalassemia and sickle cell, as well as for accident victims. The MP praised the efforts of local honorary corporators and BJP leaders who organized the event, underscoring the party's commitment to community welfare. He also made a special mention of Prime Minister Modi's focus on maternal health, reiterating the message that a healthy nation begins with healthy mothers, and affirmed that the BJP is working to take this special program to the people at the grassroots level.

However, the tone of the event shifted as Rajender turned his attention to the recent devastation caused by rains. He accused the government of indifference and negligence towards the plight of citizens whose homes and belongings were submerged. He emphatically stated that the government should not be calculating costs but should immediately provide financial assistance to every single family that has suffered losses. Rajender's fiery speech resonated with the public's frustrations over the lack of a proactive response from the authorities during the crisis. The MP presented a set of specific and urgent demands to the government. He called for a comprehensive assessment of all areas in Hyderabad prone to flooding and overflowing drains. He urged the administration to undertake a permanent solution, suggesting a program similar to "Strategy Nala" to prevent future urban flooding. Furthermore, he highlighted the severe damage to the city's roads, which have turned a ten-minute journey into a grueling hour-and-a-half trip. He demanded that all roads be repaired on a "war footing." The MP also requested that the government set up health camps in affected colonies to take preventive measures against diseases like fungal infections, which are likely to spread due to damp conditions. He concluded by demanding that government machinery be used to clean the dirty houses of the affected and restore them to the residents.

Minister Vivek Venkataswamy Stresses Constitutional Commitment, Criticizes Political Leaders

State Labour and Employment Minister Vivek Venkataswamy delivered a powerful message at the "Grama, Gramana Constitution preparatory meeting" in Hyderabad, emphasizing that "democrats will teach a lesson" to anyone who attempts to alter the nation's foundational document. The event, organized by the Confederation of SC, ST, OBC and Minorities Organizations and headed by Maheshwar Raj, saw Minister Venkataswamy as the chief guest. In his address, he directly criticized former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for his comments about changing the constitution, stating that the electorate had already sent him home as a consequence. He drew a parallel to the recent Lok Sabha elections, noting that the BJP was also reduced to 240 seats, a clear signal from the populace.

Speaking to a packed conference hall at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds, the Minister underscored the unparalleled strength of India's Constitution. He highlighted the monumental efforts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, crediting him not only for his relentless fight to protect his community but also for his immense contributions to women's empowerment and rights. Venkataswamy also pointed out Ambedkar's crucial role in establishing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to strengthen the country's economy. The minister further reminded the audience that the formation of Telangana state itself was made possible through Article 3 of the Constitution, a testament to its flexibility and power.1

Venkataswamy called for a renewed sense of social responsibility among those who have benefited from reservations. He expressed disappointment that many individuals who ascend to top positions as IAS and IPS officers often forget to support the communities below them. He urged everyone to be committed to paying back to society, following the example of Ambedkar's continuous struggle. To foster this commitment from an early age, the minister proposed incorporating a dedicated chapter on the Constitution into school education. He explained that this initiative would help students understand their rights and responsibilities, creating a more aware and engaged citizenry. He affirmed his intention to discuss this proposal with the Chief Minister and work towards its implementation in textbooks.

While acknowledging the progress made over the years, the minister expressed sadness that caste-based discrimination, a reality from 75 years ago, still persists in rural villages. He stressed that only through education and widespread awareness of constitutional principles can such inequalities be eliminated. He concluded his address by commending Maheshwar Raj for his dedication to this cause and reassured the public of his own commitment to contributing to society, inspired by his father's principles.

Village Leaders Face Scrutiny Over Neglect

Balapur village, located within the Badangpet Municipal Corporation of Rangareddy district, is facing a severe sanitation crisis, with residents expressing outrage over the apparent apathy of former and current public representatives. The most glaring symbol of this neglect is a massive pile of refuse accumulating directly in front of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a sight that has not only created a significant public health hazard but also stands as a powerful testament to the failure of civic governance.

The situation on the ground is dire, transforming the once-tidy streets into a spectacle of filth and neglect. Open drains are overflowing, mixing with mud and discarded waste to form a repulsive, swamp-like environment. A foul odor permeates the air, making daily life unbearable for the inhabitants and raising serious concerns about the spread of diseases. This lamentable state of affairs has left residents questioning the purpose of paying taxes for civic amenities that are clearly not being provided, and they feel betrayed by the very people elected to serve them.

The community's frustration is particularly directed at the former political leaders who are accused of blatant indifference. Residents are openly questioning the former mayor, a native of Balapur, as well as the former deputy mayor and other corporators, who are all from the region. The villagers' sentiment is palpable, with many asking how these individuals can remain silent about such a critical issue in their own hometown. The people feel that their former representatives, who are supposed to be accountable for their welfare, have turned a blind eye to the suffering of their own neighbors.

The outrage also extends to the current municipal authorities, who are being accused of gross irresponsibility. Locals claim that the officials are merely collecting their salaries without fulfilling their basic duties, leaving the community to languish in squalor. The people of Balapur are issuing a stern warning to both the administration and the former public figures, urging them to wake up and take immediate action. They have vowed to hold them accountable if the situation is not addressed, hinting at future public action.

The mounting tensions have caught the attention of local opposition parties, with BJP leaders reportedly highlighting the deplorable state of affairs and calling for the administration to step up. The issue has now become a point of political contention, with opposition voices demanding that the ruling body ensure a clean and hygienic environment for the villagers. This political pressure may be the only hope for the residents of Balapur to finally get the attention and action they desperately need to restore their village to a clean and respectable state.

Woman Arrested for Stabbing Husband to Death in Kokapet

A woman has been arrested by Narsinghi police for allegedly stabbing her husband to death during a late-night quarrel in Kokapet. The couple, identified as Krishna Jyoti Bora and Bharat Baroda, were laborers from Assam. According to initial reports, a dispute between the couple turned violent after the wife, unable to bear what she described as her husband's harassment, lost her temper. She allegedly used a vegetable knife to attack him repeatedly. Upon hearing the husband's screams, locals rushed to the scene and found him in a pool of blood. He was immediately taken to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The Narsinghi police have registered a case and are currently investigating the circumstances that led to the tragic incident.



Tense Land Dispute Erupts in Vikarabad, Leading to Police Action

A volatile land dispute over a two-acre field in survey number 401 has led to a tense standoff at the Changomul Police Station in Vikarabad District's Pudur Mandal. The incident began when residents from Lingampally, Hyderabad, allegedly registered the land in the name of a woman, Padamma, without the knowledge of her son, Suresh. When the Lingampally group reportedly attempted to sell the property, Suresh confronted them, backed by the entire village of Rakanchal. The confrontation escalated dramatically after the Hyderabad residents arrived at the site with private individuals, some allegedly brandishing knives. Fearing for their safety, the villagers promptly contacted the police. Officers swiftly responded, detaining all parties involved and transporting them to the police station for questioning.

As news spread, a large crowd of Rakanchal villagers gathered at the police station in solidarity with Suresh, creating a high-tension situation. The police are currently interrogating everyone to verify the land deeds and investigate the allegations of threats. The incident underscores the fragility of land ownership in rural areas and the potential for such disputes to lead to serious legal and social conflict.

Karimnagar Cracks Down on Garbage Dumping



The Karimnagar Municipal Corporation is taking strict new measures to stop residents from dumping garbage on roadsides.1 This initiative is part of a plan to transform the city into a "dumper bin-free zone."2 Officials are installing CCTV cameras to identify offenders and have decided to impose heavy fines, starting at Rs 1,000 for the first offense. To deter people, the city will also publicly display photographs of individuals caught dumping waste while on foot. For those on two-wheelers, fines will be issued by tracking their vehicle numbers. The need for these actions comes despite the availability of door-to-door garbage collection services and six underground dustbins across the city. Many areas, such as the stretch behind the bus stand, have become difficult to pass due to the foul smell from illegally dumped waste. Officials believe a lack of public awareness is a major reason for the problem, despite past efforts to clean areas and hold awareness drives. The new, tougher approach aims to enforce cleanliness and improve sanitation for all residents.

Central banks beyond the bottom line

The financial performance of central banks has recently sparked debate, particularly after the US Federal Reserve came under fire for spending on office renovations while reporting heavy losses. Critics argued that such losses undermine credibility, but economists stress that a central bank's bottom line is not a true measure of its effectiveness.

The Fed reported an operating loss of USD 77.6 billion in 2024, down from USD 114 billion the previous year, alongside cumulative unrealised losses of USD 1.06 trillion on its bond holdings. These figures have drawn public scrutiny, but analysts point out that unlike commercial banks, central bank profits or losses are essentially transfers within the financial system, not wealth creation or destruction.

Central banks play a broader role in society, providing predictability, confidence, and stability while pursuing monetary policies that foster socially optimal outcomes. Their earnings largely stem from seigniorage, non-interest-bearing reserves from commercial banks, and interest on government bonds, much of which returns to governments as dividends. While profits help maintain independence and resilience, they are not central to performance assessment.

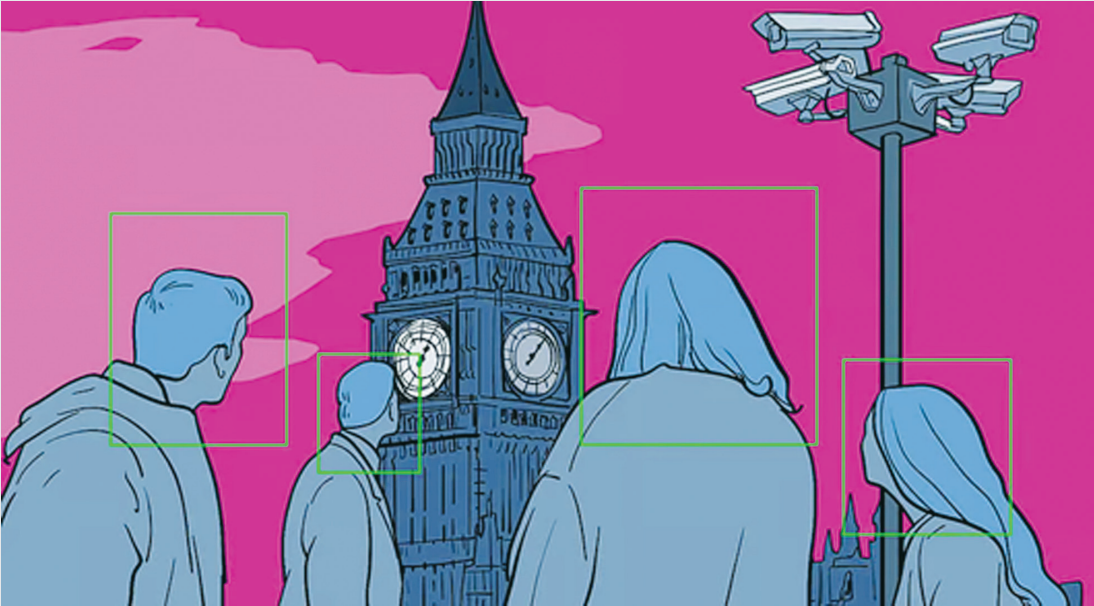
Instead, success should be judged by whether central banks achieve low and stable inflation, financial stability, and effective management of liquidity. Excessive interventions in currency or bond markets to generate profits could create moral hazard, as markets may rely too heavily on central bank support.

Experts suggest adopting best practices such as mark-to-market accounting in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and separating income recognition from distribution. Unrealised gains should be retained as capital buffers rather than automatically transferred to governments, a practice already followed in countries like Australia and the UK. Stress tests and forward-looking income distribution rules can ensure resilience and protect independence.

Ultimately, central banks' credibility hinges not on accounting losses but on their ability to meet mandates such as price stability and financial security. Paper losses should not hinder them from routine functions, including administrative spending. What truly matters is whether they uphold stability and public trust.



Has Britain gone too far with its digital controls?



A man in a stroller-pushing couple being stopped and arrested outside a police van with cameras on Oxford Street has become a striking symbol of Britain's growing use of live facial recognition. Since January 2024, the technology has helped police charge or cite more than 1,000 people in London, scanning crowds against a database of 16,000 wanted individuals. Authorities say the tool boosts safety, but critics see a dangerous expansion of state surveillance.

The embrace of facial recognition is part of a wider push under Prime Minister Keir Starmer to deploy advanced technology in governance. Moves include expanding oversight of online speech, introducing stricter age and verification checks for digital platforms like Instagram and Reddit, pushing back against encrypted services, and experimenting with artificial intelligence to process asylum claims. Civil liberties groups warn that such steps intrude on daily life, but government officials argue they are pragmatic measures to protect citizens in the digital era.

"There's a big question about what is freedom and what is safety," said Ryan Wain of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, which supports the policies. Britain's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said citizens expected the state to use modern tools against crime, child exploitation, and border threats, while pledging that freedoms would be safeguarded.

The new online safety law has stirred controversy. Child safety advocates back it, but opponents, including Nigel Farage, call it censorship and "borderline dystopian." Ofcom CEO Melanie Dawes defended the law, stressing it aims to protect children, not stifle speech. The issue has also drawn criticism from the US, with Donald Trump's administration and lawmakers condemning Britain's policies as attacks on free speech and American tech firms.

Britain has also rolled out AI tools to streamline immigration, using algorithms to screen asylum claims. Officials say this reduces backlogs and frees caseworkers from routine tasks, but insiders worry about oversight gaps and legal challenges. Critics argue that AI-driven decisions in sensitive cases risk undermining accountability without clear regulatory safeguards.

Supporters see these measures as necessary modernization, while detractors warn of eroding liberties. As Britain becomes a test case for how democracies balance security, privacy, and technological change, the debate over surveillance and digital governance is only intensifying.

Cancer vaccine: From Russia with hope

Reports of a potential vaccine for cancer have ignited global hope in the fight against a disease that has claimed millions of lives for centuries. Russian scientists have announced that a vaccine developed by their teams has demonstrated 100% efficacy in early-stage clinical trials, raising optimism about a breakthrough in cancer treatment.

The vaccine, developed jointly by Russia's National Medical Research Radiology Centre and the Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology, was tested on 48 patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Early results indicate that the vaccine not only shrank tumors but also slowed their growth, with no severe side effects reported. The vaccine employs modern techniques, including mRNA (messenger RNA) technology, which has been widely used in the development of COVID-19 vaccines by companies such as Pfizer and Moderna. This technology works by instructing the immune system to recognize and destroy cancer cells through tumor-specific antigens.

Preliminary work on vaccines targeting other types of cancer is already underway, and initial pre-clinical trials have reportedly shown positive outcomes. Experts caution, however, that these findings are still at an early stage. Extensive large-scale clinical trials across genetically diverse populations and different geographic regions are necessary before the vaccine can be declared fully effective and market-ready. The appearance of side effects over time also remains a possibility, making long-term evaluation crucial.

Cancer continues to be a major global health challenge, with its burden rising due to changing lifestyles and environmental factors. Current treatments, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgery, are often prolonged, expensive, and associated with significant side effects, making them inaccessible to many. A vaccine could revolutionize cancer care by providing a preventive and less invasive option.

Research on cancer vaccines is ongoing in multiple countries. The UK has announced clinical trials, while India has reported early-stage research aimed at combating specific cancer types. The developments in Russia, if confirmed through further trials, may represent a historic leap in medical science. While optimism is high, scientists urge patience as the vaccine undergoes the rigorous testing required to ensure safety and efficacy. The world is watching closely, hopeful that this innovation could mark a turning point in the global fight against cancer.



Can productivity alone be the key to faster growth?

The relationship between economic growth and employment generation is a critical factor for shaping effective policy initiatives, yet it is often misunderstood. While economic expansion is generally expected to create jobs, the link between output growth and employment growth is not always straightforward. Employment loss can trigger a slowdown in demand, which in turn can hinder economic growth, highlighting the importance of carefully calibrated policies.

The impact of output expansion on employment depends heavily on the type of technology adopted by businesses. For instance, the use of capital-intensive technology may lead to increased production without a corresponding rise in employment. In such cases, output growth does not automatically translate into more job opportunities. Conversely, an increase in labor input is traditionally expected to boost output. However, if there is redundancy in the workforce or inefficiencies in labor utilization, higher employment may not necessarily result in greater production.

The demand linkage offers another perspective on the growth-employment relationship. Higher employment can enhance effective demand, as more people earn wages and have purchasing power, potentially driving further economic expansion. Yet, this effect is often limited if wages remain low, as the additional income may be insufficient to significantly boost consumption and demand in the economy. Thus, the positive demand impact of employment expansion may not always materialize, particularly in sectors where wages are meager.

Policymakers must consider these nuances when designing strategies for economic growth and employment generation. Simply focusing on output growth without attention to technology choice, wage levels, and labor utilization may fail to achieve the desired employment outcomes. Similarly, measures aimed solely at increasing employment without ensuring productive engagement may not translate into meaningful output growth or enhanced demand.

The interplay between employment and economic growth underscores the need for balanced policies that integrate labor-intensive growth, appropriate wage structures, and technological planning. By understanding these dynamics, governments can implement initiatives that not only expand output but also generate sustainable employment, creating a virtuous cycle of growth and demand. Experts argue that a comprehensive approach is essential for fostering inclusive economic development and ensuring that growth benefits reach the workforce effectively.





PM Modi to Inaugurate Expanded Tripura Sundari Temple

TPN Bureau | New

Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Tripura on September 22 to inaugurate the redeveloped and expanded facilities at the Tripura Sundari Temple in Udaipur, the headquarters of Gomaati district. The temple, one of India's 51 Shakti Peethas, was founded by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya in 1501, and the redevelopment project has been funded by the Central Government.

boost religious tourism in the state, with civic amenities, lodging, restrooms, parking lots, an open gallery, and eateries added to enhance visitor experience. Officials confirmed that PM Modi will arrive at MBB Airport in Agartala and proceed to Udaipur via helicopter. He is expected to offer prayers at the temple during his brief visit but will not address any public gathering. The Chief Minister also inspected a helipad constructed at the O'IPC Power Project in Palatana, which will facilitate the Prime Minister's transit. The redevelopment of the Tripura Sundari Temple is part of a broader initiative to promote pilgrimage tourism while preserving the cultural and historical

heritage of the Shakti Peethas. The project, according to officials, focuses on improving infrastructure for devotees, providing a comfortable and modernized pilgrimage experience, while also accommodating the growing number of visitors to the region. The Prime Minister's visit underscores the government's emphasis on cultural preservation and religious tourism, aiming to strengthen Tripura's position as a key destination for devotees across the country. The temple redevelopment is expected to attract more visitors, boosting local economy and promoting Tripura's historical and spiritual significance.

Nitish, Shah discuss seat-sharing strategy for poll-bound Bihar

TPN Correspondent |

New Delhi

The political chessboard in Bihar saw a key move as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of Janata Dal (United) met Home Minister Amit Shah of the BJP on Friday to discuss poll strategy ahead of upcoming elections. The meeting, held at a high-end Patna hotel, marked the first formal interaction between Nitish and Shah since JD(U) joined

the NDA to form the state government last year, drawing significant attention from political observers. Sources indicated that the leaders discussed broad contours of seat-sharing, with JD(U) reportedly demanding at least one more seat than the BJP to maintain its symbolic dominance within the alliance. As per the current Bihar Assembly composition, BJP is the single largest party in the ruling 131-member NDA bloc

with 80 seats, followed by JD(U) with 45 seats and Hindustan Awam Morcha's four. Allies like LJP and Rashtriya Lok Morcha will divide the remaining seats. The preliminary understanding reportedly suggests BJP contesting 100 seats, JD(U) 101, while smaller allies get the rest. The LJP, led by Chirag Paswan, has demanded 45 seats, but BJP sources indicated they could get only 20-25. In 2020, LJP contested separately, which impacted

JD(U)'s prospects in multiple constituencies. Meanwhile, the Opposition Mahagathbandhan, comprising RJD, Congress, and left parties, is focusing on the Election Commission's ongoing special revision of electoral rolls in Bihar as a key poll plank. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has raised allegations of voter roll manipulation, which the EC has rejected, setting the stage for an intense political battle. This meeting be-

tween Nitish Kumar and Amit Shah signals the NDA's effort to consolidate its alliance ahead of the elections, balancing intra-party dynamics and managing demands of smaller partners while countering the opposition's aggressive campaign narrative. The seat-sharing formula and coordination among NDA allies are expected to be finalised in the coming weeks as the election timetable progresses.



‘What Will We Do With Rs 1,600 Crore?’

Bhagwant Mann On Centre's Flood Aid

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday said the initial assessment of losses from the state's devastating floods is around Rs 13,800 crore, warning that the final figure is likely to be higher. Mann criticized the central government for granting only Rs 1,600 crore in relief, calling it "just a drop in the ocean." Mann also responded to opposition BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claims that Punjab had Rs 12,000 crore sitting unused in its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). He clarified that the actual balance in the SDRF is under Rs 2,000 crore, detailing annual receipts and expenditures since 2010-11. "The BJP simply added a zero to the actual amount," Mann



said, dismissing accusations of mismanagement. The Chief Minister further claimed that the Centre has withheld Rs 8,000 crore from Punjab's Rural Development Fund (RDF), which collects a three percent cess on agricultural produce to maintain roads and mandis, and has not released Rs 50,000 crore due as the state's share of Goods and Services Tax revenue. He said the state could manage flood relief operations using

these funds without requiring a special package. Punjab has faced its worst floods in decades due to overflowing Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers, heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and within the state. The floods have affected nearly four lakh people across more than 2,000 villages, caused 55 deaths, and damaged crops on 1.93 lakh hectares. Relief operations con-

tinue with 14 Army columns, eight NDRF teams, two SDRF teams, and two Engineer Task Force teams deployed. Mann's remarks came after the Centre announced Rs 1,600 crore in aid, which he deemed insufficient compared to the scale of the disaster. The Chief Minister urged immediate release of pending funds and stressed that state authorities are prepared to use all available resources for relief and rehabilitation.

India expects Saudi Arabia to keep in mind mutual interests

sensitivities: MEA on Saudi-Pakistan pact

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

India has reacted cautiously to a new strategic defence pact signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, highlighting the need to respect "mutual interests and sensitivities." The agreement, known as the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, was signed in Riyadh on September 17 by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The pact states that any aggression against either country will be considered an attack on both. It also opens the possibility of Pakistan's nuclear programme being extended to Saudi Arabia, a prospect draw-



ing international attention. Pakistan's delegation to Riyadh included Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, underscoring the military significance of the accord. A joint statement released by both nations said the pact reflects their "shared commitment to enhance security" and strengthen "joint deterrence against

aggression." Responding to the development, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "India and Saudi Arabia have a wide-ranging strategic partnership that has deepened considerably in the last few years. We expect that our strategic partnership will keep in mind mutual interests and sensitivities." The pact comes at a

time when India has been steadily building stronger ties with Saudi Arabia, not only in energy and trade but also in counterterrorism and defence cooperation. Observers note that Riyadh's move signals a fresh balancing act in the Gulf, where Saudi Arabia remains a critical energy partner for India but also maintains close ties with Pakistan, particularly in defence. For New Delhi, the situation underscores the complexity of regional geopolitics — where partnerships often overlap, and security agreements can reshape power equations. The pact marks a new phase in Pakistan-Saudi defence ties, with wider implications for South Asia and the Middle East.

Assam Rifles Jawan Killed, Three Injured in Manipur Ambush

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

Violence erupted once again in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Friday evening when armed men ambushed a vehicle carrying Assam Rifles personnel, leaving one jawan dead and at least three others injured. Officials confirmed that the attack took place around 6 pm in the Nambol Sabal Leikai area as the security personnel were moving towards Bishnupur from Imphal. According to initial reports, a group of unidentified gunmen opened heavy fire on the vehicle,

catching the jawans off guard. One soldier died on the spot while three sustained injuries during the sudden burst of gunfire. The injured were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital by police and local residents, who assisted in the rescue operations amid the chaos. Their condition is being monitored closely by doctors. Security forces quickly cordoned off the area and launched a massive search operation to track down the attackers. Additional reinforcements have been rushed to the spot to secure the region and prevent further escalation. The identity of the armed assailants is yet to be confirmed, but

intelligence agencies are investigating possible links to militant groups active in the state. This ambush underscores the continuing instability in Manipur, which has been grappling with months of ethnic tension, armed clashes, and insurgent activities. Officials fear that such targeted attacks could further heighten insecurity in the troubled state. Local authorities have condemned the incident, calling it a cowardly act aimed at destabilising peace and spreading fear among civilians and security personnel. The Assam Rifles, a paramilitary force tasked with maintaining security in



the North East, has been on high alert following

repeated incidents of violence. The latest attack

has once again raised concerns about the frag-

ile law and order situa- tion in Manipur and the

urgent need for restoring stability.

Pakistan ATC Rejects PTI Plea Against Imran Khan’s Video Link Appearance

TPN Correspondent | Rawalpindi

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Friday dismissed a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the arrangement for party founder Imran Khan to appear via video link in the General Headquarters (GHQ) attack case. Imran, imprisoned in Adiala Jail since August 2023, was expected to attend the hearing remotely. His counsel argued that a fair trial required his physical presence, but the court upheld the video link arrangement.

Prosecutor Zaheer Shah opposed the plea, citing the Punjab government’s executive or-



der transferring trial proceedings to the ATC. He stressed that amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Anti-Terrorism Act allow courts to decide trial procedures, including appearances via video link. Shah added that challenging the arrangement would delay the trial, though the defence could approach a higher court

against the transfer notification.

During the hearing, testimonies of two prosecution witnesses, Sub-Inspectors Saleem Qureshi and Manzoor Shahzad, were recorded. They presented 13 USB drives containing 40 video clips of Imran related to the May 9, 2023 protests, as well as clips of other PTI leaders. The evidence also

included CCTV footage from key locations in Rawalpindi, such as Benazir Bhutto Road, Mall Road, and Liaquat Bagh.

The ATC also summoned 10 additional witnesses from the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, the Federal Investigation Agency, the PTI, the Press Information Department, and interior ministry for the next hearing.

Imran was indicted in the GHQ attack case on December 5, 2024, and was arrested in January 2024 under the May 9 protest case. The court proceedings continue while he remains in custody, with the trial expected to examine extensive digital evidence related to the unrest that followed his arrest.

“Russia launched nearly 90 drones in attack on Ukraine”: Zelenskyy

TPN Correspondent

| Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported that Russia carried out a large-scale drone strike overnight, deploying nearly 90 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) across multiple regions of Ukraine. In a post on X, Zelenskyy praised Ukrainian forces for neutralizing most of the drones, saying, “I thank them for defending our skies.”

The strikes targeted key regions including Donetsk, Kyiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and Dnipro. Infrastructure and enterprises were hit, with two people wounded in Pavlohrad, Dnipro region. In Kyiv, recovery



efforts are ongoing after damage to public transport infrastructure. Zelenskyy condemned Russia for striking civilian targets despite international calls for peace and emphasized that diplomatic efforts, including proposals supported by the United States, have been ignored by Moscow.

The Ukrainian presi-

dent highlighted the need for stronger international support to bolster defense capabilities, citing initiatives such as PURL, co-production, and security guarantees. He also referenced ongoing discussions with the United States on large-scale agreements for drones and arms procurement, urging decisive action to push Rus-

sia toward diplomacy.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Air Defence Forces reported intercepting enemy drones over several districts of Russia’s Rostov region. Acting governor Yuri Slyusar confirmed the destruction of UAVs in Chertkovsky, Kuibyshevsky, and Dubovskiy districts, signaling that both sides increasingly rely on drone technology in the conflict.

The escalation underscores the intensifying aerial warfare in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with repeated drone attacks causing damage to infrastructure, posing risks to civilians, and emphasizing the urgency for international engagement and enhanced defense measures in Kyiv.

I am very close to India, PM Modi: Donald Trump

Mentioned during a press conference with UK PM Keir Starmer.

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump on Thursday highlighted his close ties with India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a press conference with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, emphasizing their personal rapport and recent birthday greetings. Trump noted that he had spoken to PM Modi on his 75th birthday, conveying his wishes and acknowledging the strong bilateral relationship between New Delhi and Washington.

“I’m very close to India. I’m very close to the Prime Minister of India. Spoke to him the other day, wished him a happy birthday. We have a very good relationship,” Trump said, adding that Modi had responded

with a “beautiful statement.” Trump also expressed gratitude for India’s support on initiatives to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, noting the shared interest in global stability.

On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump posted, “Just had a wonderful phone call with my friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I wished him a very Happy Birthday! He is doing a tremendous job. Narendra: Thank you for your support on ending the War between Russia and Ukraine! President DJT.”

Hours earlier, PM Modi acknowledged the call and expressed appreciation for Trump’s greetings, referring to the US President as “my friend” on X. Modi reiterated India’s commitment to strengthening the India-US Compre-

hensive and Global Partnership and expressed support for Trump’s initiatives toward a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict.

“Thank you, my friend, President Trump, for your phone call and warm greetings on my 75th birthday. Like you, I am also fully committed to taking the India-US Comprehensive and Global Partnership to new heights. We support your initiatives towards a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict,” Modi said.

The exchange underscores the continued emphasis both leaders place on personal diplomacy and bilateral collaboration, signaling a stable and cooperative phase in India-US relations, with shared focus on global peace and regional security initiatives.

Kamala Harris Reflects on 2024 Election Loss in New Book 107 Days

TPN Correspondent |

Washington

Former Vice President Kamala Harris has opened up about her 2024 presidential election defeat to Donald Trump in her new book, 107 Days, set for release Tuesday. Harris recounts the emotional shock of losing, describing how she could “barely breathe” upon learning the results, while staffers struggled to process the defeat. The title references the intense campaign period Harris undertook after Joe Biden withdrew from the race.

The book offers candid insights into her campaign, her frustrations with Biden’s performance, and unusual behind-the-scenes moments. Harris admits that while she respected Biden, his physical and verbal fatigue during the

campaign sometimes hindered the race. She also reveals challenges in stepping into the top spot on the ticket, navigating complex political dynamics, and preparing for debates against Trump.

Harris reflects on personal missteps, notably a faltering appearance on The View, which she describes as inadvertently aiding the Trump campaign. Senior adviser David Plouffe reportedly told her bluntly that “people hate Joe Biden,” highlighting the difficulties of running in Biden’s shadow. Harris also shares details of her search for a running mate, noting Pete Buttigieg was her first choice, though she ultimately selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

The book provides a glimpse into the campaign’s unusual moments, including voice coaching exercises for



her convention speech and an unexpected cordial phone conversation with Trump following a second assassination attempt against him. Harris admits being im-

pressed by Trump’s charm despite their political rivalry, calling him a “con man” who was “really good at it.”

107 Days offers a raw, behind-the-scenes look

at Harris’ campaign, blending political analysis with personal reflection, and marks her most unguarded public account of the 2024 election so far.



Philippines Floods Spark Outrage Over ‘Nepo Babies’

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Public outrage is mounting in the Philippines as heavy monsoon rains flood low-lying towns, exposing the failures of infrastructure and widespread corruption. At the cen-

tre of the anger are “nepo babies,” wealthy children of powerful families flaunting luxury lifestyles while millions suffer from submerged streets and damaged homes. The backlash echoes recent anti-corruption protests in Nepal, where demonstrations against “nepo babies” contributed to

government collapse.

Residents like Crissa Tolentino, a public school teacher in Apalit near Manila, expressed frustration over seeing taxpayer money misused. “I work hard, I don’t spend too much, and taxes are deducted from my salary every month. Then I learn that billions in our tax-

es are being enjoyed by corrupt politicians,” she said. Social media has amplified these sentiments, targeting lawmakers and construction tycoons accused of running “ghost” flood control projects.

Prominent figures such as Pacifico and Sarah Discaya, once celebrated for their rags-to-

riches story, faced public scrutiny after videos surfaced of them flaunting three dozen luxury cars, sparking online criticism over misuse of public funds. President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. acknowledged the problem during a visit to a supposed flood control dam that

did not exist. Subsequent investigations revealed that corruption had siphoned off 70 percent of funds allocated for flood mitigation.

The crisis has led to resignations and ousters of high-profile politicians, while investigations into contractors and gov-

ernment officials continue. Meanwhile, citizens demand accountability and immediate action to strengthen flood defenses, highlighting the growing tension between public welfare and elite privilege in the Philippines.

Social media movements and street-level

activism signal that frustration over corruption and inequality, fueled by environmental disasters, is reaching a boiling point, drawing parallels with anti-nepo-baby protests in neighbouring countries and raising urgent questions about governance and resource management.

SEBI Introduces Joint Inspection Framework For Brokers, DPs

In a significant regulatory move aimed at improving efficiency and strengthening market supervision, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a Joint Inspection Framework for stock brokers and depository participants (DPs). This new framework will replace the existing practice where stock exchanges, depositories, and clearing corporations conduct separate annual inspections.

Currently, these market infrastructure institutions inspect brokers and DPs independently, often leading to overlapping efforts, duplication of resources, and a fragmented view of compliance. The introduction of a joint inspection

system is expected to streamline the process, minimize redundancy, and ensure more comprehensive monitoring.

Under this framework, SEBI will coordinate a unified inspection of brokers and depository participants, with representatives from the stock exchanges, depositories, and clearing corporations conducting joint visits. This collaborative approach will allow for a consolidated assessment of regulatory adherence, operational risk management, and the financial health of these market intermediaries.

SEBI's move aims to enhance transparency, reduce compliance burden on entities, and provide regulators with a holistic understand-

ing of brokers' and DPs' functioning. By pooling resources and expertise, the joint inspection framework is expected to identify gaps more effectively and enforce regulatory standards consistently across the board.

Market experts believe that this framework will also speed up the inspection process, reduce costs, and improve the overall governance of market participants. Brokers and depository participants will benefit from clearer communication and consistent regulatory guidance, helping them maintain better compliance.

The framework is part of SEBI's broader efforts to modernize the capital markets infrastructure and reinforce investor protec-



tion. It aligns with global best practices where regulatory bodies increasingly favor

coordinated supervision to enhance market integrity. SEBI has yet to an-

nounce the exact implementation timeline for the joint inspection framework but assures

stakeholders of a smooth transition to the new system. This initiative marks a progressive

step toward a more efficient and effective regulatory ecosystem in India's financial markets.



India's Electronics Exports Jump Over 47% To \$12.4 Billion

India's electronics exports witnessed a remarkable jump of over 47% year-on-year, reaching \$12.4 billion in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2025-26, according to the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). This strong performance highlights the country's growing prominence in the global electronics market and reflects the robust demand for Indian-made products worldwide.

The standout segment in this export boom was mobile phones, which saw a significant 55% increase in exports. Mobile

phone shipments soared from \$4.9 billion in Q1 FY25 to an estimated \$7.6 billion in Q1 FY26. This surge underscores India's emergence as a major hub for mobile phone manufacturing and exports, supported by initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme that has boosted domestic production capacity.

Other electronic products also contributed to the overall export growth, showcasing India's expanding capabilities beyond just mobile devices. The increase in electronics exports is a positive indicator of In-

dia's strides in becoming a global manufacturing and export destination for technology products.

Industry experts attribute this growth to several factors, including improved supply chain resilience, enhanced manufacturing infrastructure, and government policies promoting local manufacturing and exports. Additionally, the rising global demand for electronics, driven by digital transformation and increasing consumer tech adoption, has created new opportunities for Indian exporters.

The electronics ex-

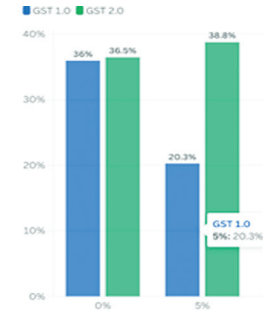
port surge is expected to continue in the coming quarters, further solidifying India's position in the global electronics market. The country's focus on innovation, quality manufacturing, and export promotion is likely to attract more investment and expand its share in global trade.

With the electronics sector playing a vital role in India's economic growth and job creation, this export performance marks a significant milestone and boosts optimism for sustained expansion in the years ahead.

GST 2.0 to Benefit Rural, Urban Households with Lower Rates

From September 22, over 75% of items purchased by rural Indians and 66% of items bought by urban households will attract either a nil Goods and Services Tax (GST) or a 5% rate, according to a new analysis by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). The report, prepared by the Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI) for FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), highlights a significant simplification and relief in the GST structure.

Currently, 56% of rural household expenditure and 50% of urban household expenditure



is taxed at either nil or 5%. Under GST 2.0, the nil-rate slab will cover 29.9% of total items, accounting for 36.5% of rural expenditure and 32.9% of urban expenditure. The 5% slab will see a major expansion, comprising 40.5% of items and representing 38.8% of rural and 33.3% of urban household expenditure.

The 12% slab will be completely removed,

while the 18% rate will reduce slightly, covering 23.1% of items and accounting for 12.3% of rural and 14.1% of urban spending. High-tax items, including those in the 28% and 40% slabs under GST 2.0, will account for a minimal share—0.5% of items and just 0.2% of rural and urban expenditure.

The study compared current GST rates with monthly per capita ex-

penditure data, showing that the new structure benefits consumers by reducing the tax burden on frequently purchased essentials. Analysts suggest that the GST 2.0 reforms will likely boost consumption, particularly in rural areas, and support overall economic growth.

With more items moving into lower GST slabs and the elimination of the 12% rate, households across India can expect savings on daily essentials, while simplifying compliance for businesses. The new GST structure marks a step toward making taxation more equitable and consumer-friendly, with rural consumers gaining the maximum advantage.



Rupee Dips to 88.27 Amid Dollar Strength, Equity Decline

The Indian rupee slipped 7 paise to 88.27 against the US dollar in early Friday trade, reflecting broad dollar strength and a weak trend in domestic equities. The rupee opened at 88.22 in the interbank market before hitting the day's low of 88.27, continuing the modest decline seen on Thursday when it fell 35 paise to 88.20.

Forex traders attributed the depreciation to a recovery in the US dollar and concerns over potential US tariffs on Indian goods, which weighed on investor sentiment. CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari noted that while the rupee has stumbled after recent gains, supportive trade developments and firm domestic confidence could provide

room for appreciation. Key support is placed at 87.70, with further levels at 87.50 and 87.20 if the downtrend continues, while resistance is seen around 88.40.

Globally, weekly US jobless claims fell sharply by 33,000, surpassing market estimates and boosting the dollar index toward the 97 mark after briefly dipping below 96. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six currencies, stood at 97.34, down 0.01%. Brent crude futures edged lower by 0.09% to USD 67.38 per barrel.

Domestic equities mirrored the cautious sentiment, with the Sensex falling 264.36 points to 82,749.60 and the Nifty dropping 65 points to 25,358.60 in early trade. Foreign Institu-

tional Investors bought equities worth Rs 366.69 crore on a net basis on Thursday.

Meanwhile, India-US trade talks are progressing, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighting discussions with Assistant US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch in New Delhi on September 16. The talks are seen as crucial following the US decision to impose a 50% tariff on certain Indian goods, and positive outcomes could ease pressure on both trade and the currency.

The rupee's movement will remain sensitive to global dollar trends, oil prices, equity performance, and ongoing trade negotiations, with traders keeping a close watch on developments in these areas.

Supreme Court to Hear Vodafone Idea AGR Plea on September 26

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on September 26 a fresh plea filed by telecom major Vodafone Idea Ltd seeking to quash additional adjusted gross revenue (AGR) demands for the period up to 2016-17. A bench comprising Chief Justice B.R. Gai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N.V. Anjaria scheduled the hearing after taking note of submissions by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi for Vodafone Idea and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta representing the Centre.

Vodafone Idea has requested the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to "comprehensively reassess and reconcile all AGR dues for the period up to FY 2016-17" in ac-



cordance with the Deduction Verification Guidelines Issued in February 2020. The company argues that there were arithmetical errors and duplicate entries in the earlier calculation of AGR dues,

which, if corrected, could significantly reduce the liability.

This plea comes after the Supreme Court earlier this year refused to review its 2021 order, which had rejected similar requests from tele-

com majors including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. The top court had held that the DoT's demand regarding AGR dues was final and barred any re-assessment or dispute by telecom operators.

The AGR issue dates back to the Supreme Court's October 2019 verdict, which held telecom companies liable for 93,520 crore of dues. To ease the financial burden, the court allowed a staggered payment over ten years, starting with 10% of the total dues by March 31, 2021, and annual installments from April 2021 to March 2031.

Vodafone Idea's latest plea indicates that the company is seeking a recalculation based on perceived errors, reflecting ongoing challenges for the telco sector in clearing AGR dues. The Supreme Court will consider the arguments on September 26, potentially providing clarity on the contentious issue that has affected India's telecom industry for years.

Who Rules Under Oceans? US vs Russia

As US-Russia tensions intensify in a new Cold War-style standoff, the two powers are ramping up their undersea military posturing. In response to former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's warning of Russia's "dead hand" nuclear retaliation system, US President Donald Trump has ordered the repositioning of two nuclear submarines to strategic waters.

This high-stakes move follows Moscow's dismissal of Trump's threats over tariffs and sanctions. Medvedev invoked "dead hand," a Cold War-era semi-automated nuclear strike system designed to launch a counterattack even if Russia's leadership is destroyed.

Russian lawmaker Viktor Vodolatsky responded to Trump's deployment, claiming that Russian nuclear submarine activity out-matches that of the US globally. "The submarines the US ordered to reposition are already tracked and surrounded," he said.

US Submarine



Strength:

Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBNs):

The US Navy operates 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, also called "boomers." Each can carry up to 20 Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and is

designed for long-range, stealth nuclear deterrence. These SSBNs can remain at sea for months and operate for 15 years between major overhauls.

Fast Attack Submarines (SSNs):

The US also deploys Virginia, Seawolf, and



New Curiosity Discovery Points to Mars' Watery Past

In a groundbreaking discovery, NASA's Curiosity Rover has uncovered new evidence suggesting that liquid water once existed on Mars, potentially supporting life in the planet's distant past. The find was made using the rover's Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) — a camera located on the end of its robotic arm — which captured a striking image of a coral-shaped, wind-eroded rock in the Gale Crater.

NASA scientists believe the flower-like rock formation, roughly 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide, was created by minerals deposited by ancient water flows, later shaped by billions of years of wind erosion.

This unique structure resembles ocean-bottom corals found on Earth, prompting further interest in Mars' ancient, possibly habitable environment.

The rover recently entered a region on Mount Sharp, the towering 5-kilometer-high mountain within Gale Crater, filled with box-work formations — hardened ridges formed by underground water activity billions of years ago. NASA says these formations may offer vital clues about whether microbial life once thrived below Mars' surface.

Curiosity, which landed on Mars on August 5, 2012, has spent over 13 years exploring the Martian landscape.

Its mission centers on answering the pivotal question: Could Mars have ever supported life? Despite the rover's age, engineers are continually enhancing its capabilities to ensure it continues to deliver valuable scientific data.

This latest discovery not only strengthens the hypothesis that Mars had liquid water, but also pushes the boundaries of how long the Red Planet might have remained habitable as it slowly lost its atmosphere. With each finding, Curiosity brings humanity closer to understanding the mysterious history of Mars — and whether it once had the right conditions to support life.

OpenAI's GPT-5 Nears Release, Smarter AI But Smaller Leap

OpenAI is preparing to launch its next-generation AI model, GPT-5, the successor to the powerful GPT-4 that helped make ChatGPT a global phenomenon in 2022. The model's release is said to be imminent, raising anticipation across the tech world for what could be another step forward in generative AI capabilities.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has hinted throughout the year that GPT-5 will bring together the strengths of large-scale models and test-time compute, a technique where more computing resources are allocated during inference for improved results. This combination could make GPT-5 more adaptive and accurate across a broader range of tasks.

According to two early testers who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity due to non-disclosure agreements, GPT-5 has shown notable improvements in coding, mathematics, and scientific problem-solving.

However, they noted that while it is more capable and refined than GPT-4, the leap in performance and intelligence may not be as dramatic as the jump from GPT-3 to GPT-4.

GPT-4, launched in 2023, was praised for its multimodal abilities and more accurate reasoning. It powered the premium versions of ChatGPT and was later integrated into Microsoft products and numerous enterprise tools. GPT-5 is expected to expand on these capabilities, potentially with enhanced memory, better real-world grounding, and increased reliability.

While OpenAI has not announced an official release date, the testing phase suggests that a public launch could happen soon. With AI safety, alignment, and regulation becoming central concerns globally, GPT-5's release will also likely reignite debates about responsible AI development and the pace of innovation in the space.

Instagram Rolls Out Reposts, Friend Map & New Reels Feed

Meta-owned Instagram has unveiled three new features aimed at enhancing social connectivity on the platform. The additions—Reposts, Friend Map, and a 'Friends' feed in the Reels tab—are designed to make the app more interactive and community-focused.

In a video message, Instagram head Adam Mosseri said the platform wants to be "not just a lean-back experience that is just fun and entertaining, but also a participatory one."

Reposts: Share What You Love

Instagram now lets users repost public Reels and feed posts. The reposted content appears in followers' feeds as recommendations and is saved in a

new "Reposts" tab on the user's profile. Importantly, original creators are automatically credited, giving them exposure to a broader audience, including users who don't follow them.

This move is expected to boost engagement for creators and simplify content sharing for regular users. To repost, simply tap the repost icon below a post or Reel.

Friend Map: Location Sharing with Control

Borrowing from Snapchat's Snap Map, Instagram's Friend Map lets users share their last active location with friends. The feature, accessible through the DM inbox, can be toggled on or off at any time. Users can control who sees their loca-

tion—be it Close Friends, selected users, or no one.

Instagram ensures privacy by allowing users to exclude specific people or places from seeing their activity. The location updates automatically when users open or return to the app.

'Friends' Reels Feed

A dedicated Reels feed for friends is also being added. This feed helps users view and interact with Reels shared by their closest connections, making the app feel more personalised.

Together, these features mark Instagram's latest effort to blend entertainment with real-time social interactions, while offering better content discovery and privacy control.



Fiery Orange iPhone 17 Pro



Apple may be shaking up its traditionally muted iPhone Pro colour palette with the bold introduction of a vibrant orange variant for the upcoming iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max. According to a recent leak, the eye-catching shade could debut alongside standard options like black, white, and dark blue when Apple unveils its iPhone 17 series next month.

A short video shared by reliable leaker Majin Bu shows what appears to be a dummy unit of the iPhone 17 Pro in a bright orange finish. Bu called the colour "so good," but

reactions from fans online were sharply divided. Some praised the bold move, calling it a "refreshing change," while others dismissed it as "the worst colour in iPhone history" and "hideous."

Whether or not the orange version is real remains uncertain. Apple's colour leaks have often proven unreliable in the past. Still, the possibility of a bright new option has stirred excitement and debate ahead of the official announcement.

The iPhone 17 lineup is expected to be unveiled in early September, with speculation pointing to a possible

launch event on September 9. Apple typically announces its flagship devices in the second week of September, and multiple reports — including from Bloomberg's Mark Gurman — support this timeline.

In terms of hardware, the iPhone 17 and 17 Air are likely to feature the new A19 chip, while the Pro models may be powered by the A19 Pro. Display sizes are expected to range from 6.3 inches (iPhone 17/17 Pro) to 6.9 inches (Pro Max). The Pro Max is also rumoured to retain a titanium frame, while the rest of the line-up may shift to aluminium.

PV Sindhu Exits China Masters After Straight-Game Loss to An Se Young

Star Indian shuttler P V Sindhu's struggles against world number one An Se Young continued as she suffered a straight-game defeat in the women's singles quarterfinals of the China Masters Super 750 tournament in Shenzhen on Friday, September 19, 2025. The two-time Olympic medallist went down 14-21, 13-21 in a 38-minute contest against the 23-year-old Korean, marking her eighth consecutive loss to An Se Young, against whom she has yet to register a win.

Sindhu had a poor start, falling behind 1-6 before narrowing the deficit to 5-9 with a precise cross-court drop shot. However, An Se Young, known for her powerful smashes and court control, opened an 11-5 lead at the interval. Sindhu fought back to 11-14 but ultimately lost the first game after

sending a shot into the net.

In the second game, Sindhu briefly led 3-2, but An quickly regained momentum. Despite Sindhu's attacking efforts, she trailed 7-8 before the Korean extended her lead to 11-7 at the break. After resumption, An dominated with deceptive shots and superior variety, pulling away to 14-7 and maintaining control to seal the match.

Sindhu showed flashes of brilliance with front-court drops and round-the-head smashes but could not bridge the gap. An secured eight match points, finally converting her last opportunity after Sindhu committed an error.

With this loss, Sindhu exits the China Masters, continuing her challenging run against An Se Young. The Korean, Olympic gold medallist at the Paris



Games, advances confidently into the semifinals, while Sindhu will look to regroup for upcoming tournaments to

improve her record against the top-ranked player.

Sindhu's defeat highlights the dominance

of An Se Young and underscores the need for the Indian shuttler to find strategies to overcome her rival in fu-

ture encounters, keeping fans eager for a breakthrough in this ongoing head-to-head battle.

Barcelona to Host PSG at Olympic Stadium Due to Camp Nou Delays

Barcelona announced on Friday that their upcoming Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) will be held at the Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys, the 55,000-seat Olympic Stadium where the club played home matches over the past two seasons. The decision comes after delays in the renovation of the Spotify Camp Nou, which had been expected to reopen at the start of this season.

The Spanish giants had to play their first La Liga home match against Valencia at the smaller Estadi Johan Cruyff, which accommodates only 6,000 spectators and is located outside the city. Barcelona's women's team regularly plays at the Johan Cruyff stadium. The club will also host Getafe there on Sunday for its next league fixture.

The PSG match, scheduled for October 1 in the second round of the Champions League group stage, will mark Barcelona's return to a larger home venue for European competition. The move ensures that more fans can attend and

supports the club's efforts to maintain its competitive home advantage despite ongoing stadium renovations.

Barcelona confirmed in a statement that it is actively working to secure "the necessary administrative permits for the opening of the Spotify Camp Nou in the coming months," signaling optimism about returning to its iconic home ground soon.

Paris Saint-Germain, the reigning European champions, will be led by former Barcelona coach Luis Enrique, who played a key role in guiding PSG to last season's Champions League title. The match is expected to attract significant attention as both clubs vie for early momentum in the group stage, highlighting the high stakes of top-tier European competition.

With Camp Nou still under construction, Barcelona fans will once again experience home matches at alternative venues, while the club balances logistical challenges with preparations for a competitive season in both domestic and European tournaments.



Australia Fined for Slow Over-Rate in Second ODI Against India

Australia have been fined 10% of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate in the second ODI against India, held at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, on September 17. The team was found to be two overs short of the target over rate after accounting for all available allowances, and wicket-keeper Alyssa Healy pled guilty to the offence.

Under Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, players are fined five percent of their match fee for each over their team fails to bowl within the allotted time. The charge was confirmed by on-field umpires Vrinda Rath and Janani Narayanan, third umpire Lauren Agenbag, and fourth umpire Gayathri Venugopalan.

India secured a comprehensive 102-run victory in the match, with



opener Smriti Mandhana leading the batting charge with a century. India then bowled out Australia for 190, leveling the three-match series 1-1 and setting up a thrilling decider. The final ODI will take place on September 20 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

The slow over-rate penalty highlights the importance of maintaining game tempo in international cricket, ensuring matches proceed efficiently while uphold-

ing the spirit of the sport. Australia will look to avoid further fines in the series decider, while India will aim to capitalize on home advantage and momentum from their second-match performance.

The incident serves as a reminder that adherence to ICC regulations, including over-rate requirements, is crucial for teams at the highest level, with penalties designed to reinforce discipline and fair play in the game.

Rashford Stars as Barcelona Beat Newcastle

Marcus Rashford starred for Barcelona as the club secured a 2-1 Champions League victory over Newcastle United at St. James' Park on September 18, 2025. On loan from Manchester United, Rashford replaced injured Lamine Yamal and delivered a memorable performance, scoring both goals for the Spanish side. His first was a precise header from Jules Koundé's cross in the 58th minute, and the second was a stunning 25-meter strike that rattled the crossbar in the 67th minute.

Anthony Gordon pulled one back for Newcastle late in the 89th minute, but Barcelona held on for the win. England coach Thomas Tuchel, present at the match, witnessed Rashford's clinical finishing and



praised his motivation and team chemistry.

Meanwhile, Kevin De Bruyne made his emotional return to Manchester City as Napoli visited the Etihad Stadium. The Belgian midfielder's night was cut short after 26 minutes when teammate Giovanni Di Lorenzo received a red card. City capitalized in the second half with goals from Erling Haaland and Jeremy Doku, winning 2-0. Haaland reached a landmark 50 goals in 49 Champions League appearances, setting a record for the fastest to that milestone.

Elsewhere in the

group stage, Sporting Lisbon defeated Kairat 4-1, with the Kazakh side traveling over 7,000 kilometers across three time zones for the match. Eintracht Frankfurt produced the evening's most impressive comeback, overturning an early deficit to beat Galatasaray 5-1, highlighting their attacking prowess.

Rashford's performance emphasized his value to Barcelona and hinted at a bright loan spell, while De Bruyne's brief but emotional return underscored the challenges of integrating key players amidst unexpected game disruptions. The group stage continues to deliver high drama, record-breaking feats, and standout individual displays across Europe's top competition.

India Junior Women's Hockey Team to Tour Australia for Five-Match Series

The Indian junior women's hockey team is set to embark on a significant overseas tour to Australia for a five-match series at the National Hockey Centre in Canberra from September 26 to October 2, 2025. The series will see India face the Australia Junior Women's Team in the first three matches, followed by two games against Canberra Chill, a local club competing in Australia's Hockey One League. The matches are scheduled for September 26, 27, 29, 30, and October 2.

This tour serves as an important exposure opportunity as the team ramps up preparations for the FIH Junior World Cup 2025, scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, in December.

Competing against the Australian side, renowned for its fast-paced and physical style of play, will provide the Indian juniors with valuable international match experience and a chance to adapt to challenging conditions.

For many players, this will be their first international exposure at the junior level, making the tour a crucial step in their development. Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team Coach Tushar Khandker emphasized the importance of the series, stating, "We are grateful for this opportunity to tour Australia, one of the strongest hockey-playing nations. Playing competitive matches there will help our players gain valuable experience, identify areas

for improvement, and prepare for the challenges of the Junior World Cup later this year."

He added, "The players have been training hard, and this series will test their match temperament, adaptability, and ability to execute strategies under pressure. This exposure will significantly boost the team's confidence and readiness for the World Cup."

The tour is expected to strengthen team cohesion, improve tactical awareness, and provide insights into the physical and technical demands of international hockey, ensuring the Indian junior women's squad enters the World Cup with enhanced preparation and competitive edge.



Aryan Khan's Netflix Debut 'The Bads of Bollywood' Premieres

Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, has made his directorial debut with the Hindi web series The Bads of Bollywood, now streaming on Netflix in multiple languages. Produced by Gauri Khan, the series stars Lakshya Lalwani as Aasmaan Singh, an outsider aiming to make it big in Bollywood. The story follows Aasmaan, whose debut film Revolver becomes a blockbuster, but a series of

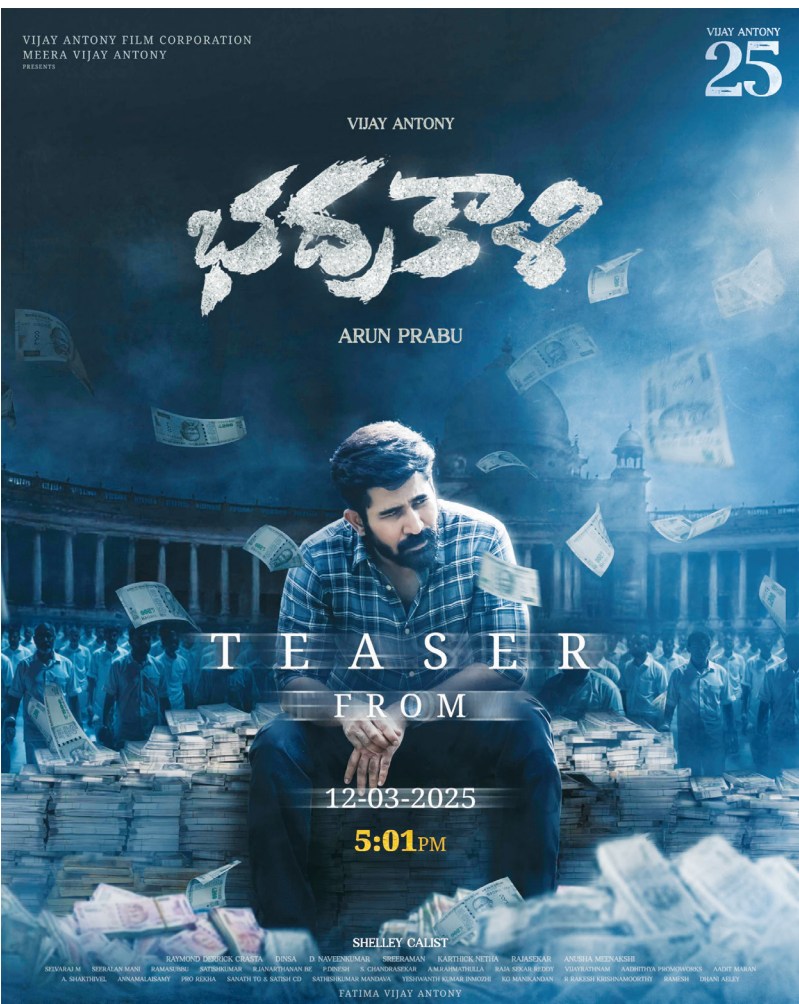


missteps plunges him into chaos, testing his ambitions and resilience. The series has been praised for its engaging, madcap storytelling and sharp satire of the Hindi film industry. Aryan Khan demonstrates surprising directorial matu-

rity, blending humor, emotion, and self-referential jabs at Bollywood. Cameos by stars like Salman Khan and Karan Johar add to the entertainment, while the chemistry between Lakshya Lalwani and Raghav Juyal provides emotional depth. Bobby Deol and Sahher Bambha deliver strong performances, supported by Manoj Pahwa, Anya Singh, and others. Technical aspects stand out, with Jay Pinak Oza's

cinematography capturing the glitz of showbiz, Shashwat Sachdev, Anirudh Ravichander, and Ujwal Gupta providing an appealing soundtrack, and sharp editing by Nitin Baid maintaining brisk pacing. The show balances quirky humor with heartfelt moments, though some episodes toward the end feel uneven, and the final plot twist may not appeal to all. Adult content and cuss words make it less family-friendly, and certain VFX

sequences fall short of expectations. Overall, The Bads of Bollywood is a wacky, entertaining series that combines satire, strong performances, and celebrity cameos. Aryan Khan's debut proves his potential as a filmmaker, making the show a must-watch for fans of industry-focused comedies and Bollywood satire, though viewers should manage expectations regarding the ending and mature content.



Vijay Antony's Bhadrakaali: Engaging Political Drama With Gaps

Vijay Antony's 25th film, Bhadrakaali, the Telugu-dubbed version of the Tamil political thriller Shakthi Thirumagan, hit screens on September 19, 2025. Directed by Arun Prabu and produced by Vijay Antony himself, the film explores power, influence, and corruption in a political setup, with Vijay Antony playing Kittu, a mediator in the Secretariat who wields immense clout. High-ranking officials and commoners alike depend on him, but his empire faces turmoil when political strategist Abhyankar Shankar, played by Sunil Kriplani, emerges with a staggering Rs 6,236 crore scam linked to Kittu. The story questions whether Kittu is corrupt or hiding a larger agenda. The film's strengths lie in its gripping

opening sequences that establish Kittu's dominance effectively and sharp dialogues that maintain intrigue. Vijay Antony delivers a restrained performance suitable for the gravitas of his role, while Sunil Kriplani impresses as the calculated and menacing lobbyist. Supporting actors, including Cell Murugan as Kittu's aide Maruthi, add balance, and several sequences – such as the scam revelation and Kittu's early establishment scenes – leave a lasting impact. Crisp editing by Raymond Derrick Crasta and Vijay Antony's background score maintain tension throughout. However, Bhadrakaali has notable drawbacks. Its consistent seriousness limits mainstream appeal, and the plot requires close attention, risking confusion if de-

tails are missed. The interval fails to create the desired impact, while certain characters, including Tripti Ravindra's role and the special officer Ram Pandey, remain underdeveloped or poorly cast. An overabundance of secondary characters also crowds the narrative. Cinematography by Shelley R. Calist is serviceable but not striking, and sharper treatment in key sequences could have enhanced engagement. Overall, Bhadrakaali is a political revenge drama with a few thrilling moments. While Vijay Antony's performance and select sequences stand out, uneven execution and underdeveloped elements prevent it from fully engaging. Fans of political dramas may find parts enjoyable, but casual viewers should temper expectations.



Mohanlal's 'Vrusshabha' Teaser Unveiled

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal is set to thrill audiences in the big-budget pan-India film Vrusshabha, with the teaser officially released on September 19, 2025. Directed by Nanda Kishore, the film is presented by Connect Media, Balaji Telefilms, Abhishek S. Vyas Studios, and Aashirvad Cinemas, with a star-studded production team including Shobha

Kapoor, Ekta R. Kapoor, C.K. Padmakumar, Varun Mathur, Saurabh Mishra, Abhishek S. Vyas, Praveer Singh, Vishal Gurnani, and Juhi Parekh Mehta. The teaser offers a glimpse of Mohanlal in a commanding warrior avatar, promising high-octane action and grandeur. Designed as a Diwali release, Vrusshabha aims to captivate audiences across India, blending

Mohanlal's charismatic presence with a visually rich narrative. Early reactions to the teaser highlight its impressive action sequences and cinematic scale, creating anticipation for the full film. The film is being marketed as a pan-India entertainer, with Mohanlal at the center, ensuring strong appeal to both Malayalam-speaking audiences and viewers across other

regions. The teaser showcases a gripping portrayal of a fearless warrior, hinting at a story packed with drama, valor, and action-packed moments. With a combination of experienced filmmakers, a celebrated lead, and robust production backing, Vrusshabha is positioned as one of the major releases this Diwali. The teaser release has generated excitement

on social media, with fans praising Mohanlal's commanding screen presence and the film's high production values. As anticipation builds for its theatrical debut, Vrusshabha is expected to be a visual spectacle, reinforcing Mohanlal's pan-India appeal and delivering an engaging cinematic experience for action and drama enthusiasts alike.

Much-awaited trailer update of Kantara Chapter 1 revealed

The highly anticipated PAN-Indian film Kantara: Chapter 1 is set for a grand release on October 2, 2025, across multiple languages. Directed by Rishab Shetty, who also reprises the lead role, the film follows the massive success of the first installment, which captivated audiences in Kannada, Telugu, and Hindi with Shetty's award-winning performance and strong technical execution. While the prequel is just days away from hitting theaters, promotional activities had not yet begun, surprising fans ea-

gerly awaiting updates. Now, the makers have confirmed that the official theatrical trailer will be unveiled on September 22 at 12:45 PM. Post-production work is currently underway, with advanced preparations already starting in the USA for premiere events, receiving positive early feedback. The excitement around the Telugu version is notable, with pre-sales matching the Kannada version, reflecting the widespread hype among audiences. Alongside Rishab Shetty, actors Rukmini Vasanth and Gulshan Devaiah play prominent

roles in the film, adding to the anticipation. Homble Films, known for backing big-ticket projects, is producing this installment, while Ajaneesh Loknath handles the music composition, further heightening expectations. Kantara: Chapter 1 promises to be a major cinematic event, building on the success of the original, and the trailer release is expected to generate significant buzz ahead of its October premiere. Fans across India and abroad are closely watching for glimpses of the film's story, performances, and technical grandeur.



Sivakarthikeyan's 'Madharaasi' Enters Rs. 100 Crore Club

Tamil action entertainer Madharaasi, directed by AR Murugadoss and starring Sivakarthikeyan and Rukmini Vasanth, has achieved a major box office milestone by grossing over Rs. 100 crore in just 13 days of release, according to makers Sri Lakshmi Movies. The film's commercial success has been bolstered by strong audience response in Tamil Nadu, although it struggled to make an impact in Telugu-speaking regions, fading quickly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The film features Vidut Jammwal in the role of the antagonist, adding intense action sequences that complement Sivakarthikeyan's performance. Supporting actors Biju Menon, Vikranth, and Shabeer Kallarakkal contribute to the film's ensemble, delivering a mix of dra-



ma and thrills. The soundtrack, composed by Anirudh, has received appreciation for energizing the narrative and enhancing the action-packed sequences. Madharaasi showcases Sivakarthikeyan in a high-octane action avatar, combining stunts, emotional moments, and mass-appeal elements. Despite regional differences in reception, the film's box office performance highlights the actor's continuing popularity in the Tamil film

industry and the effectiveness of AR Murugadoss' direction in crafting engaging action sequences. The Rs. 100 crore milestone further strengthens Sivakarthikeyan's standing as a leading star in Tamil cinema and reflects the growing appetite for mass entertainers in the region. While Telugu audiences did not respond as strongly, the film's success in Tamil Nadu reinforces the significance of localized content and star power in driving box office revenues. With its combination of action, drama, and strong music, Madharaasi is now counted among the recent commercially successful Tamil films, marking another achievement in Sivakarthikeyan's career and providing a benchmark for upcoming releases in the South Indian film industry.

