



BUZZ POINTS
THE SPIRIT OF BATHUKAMMA

The vibrant nine-day Bathukamma festival has commenced with great fervor across Telangana, bringing with it a message of hope and prosperity. At a grand inaugural event held at the historic Thousand Pillar Temple in Warangal, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressed a large gathering, emphasizing the festival's deep cultural and spiritual significance. The celebration, organized by the Telangana Music Academy and supervised by the Telangana Cultural Department, showcased the state's rich heritage, including a captivating Kakatiya dance performance.

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MAHESH KUMAR GOUD INAUGURATES DISABILITY T20 CHAMPIONSHIP

TPCC President and MLC Shri Mahesh Kumar Goud inaugurated the Rajiv Gandhi Disability T20 Championship 2025 at Uppal Stadium, speaking on the importance of sports and the government's commitment to their development. He fondly recalled former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as a leader who possessed a great love for sports, highlighting a legacy the current government aims to uphold.

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Telangana Opposes Almatti Dam Height Increase: Uttam Kumar Reddy



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: Telangana Food and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has made it clear that the State Government strongly opposes the proposed increase in the height of the Almatti Dam in Karnataka. Speaking to reporters, the Minister stated that the matter is currently under consideration in the Supreme Court of India, and Telangana will put forth its objections with full force. He announced that he would personally go to Delhi to present the State's case and argue against the proposal.

"The Telangana Government will not allow any injustice to be done to the people of the State. We are opposed to the Almatti Dam height increase and will fight legally to protect our rightful share of Krishna waters," Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted.

The Almatti Dam, lo-

cated across the Krishna River in Karnataka, has been a point of contention among riparian states for decades. Telangana fears that any further increase in its storage capacity would adversely affect the inflows into its projects and reduce its share of water, especially in times of drought.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy also addressed the ongoing inquiry into the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. He said that the government is committed to a transparent investigation, and appropriate legal action will be taken against those found guilty of irregularities, regardless of their political or administrative standing. "No one is above the law. If there are violations, action will be initiated strictly in accordance with the law," he stressed.

On a positive note, the Minister assured that

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Heavy Thunderstorm Batters Hyderabad; Hayathnagar Records 85 mm Rainfall

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: A powerful thunderstorm accompanied by heavy rains lashed Hyderabad on Sunday evening, bringing significant rainfall to several parts of the city. The eastern zones, including Hayathnagar, Uppal, and LB Nagar, were among the worst affected as the storm unleashed intense spells of rain, disrupting normal life and waterlogging several areas.

According to rainfall data recorded by the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TGDPs) at 8 p.m., Defence Colony in Hayathnagar witnessed the highest rainfall, with 85 mm recorded in just a few hours. Other parts of Hayathnagar registered

51.5 mm, while the GHMC zonal office in Uppal reported 25 mm. Vanasthalipuram's NGOs Colony received 22.8 mm.

The downpour, which began in the eastern localities, soon spread across the city, hitting Malkajgiri, Kapra, Boduppal, Nacharam, Mallapur, and Kothapet colonies. Later, heavy rain was also reported in Jeedimetla, Balanagar, Dammaiguda, Nagaram, Nizampet, and nearby industrial areas, showing the wide impact of the storm.

The thunderstorm, accompanied by strong winds and lightning, left commuters stranded during peak evening hours. Several low-lying areas witnessed water stagnation, while traffic moved at a snail's pace in parts of LB Nagar, Uppal Ring Road, and Va-

nasthalipuram. Residents of affected localities shared visuals on social media showing flooded roads, overflowing drains, and heavy lightning strikes illuminating the skies.

Independent weather trackers from Hyderabad had earlier issued an alert, forecasting possible thunderstorms between 8:15 p.m. and midnight on Sunday. The prediction turned out accurate, as the city experienced intense rainfall within that time frame.

Meteorological experts attributed the sudden storm to the prevailing monsoon conditions, coupled with localized weather activity. "Moisture inflows and convergence over Hyderabad triggered the thunderstorms. Such sudden but intense spells are common during the retreat-

ing monsoon season," said a weather official.

While the heavy rains brought relief from humid conditions during the day, they also caused disruptions. Several residents in low-lying colonies faced power cuts lasting for more than an hour. Waterlogging in interior roads also forced motorists to take longer routes. In industrial areas such as Jeedimetla and Balanagar, workers reported difficulties in returning home as heavy water stagnation slowed down vehicular movement.

Authorities of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) stated that emergency teams were pressed into service to clear clogged drains and respond to complaints of flooding. Disaster Response Force (DRF) per-

sonnel were also deployed in sensitive areas. "Our teams are monitoring the situation. Citizens are advised to avoid waterlogged stretches and take precautions against lightning," GHMC officials said.

With more rain expected over the next few days, weather trackers have urged residents to remain alert and avoid venturing out unnecessarily during thunderstorm activity. The latest storm has once again highlighted Hyderabad's vulnerability to intense short-duration rains, particularly in areas with poor drainage infrastructure.

As the city braces for more wet days, Sunday's thunderstorm has left residents reminded of the unpredictable nature of monsoon rains in Hyderabad.

Former DSP Nalini Posts Emotional "Death Declaration" on Social Media

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: In a shocking development, former Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Nalini has created a stir on social media with an emotional post that she described as her "death declaration." Writing on Facebook, Nalini expressed deep anguish over her prolonged illness and linked her suffering to the physical and mental scars left by the Telangana statehood movement.

Nalini, who had actively participated in various struggles during the Telangana agitation, stated that she has been carrying injuries and pain ever since. "The Telangana movement left me with



scars all over my life. I endured that pain and lived in anonymity for 12 long years," she wrote, recalling her ordeal.

She further mentioned that it was only through the grace of Maharshi Dayananda that she found solace in spirituality. Nalini claimed to have dedicated herself to religious service by estab-

lishing the Veda Yagna Protection Committee, through which she engaged in preserving and promoting Vedic traditions.

In her post, the former police officer also recalled an assurance she received from Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. According to her, the Chief Minister had promised to help her,

but her petition allegedly did not receive proper attention. "After six months, I found out that my petition was thrown into the dustbin. Later, I re-scanned my office copy and submitted it again. But so far, there has been no response," Nalini wrote with visible disappointment.

She used the post to make a heartfelt appeal to the media and the public regarding her legacy. "After my death, please do not write that I was a suspended officer. I resigned from service. Call me a poetess, a Yajna Brahma, and the founder of the Veda Yagna Protection Committee," she urged, highlighting her wish to be remembered for her

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Big Setback for KA Paul as FIR Registered Against Him

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: Praja Shanthi Party founder and president KA Paul has landed in legal trouble after a case of sexual harassment was registered against him in Hyderabad. The FIR was filed at the Panjagutta Police Station following a complaint lodged by a young woman who had been working in his office.

According to police sources, the woman approached the She Teams of Hyderabad Police alleging that she was being sexually harassed by Paul. She reportedly provided the authorities with evidence to support her claims. Acting on her complaint, She Teams conducted a preliminary

inquiry and subsequently transferred the case to Panjagutta Police Station for further investigation.

The police have confirmed that an FIR has been registered against KA Paul under relevant sections pertaining to sexual harassment. They also stated that a formal investigation has been launched, and necessary procedures, including verification of the submitted evidence and questioning of those involved, will be carried out.

The allegations have come as a major blow to KA Paul, a controversial evangelist-turned-politician known for his flamboyant style, dramatic statements, and frequent claims of international influence. Over the



years, Paul has made headlines for his unconventional political campaigns and sensational remarks targeting mainstream parties and leaders.

With the registration of this case, Paul now faces not just political challenges but also legal

scrutiny that could potentially damage his reputation and weaken his party's standing ahead of any electoral activities. The Praja Shanthi Party, though not a major political force in Telangana, has been posi-

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Telangana Congress Bets on BC Quota Push, Delays Local Body Elections

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: The Congress government in Telangana is walking a political tightrope as it stares at growing discontent in rural areas, particularly among farmers, while also grappling with court deadlines on conducting local body elections. With anger mounting over the shortage of urea and

welfare schemes faltering on the ground, the government has signaled that it will delay the elections beyond the September 30 deadline set by the High Court. In a bold, if risky, political gambit, the ruling party is preparing to raise reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections to 42 percent.

According to senior government sources, a

Government Order (GO) enhancing BC quotas will be issued next week. The move, however, directly challenges the Supreme Court's ceiling of 50 percent on total reservations. Anticipating legal complications, the State has already mobilized its legal teams to defend the policy before the High Court.

Immediately after issuing the GO, the government plans to ap-



proach the Court seeking an extension of the election deadline. Officials said the petition will cite the State's "policy commitment" to social justice, pointing to Assembly bills pending with the President, ordinances awaiting the Governor's nod, and previously issued GOs. The narrative, they explained, will attempt to show that procedural delays in implementing the

reservation policy have prevented the government from adhering to the Court's timeline.

"The government wants to project itself as pro-BC while shifting the blame for the delay on procedural hurdles," said a senior insider familiar with the strategy. Party leaders are confident that by foregrounding the reservation issue, they can deflect criticism from BC organisa-

tions, even if the courts later strike down the enhanced quotas.

The Congress leadership finds itself in a delicate position. On one hand, the promise of higher BC representation is politically potent and helps consolidate support among a key demographic. On the other, the legal risks are considerable, and an adverse judgment

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Telangana Congress Bets on BC Quota Push, Delays Local Body Elections

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could dent the government's credibility. Still, leaders argue that the political payoff from attempting the move outweighs the risks. "Conditions are not favourable, so the party wants to buy time. If all goes well, the local body elections will likely be held in January," a senior Congress functionary admitted.

The urgency behind the strategy stems from deepening rural dissatisfaction. Farmers across Telangana have been expressing frustration over the prolonged shortage of urea, which

has directly affected crop sowing. At the same time, flagship welfare programs such as Rythu Bharosa and free fine rice distribution have not delivered the expected results, leading to resentment against the ruling party. Party strategists fear that if local body elections are held under these conditions, the opposition could capitalize on grassroots anger to inflict serious political damage.

To offset this, the government is keen to showcase major development projects in the months ahead. Chief

Minister A. Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to fast-track the foundation laying of high-profile ventures such as the ambitious Bharat Future City and the Gateway of Hyderabad project on the Outer Ring Road. Both events are expected in December and are intended to project Telangana as a hub of economic growth and urban transformation.

Other initiatives being readied for public attention include the Musi Riverfront rejuvenation project, a revival of the long-pending SLBC tunnel works, and

urgent repair and stabilization efforts at the Medigadda barrage. By putting progress on infrastructure and irrigation back on the public agenda, the government hopes to rebuild confidence and blunt criticism from the farming community.

Political analysts believe the Congress's current strategy combines delay, diversion, and delivery. The delay comes in the form of postponing elections; the diversion is represented by the politically sensitive BC quota move; and the delivery is expected through the launch of

marquee development projects. Whether this tri-pronged approach can effectively shield the government from growing unrest remains uncertain.

For now, the Congress appears determined to bet big on the reservation gambit—not merely as a legal defense in the courts, but as a political shield in the villages. As the deadline for local body polls looms, the ruling party's moves will be closely watched, both in the courtroom and in the countryside, where its future political fortunes may well be decided.



Former DSP Nalini Posts Emotional "Death Declaration" on Social Media

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spiritual and literary contributions rather than controversies from her professional past.

The post has triggered widespread discussions across Telangana, with many expressing shock at her health condition and the intensity of her words. Her emotional revelation has also drawn attention from intelligence agencies, who are reportedly inquiring into her present state of health and the circumstances surrounding her social media statement.

Nalini's message reflects the long-lasting physical and psychological toll of the Telangana movement, which, while achieving statehood in 2014, left many activists and participants with personal struggles. Her claim that she has suffered silently for over a decade underscores the sacrifices made by those

who took part in the agitation.

Political observers note that her comments about the Chief Minister's unfulfilled assurance could potentially raise questions about the government's handling of appeals from activists and former officials. Meanwhile, social organizations and sympathizers are calling for immediate medical and emotional support for the former DSP.

Nalini's dramatic post serves as both a personal cry for recognition and a reminder of the lingering wounds of the Telangana struggle. As concerns grow about her health, her words have once again brought to the forefront the human cost of political movements and the responsibilities of the state toward those who stood on the frontlines.

Telangana Opposes Almatti Dam Height Increase: Uttam Kumar Reddy

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the State Government is determined to complete pending irrigation projects such as Tummidihatti and Pranahita-Chevella, which are crucial for the agricultural and drinking water needs of Telangana. He emphasized that these projects, once completed, would provide sustainable water resources for farmers and address long-standing regional imbalances.

Highlighting the historical injustice in water allocations, Uttam Kumar Reddy accused previous governments of failing to secure Telangana's rightful share in both Krishna and Godavari river waters. "In the past, Telangana was subjected to grave injustice in water sharing. We will not let such mistakes be repeated. Whether it is the Krishna or Godavari, we will fight with any state to safeguard Telangana's rightful share,"



he declared.

The Krishna and Godavari rivers have been central to inter-state disputes in southern India, with Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra locked in prolonged battles over allocations. Telangana, being a landlocked state heavily dependent on river waters for irrigation, maintains that any unilateral move by Karnataka to increase Almatti Dam's height

would compromise its water security.

The Minister's statements underscore the Telangana Government's assertive approach in defending the State's water rights. As the Supreme Court continues to deliberate on the issue, the upcoming hearings in Delhi are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the future of inter-state river water distribution in the region.

Big Setback for KA Paul as FIR Registered Against Him

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tioning itself as an alternative voice in state politics.

Police officials have maintained that they are treating the complaint with utmost seriousness and will follow due process of law. "We have registered a case based on the complaint transferred from She Teams. An investigation is underway, and we will proceed according to the evidence gathered," an official said.

The complainant has reportedly insisted that she faced repeated harassment while working in Paul's office, which forced her to approach the authorities for help. Sources suggest that her testimony, along with digital and other supporting evidence, has been handed over to the investigators.

Legal experts point out



that if the allegations are proven true, Paul could face stringent action under laws relating to workplace harassment and sexual misconduct. On the other hand, if found baseless, the case could still have political ramifications, given Paul's high-profile image and the public attention his activities usually attract.

Meanwhile, Paul has not issued any public statement regarding the FIR or the allegations

against him. His party members have also remained largely silent, with no official response released as of yet.

The case has sparked debate in political and social circles, with many calling for a fair and transparent investigation while ensuring justice for the complainant. As the probe unfolds, all eyes will be on how this development impacts KA Paul's political journey and personal credibility in the coming days.

The Spirit of Bathukamma

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: The vibrant nine-day Bathukamma festival has commenced with great fervor across Telangana, bringing with it a message of hope and prosperity. At a grand inaugural event held at the historic Thousand Pillar Temple in Warangal, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bharti Vikramarka addressed a large gathering, emphasizing the festival's deep cultural and spiritual significance.

The celebration, organized by the Telangana Music Academy and supervised by the Telangana Cultural Department, showcased the state's rich heritage, including a captivating Kakatiya dance performance.

During his speech, the Deputy Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt wishes for the state's well-being. He remarked that Bathukamma, a unique floral festival, is a testament to the devotion and faith of women

who worship Goddess Gauramma. He hoped their prayers, offered with great sincerity using a variety of flowers from nature, would be answered, leading to peace and prosperity for all. The festival, which celebrates womanhood and nature, is being organized on a large scale under the guidance of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, highlighting the government's commitment to promoting cultural traditions.

Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Jupally

Krishna Rao, Seethakka, and Konda Surekha were also present at the event, underscoring the collective effort to make the festival a resounding success. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as participants and spectators alike immersed themselves in the festivities. A highlight of the evening was a powerful dance-drama based on the life of Chakali Ailamma, a celebrated heroine of the Telangana armed struggle. This performance served as a

poignant reminder of the strength and resilience of women.

The Deputy Chief Minister's words resonated deeply with the audience, particularly his emphasis on the financial empowerment of women. He stated that it is his wish for women across the state to not only thrive spiritually but also to achieve financial independence and prosperity. The festival, therefore, is not just a cultural event but also a symbol of progress and

empowerment. As the celebrations continue for the next nine days, the state hopes for a bounty of blessings and a brighter future. This festive period provides an opportunity for communities to come together, celebrate their shared identity, and reinforce the values of unity and harmony. The spirit of Bathukamma, with its vibrant floral arrangements and devotional songs, truly reflects the soul of Telangana.

CM Revanth Reddy's Medaram Visit and Development Plan

Telangana Minister Seethakka has taken charge of the preparations for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's upcoming visit to Medaram, where he is expected to finalize the comprehensive development plan for the Sannamakka Saralamma temple. Acting as both a local MLA and a state minister, Seethakka is personally overseeing the arrangements to ensure a seamless visit. She has conducted a series of review meetings with top officials, including the District Collector, SP, and other members of the district administration, as well as the temple priests.

The primary focus of the Chief Minister's visit is to formalize the Medaram development plan, which aims to enhance facilities for the millions of devotees who attend the biennial Medaram Jathara. Minister Seethakka emphasized that the government is fully dedicated to this initiative and that the development work will be fast-tracked once the plan is approved. Her proactive involvement is evident in her direct engagement with all departments, providing specific instructions to each to ensure every aspect of the visit and subsequent development



work is handled meticulously.

Despite the ongoing Engilipoola Bathukamma festival, Minister Seethakka arrived in Medaram early on Sunday to inspect the arrangements. She made it a point to consult with the temple priests to gather their input on proposed changes to the temple premises. This step highlights the government's intention to incorporate the views of local stakeholders and religious authorities in the development process. The successful execution of the plan is expected to significantly improve the pilgrimage experience, providing better infrastructure and amenities for the massive crowds that flock to the temple.



Telangana BJP Leader Advocates for Farmers’ Rights on RRR Alignment

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: Telangana BJP State President Shri Ramchandra Rao has drawn attention to a critical issue affecting the residents and agricultural community of Puttapaka in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District.1 The villagers are facing significant hardship due to the revised alignment of the southern portion of the Regional Ring Road (RRR). This new route is planned to run directly through their fertile, cultivable land, which is the cornerstone of their livelihood.

During his visit to the area, farmers expressed their profound distress to Ramchandra Rao. They explained that acquiring their farmland for this infrastructure project would result in substantial financial losses and jeopardize their very existence. They have appealed to the government to cancel the current plan and conduct a new survey.2 The farmers believe a viable solution exists by rerouting the road to utilize



nearby hilly terrain that is unsuitable for farming. This alternative would preserve their valuable croplands while still allowing for the completion of the road project.

The farmers emphasized their vulnerability as small and marginal landholders, stating that the proposed alignment places an unbearable financial burden on them. Their anxiety stems from the fear of losing the lands that have sustained their families for generations.

After a patient and careful hearing of their concerns, Shri Ramchandra Rao gave his assurance that he would personally raise the matter with the appropriate authorities. He

stressed that the government has a fundamental obligation to protect its farmers’ lands and ensure their livelihoods are not compromised. He strongly urged the state government to conduct a thorough review of the RRR alignment and make a decision that protects the interests of the agricultural community.3 This issue underscores the delicate balance between modern development and the preservation of traditional livelihoods. Ramchandra Rao’s intervention provides a glimmer of hope for the beleaguered farmers who are desperately seeking a resolution that respects their rights and secures their future.

“Amma Odi Naa Telangana” Book Release Highlights Rural Issues

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: A book titled “Amma Odi Naa Telangana,” authored by volunteer Nagender, was launched at the BITS Pilani Auditorium in Medchal Malkajgiri. The event was attended by notable figures, including Governor Bishnu Dev Verma, former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, MP Etala Rajender, and several MLAs. The book, a product of Nagender’s year-and-a-half-long journey across Telangana, documents his experiences and observations on the culture and traditions of rural life.

Speaking at the event, MP Etala Rajender praised Nagender’s selfless dedication to his research, noting that the cooperation he received from villagers and government officials alike is a testament to the support society gives to those who serve the public without personal gain. Drawing from his own extensive political



career, Rajender emphasized the importance of direct engagement to understand societal problems. He stated that true comprehension comes from firsthand experience, which is necessary for providing accurate solutions. He contrasted this with merely gathering information, which he said, is insufficient for finding precise answers.

Rajender also touched upon the persistent chal-

lenges facing India despite 79 years of independence. He cited the progress made under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, highlighting Modi’s focus on people-oriented governance. Rajender used the example of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), noting its immense growth in collections from ₹73,000 crores to ₹2.5 lakh crores. He also mentioned India’s global leadership in digi-

tal payments as a result of a single policy decision, illustrating the power of small but impactful changes.

Despite these advancements, Rajender acknowledged the significant disparities that remain, particularly in tribal areas where basic facilities are still lacking. He noted the growing gap between the rich and poor and assured the audience that the government is implementing

policies to address these inequities. He spoke of the vision for a prosperous Telangana, free from hunger, but cautioned against the state falling into a debt trap. He pledged to work hard to elevate Telangana’s economic standing and assured Nagender that political leaders would utilize his valuable research for the benefit of the state’s citizens.

In his address, Nagender shared details of his journey, which included visiting over 8,000 villages and 4,400 government schools, as well as every irrigation project. Inspired by his mother’s advice to serve his country, he announced his commitment to working for the people in the fields of education and health. He also declared his decision to adopt Patharota village, the birthplace of tribal hero Komaram Bheem. The event, also attended by Nagender’s parents, was a celebration of his dedication and a call to action for further social progress.

Hyderabad Mayor Extends Warm Wishes for Bathukamma

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: Hyderabad’s Mayor, Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, has offered her heartfelt greetings to all women as the Bathukamma festival commences. In her message, she highlight-

ed the festival’s deep cultural roots, calling it a true symbol of Telangana’s rich traditions and heritage.

The mayor expressed her hope that the nine-day floral festival would illuminate the lives of residents across the Greater Hyderabad re-

gion. Bathukamma, which celebrates the beauty of nature and the spirit of womanhood, holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Telangana.1 The festival involves women meticulously arranging flowers in a conical

shape, an act of worship and a tribute to Goddess Gauri.2 This traditional practice, which culminates in the immersion of the floral arrangements in a water body, is not just a religious event but also a powerful gathering.3

The mayor’s wishes come as the city prepares for a grand celebration, with various events planned to honor the festival. Her message underscored the government’s commitment to preserving and promoting these cultural traditions, which are

integral to the state’s identity. As women across the city come together to sing, dance, and celebrate, the mayor’s message serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder of the joy and unity that Bathukamma brings to the people of Hyderabad.

V.C. Sajjanar Lauds OCTOPUS’s Crucial Role in Counter-Terrorism

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: Telangana Senior IPS Officer and TGSRTC Managing Director V.C. Sajjanar paid a heartfelt tribute to the Organization for Counter Terrorist Operations (OCTOPUS), praising its invaluable service in combating terrorism. Speaking at a “Get-Together” event called ‘OCTOPUS Commando Pillars’ at the TGS Police First Battalion in Yousufguda, Hyderabad, Sajjanar underscored the Telangana unit’s vast experience and its standing as a highly effective force nationally.

The event brought together former officers of the elite unit, and Sajjanar shared his own mem-

ories from his time serving with OCTOPUS. He recalled how the unit was established by the former Andhra Pradesh government following the horrific twin blasts at Gokul Chat and Lummini Park. Sajjanar spoke with pride about his role in the organization, highlighting the rigorous training, challenging operations, and a strong sense of teamwork that left an indelible mark on him.

Sajjanar attributed OCTOPUS’s growth into a powerful force, now comparable to the National Security Guard (NSG), to the collective dedication of its members. He believes that such gatherings are vital for reinforcing camaraderie and motivating future commandos. He en-

couraged the organizers to maintain this tradition, seeing it as a way to foster a lasting community.

In a forward-looking proposal, he called for the creation of an NGO named ‘OCTOPUS Pillars’ to support the welfare of former members. The event concluded with Sajjanar honoring commandos who had served in both the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh OCTOPUS units. The occasion was attended by several distinguished guests, including retired IG Murali Krishna, Battalion DIGs Sunny and Prasad Babu, and retired Commandant Ramakrishna, all of whom recognized the enduring legacy of the OCTOPUS force.

Telangana Minister Voices Alarm Over H-1B Visa Fee Hike

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: Telangana’s Transport Minister, Ponnam Prabhakar, has expressed profound concern regarding a reported significant increase in the United States’ H-1B visa fees. This development is expected to have a considerable impact on a large number of Indian professionals, particularly those hailing from Telangana and the broader technology sector. The minister highlighted the serious ramifications of the proposed fee, reportedly reaching close to Rs. 90 lakh, or approximately USD 100,000. He stated that this dramatic rise could jeopardize the careers of many talented Indian professionals, negatively affect the nation’s IT exports, and dampen the aspirations of countless young individuals seeking global opportunities.

Hyderabad, a flourishing IT hub, is a major source of highly skilled workers who migrate to the United States annually on H-1B visas. The minister pointed out that the strength of the relationship between India and the U.S. is built on the free exchange of talent and technology. He warned that such an abrupt and exorbitant hike would introduce a great deal of uncertainty for both young professionals and multinational corporations. Minister Prabhakar urgently called upon the Indian government to address this critical issue through diplomatic channels, prioritizing the protection of Indian professionals’ interests.

In his appeal, the minister also urged IT companies, various industry associations, and NRI communities to form a united front. He believes that a collective effort would effectively communicate the potential far-reaching economic consequences of this

policy change to the U.S. administration. The goal is to make them understand the broader impact beyond just a fee adjustment.

Furthermore, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar assured the public that the Telangana government would provide comprehensive support to the families and professionals who are affected by this policy. He committed to working closely with the Union Government to secure opportunities for the state’s skilled workforce. The minister’s statement underscores the Telangana government’s dedication to its citizens and its willingness to intervene on their behalf in international matters that affect their economic future. This situation has created considerable anxiety among the tech community, and the government’s quick response is aimed at mitigating some of that concern while actively seeking a solution.

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Bandi Sanjay Pays Tribute to Konda Laxman Bapuji and Defends GST Reforms

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 21: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, paid his respects to the late Konda Laxman Bapuji on his death anniversary in Karimnagar, accompanied by local BJP leaders.1 Following the tribute, the minister addressed the media, delivering a powerful speech that simultaneously honored the Telangana stalwart and took aim at his political opponents.2

Sanjay praised Konda Laxman Bapuji as a monumental figure in Telangana’s history, calling him the “flag of the Telangana move-

ment” and a symbol of the state’s self-respect. He noted Bapuji’s remarkable journey, from being a leader of the handloom cooperative movement to a key strategist against the Nizam’s rule.3 Sanjay also highlighted Bapuji’s unwavering commitment to his principles, including his service as a lawyer who provided free legal aid to those arrested during the peasant armed struggle.4 The minister recalled how Bapuji, at the age of 96, undertook a deeksha (protest fast) at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, demonstrating his sincerity towards the formation of Telangana. Sanjay urged the state government to of-

ficially celebrate Bapuji’s birth and death anniversaries to ensure his legacy and sacrifices are remembered by future generations.5

Shifting his focus to national issues, Sanjay challenged critics of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms.6 He criticized those who he said were making “useless” comments about the tax system, comparing their remarks to idle chatter about food items like idli, dosa, and vada.7 He insisted that if there are genuine losses due to the reforms, they should be publicly stated with evidence.8 Sanjay pointed out that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is a southerner

and, if there are any issues, they can be brought to her attention for a solution.9

He also announced that as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday celebrations, a “Seva Pakshasava” will be organized from September 17 to October 2.10 During this period, the party will conduct extensive awareness programs to educate the public on the benefits of GST reforms and will also honor GST buyers and sellers.11 This initiative, he said, is part of a larger effort to ensure that the positive impacts of the government’s policies are understood by the people.





Hyderabad Demolitions Spark Tense Protests

A major demolition drive is underway in Gajulara-maram, Qutbulla-pur, as Hydrabad officials, with police support, are razing illegal structures on government land.¹ The operation, which began in survey numbers 307, 329/1, and 342, has escalated with the presence of Medchal-Malkajiri Collector Manu Chaudhary. Locals, including families who have resided in small houses for nearly five years, are expressing their anger and distress.²

While authorities are primarily targeting empty structures and those with compound walls, they have promised to give residents of occupied houses time to relocate. The drive is focused on reclaiming 271 acres of government land belonging to APSFC in survey num-

bers 307 and 308. The operation has created a volatile situation, particularly in Balayya Basti and Habib Basti, where locals are actively resisting the demolition teams.

In Balayya Basti, women staged a unique protest by performing the Bathukamma festival while holding electrical wires, a symbolic gesture against the demolition. The emotional pleas of children, who are now left without homes or electricity, underscore the human cost of the drive. A tense atmosphere also prevailed in Habib Basti, where residents threw stones at the JCBs attempting to tear down structures, leading to a clash with police. Authorities have detained one person named Habib during the scuffle.

Former Qutbullapur MLA Koonna Srisailam Goud visited the site,

expressing his concern for the affected residents. He criticized the previous BRS government for allegedly encouraging land grabbing over the past decade and claimed that officials and public representatives were complicit in these illegal activities. Goud emphasized that the current Congress government is committed to protecting the poor and assured the residents that they are on their side.

The large-scale operation involves police, revenue, Hydra, and electricity officials, highlighting the coordinated effort to clear the encroachments. The demolitions have brought into sharp focus the long-standing issue of illegal construction on government property and the social consequences faced by those who have settled there.



Mahesh Kumar Goud Inaugurates Disability T20 Championship

TPCC President and MLC Shri Mahesh Kumar Goud inaugurated the Rajiv Gandhi Disability T20 Championship 2025 at Uppal Stadium, speaking on the importance of sports and the government's commitment to their development.¹ He fondly recalled former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as a leader who possessed a great love for sports, highlighting a legacy the current government aims to uphold.² Addressing the audience, Goud announced



that the government would strive to establish another international-level stadium, similar to the one in Uppal, in the state's "Fourth City."³ He praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's passion

for athletics and stated that under his leadership, the government is giving special attention to sports development with a goal of making Telangana a sports hub by the upcoming

Olympics.4

Sharing a personal connection, the TPCC President mentioned his own experience as a cricket enthusiast and former captain of the Nizamabad Cricket Blue team.⁵ This personal anecdote added weight to his call for parental involvement, as he urged parents to motivate their children to pursue sports.⁶ He stressed that sports offer more than a career path; they contribute to an individual's holistic development and

character-building.

The inauguration of this tournament for athletes with disabilities is a testament to the government's focus on inclusivity within sports. By providing a platform for these talented individuals, the event aligns with the broader vision of creating a supportive environment for all athletes in Telangana. The championship not only promotes the spirit of competition but also sends a powerful message about equality and opportunity.



GHMC Promotes Indie Puppy Adoption and Responsible Pet Ownership

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) recently organized a heart-warming “Indie Puppy Adoption Fair” at KBR Park, a significant step toward promoting responsible pet ownership.¹ During the event, GHMC Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Vakeel made a passionate appeal to those who adopted puppies, urging them to treat these animals as integral members of their families.

The fair, held on a Sunday morning, showcased

27 healthy and vibrant native puppies. A total of 16 puppies found their new homes, a testament to the community's growing interest in adopting local breeds. Dr. Vakeel commended the individuals who came forward, highlighting their commendable love and affection for the canines. He also encouraged more people to participate in such initiatives, emphasizing that caring for an animal can further strengthen familial bonds and bring immense joy.

centered on the idea that these Indian-origin puppies, often called "indies" or "desi dogs," deserve the same care, love, and respect as any other pet. He stressed the importance of providing them with a safe, nurturing environment, proper nutrition, and regular veterinary care. By choosing to adopt rather than purchase, he explained, people are helping to reduce the number of stray animals on the streets and giving a deserving creature a chance at a better life.

verse crowd of dog lovers and concerned citizens, who watched the proceedings with great interest. The event underscored the GHMC's commitment to animal welfare and its efforts to create a more compassionate and humane urban environment. It was also an opportunity for the public to learn about the benefits of adopting local breeds, which are generally well-adapted to the Indian climate and are known for their resilience.

The program saw the participation of several

key officials from the GHMC Veterinary department, including Deputy Director Dr. Chakrapani Reddy and Veterinary Assistant Director Dr.2 Vivekanand, along with other veterinary officers. Their presence demonstrated the institutional support for this initiative. The fair's success is expected to inspire similar events, further popularizing the adoption of native puppies and encouraging a shift toward a culture of care and empathy for all animals.



Sri Sai Naam Shata Koti Japa Maha Yajna to Begin

A grand spiritual event, the Shri Sai Naam Shata Koti Maha Japa Yajna is set to begin tomorrow and will continue until February 4, 2026. This significant undertaking aims to complete a total of 100 crore recitations of the sacred Sai Naam, a devotional effort organized to fulfill the desires of devotees and promote global well-being. The announcement was made by B.V. Shyam Kumar, the president of the Dilsukhnagar Shirdi Sai Baba San-

The inaugural ceremony will be a momentous occasion, with Swami Swaroopananda visiting the Dilsukhnagar Sai Baba Temple to formally launch the program. This act will set in motion a period of intense devotion and worship for the followers of Sai Baba. According to trust members, this prolonged event is a testament to the community's unwavering faith and commitment to spiritual practices.

In addition to this major event, the trust is also preparing to celebrate the Navratri festival in a magnificent manner. As part of these festivities, a new idol of Sai Baba will be installed on the second day of Vijayadashami, further enhancing the sanctity of the temple and providing a focal point for devotees' prayers.

Former trust president Mallaiah highlighted that the Dilsukhnagar temple will mirror the spirit-

ual activities conducted at the main Shirdi shrine. This includes the daily organization of food distribution programs, homas (sacred fire rituals), and various forms of worship. These regular events are designed to ensure that the temple remains a center of devotion and service, catering to the needs of its community. The continuous performance of these rituals will provide a steady source of spiritual solace and charitable work.

The trust officials underscored their commitment to serving the community and fostering a spirit of unity and benevolence. The upcoming events, particularly the extensive japa yajna, are expected to draw a large number of followers, creating a powerful atmosphere of collective prayer. The organizers believe that this prolonged period of devotion will bring peace, prosperity, and blessings to everyone involved.

Cyberabad Police Intensifies Drunk Driving Enforcement

The Cyberabad Traffic Police conducted a major drunk driving enforcement drive over the past weekend, apprehending a total of 490 individuals for driving under the influence of alcohol. This special operation was a concentrated effort to curb impaired driving and enhance road safety in the region.

range.1 Specifically, 432 individuals had a BAC level between 35 mg/100 ml and 200 mg/100 ml. A smaller but still concerning group of 42 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml. Furthermore, 16 individuals were caught with exceptionally high BAC levels, ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml, highlighting a severe disregard for public safety.

A detailed breakdown of the cases by vehicle type revealed that two-wheelers accounted for the majority of the offenses, with 384 riders being caught. This was followed by four-wheelers, with 79 cases, three-wheelers with 20, and heavy vehicles with 7. The police department is taking a serious stance against all forms of drunk driving, regardless of the vehicle type.

The Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels of the offenders varied, with most falling into the lower

“Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder” and can result in a punishment of up to 10 years of imprisonment in addition to a fine.⁴

In a review of the previous week's cases (from September 15 to September 20), a total of 199 drunk driving cases were resolved in the courts. Of these, 187 individuals were issued fines, while 12 were sentenced to jail. The jail terms varied, with four persons receiving a one-day sentence and five persons receiving a two-day sentence. Additionally, 17 individuals were assigned social service as part of their penalty, demonstrating the courts' use of alternative punishments to rehabilitate offenders and make them aware of their civic responsibilities. This multifaceted approach by the police and judiciary aims to create a strong deterrent against driving under the influence of alcohol.

Ram Leela Festival to Debut in Chintakunta



A large-scale Ram Leela festival is set to be held for the first time in Chintakunta as part of the upcoming Dussehra celebrations. Organized by Manjunatha Youth Friends, the event will take place on the second day of October at the SSRP Canal. This initiative marks a significant cultural addition to the village's festive calendar, bringing the traditional dramatic retelling of the Ramayana to the community.

In a show of support, local MLA Gangula Kamalakara unveiled the event's wall posters at his camp office. He expressed his appreciation for the Manjunatha Youth Friends

and their leader, Gururaj Jayaprakash Reddy, for organizing the festival. The MLA emphasized the deep devotion with which people celebrate Dussehra and praised the youth group for their commendable effort in bringing the Ram Leela festival to Chintakunta.

The organizers have encouraged a large public turnout to ensure the success of the event. The festival is expected to attract residents from Chintakunta and surrounding areas, providing a communal space for celebration and cultural enrichment.

Several local leaders and community members attended the poster unveiling, demonstrating a unified front in support of the festival.

These included former Library Chairman Enugu Ravinder Reddy, former Kothapalli Mandal Vice MPP Bhukya Tirupati Nayak, former Corporator Bonala Srikanth, BRS Party Mandal General Secretary Renigunta Raju, and various other leaders such as Bejjanki Sampath, Manikantha Goud, and Kamal Goud. Their presence highlights the local community's enthusiasm and collaboration in making this cultural event a reality.

The inaugural Ram Leela festival is anticipated to be a grand success, laying the foundation for an enduring tradition in the village.



Hyderabad Cardiac Run Promotes Heart Health Awareness

A large-scale "heart health run" was recently organized on Hyderabad's iconic Necklace Road, bringing together thousands of people to raise awareness about cardiovascular well-being. The event, a collaborative effort between Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, and the Cardiac Rehab Foundation, aimed to highlight the critical role of exercise and lifestyle adjustments in preventing premature heart attacks.

The run attracted a diverse crowd, including fitness enthusiasts, two thousand heart patients, and a large number of doctors, all participating with a shared purpose. The event featured different race categories—2K, 5K, and 10K—with a route that stretched from Sanjeevaiah Park to People's Plaza and back. This multi-distance format encouraged participation from individuals of all fitness levels, from seasoned runners to those who are just beginning their health journeys.

During the event, medical professionals emphasized that a proactive approach to health, including consistent physical

activity and dietary modifications, is fundamental to maintaining a healthy heart. They pointed out that the rising incidence of heart attacks, especially among younger individuals, is directly linked to modern-day factors such as a sedentary lifestyle, high stress levels, and the consumption of unhealthy, processed foods.

Doctors at the event also spoke about the importance of cardiac rehabilitation, clarifying that it is not just for post-surgery recovery. They stressed that systematic rehab programs and proper awareness can prevent up to 90 percent of heart attacks. This message underscores the power of preventive medicine and a holistic approach to cardiovascular health. The run served as a visual demonstration of the community's commitment to fitness and a powerful platform for doctors to share their expertise. The participation of heart patients in the run was particularly inspiring, proving that with proper care and dedication, it is possible to live an active and healthy life even after a cardiac event.



Madhu Goud Calls for Social Telangana on Konda Laxman Babuji's Anniversary

On the death anniversary of Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji, TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman and former MP Madhuyashki Goud paid his respects by garlanding the late leader's statue at Tank Bund. He was joined by several other prominent figures, including Visharadhan Maharaj, Naragoni, and Jajula Srinivas Goud.

Speaking at the event, Madhuyashki Goud fondly recalled his personal connection with Konda Laxman Babuji, stating that he would never forget their many discussions on the formation of Telangana and other important issues during his time as a Member of Parliament. He described Babuji as a "great person" who upheld values in politics and fought tirelessly for the state's formation



throughout his lifetime. Madhuyashki Goud, however, argued that the dream of a complete Telangana has only been half-realized. He stated that while the state has been formed, the greater goal of a "social Telangana" is yet to be achieved. According to Goud, the true tribute to Konda Laxman Babuji would be to ensure that the Bahujana communi-

ties—a term referring to a large segment of the population, including backward classes, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes—achieve statehood in its fullest sense. He called upon these communities to unite and work together to achieve this goal.

He criticized the previous BRS government's ten-year rule, alleging that it had caused severe

injustice to the BC, SC, and ST communities. In contrast, he assured the public that the current Congress Praja government would prioritize all communities. He emphasized that the new administration is committed to listening to and resolving everyone's demands, marking a new chapter of inclusive governance in the state.

BJP Leader Andela Sriramulu Addresses Garbage Issue with Innovative Solution

Andela Sriramulu, the BJP in-charge for the Maheshwaram constituency and Rangareddy District Local Bodies Election Convener, has taken a proactive step to address a persistent sanitation problem in CN Reddy Colony. Residents of the colony, located within the Badangpet Municipal Corporation, have been struggling with a significant issue for several years: unidentified individuals dumping garbage on the main road at night. Despite numerous complaints, the problem has remained unresolved, leading to foul smells and unhygienic conditions.

As part of the "Seva

Pakhwada" program, organized to celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sriramulu participated in a "Swachh Bharat" initiative in the area. After personally assessing the situation and listening to the residents' grievances, he took matters into his own hands. Sriramulu funded and installed a green mat fence at his own expense to physically prevent people from dumping waste on the road.

This innovative solution has been met with great appreciation from the community. Residents of the colony expressed their gratitude for Sriramulu's action, which directly tackles the source of the prob-



lem. They also highlighted the importance of his initiative, hoping it will inspire local government and municipal officials to adopt similar measures in other affected areas. The residents believe this crea-

tive and effective approach could be a model for improving cleanliness and public health across the municipality. Sriramulu's effort demonstrates a commitment to community welfare and a hands-on

approach to local governance. His actions have not only provided a temporary fix but have also brought attention to a critical civic issue that requires long-term solutions from the authorities.

The Imperative of Rainwater Harvesting in Hyderabad

Hyderabad's rapid urbanization has created a paradoxical situation where the city, despite receiving significant rainfall, faces a serious water scarcity issue. As more residential and commercial spaces are covered with concrete, rainwater is unable to permeate the ground, leading to a critical drop in groundwater levels. This depletion has resulted in a surge in demand for water tankers, which supply water for daily needs.

In response, Hyderabad In-

charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has called for a city-wide effort, urging everyone to work together like an "army" to conserve wa-

ter and increase groundwater. The central tenet of this strategy is the widespread construction of recharge pits, known locally as inkudu gunthas. This method not only replenishes the groundwater but also serves as a critical measure to prevent urban flooding during heavy rains. To ensure its implementation, the Hyderabad Metro Water Works has made it mandatory to install these pits for all new and existing drain connections. The Water Board is also offering technical support from qualified geologists to ensure these structures are built scientifically for maximum effectiveness. Government regula-

tions already require inkudu guntha construction for houses built on plots larger than 300 square meters. The minister has also urged officials to identify properties that have neglected this requirement. In addition to individual houses, the plan includes constructing public recharge pits in common areas of colonies, government schools, and near dry borewells. The Hyderabad Metro Water Works, in collaboration with GHMC and HMDA, has set an ambitious target of creating approximately 16,000 such structures this year. This comprehensive approach aims to create a sustainable water future for the metropolis.

Hyderabad Police Vehicles Receive New 'TG' Identity

The Telangana government has officially changed the state's identity to 'TG' from the previous 'TS'. Following this directive, Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand issued a mandate for all police vehicles within the city commissionerate to undergo a complete re-branding. This extensive process involves removing the old 'Telangana State Police' stickers and replacing them with new 'Telangana Police' decals.

The Central Armed Reserve (C.A.R.) Headquarters officials have spearheaded this massive operation. They have already overseen the re-stickering of 188 government vehicles. The project, which incurred an approximate cost of ₹1.6 crore, encompassed a comprehensive vehicle makeover. Beyond just the new stickers, the work included machine polishing, denting, and painting on bumpers, doors, and various panels to ensure each vehicle was in pristine condition.

On Sunday, as per the Commissioner's instructions, C.A.R. officials officially put 134 patrol vehicles back into service. These vehicles, now

sporting their new identity, are expected to play a crucial role in maintaining law and order, preventing criminal activity, and ensuring a swift response to emergencies.

The police force believes that this visible change will also reinforce their presence and authority in the city. The re-stickering process is ongoing. The C.A.R. Headquarters announced that other vehicles within the Hyderabad City Police's jurisdiction, including those for the Traffic ACP, Inspector, pilot vehicles, and interceptors, will be completed in the upcoming days. This systematic approach ensures that the entire fleet is brought up to the new standard.

Furthermore, clear instructions have been given to all vehicle drivers to maintain their vehicles' cleanliness and proper condition. The initiative marks a significant visual change for the Hyderabad police force, aligning it with the state's new identity while also ensuring that all vehicles are in top operational shape for their duties. The Deputy Commissioner of Police of the C.A.R. Headquarters confirmed these details and participated in the program.

Massive Seizure of Non-Duty Paid Liquor in Shamshabad

The Excise Enforcement Department in Shamshabad, under the jurisdiction of the Cyberabad Police, has conducted a significant operation, seizing a large quantity of non-duty paid liquor. The coordinated raid resulted in the confiscation of 360 bottles of foreign liquor, with an estimated value of ₹14.50 lakhs.

On Sunday morning, a joint team led by the Shamshabad District Task Force (DTF) CI Pawan Kumar and the Chevella SHO, along with other personnel, carried out the inspections. The excise staff successfully intercepted the shipment, which was found to contain a variety of alcoholic beverages.

Further investigation by the Enforcement DTF staff revealed that the seized liquor was smuggled into the state from various locations, including Goa, Haryana, and Lucknow. This discovery highlights a significant illegal network for distributing alcohol across state

lines, bypassing legal channels and evading taxes. The value of the seized goods underscores the scale of this illicit activity.

The raids were conducted under the direct supervision of top excise officials, including Excise Enforcement Director Sanwas Qasim, Deputy Commissioner Dasharath, and Excise Superintendent Krishnapriya. DTFC Praveen Kumar and other police officers played a key role in the operation, demonstrating the concerted effort to crack down on the illegal liquor trade.

This successful raid is part of an ongoing drive to curb the smuggling of non-duty paid liquor, which not only causes a significant loss of revenue for the state but also poses risks to consumers. The excise department has been actively conducting similar operations in different parts of Telangana to dismantle these illegal networks and ensure that all alcohol sales are legitimate and regulated.

BJP’s Punjab Strategy Tested Amid Floods and Rising Alienation

Just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned from Tianjin on September 1, he tweeted his condolences over the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan. The tweet drew an immediate response from Giani Harpreet Singh, former head priest of the Akal Takht and Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, who positioned himself as a leader in the fractured Sikh political landscape. Giani Ji, leading the Nawan Akali Dal, stressed that Punjab has been severely affected by floods, with nearly 1,500 villages and 300,000 people impacted since August 17, and expressed disappointment at the Prime Minister’s absence.

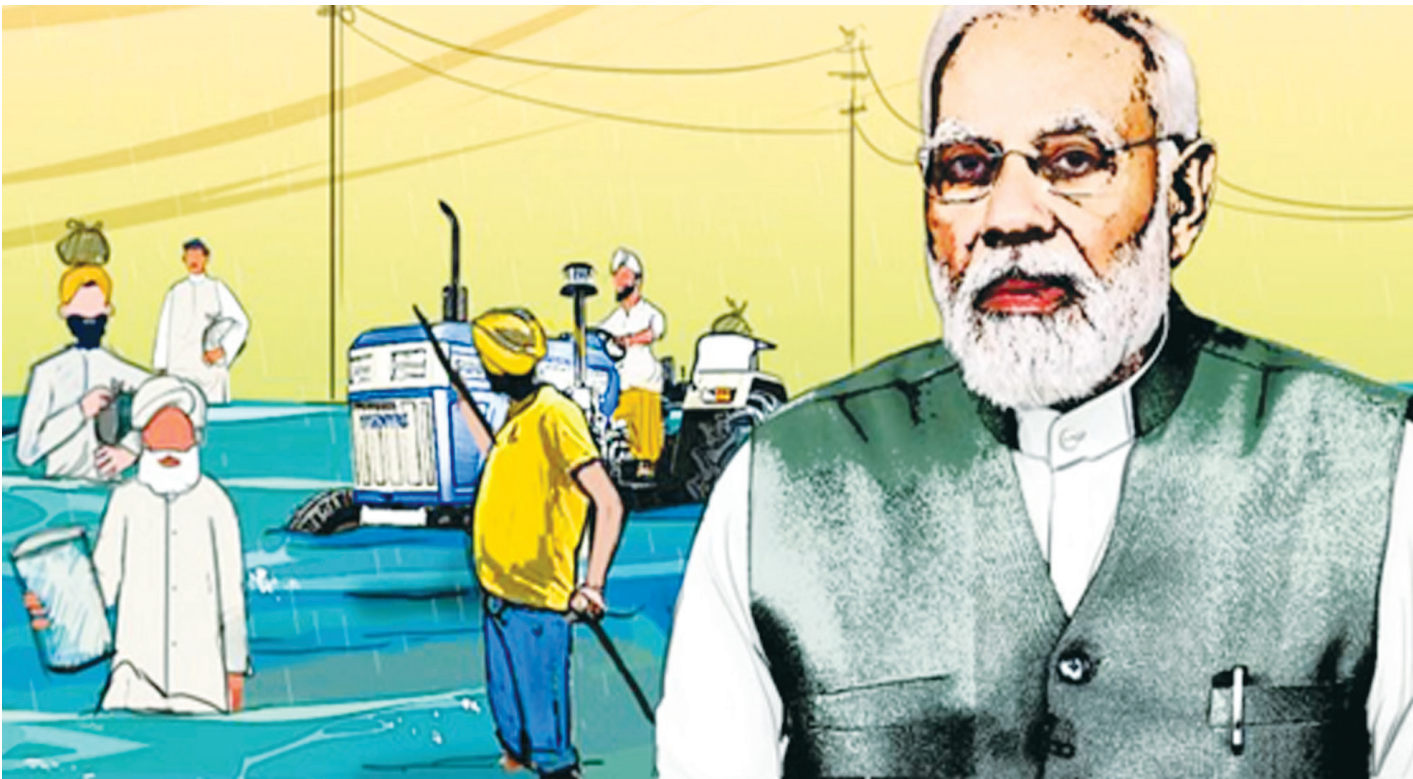
While Modi immediately spoke to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and prom-

ised support, and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited flood-affected areas, the people of Punjab felt neglected. For many Sikhs, this deepens long-standing distrust toward New Delhi, rooted in the farmers’ protests and other historical grievances. Critics argue that the BJP’s absence highlights political calculation, as Punjab remains a complex battleground for the party.

The BJP has historically aimed to expand into states where it lacked power, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal. In Punjab, the party’s strategy relies on a divided Sikh vote and consolidated Hindu support. Meanwhile, the growing influence of radical groups and separatist propaganda, in-

cluding subtle narratives from abroad, further complicates the political landscape. ISI-backed channels exploit divisions, promoting a sense of alienation among Sikhs and Punjabis.

This moment presents both a challenge and an opportunity. India cannot repeat past mistakes, as seen during the Mizoram famine of the 1960s, when delayed central intervention fueled insurgency. For the BJP and the Prime Minister, addressing Punjab’s crisis with urgency and empathy is not only a political imperative but a national responsibility. Demonstrating solidarity now could reinforce trust, strengthen unity, and prevent external actors from exploiting regional vulnerabilities.



GST Cut, Inflation Under Control: Optimism As Festival Season Approaches

As the festive season draws near, India finds itself in a rare moment of economic and cultural optimism. Away from the turbulence of politics, floods, and global trade uncertainties, the mood at home is brightening. A combination of controlled inflation, rationalized GST rates, and government-led infrastructure projects has set the stage for a season of spending, travel, and celebration.

The introduction of the new GST regime on September 22 comes at a symbolic and practical time. With the end of Mahalaya Amavasya, traditionally regarded as inauspicious for purchases, households are ready to splurge on everything from consumer durables to automobiles. Research firm Crisil predicts India Inc’s revenues could rise by 6-7% this fiscal, thanks to GST cuts making key products more affordable. This, in turn, is expected to fuel demand and provide a strong push to industries already gearing up for the festive rush.

Adding to consumer



confidence is the steady fall in inflation. The retail inflation rate dipped to 2.1% in August 2025, well within the RBI’s comfort band. Combined with earlier income tax reforms that increased disposable incomes, families now have stronger purchasing power and greater willingness to spend on festivities, travel, and household needs.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s inauguration of Rs 40,000 crore worth of development projects in Bihar adds another layer of optimism. New infrastructure, including the Purnea airport and Vande Bharat trains, promises

smoother travel during peak festive migration when families return to their hometowns. For over 40,000 families receiving permanent housing under PMAY, this festive season will be remembered as one of new beginnings and security.

However, even amid cheer, challenges loom. India’s rising sugar consumption, especially through processed foods, has worsened health concerns. Reports show over 101 million Indians live with diabetes, while another 136 million are pre-diabetic. The festive indulgence in sweets, though joyous, raises the need for greater community

awareness about healthier alternatives like organic treats, homemade delicacies, and mindful consumption.

Still, the overarching sentiment remains positive. From improved travel options to lower GST burdens, from new homes to rising incomes, the foundations for a vibrant festive season are firmly in place. India’s ability to balance celebration with caution—economic growth with health awareness—will define how the months ahead unfold. For now, the lamps are ready to be lit, homes ready to be adorned, and optimism ready to take center stage.

The First Fire Must Burn Within: Why Revolutions Fail Without Inner Awakening

Revolutions often roar into history with chants, protests, and the fall of regimes. For a moment, it feels as though dawn has broken. Yet when the dust settles, the shadows of fear, greed, and inequality remain. Thrones change, constitutions are rewritten, but daily life falls back into the same rhythm of corruption and despair. From Europe’s uprisings to America’s civil war, from Russia’s overthrow of the Tsar to the Arab Spring, the cycle has repeated. Even in India, movements like Quit India or Sampoorna Kranti shook the empire but could not uproot the deeper malaise.

Nepal’s student protests are the latest reminder. Young people have again braved bullets, demanding freedom and equality. Their courage is undeniable—nearly twenty lives were lost in recent demonstrations—but history warns us that unless something deeper changes, today’s rebels often become tomorrow’s establishment. Outrage flares on social media, hashtags trend, power changes hands, and disillusionment returns.

The core truth is this:



no corrupt system survives without the silent consent of its people. If citizens’ minds remain clouded by fear and distraction, rulers will mirror that condition. Power has shifted from swords to screens; algorithms now shape desires and fears. Governments may fall, but if attention is still surrendered to the glow of a device, little has truly changed.

That is why revolutions burn out. They replace faces without replacing blindness. Anger is raw fuel, but without

direction it collapses into ashes. Imagine if the same passion that filled Nepal’s streets were directed at the greater crisis—climate collapse. Forests vanish, heatwaves kill thousands, species disappear; and yet the world barely marches. We rise for comfort but not for survival.

Real revolutions begin within. A crowd cannot revolt; only individuals can. True freedom arises when a person dares to ask: Who shapes my desires? What fears control me? Without such self-inquiry, protests remain

theatre. The most dangerous tyrant is not in palaces but within the mind.

The first spark must burn in classrooms, in conversations, in the silence of awareness. A single awakened mind frightens tyranny more than a thousand stones in the street. Unless the inner chains break, outer revolutions will always fail.

Freedom that endures is not the fall of governments but the fall of delusion. Only then can sacrifice bear fruit, and courage reach its true promise.

\$100,000 H-1B visa is a gamble that could protect US jobs



President Donald Trump is once again shaking up immigration policy, this time targeting the H-1B visa program that allows U.S. companies to hire skilled foreign engineers and tech professionals. Signed late Friday night, the new regulations significantly raise the cost of hiring foreign workers, forcing companies to reconsider their dependence on imported talent.

Under the overhaul, companies must now pay \$100,000 per H-1B worker—a steep increase from previous fees. But the changes

don’t stop there. The Trump administration is also revising prevailing wage rules, requiring that foreign visa-holders earn the same salary as their American counterparts. This combination of higher fees and wage parity is designed to discourage companies from relying on cheaper foreign labor and to tilt the labor market toward U.S. workers.

The new rules preserve H-1B visas as a last resort, allowing them only in fields where domestic talent is genuinely scarce. The administration argues this approach answers longstanding

complaints from critics that companies have become addicted to low-cost foreign employees, undermining opportunities for American workers. Supporters of the reform say it is long overdue, aiming to ensure that U.S. talent is prioritized in key sectors such as technology, engineering, and research.

However, the plan is expected to face legal challenges, and not all stakeholders are pleased. Tech companies, in particular, may feel the pinch. For years, major corporations have relied on H-1B visas to fill gaps

in highly specialized roles. Many leaders warn that restricting access to global talent could hurt innovation and economic growth. Deedy Das, a partner at Menlo Ventures, summed up industry concerns on X, saying, “If the U.S. ceases to attract the best talent, it drastically reduces its ability to innovate and grow the economy.”

This is not the first time H-1B reforms have been proposed. Previous attempts stumbled after pushback from tech giants, including Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, who argued that stricter rules would hinder competi-

tiveness. Despite those warnings, the Trump administration is pushing forward, betting that American companies can meet their talent needs domestically.

Whether this gamble succeeds depends on the willingness of U.S. businesses to hire and train local workers, and on the courts’ response to challenges. For now, the message is clear: foreign workers will no longer be the default choice for U.S. tech companies, and domestic talent will be given priority. The industry, however, braces for a significant adjustment.



Thousands Mourn as Singer Zubeen Garg’s Mortal Remains Begin Final Journey Home

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Popular Assamese singer Zubeen Garg’s body began its final journey home in Kahilipara from Guwahati airport on Sunday morning, with thousands of fans lining the streets to catch a last glimpse of the beloved artiste. The emotionally charged convoy moved slowly through a sea of mourners from all walks of life,

showering flowers on the ambulance carrying Garg’s casket as it covered the 25-kilometre route from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport to his residence. As the flight carrying his body landed from Delhi, the casket was first brought out from the luggage section and placed near the runway. Garg’s wife, Garima Salkia Garg, broke down and offered floral tributes while placing an Assamese ‘gamosa’ on the

coffin. The coffin was later placed in a flower-decked ambulance, accompanied by Garima, senior state officials, and a team of musicians. Fans raised mobile phones to capture the moment, sang his songs, and chanted “Jai Zubeen da” as the convoy progressed. Assam Director General of Police Harmeet Singh and Guwahati Police Commissioner Parthasarathi Mahanta walked ahead to clear the way. The singer’s favourite open jeep, adorned with his portrait, also formed part of the procession. Devoted fans held cut-outs and ‘gamosas’ bearing the words “Z G (Zubeen Garg) Forever,” expressing grief over his sudden demise.

Garg’s mortal remains will first be kept at his Kahilipara residence for about ninety minutes to allow family members, including his 85-year-old ailing father, to pay their respects. Later, the body will be moved to the Arjun Bhogeswar Baruah Sports Complex, where the public can pay homage from 9 am to 7 pm.

The singer, who mesmerised audiences for over three decades with more than 38,000 songs in 40 languages and dialects, passed away in Singapore while swimming in the sea without a life jacket. Details of his last rites are yet to be finalised, with the Assam Cabinet expected to decide on the cremation venue on Sunday evening.

PM Modi pitches for ‘swadeshi’ goods

GST reforms will accelerate India’s growth story

TPN Bureau | New

Delhi

A day before the new reduced GST rates come into effect, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to promote ‘swadeshi’ goods and highlighted the economic benefits of next-generation GST reforms, calling them a step forward for Atmanirbhar Bharat. Addressing the nation, Modi announced a ‘GST bachat utsav (savings festival)’ coinciding with the first day of Navratri, which, combined with the existing income tax exemption, will create a “double bonanza” for taxpayers and consumers.

“On the first day of Navratri, the country will take an important step for Atmanirbhar Bharat. With the sunrise tomorrow, the next-generation GST reforms will come into effect. Everyone—from youths and women to farmers and traders—will benefit,” Modi said, stressing that the reforms will accelerate India’s growth, improve ease of doing business, and attract investment.

Modi reflected on the journey of GST since its introduction in 2017,



noting that it realised the “one nation-one tax” dream and simplified a web of levies that had burdened businesses and consumers. He highlighted that income tax exemption up to Rs 12 lakh, alongside GST reforms, will significantly benefit the poor, middle class, and neo-middle class, and provide a boost to MSMEs.

The GST Council, comprising the Centre and states, has decided to implement a two-tier GST structure: 5 and 18 per cent for the majority of goods and services, 40 per cent on ultra-luxury items, while tobacco

and related products remain at 28 per cent plus cess. About 375 items, including mass consumption goods like ghee, butter, paneer, coffee, ice cream, and aspirational items like TVs, ACs, and washing machines, will become cheaper starting September 22.

PM Modi urged citizens to take pride in buying and selling indigenous goods, drawing a parallel between the Swadeshi movement that strengthened India’s independence and the role of local products in empowering India’s prosperity.

Vijay Clashes with DMK, Questions Stalin Over Campaign Restrictions in TN



TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

The Tamil Nadu government has pushed back against actor-turned-politician Vijay’s recent allegations during his Thaizhaga Vetrikazhagam campaign in Nagapattinam, issuing a fact-check on his claims regarding tidal forests, maritime colleges, and police restrictions. The ruling DMK dismissed his charges as misinformation,

even as Vijay directly challenged Chief Minister MK Stalin, asking, “Are you threatening me, Chief Minister Sir?”

Vijay had alleged that the government failed to protect tidal forests designed to prevent soil erosion. In response, the DMK highlighted that the state’s mangrove area has doubled from 45 sq km in 2021 to 90 sq km. Specifically, government data shows mangroves now cover 586 hectares in Nagapattinam and 521 hectares in Mayiladuthurai.

He also claimed Nagapattinam lacked a maritime college. The government countered that the Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University is operational in the district. On alleged police restrictions, Vijay accused the DMK of targeting his campaign while sparing national leaders. Officials clarified that 20 conditions were imposed on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s rally in Chennai on April 9, 2024.

On the second day of his campaign, Vijay

broadened his attack on the ruling party, emphasizing his longstanding support for fishermen. “Vijay is always a fisherman’s friend,” he said, recalling efforts to highlight atrocities faced by fishermen in Madurai and 2011 meetings condemning attacks on the community. He also stressed support for Sri Lankan Tamils, criticizing the BJP for differentiating between groups and calling for permanent solutions.

Vijay further questioned Stalin’s foreign

trips, suggesting they may prioritize family investments over state development. He alleged disruptions to his campaign meetings, citing incidents in Ariyalur and Trichy where power cuts and restrictions on gestures were imposed. Concluding, he directly addressed the Chief Minister, “Are you threatening me?”

This escalating political clash highlights tensions between Vijay’s new political ambitions and the DMK ahead of upcoming elections.

Kiren Rijiju endorses diplomat’s H-1B response to slam Congress

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday highlighted remarks made by former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal, who criticised Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge’s response to the recent H-1B visa policy announced by US President Donald Trump. Rijiju said that while there is room for political debate, national interests demand a united stance. Kharge had earlier linked the visa policy to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s personal rapport with Trump, suggesting that Indians were hurt by what he termed the “gifts” Modi received following a recent birthday call from the US President. Kharge argued that foreign policy should prioritize India’s interests and be guided by balanced diplomacy rather than public displays of friendship such as slogans and bear hugs.

In response, Sibal



sharply criticised Kharge, saying that blaming Modi for Trump’s decision undermines India’s position at a time when a united front is necessary against external pressures. Sibal noted that Trump has taken similar actions against other allies, including Europe and Japan, and emphasised that India’s firm stance had already challenged the US approach.

Sibal further questioned whether the opposition was against India maintaining independent foreign policy choices,

pointing out that unlike some countries, India had not engaged in personal business dealings to win favour with Trump. “Is the opposition against India refusing to be dictated on our foreign policy choices by the US? We have, unlike Pakistan, not done business deals involving his family and close associates to earn Trump’s goodwill, which, in any case, cannot be relied upon,” he wrote.

He urged internal unity in the face of international challenges, stressing that such solidarity

would serve the national interest far more than political point-scoring. Rijiju endorsed Sibal’s message, calling him a highly intellectual and erudite diplomat and urging all political parties to prioritise India’s interests over partisan politics in matters of foreign policy.

This episode underscores the importance of a cohesive stance in international diplomacy, particularly when navigating decisions by global powers that affect the Indian diaspora and strategic interests.

India secures rights to explore polymetallic sulphides in Indian Ocean

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

India has become the first country to secure exclusive rights for the exploration of polymetallic sulphides in the Indian Ocean, marking a historic milestone in the nation’s deep-sea resource initiatives. The announcement came on Saturday from Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, who confirmed the signing of a new 15-year contract between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the International Seabed Authority (ISA). This contract grants India exclusive exploration rights over a 10,000 square kilometre area of the Carlsberg Ridge in the Indian Ocean.

Polymetallic sulphides are rich in valuable metals, including iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold, and platinum. Their strategic importance and commercial potential have drawn attention from nations across the globe, making India a pioneer in seabed



resource exploration. According to Dr. Singh, the new contract represents a crucial step in realising the vision of India’s Deep Ocean Mission, which aims to advance seabed mineral exploration and develop advanced mining technologies.

“By formalising exclusive rights for polymetallic sulphide exploration in the Carlsberg Ridge, India has consolidated its leadership in deep-sea research. This initiative will not only enhance our maritime presence

but also build national capacity for future resource utilisation,” Dr. Singh added.

India’s position in international seabed exploration is further strengthened by its prior designation as a “Pioneer Investor” for polymetallic nodule exploration. With this new contract, India now holds two polymetallic sulphide exploration agreements—one in the Central Indian Ridge and Southwest Indian Ridge, and the other in the

Carlsberg Ridge. This makes India the country with the largest allocated area for polymetallic sulphide exploration globally.

Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, expressed pride in India’s achievement, emphasising that this leadership positions the country at the forefront of international deep-sea research and sets the stage for future technological and economic gains from seabed minerals.

\$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee For New Applicants

Current Holders Can Re-Enter US

PN Bureau | Washington

The US government has clarified that the recent hike in H-1B visa application fees will not affect current visa holders or those seeking renewals. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, on Saturday, explained on social media platform X that the new rule “applies only to new visas, not renewals, and not current visa holders.”

The H-1B visa allows foreign workers to be employed in specialty occupations in the United States. On Friday, President Donald Trump announced a steep increase in the H-1B application fee, raising it to \$100,000 (around Rs 86 lakh), as part of measures aimed at curbing abuses that “displace US workers and undermine national security,” according to the White House fact sheet.

Leavitt clarified that this \$100,000 charge is a one-time fee for new ap-



plicants and not an annual requirement. She emphasized that existing H-1B holders, including those currently outside the US, will not be impacted. “H-1B visa holders can leave and re-enter the country to the same extent as they normally would. Whatever ability they have to do that is not impacted by yesterday’s proclamation,” she said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) ex-

pressed concern over the fee hike, noting that the increase from \$1,000 to \$100,000 “is likely to have humanitarian consequences by way of disruption for families” and urged US authorities to address the potential issues.

Meanwhile, the White House fact sheet highlighted that future H-1B visa petitions will require the \$100,000 payment for approval, unless a case is deemed in the national interest.

The Secretary of Homeland Security has been tasked with ensuring that petitions from applicants outside the US not accompanied by the fee are restricted, except in exceptional circumstances.

This clarification seeks to reassure current H-1B holders while signaling stricter rules for new applicants, aiming to prioritize American workers in the highly competitive tech and specialty job sectors.



Shehbaz Sharif to Attend High-Level UN Meetings, Meet Trump in New York

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will participate in a meeting of select Muslim leaders with US President Donald Trump in New York on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Pakistan’s Foreign Office (FO) confirmed. The meeting aims to discuss regional and international peace and security.

Shehbaz will lead Pakistan’s delegation to the high-level segment of the UNGA starting September 22, accom-

panied by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, other ministers, and senior officials. His address at the UNGA is expected to urge the international community to resolve situations of “prolonged occupation and denial of the right to self-determination,” particularly in Palestine and India-occupied Kashmir. The prime minister will also highlight the crisis in Gaza, calling for decisive action to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

In addition to these engagements, Shehbaz will present Pakistan’s stance on global issues, including climate

change, terrorism, Islamophobia, and sustainable development. His schedule in New York includes several high-level events, such as UN Security Council meetings, sessions of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and a special Climate Action event. He is also expected to meet senior UN officials and world leaders to discuss matters of mutual concern.

The FO emphasized that Shehbaz’s participation underscores Pakistan’s commitment to multilateralism and the UN, reflecting the country’s longstanding contributions toward global peace and devel-

opment. This will mark his first direct engagement with Trump since taking office in January, following earlier meetings between US and Pakistani military officials without senior civilian representation.

Amid rising tensions in the Middle East, Shehbaz recently signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, pledging mutual action against any attack on either nation, highlighting Pakistan’s proactive diplomatic and security engagements on the global stage.

U.K. PM set to announce decision on Palestinian state

TPN Correspondent | LONDON

Britain’s Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy on Sunday, September 21, 2025, clarified that recognising a Palestinian state would not create one “overnight,” emphasizing that any recognition must be part of a broader peace process. Speaking to Sky News, Lammy noted that Prime Minister Keir Starmer would make a decision on recognising Palestine later that day, with the move aimed at keeping alive the prospects of a two-state solution—a Palestinian state co-existing alongside Israel.

Starmer had earlier stated in July that Britain would recognise Palestine unless Israel agreed to a ceasefire with Hamas, allowed humanitarian aid into Gaza, renounced annexation of the West Bank, and committed to a via-

ble peace process. Lammy said that recent developments, including the attack on Qatar and Israel’s settlement expansion, had made the prospects for a ceasefire bleak.

The anticipated recognition comes ahead of the U.N. General Assembly, where other nations including Australia, Canada, and France are also preparing to recognise a Palestinian state. The move has drawn criticism from the U.S. and Israel, who argue it rewards Hamas and terrorism. Trump voiced disagreement with Starmer’s plan during his recent UK visit, although he framed it as one of the few policy disagreements with the British Prime Minister.

Lammy, representing the UK at the U.N., highlighted that the country has a historic role in the region, having governed Palestine after World War I and issued the 1917 Balfour Declaration sup-

porting a “national home for the Jewish people,” while pledging not to prejudice Palestinian civil and religious rights—a commitment largely neglected over the decades.

UK officials have long supported an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, but insist that recognition must align with a comprehensive peace plan. Lammy noted that the ongoing destruction in Gaza, displacement of its population, and Israel’s West Bank settlements have made achieving a two-state solution increasingly challenging, as much of the world considers Israel’s occupation of the West Bank illegal.

The UK’s potential recognition of Palestine underscores growing international concern over stalled peace efforts and seeks to reaffirm support for Palestinian self-determination within a negotiated framework.

Zelenskyy Pushes for “Truly Painful” Sanctions Against Russia

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called for intensified international sanctions and enhanced military support to counter Russia’s escalating aggression. In a statement on X, Zelenskyy revealed that Ukraine faced more than 1,500 strike drones, over 1,280 guided aerial bombs, and 50 missiles of various types in the past week alone.

Zelenskyy emphasized the need for long-range strike capabilities and robust sanctions to compel Moscow to seek peace. “Russia must feel the consequences of what it is doing. Sufficient counteraction is needed to force them to seek peace. That can be achieved with adequate strength of our army,

our long-range strike capabilities, and strong sanctions and pressure against Russia,” he stated.

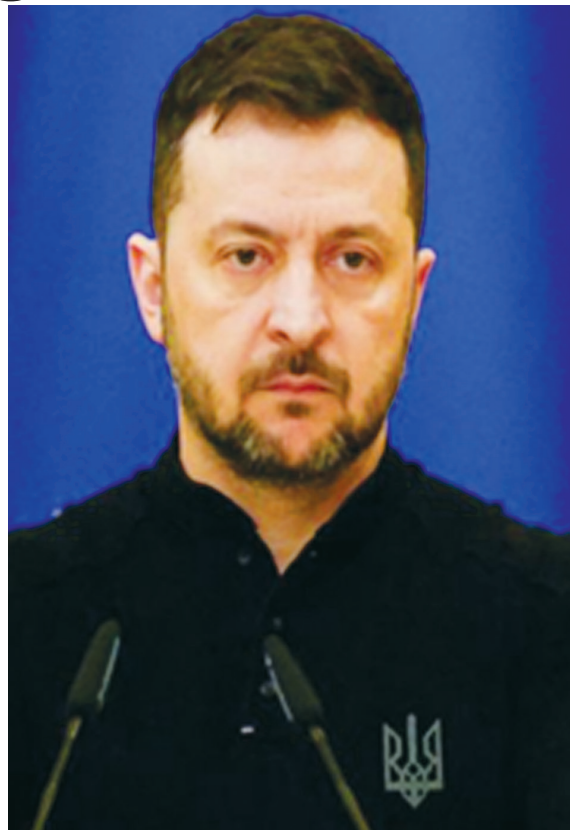
The Ukrainian leader highlighted that Russian military production relies heavily on foreign-made components, identifying over 132,000 foreign items from countries including Europe, the US, China, and Japan in Russian weaponry. Zelenskyy warned that if Moscow is not stopped, Russian aggression could spread beyond Ukraine to Europe and the Indo-Pacific region.

Zelenskyy called on world powers to close loopholes that allow Russia to bypass sanctions and pressure countries and companies supplying dual-use technologies. He specifically urged the upcoming 19th EU sanctions pack-

age to be “truly painful” and stressed the importance of alignment from the United States with European efforts.

Earlier, the European Union proposed its 19th sanctions package targeting key sectors sustaining Russia’s “war effort” in Ukraine. The proposal includes a full transaction ban on Russian banks, prohibitions on investments in Russian Special Economic Zones, and restrictions on energy exports, including a full LNG import ban by January 2027. Sanctions also target Moscow’s shadow fleet, expanding to 118 new vessels.

Zelenskyy thanked nations already providing support, reiterating that strong sanctions and coordinated international pressure are essential tools to stop Russian attacks and protect Ukrainian lives.



Elon Musk’s Flip-Flop on H-1B Visas Resurfaces Amid Trump Fee Hike

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Amid President Donald Trump’s recent announcement to hike H-1B visa fees to \$100,000, Elon Musk’s contradictory posts on the program have resurfaced, drawing renewed attention to his shifting stance. The fee increase, aimed at high-skilled foreign workers, is expected to significantly impact Indian professionals, who make up a substantial portion of the U.S. tech workforce.

Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur behind SpaceX and Tesla, had previously defended the H-1B system, highlighting its role in enabling him and other critical talent to build compa-



nies that “made America strong.” On December 28, 2024, Musk tweeted, “The reason I’m in America along with so many critical people who built SpaceX, Tesla and hundreds of other companies that made

America strong is because of H1B. Take a big step back and F*** yourself in the face. I will go to war on this issue the likes of which you cannot possibly comprehend.”

Interestingly, just

hours before this forceful defense, Musk had acknowledged the need for reform, posting, “No question that the H1B system needs to be overhauled.” His stance continued to evolve the next day, describing the program as “broken” and advocating “major reform.” Musk suggested measures such as raising the minimum salary and imposing an annual maintenance fee to make hiring foreign talent more expensive than recruiting domestically, stating, “Easily fixed by raising the minimum salary significantly and adding a yearly cost for maintaining the H1B, making it materially more expensive to hire from overseas than domestically. I’ve been very clear that the program is broken and needs major

reform.”

The H-1B visa program allows foreign professionals, particularly in technology and specialty occupations, to work in the U.S. for an initial three-year period, extendable by three more years. Musk’s fluctuating comments reflect broader tech industry debates as companies navigate the implications of Trump’s fee hike, which could dramatically reshape the recruitment of foreign talent in American tech firms.

The resurfacing of Musk’s statements comes at a critical moment, highlighting the tension between U.S. immigration policy reforms and the tech sector’s dependence on skilled international professionals.

SBI and Bharti Airtel Lead Top Firms’ Market Valuation Gains



The combined market valuation of seven of India’s top-10 most valued companies soared by ₹1,18,328.29 crore last week, reflecting renewed investor optimism in equities. State Bank of India (SBI) and Bharti Airtel emerged as the biggest gainers during this period, as the BSE benchmark surged 721.53 points, or 0.88 per cent.

SBI’s market capitalisation jumped ₹35,953.25 crore, taking its valuation to ₹7,95,910 crore, while Bharti Airtel added ₹33,214.77 crore, reaching ₹11,18,952.64 crore. Reliance Industries, continuing its dominance, saw its market cap rise ₹17,389.23 crore to ₹19,04,898.51 crore. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) also posted gains, climbing ₹12,952.75 crore to ₹11,46,879.47 crore.

Other winners included Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), whose valuation edged higher by ₹12,460.25 crore to ₹5,65,612.92 crore, and Infosys, which rose ₹6,127.73 crore to ₹6,39,901.03 crore. HDFC Bank’s market cap inched up by ₹230.31 crore, taking it to ₹14,84,816.26 crore.

On the flip side, some major companies saw declines. ICICI Bank’s valuation fell ₹10,707.87 crore to ₹10,01,654.46 crore, Bajaj Finance dipped ₹6,346.93 crore to ₹6,17,892.72 crore, and Hindustan Unilever lost ₹5,039.87 crore, standing at ₹6,01,225.16 crore.

Overall, the week highlighted strong performance by state-owned and tech-centric firms, signaling sustained investor confidence amid positive market sentiment. Reliance Industries retained its position as the most valued company in India, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, SBI, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, and Hindustan Unilever.

As equities continue to show momentum, investors are closely watching the performance of these blue-chip companies, whose market movements often influence broader market trends and investor strategies.

India’s Forex Reserves Cross USD 700 Billion, Third Weekly Rise in a Row

India’s foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 4.698 billion in the week ending September 12, reaching USD 702.966 billion, according to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) latest ‘Weekly Statistical Supplement.’ This marks the third consecutive week of gains and sees the much-anticipated USD 700 billion milestone crossed.

The largest component of the reserves, India’s foreign currency assets (FCA), increased by USD 2.537 billion to USD 587.014 billion. Gold reserves also contributed to the rise, climbing USD 2.12 billion to reach USD 92.419 billion.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, following the latest monetary policy review, emphasized that India’s foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover approximately 11 months of the country’s imports. This provides a strong buffer to manage external shocks and support the stability of the Indian rupee.

Historical trends show India steadily building its forex reserves over recent years. In 2023, the country added roughly USD 58 billion to the kitty, reversing a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. In 2024, reserves rose by over USD 20 billion, while 2025 has already seen a cumulative increase of about USD 53 billion so far.

Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a country’s central bank, primarily in major reserve currencies such as the US Dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. The RBI actively manages these reserves to stabilize the rupee, buying dollars when the rupee strengthens and selling them when it weakens.

With the forex kitty crossing the USD 700 billion mark, India’s external stability outlook remains strong, giving policymakers greater flexibility to respond to global volatility and reinforcing confidence in the country’s economic resilience amid global uncertainties.



Major Carmakers Slash Prices Ahead of Navaratri, GST Cut Benefits Customers

Buyers are in for a bonanza as leading automakers Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Hyundai Motor India, and luxury carmakers like Mercedes-Benz and BMW announce significant price cuts effective from September 22, coinciding with the start of the auspicious Navaratri period. Two-wheeler makers are also joining the trend, passing on GST benefits to customers.

Maruti Suzuki India, the country’s largest carmaker, has reduced vehicle prices by up to ₹1.29 lakh. The company aims to attract two-wheeler users to four-wheelers by offering additional discounts on small cars beyond the GST cut of 8.5%. Popular models such as S-Presso, Alto K10, Celerio, Wagon-R, and Ignis have seen price reductions ranging from ₹71,300 to ₹1,29,600. Premium models including Swift, Baleno, Dzire, Fronx, Brezza, Grand Vitara, Jimny, Ertiga, and XL6 also received substantial cuts, with savings of up to ₹1.12 lakh.

Tata Motors has cut prices across its passenger vehicles by ₹75,000 to ₹1.45 lakh, including Rs 85,000 off the compact SUV Punch and Rs 1.55 lakh on Nexon. Premium SUVs Harrier and Safari now cost ₹1.4 lakh and ₹1.45 lakh less, respectively. Mahindra & Mahindra has already reduced prices by up to ₹1.56 lakh on models like Bolero, XUV300, Thar, and Scorpio Classic. Hyundai, Honda, Kia, and Toyota are also implementing reductions, with Hyundai Tucson seeing the highest cut of ₹2.4 lakh.

Luxury automakers have followed suit. Mercedes-Benz announced reductions ranging from ₹2 lakh (A-Class) to ₹10 lakh (S-Class), while BMW Motor India is cutting prices by up to ₹13.6 lakh across its portfolio. Audi and Jaguar Land Rover have also reduced prices, with cuts ranging from ₹2.6 lakh to ₹30.4 lakh.

In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp and Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India are lowering prices by up to ₹15,743 and ₹18,800, respectively.

According to Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer Partho Banerjee, “With car penetration in India at just 34 per 1,000 people, there is no better time to put India on wheels.” Consumers are expected to benefit significantly from these combined GST-related and additional price cuts, making the festive season an ideal time for vehicle purchases.

Wholesale Price Inflation at Two-Year Low, Core Inflation Rises

India’s factory gate inflation, measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), stood at a two-year low of -0.58% in July, continuing the deflationary trend observed in June. Analysts attribute the recent change in the wholesale price trajectory to an upswing in food prices after months of decline.

Paras Jasrai, Associate Director at India Ratings and Research, noted that food prices played a significant role in reversing the deflationary trend. In August 2025, food prices rose 0.2% compared with the same month last year, while the decline in vegetable prices slowed to 14.2% year-on-year—the slowest pace in six months. Edible oils recorded a sharp increase of 22.9% in August, marking the highest surge in three months.

Jewellery prices also climbed significantly, rising 32.6% year-on-year in August, contributing to a rise in core inflation, which reached a five-month high of 1.6%.

While deflationary pressures have eased, the rise in essential commodity prices indicates that inflation dynamics remain sensitive to changes in food and commodity markets. Policymakers and analysts will continue to monitor WPI and core inflation trends closely as India navigates supply-side pressures and prepares for the upcoming festive season, where consumer demand is expected to rise.



India Emerges as Leading Flexible Office Market Globally

Driven by strong global demand, India has become one of the world’s most mature flexible office ecosystems, with international firms accounting for 72 per cent of flex space absorption in 2024, according to Cushman & Wakefield’s Global Trends in Flexible Office 2025 report. The remaining 28 per cent of demand came from startups, leveraging flexible offices to manage costs, attract talent, and scale efficiently in a competitive landscape.

India scored a perfect 100 on Cushman & Wakefield’s maturity index, surpassing global peers including the UK at 98, France at 97, the US at 81, and Japan and Singapore at 77. The score reflects multiple metrics, including flexible inventory as a share of total office space, number of operators, leasing activity, emerging agreement structures, and overall market depth.

Ramita Arora, Managing Director Bengaluru & Head – Flex, India, Cushman & Wakefield, highlighted India’s market maturity, diversity of operators, and ability to pivot with demand, noting that many Western markets are still evolving.

Flexible office demand in India has risen nearly sixfold since 2020, with 2024 alone seeing flex space account for 15 per cent of new office leasing. Operator expansion has surged, with 33.5 million square feet leased between 2022 and 2024—equivalent to over 500,000 seats. Annual take-up has tripled over five years, confirming flexible workspace as a mainstream solution

rather than an alternate option.

India is now the largest flexible office market in APAC, with 79.7 million square feet of stock across the top eight cities, expected to reach 85 million square feet by year-end and surpass 100 million by 2026. Managed office and enterprise models now dominate, accounting for 70-80 per cent of demand. Bengaluru leads with 30 per cent of national flex inventory, followed by Delhi NCR, Pune, and Hyderabad.

Institutional interest is growing, with four operators already public and more IPOs anticipated. The next 3-5 years are expected to see consolidation, with leading players strengthening market share while niche operators continue to meet specialised needs.





2025 Ig Nobel Prizes Celebrate Quirky Science

New Delhi: From fingernail diaries to pizza-eating lizards, the 2025 Ig Nobel Prizes once again honoured research that makes people laugh before it makes them think. The awards ceremony was held virtually from Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, showcasing unusual studies from around the world that pose real scientific questions.

Among the winners, Vikash Kumar and Sarthak Mittal of India received the engineering design prize for analysing how foul-smelling shoes affect the user experience of shoe racks. This marks India's 22nd Ig Nobel win.

Their research reminds designers that even everyday nuisances merit serious ergonomic consideration.

The literature prize went posthumously to American physician William Bean, who spent 35 years tracking the growth of his fingernails. His son, Bennett Bean, accepted the award.

In psychology, researchers Marcin Zajenkowski of Poland and Gilles Gignac of Australia studied the effects of telling people they are intelligent, revealing insights into self-esteem and personality dynamics.

The nutrition prize

recognised teams from Nigeria, Togo, Italy, and France for studying rainbow lizards that developed a taste for pizza scraps, highlighting how urbanisation can influence animal diets. Similarly, the paediatrics prize went to Julie Mennella and Gary Beauchamp of the US, whose work showed that garlic consumption by mothers can alter breast milk flavour and infant behaviour.

Japan took the biology prize for painting zebra-like stripes on cows to reduce fly bites, while the chemistry prize went to Rotem and Daniel Naftalovich and Frank Greenway

for exploring the effects of ingesting Teflon as a potential way to bulk meals without calories.

The peace prize honoured a social experiment showing that moderate alcohol consumption can improve foreign language speaking, adding a humorous twist to the concept of "Dutch courage."

Other notable awards included studies on bats flying under alcohol influence and the physics of lumpy pasta sauces. These quirky projects demonstrate the enduring charm of the Ig Nobel Prizes: humour and curiosity together driving scientific exploration.

Lord Ganesha Inspires British Hypercar Symbol



Move over horses, bulls, and eagles—a new symbol has entered the global automobile scene, and it is deeply rooted in Indian culture. British supercar maker Lanzante Limited has gone viral after unveiling a luxury hypercar featuring Lord Ganesha on its badge, capturing the attention of car enthusiasts and social media users worldwide.

The sleek, futuristic vehicle proudly carries the image of Ganesh ji, the Hindu deity known

for wisdom and remover of obstacles, right on its symbol. The move has sparked curiosity across the internet, with fans wondering how Indian spirituality ended up on a British supercar.

The fascinating story behind the unique emblem traces back to George Harrison of The Beatles, according to a popular Instagram influencer who shared the backstory in a viral post. Harrison's interest in Indian culture and spirituality during the 1960s inspired a global fascination with Indian

traditions, art, and religious symbols—a fascination that, decades later, has found its way into the automotive world.

Car enthusiasts have praised Lanzante Limited for combining luxury engineering with cultural symbolism, calling it a bold and innovative design choice. The hypercar itself is a marvel of performance and technology, but it's the Ganesha emblem that has sparked a conversation about how tradition can blend with cutting-edge modernity.

Social media has been

flooded with posts celebrating the fusion of Indian culture with a globally recognized luxury brand. Experts note that this move not only celebrates spirituality but also positions Indian cultural symbols on the world stage, highlighting their universal appeal.

The Lanzante hypercar with Lord Ganesha's badge demonstrates that heritage and innovation can coexist, and in doing so, it has captured hearts far beyond the automotive community.

Scientists Confirm Silverpit Crater Was Caused by Asteroid Strike

London: Buried 700 metres beneath the North Sea seabed, around 80 miles off Yorkshire's coast, lies the Silverpit crater, an extraordinary geological formation that has long puzzled scientists. For decades, experts debated whether it was created by shifting salt deposits or by a dramatic asteroid strike. Now, new research has settled the controversy, revealing that the crater was most likely formed by an asteroid or comet impact over 43 million years ago.

The space rock, estimated to be 160 metres wide—about the size of York Minster—smashed into the sea, creating a crater encircled by concentric faults and unleashing a tsunami nearly 100 metres high. While far

smaller than Mexico's Chicxulub crater, which caused the dinosaur extinction, Silverpit remains significant as the only known impact crater near the UK.

Discovered in 2002 by petroleum geoscientists, the two-mile-wide depression immediately sparked debate. Some believed it showed classic features of an impact crater, while others dismissed it as the result of salt movement deep underground. A Geological Society vote in 2009 overwhelmingly rejected the asteroid hypothesis, favouring the more mundane explanation.

However, new seismic imaging, microscopic rock analysis, and numerical modelling led by sedimentologist Dr. Uisdean Nicholson of Heriot

Watt University has now provided the strongest evidence yet for an impact origin. "It was definitely an exciting moment," Nicholson said, describing the work as a "needle in a haystack approach".

Asteroid impacts are rare, with only about 200 confirmed craters on land and 33 beneath the oceans worldwide. Silverpit's exceptional preservation offers scientists a unique chance to study how such collisions shaped Earth's history and what consequences a future asteroid strike might bring.

For now, the Silverpit crater stands as a dramatic reminder of our planet's cosmic vulnerabilities, hidden beneath the quiet waves of the North Sea.



This Mumbai iPhone17 Buyer Was In Queue For 8 Hours

The much-awaited iPhone 17 series has finally arrived in India, and as expected, the craze around it is nothing short of extraordinary. From long queues outside Apple outlets to people proudly flashing their brand-new devices, the excitement was unmissable. In Mumbai, customers began lining up hours before stores opened, with some even arriving at midnight to secure the latest iPhone. Among them, Aman Chouhan stole the spotlight after waiting nearly eight hours outside the BKC Apple Store. Arriving at midnight, he walked out with not one but two iPhone 17 Pro Max models in Apple's newly launched Cosmic Orange shade. Speaking to ANI, Aman said, "I was waiting since midnight, and now I finally got it. The orange colour is new, and it's in demand."

But while Aman proudly flaunted his big buy, the internet had its own fun. Social media

was soon filled with playful comments. One user wrote, "The bravest Chauhan after Prithviraj Chauhan." Another joked, "Waited all night just to flex an orange iPhone, as if Tim Cook personally ended poverty with this launch." Someone else quipped, "It's a phone, not the Kohinoor diamond." The roasts kept coming, with users calling the purchase less of a gadget and more of a "tax product."

Interestingly, the frenzy didn't end with Aman. Another buyer, Aman Memon from Jogeshwari, queued up from 3 AM and became one of the first to own the iPhone 17 in Mumbai. He purchased three devices, two for his family and one for himself, saying he would have paid even Rs 2 lakh for the new design and colour.

With prices starting at Rs 82,999 and the Pro Max beginning at Rs 1,49,900, the iPhone 17 has once again proven Apple's unbeatable aspirational pull in India.

No Free Toilet Paper? In China, Watch An Ad Or Pay

Imagine rushing into a public restroom, only to discover that even a simple tissue paper now comes with a condition. In China, a viral video has shown how people need to either watch an advertisement or pay money to access toilet paper. The clip, widely circulated on social media, captures a woman scanning a QR code at a dispenser, where she's asked to view an ad before the machine releases tissue. If she doesn't want to watch, the alternative is to pay 0.5 RMB, roughly six Indian rupees. Authorities claim this system is aimed at reducing waste, as people often grab excessive

amounts of free paper. Now, the choice has been simplified: either watch an ad or pay a coin.

The internet was quick to react, and responses ranged from amused to shocked. One traveler recalled carrying personal tissues during their trip to China, calling the setup a unique cultural experience. Another comment read, "This is the first truly dystopian thing I've seen." A few poked fun, saying, "Watch the ads during the poop, by the time you're done, the tissue is enough already." Some others argued that because public toilets in China are free, the measure was neces-

sary to prevent overuse of supplies.

Interestingly, this isn't the first time such an experiment was tried. Back in 2017, Beijing's Temple of Heaven park installed facial recognition dispensers. Each visitor was allotted a fixed amount of toilet paper, and if they needed more, they had to wait for nine minutes before the machine dispensed again. The goal was the same: conservation and preventing misuse.

While the system has sparked debate, it reflects how technology, convenience, and human habits collide in unexpected ways—even in the most private corners of daily life.





Satwik-Chirag Dominate, Storm Into China Masters Final

Star Indian badminton duo Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have stormed into the men's doubles final at the China Masters Super 750 tournament with a commanding straight-game victory over former world champions Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia. The semifinal clash, held at Shenzhen on Saturday, ended 21-17, 21-14 in favour of the Asian Games champions, marking their second consecutive final appearance in as many weeks, following a World Championships

bronze and a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Open. Coming into the match, Satwik and Chirag held a 4-11 head-to-head record against the Malaysian pair, who are two-time Olympic medallists. However, their recent victory over Aaron and Soh en route to the World Championships bronze in Paris gave the Indians a significant psychological edge. Employing an all-out attacking strategy backed by solid defence, Satwik and Chirag dominated the front court and kept their rivals, especially Aaron, on the back

foot throughout the 41-minute contest. The first game was fiercely contested, with the Malaysians briefly taking a 10-7 lead. Errors from Aaron, including a service fault, allowed the Indians to claw back, and at 14-13, another misstep from the Malaysian at the net swung momentum decisively in favour of Satwik and Chirag. A series of sharp smashes and consistent net play helped the Indians seal the opener on their second game point. In the second game, Satwik and Chirag quickly established a 5-2 lead,

extending it to 8-2 with precise smashes and deft front-court control. Despite Aaron and Soh narrowing the gap briefly, the Indians maintained composure, entering the interval 11-6 ahead. They kept the pressure on to close out the match, finishing 21-14, showcasing attacking brilliance, tactical discipline, and unwavering determination. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will now face their final opponents, aiming to add another prestigious title to an already stellar season.

Australia Clinches Series With 43-Run Win Over India in Third Women's ODI

Australia reinforced their supremacy over India as they defeated the hosts by 43 runs in the third women's ODI, securing their 11th consecutive bilateral series win. The match, played on Saturday, showcased a masterclass from Beth Mooney, who single-handedly propelled Australia to a commanding total. Mooney's scintillating innings of 138 runs off just 79 balls was the cornerstone of Australia's performance, driving the team to a joint-highest ODI total of 412 all out. Her aggressive stroke play and flawless timing left the Indian bowlers struggling throughout, as she dominated the scoreboard with a blend of powerful shots and impeccable placement. This score

marked Australia's highest-ever total against India, further emphasizing their growing dominance in women's cricket. India's response saw a valiant effort from star batter Smriti Mandhana, who tried to anchor the innings and keep India in contention. Despite her heroics, the rest of the batting lineup struggled to match the onslaught, falling short of the massive target. Indian bowlers found it challenging to break partnerships and stem the flow of runs, especially against Mooney's explosive batting. Australia's fielding and disciplined bowling ensured that India could not mount a serious challenge. The 43-run margin, though narrower than expected, was enough to seal a con-

vincing victory and underscore Australia's superior performance across all departments. With this win, Australia not only secured the series but also sent a strong message about their depth, experience, and consistency in international women's cricket. India, despite flashes of brilliance from Mandhana and a few other batters, will need to regroup and focus on strengthening their batting and bowling strategies to compete effectively in future encounters against top-tier teams like Australia. The series triumph cements Australia's reputation as a dominant force in women's cricket, highlighting the impact of individual brilliance like Mooney's alongside collective team effort.



Mithun Manhas Set to Be Elected BCCI President Unopposed

Mithun Manhas, a veteran of Indian domestic cricket, is poised to become the next president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), with an unopposed election scheduled during the annual general meeting (AGM) on September 28 at the BCCI headquarters. Cricket officials and top administrators convened in New Delhi on Saturday, the first day for filing nominations, as the board finalized its leadership lineup for the coming term. After consultations with senior government ministers, the BCCI hierarchy settled on Manhas as the consensus candidate for the top post. Manhas, who enjoyed a long and successful career as a dependable batsman for Delhi before concluding his playing days with Jammu & Kashmir, is widely regarded as a trusted figure within the BCCI's administrative network. Despite never representing India in Test cricket, Manhas' classical batting style and strong domestic credentials have earned him respect across the cricketing fraternity. Manhas, currently serving as an assistant

Manchester United Beat Chelsea To Ease Pressure On Ruben Amorim

Manchester United secured a tense 2-1 victory over Chelsea at Old Trafford, easing the pressure on struggling boss Ruben Amorim. Both teams finished with 10 men in a chaotic clash that saw early drama set the tone. Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez was sent off in just the fifth minute for denying a clear goal-scoring opportunity, giving United a significant advantage. Bruno Fernandes capitalized on the early numerical edge, scoring his 100th goal for Manchester United in all

competitions during his 200th Premier League appearance. United doubled their lead in the 37th minute when Casemiro headed home from close range, only for the Brazil midfielder to be sent off for a second booking in first-half stoppage time. Chelsea attempted a late comeback, with Trevoh Chalobah heading in a goal in the 80th minute, but United held on to claim just their second win in six matches across all competitions this season. The victory lifted United from just above the relegation zone

to ninth place, providing Ruben Amorim some breathing space amid mounting scrutiny. Amid a difficult start to the season, Amorim has faced criticism for United's poor results, including a humiliating League Cup exit at fourth-tier Grimsby and a 3-0 defeat to Manchester City last weekend. Despite the pressure, he retained his favored 3-4-3 formation, a decision that paid off with early dominance and clinical finishing. Chelsea's misery was compounded by injuries and tactical disruptions, including the early red

card and the forced substitution of England forward Cole Palmer. United's early momentum, combined with clinical finishing from Fernandes and Casemiro, proved decisive. The match marked a crucial turnaround for Ruben Amorim, whose tenure has seen only nine wins in 32 Premier League games. While the victory offers temporary relief, consistent results will be essential for the Portuguese coach to secure his position and steady Manchester United's turbulent campaign.



Botswana Clinches Historic Gold in Men's 4x400m Relay at World Championships



Botswana delivered a sensational performance to win the men's world 4x400 metres relay in challenging, rainy conditions on Sunday, edging out the United States and South Africa in a dramatic blanket finish to become the first African nation to claim the title. As torrential rain lashed the stadium, the United States, who had narrowly qualified for the final after a run-off against Kenya earlier that morning, held the lead at the final change-over. Known for their dominance in the event, having won nine of the last ten world titles, the Americans made four athlete changes for the final in a bid to secure

gold. However, Botswana's 21-year-old Collen Kebinatshipi, fresh off his individual 400m triumph, ran a remarkable anchor leg to surge past the competition and clinch gold in a time of 2:57.76. The Americans finished just behind, clocking 2:57.83 to secure silver, with South Africa narrowly missing out on silver by two thousandths of a second. Kebinatshipi's effort marked a historic moment for African athletics, as Botswana became the first African country to top the podium in the men's 4x400m relay at the World Championships. In the women's relay

that followed on the drenched track, the United States resumed their dominance. Anchored by individual 400m champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, the Americans stormed to victory in 3:16.61. Jamaica held on for second place in 3:19.25, despite a valiant effort by the Netherlands' 400m hurdles gold medallist Femke Bol on the final leg, as the Dutch team finished third in 3:20.18. Botswana's historic win and the Americans' continued strength in the women's event highlighted the drama and excitement of the relay races, demonstrating incredible skill, resilience, and determination under difficult conditions.

Power Star Magic: OG Crosses \$2M Without Trailer

“They Call Him OG” is already rewriting records before its release, creating an electrifying wave among fans of Power Star Pawan Kalyan. With just four days left for its grand theatrical debut, the film has pulled off a rare and historic milestone in Tollywood. Even before the trailer launch, “OG” has crossed the massive \$2 million mark in North America through premiere pre-sales alone. What makes this achievement extraordinary is that no trailer has been released yet, yet the frenzy among fans is so high that bookings are skyrocketing. This feat makes “OG” the fastest Pawan Kalyan film ever to hit the \$2 million benchmark over-



seas, proving once again the unshakable star power of the actor. The excitement has only doubled with the announcement that the much-awaited trailer will drop today, setting the stage for an even bigger storm at the box office. Directed by Sujeeth,

“They Call Him OG” is being touted as a high-octane gangster drama that promises style, scale, and solid action. The film also features Priyanka Mohan as the female lead, while Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi is stepping into Tollywood as the antagonist. The ensemble cast

includes Sriya Reddy, Arjun Das, and veteran actor Prakash Raj, adding immense weight to the narrative. Produced by DVV Danayya and Kalyan Dasari under the D Entertainment banner, “OG” has music composed by Thaman, raising expectations for a powerful soundtrack to complement the film’s mass appeal. With North American pre-sales already proving to be historic and fan anticipation touching the skies, all eyes are now on the trailer and the film’s opening day box office rampage. “OG” is not just a movie; it has become a celebration for Pawan Kalyan’s fans worldwide, who are eagerly waiting to witness their idol unleash his magic on the big screen.

Massive Event Planned for Prabhas’ Raja Saab in the US

Prabhas, the pan-India superstar, is all set to take his fans by storm once again, this time with his upcoming entertainer Raja Saab. As per the latest reports, the makers are planning a massive promotional drive in the United States, making this one of the biggest international campaigns for an Indian film in recent times.

The grand event is scheduled for December 20, when Prabhas himself will head to the US to interact with fans and media. Adding to the frenzy, the much-awaited trailer of Raja Saab will also be launched on the same day, ensuring global audiences witness the power-packed glimpse firsthand. With excitement already at a peak, this double treat has left fans counting down the days.

Directed by Maruthi, Raja Saab promises to present Prabhas in a refreshing new avatar, combining mass entertainment with a blend of

fun, romance, and high-energy action. Industry insiders believe this film will showcase a lighter side of Prabhas while still keeping his trademark screen presence intact.

Given Prabhas’ immense fan following across continents, the US promotional event is expected to draw record-breaking crowds. Trade analysts suggest it could even set a new benchmark for international film promotions, highlighting just how big the craze for Indian cinema has become in the West.

Back home too, the buzz around Raja Saab is skyrocketing, with fans eager to see their favorite star in a completely different shade. With the trailer launch lined up alongside the US event, December 20 is shaping up to be a festival day for Prabhas fans worldwide.

Raja Saab is produced on a grand scale and promises to be yet another milestone in Prabhas’ illustrious career.



Mohanlal Honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Superstar Mohanlal has been conferred with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2023, the highest recognition in Indian cinema, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting announced on Saturday. Known as the pride of Malayalam cinema, Mohanlal’s journey spans over four decades, during which he has earned acclaim not just as an actor, but also as a director and producer, making him one of the most versatile and enduring figures in Indian film history.

With an impressive filmography exceeding 350 movies across Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi cinema, Mohanlal has enthralled audiences with his remarkable range, effortlessly portraying a variety of roles that highlight his depth and dedication to the craft. His performances have consistently demonstrated charisma, authenticity, and a commitment to storytelling that resonates with viewers across generations.

Mohanlal’s contribution to Indian cinema is unparalleled, blending commercial success with critical acclaim. His ability to navigate between intense dramatic roles and lighter, comedic characters has solidified his status as one of the greatest actors in the



country. Beyond acting, his ventures as a producer and director have further enriched the film industry, showcasing his multifaceted talent and vision for cinematic excellence.

Over the years, Mohanlal has been the recipient of numerous accolades, including the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, reflecting his lasting impact and legacy in Indian cinema. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award now adds the ultimate recognition to his illustrious career, honouring his lifetime achievements and his contributions to shaping the cultural fabric of Indian cinema.

This accolade not only celebrates Mohanlal’s artistic brilliance but also his role as a torchbearer for Malayalam and Indian cinema globally. Fans, colleagues, and industry peers have lauded the announcement, extending heartfelt congratulations to the legendary actor, whose dedication and artistry continue to inspire generations of filmmakers and audiences alike.

Dhanush’s ‘Idli Kottu’ Trailer Promises a Soulful Feast

Tamil superstar Dhanush is back, not just as an actor but also as a filmmaker, with his much-awaited directorial venture Idli Kadai. Now, the film is all set to reach Telugu audiences under the title Idli Kottu, and the makers have just released the trailer, which has already created a strong buzz among fans.

Idli Kottu marks Dhanush’s fourth film as a director, and this time he is also playing the lead role. The movie is co-produced by Akash Bhaskaran, while in Telugu it is being presented by producer Rama Rao Chintapalli under the Sri Vedakshara Movies banner. The Telugu release is locked for October 1,



ensuring a festive treat for audiences.

The trailer gives a glimpse into Dhanush’s character as a passionate chef. His dialogue — “They say you can do everything with machines, but taste comes only if you put your mind to it. The work we do in life is not just for income” — perfectly

sums up the film’s soulful theme. The emphasis on passion, sincerity, and purpose in work makes the trailer both relatable and thought-provoking.

The cast is equally impressive. Nithya Menen plays the female lead opposite Dhanush, while Arun Vijay, Shalini Pandey, Sathyaraj, and Rajkiran appear in crucial

roles, adding depth to the narrative. With such a stellar ensemble, the film promises both drama and emotional intensity.

On the technical front, Idli Kottu boasts rich visuals by cinematographer Kiran Kaushik, while G.V. Prakash Kumar’s music brings warmth and soul to the storytelling. The film is jointly produced by Dawn Pictures and Wunderbar Films Pvt. Ltd., further raising expectations.

With its inspiring dialogues, relatable premise, and strong star cast, Idli Kottu is gearing up to be one of the most talked-about releases this season, bringing Dhanush’s vision as a director once again into the spotlight.



Janhvi’s Homebound is India’s Oscar Pick

Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor has achieved a milestone moment in her career, as her critically acclaimed film Homebound has officially been selected as India’s entry for the 2026 Academy Awards. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan, the film also stars Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa in pivotal roles. This announcement has sparked excitement across the film fraternity and among fans, as Janhvi steps into a global spotlight with this

powerful project. What makes the achievement even more striking is the competition Homebound had to surpass. According to reports, the film outshined some of the biggest Telugu releases of the year, including Allu Arjun’s much-awaited Pushpa 2: The Rule, Vishnu Manchu’s ambitious Kannappa, Dhanush’s mythological drama Kuberaa, and Venkatesh’s family entertainer Sankranthiki Vastunnam. Despite the strong buzz and star power surrounding these projects, the jury found

Homebound to be the most compelling choice to represent Indian cinema on the global stage. Homebound has already been making waves internationally. Earlier this year, it was screened in the prestigious Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival, where it received glowing reviews for its nuanced storytelling, powerful performances, and cinematic depth. Critics praised Janhvi’s portrayal, noting her ability to bring sensitivity and strength to a complex character.

The film’s universal themes of resilience, belonging, and identity appear to have resonated strongly with global audiences.

For Janhvi Kapoor, this selection marks a defining moment in her evolving career, establishing her not only as a star but also as a serious performer capable of carrying films with international appeal. With India now rallying behind Homebound, all eyes will be on the Oscars next year to see whether this film can make history on the world stage.

