



BUZZ POINTS

CENTRAL MINISTER BANDI SANJAY PAYS TRIBUTE TO CHAKALI AILAMMA AS A SYMBOL OF BAHUJAN SELF-RESPECT

Central Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, paid rich tributes to the Telangana freedom fighter Chakali Ailamma on the occasion of her birth anniversary. In Karimnagar today, the Minister garlanded her portrait before releasing a statement to the media.

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MINISTER PONGULETI SRINIVAS REDDY HOLDS TELECONFERENCE ON HEAVY RAIN PREPAREDNESS

Minister for Revenue, Housing, and I&PR, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, held a crucial teleconference with District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, and officials from HMDA and GHMC, stressing the need for immediate action in light of the weather department's warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall over the next 24 hours.

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KTR Blames CM Revanth Reddy for L&T's Exit from Metro

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Friday launched a scathing attack on chief minister A. Revanth Reddy, holding him directly responsible for infrastructure giant Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) abrupt exit from the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. He alleged that the chief minister's "vindictive and arrogant politics" had not only crippled the city's most crucial urban transport system but also saddled Telangana with an additional debt burden of ₹15,000 crore.

Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, KTR accused the Congress government of systematically targeting L&T, a global infrastructure leader, for political reasons. "L&T was ready to repair the Medigadda barrage at its own expense. This would have destroyed Revanth Reddy's propaganda against the Kaleshwar-

am project. From that moment, the chief minister acted out of vengeance—scrapping the Airport Metro, blackmailing the company, and ultimately forcing it out of Hyderabad," KTR alleged.

The BRS leader contrasted the Congress government's handling of the Metro with the approach taken during his party's tenure. He recalled that when the BRS came to power in 2014, only 20-25% of the project was complete. "With KCR's assurance, the project moved ahead in phases and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 2017. Even during COVID-19, when operations were hit, the state government extended a ₹3,000 crore soft loan to L&T, ensuring uninterrupted services. Today, the Metro stretches across 69 km and caters to nearly five lakh passengers daily," he said.

According to KTR, the Congress government's

actions have not only stalled the Airport Metro project but also undermined future expansion plans. He alleged that the primary motive was to capture 280 acres of valuable Metro land, describing the decision as "financially reckless." "A ₹20,000 crore asset has been turned overnight into a ₹15,000 crore liability. This was done without Cabinet approval, through hidden deals, only to serve private interests," he charged.

KTR further claimed that the development would worsen Telangana's already precarious financial position. "The state's debt burden is already at ₹2.2 lakh crore. This reckless move has added another ₹15,000 crore to it. The people deserve to know what kickbacks were involved in this deal. We demand a central inquiry," he said.

The BRS working president insisted that his party would not allow the

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TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: The Telangana government on Friday issued Government Order (G.O.) Ms. No. 9, providing 42 percent reservation of seats and positions in local bodies for Backward Classes (BCs). The order is set to pave the way for long-

pending local body elections, which the High Court has directed to be completed by September 30, including the declaration of results.

The move comes against the backdrop of intense political focus on rural governance and representation, as local body polls have been delayed for several months. With this order,

the government has formally laid the foundation for the electoral process.

The High Court had earlier directed the State to hold local body elections by the end of September, expressing displeasure over repeated postponements. Friday's G.O. is being seen as a decisive step in meeting the judicial

deadline.

The State Election Commission (SEC) has already scheduled a crucial meeting on Saturday with senior officials, including Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, District Collectors, and Superintendents of Police, to finalize election arrangements. Sources indicated that a notification for the polls

is expected later in the day.

Elections will be held for 12,760 Gram Panchayats, 1,12,534 wards, 565 Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs), and 5,763 Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs). This will be followed by elections for 565

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Minister Jupally Krishna Rao Vows to Make Hyderabad a Premier Global Golf Destination

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao participated in the closing ceremony of the Telangana Golconda Masters Golf Tournament - 2025, asserting the state's potential to become a leading destination for golf tourism. The Minister stated that the participation of international players con-

firms Telangana's capacity to emerge as a prominent golf tourism hub. He reaffirmed the commitment of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government to prioritize tourism development. Minister Krishna Rao pledged to develop further infrastructure and work diligently to establish Hyderabad as a premier global destination for golfers.

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B. Shivadhar Reddy Appointed Telangana DGP

The Telangana government on Friday appointed senior IPS officer B. Shivadhar Reddy as the Director General of Police (Coordination) and entrusted him with the Full Additional Charge (FAC) of Director General of Police (Head of Police Force), Telangana. He succeeds Dr. Jitender, who is set to retire at the end of this month on attaining the age of superannuation.



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: A 1994 batch IPS officer, Shivadhar Reddy hails from Peddatundla village in Ibrahimpatnam mandal of Ranga Reddy district. Currently heading the Intelligence Department of Telangana as its chief,

he has carved a reputation as a meticulous officer with extensive experience across various wings of policing over three decades.

Shivadhar Reddy began his policing journey with field-level assignments in different districts before taking on crucial state-level roles. His career in-

cludes a notable stint as Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam City, where he gained recognition for his proactive approach to law and order management.

He served as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and later as Chief of the Special Intelligence Branch (SIB), a

role that placed him at the forefront of handling sensitive intelligence operations. As Additional Director and later Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Reddy was tasked with strengthening transparency and accountability within the state administration.

One of his most significant assignments came in 2014, when Telangana was newly formed. Reddy was appointed as the first Chief of the Intelligence Department of the state in the rank of Inspector General, playing a pivotal role in es-

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BRS Rebel MLAs Meet Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar Ahead of Disqualification Hearings



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: Four legislators elected on Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) tickets but facing disqualification petitions for alleged defection to the Congress met Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar at his residence on Friday. The meeting, which also saw the participation of Legislative Affairs Minister Sridhar Babu, has gained political significance as the Speaker is preparing to begin hearings on the sensitive issue.

Those present at the

meeting included Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, along with MLAs Kale Yadaiah, Arekapudi Gandhi, and Prakash Goud. According to Assembly sources, three of the MLAs—Yadaiah, Gandhi, and Goud—have already submitted their written explanations in response to the Speaker's notices. Kadiyam Srihari, however, has sought an extension until September 30 to file his reply.

The Speaker is expected to commence direct hearings from September 29. Significantly, he is scheduled to leave on an official foreign

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HEAVY RAINS HIT TELANGANA

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall in Telangana, the Cyberabad police on Friday advised IT companies in Hyderabad to allow employees to work from home to ease traffic congestion and avoid disruption.

According to the IMD, Hyderabad is likely to witness moderate to heavy rain accompanied

by gusty winds of 40-50 km/h on Friday and Saturday. Several other districts across the state are also on alert for intense showers. The weather office has predicted heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem, Mahabubabad, Warangal, and Hanamakonda districts.

In response, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed the state ad-

ministration to remain on high alert. The Chief Minister's Office said all departments have been asked to monitor flood-prone areas, coordinate relief efforts, and take preventive steps to safeguard the public. District collectors were instructed to identify vulnerable regions, relocate residents from low-lying areas if necessary, and set up relief camps as a precautionary measure.

Heavy rain on Friday morning had already disrupted

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KTR Blames CM Revanth Reddy for L&T’s Exit from Metro

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Hyderabad Metro to become a “casualty of political vendetta.” He said the issue would be taken directly to the people, framing it as a fight for the city’s future. “Hyderabad has identified itself with the Metro. Citizens know who nurtured it and who sabotaged it. Even in the Jubilee Hills bypoll, people will give a fitting reply to those who played with the city’s lifeline,” he declared.

Telangana Issues G.O. for 42% BC Reservation; Ready for Local Fight

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Mandal Parishad Presidents and 31 Zilla Parishad Chairpersons, making it one of the largest electoral exercises in the State after the Assembly elections.

The push for enhanced BC reservation in local bodies stems from a series of policy and legislative measures taken over the past two years.

In February 2024, the government decided to conduct a Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) survey to assess the condition of various communities. The proposal was debated in both the Assembly and the Legislative Council, and subsequently, G.O. Ms. No. 18 was issued on October 10, 2024, authorizing the survey.

Further, in November 2024, the Congress government constituted a Dedicated Commission on Backward Classes under the chairmanship of retired IAS officer Busani Venkateshwara Rao. The Commission was tasked with conducting an empirical inquiry into the backwardness of different BC communities and suggesting appropriate measures, including reservations in local bodies.



After months of data collection and public consultations, the Commission submitted its report to the government in March 2025. The report highlighted that although BCs account for 56.33 percent of Telangana’s population, their representation in political institutions remained disproportionately low. To address this gap, the panel recommended a minimum of 42 percent reservations in political representation, especially in local bodies.

The government’s decision to implement the Commission’s recommendation through Friday’s G.O. is being seen as a major political move, particularly with the rural electorate playing a decisive role in shaping electoral outcomes. Political analysts believe that increasing BC reservations could consolidate a significant voter base for the ruling Congress, even as opposition parties are expected to scrutinize the move ahead of the elections.

With the G.O. now in force, all eyes are on the State Election Commission, which will announce the detailed poll schedule. The coming days are expected to witness heightened political activity as parties prepare for a massive grassroots electoral battle.

BRS Rebel MLAs Meet Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar Ahead of Disqualification Hearings

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tour between October 6 and October 23. This has prompted speculation that preliminary hearings into the disqualification petitions may be completed before his departure.

The meeting comes in the wake of Supreme Court directions to expedite decisions on defection cases pending before the Speaker. The court had earlier expressed displeasure at delays in acting on disqualification pleas, leading to the issuance of fresh notices to the legislators accused of switching loyalties.

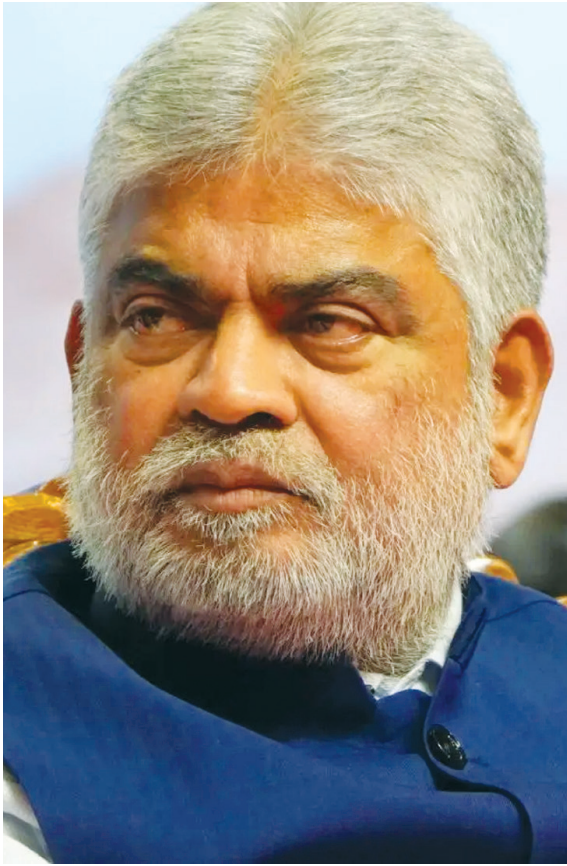
Assembly records, however, continue to list the MLAs as members of the BRS, despite their growing proximity to the Congress leadership. In their replies to the Speaker, some legislators have argued that merely attending political meetings or wearing a party scarf cannot be construed as formal defection. One legislator is said to have written that symbolic gestures do not amount to joining another party under the anti-defection law.

The BRS, on the other hand, has taken a firm stance, insisting that the legislators’ actions clearly indicate political defection. The party has urged the Speaker to disqualify them and safeguard the sanctity of the Assembly.

Friday’s meeting reportedly revolved not just around legal strategy but also constituency-level demands. Legislators are believed to have pressed the Chief Minister and Legislative Affairs Minister for special funds to accelerate developmental works in their constituencies. They also flagged internal disputes among local leaders, requesting government intervention to resolve them.

Political observers note that the outcome of the disqualification proceedings will have major implications for both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS. For the Congress, retaining the loyalty of these MLAs strengthens its numbers in the Assembly and consolidates its grip on power. For the BRS, however, the defections represent a serious political challenge, especially as the party seeks to project unity ahead of upcoming elections.

With hearings set to begin before the Speaker’s foreign trip, the stage is set for an intense legal and political battle. The final decision will determine whether the legislators continue in the Assembly or face disqualification, reshaping Telangana’s political equations in the process.



Telangana Unveils Ambitious Tourism Conclave with Focus on Investment and Global Reach

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Sept 26: The Telangana State Tourism Department is launching an extensive strategy to redefine tourism, moving beyond recreation to establish it as a key pillar for investment, employment, health, and cultural promotion. This comprehensive plan will be showcased at the Telangana Tourism Conclave-2025 at Shilparamam, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao in attendance. The government’s primary goal is to attract ₹15,000 crores in investment and create approximately 50,000 jobs through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and private investments. The Conclave will feature MoUs with several investors for projects including an ultra-modern wellness center in the Ananthagiri Hills, a winery, Taj Safari in forest areas, waterfront resorts by Mahindra, Ginger Hotels in Tier 2 cities, and the development of Buddhvanam.

The event will inaugurate several key initiatives, including the Film in Telangana Portal, designed to simplify the permit process for filmmakers with a single-window system and AI-enabled quick location clearances, aiming to attract global production houses. The Telangana Medical Value Tourism (MVT) Portal will also be launched to capitalize on Hyderabad’s healthcare strengths, listing hospitals, specialized doctors, services, insurance, and providing visa and translation assistance to boost health tourism. New tourism offerings include Helicopter Tourism from Hyderabad to Somasila and Srisailem, with plans to explore Sea Planes for routes like Nagarjuna Sagar to Srisailem and Bhadrachalam. The government is also focusing on promoting Telangana’s unique cuisine globally through a culinary map and a partnership with the Netherlands government. Tourist security will be significantly bolstered by increasing the number of dedicated Tourist Police from 15 to 90. Other plans include partnerships with IRCTC and travel agencies for seamless travel, the introduction of a Digital Tourism Card for discounts on travel and services, and a partnership with Book My Show for large event management. Finally, the Conclave will see the launch of the “Muchukunda,” a 120-seater double-decker boat in Hussainsagar, named after the original name of the Musi River, to promote water tourism.



Minister Jupally Krishna Rao Vows to Make Hyderabad a Premier Global Golf Destination

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He highlighted the government’s sincere efforts to attract thousands of crores in investment and forge new partnerships to elevate the state’s tourism sector. The Minister extended a warm invitation to global tourists to visit Telangana’s various tourist attractions and announced plans to host more international golf tournaments in Hyderabad. He subsequently presented the prize money to the winners: ₹15 lakhs to the champion, Bangladeshi golfer Jamal Hussain, and ₹10 lakhs to the runner-up, Akshay Sharma. The tournament featured professional and amateur golfers from India, the Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

B. Shivadhar Reddy Appointed Telangana DGP

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establishing the department and streamlining intelligence operations.

Following his promotion to Additional Director General of Police, he was posted in the Personnel Wing, Railways, and Road Safety, contributing to capacity building, police administration, and ensuring commuter safety.

In December 2023, after the Congress government assumed office, Shivadhar Reddy was reinstated as the Chief of Intelligence, this time in the rank of Additional DGP. The move was seen as a recognition of his expertise in intelligence gathering and his ability to coordinate between multiple security agencies.

Colleagues often describe him as an officer who blends field-level pragmatism with strategic insight. His track record of handling law and order situations, anti-extremist operations, and corruption-related probes has made him one of the most versatile officers in the Telangana cadre.

The appointment comes at a time when the state police are gearing up for multiple challenges, including urban law enforcement, cybercrime, and maintaining communal harmony. With Dr. Jitender’s retirement, the transition of leadership is expected to be smooth, given Reddy’s familiarity with state-level operations.

By holding dual responsibilities—DGP (Coordination) and FAC of the state’s police chief—Shivadhar Reddy will oversee coordination between wings of the police force, ensure effective intelligence operations, and provide strategic direction for law enforcement in Telangana.

His appointment reflects the state government’s confidence in his administrative acumen and operational expertise. As he assumes charge, the focus will likely be on strengthening intelligence-driven policing and addressing emerging challenges in urban and rural areas alike.



South Central Railway Employees Sangh Celebrates Bathukamma Festival

The South Central Railway Employees Sangh organized vibrant Bathukamma celebrations at Secunderabad to mark the Durga Ashtami Navaratri. Satyavani, the Additional General Secretary of the Sangh, addressed the gathering, emphasizing that Bathukamma is a great festival that involves worshipping flowers, which are born from the womb of the earth. The event saw the enthusiastic participation of female employees, who engaged in traditional Bathukamma dances and songs. Employees and workers of all ages took part in the festivities, showcasing unity and cultural pride.

HEAVY RAINS HIT TELANGANA

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normal life in several parts of the state. The Telangana Development Planning Society reported that Narva in Narayanpet district received the highest rainfall at 44.3 mm between 8:30 am and 11 am, followed by 44 mm in Mujahidpur of Vikarabad district. In Hyderabad, 28.5 mm was recorded at Dabeerpura, while Adarshnagar in Qutbullapur reported 18 mm during the same period.

The downpour triggered waterlogging at key junctions and residential colonies, leaving office-goers stranded in traffic. Several stretches in the city were paralysed, causing hardship for commuters. Authorities from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and other civic bodies rushed to pump out water and clear clogged drains to ease movement.

Taking note of the situation, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy instructed GHMC and related agencies to remain fully prepared to tackle the fallout of the rains. He asked officials to deploy additional staff in vulnerable zones, resolve waterlogging issues promptly, and coordinate with the traffic police to manage congestion.

Meanwhile, the Cyberabad police issued an advisory to IT firms located in Madhapur, Gachibowli, and surrounding areas. “Considering the IMD warning, IT companies are advised to permit work-from-home options for employees to reduce vehicular traffic and prevent gridlocks,” the advisory stated. Police officials also urged citizens to avoid unnecessary travel and exercise caution near waterlogged stretches and open manholes.

The Hyderabad Traffic Police echoed the call, asking commuters to plan their travel in advance, follow diversions, and use public transport wherever possible.

Emergency response teams have been placed on standby to deal with fallen trees, accidents, or other rain-related incidents.

As Telangana braces for more rain over the weekend, the administration has emphasized preparedness. “Public safety is the government’s priority. Necessary measures are being taken to minimize inconvenience and ensure swift response in case of emergencies,” a CMO statement said.

12 Ministers Inaugurate 17th HFI Mini Handball National Championship

The 17th HFI Mini Handball National Boys and Girls Championship - 2025 was formally inaugurated at the Nizam College Grounds, Hyderabad, by Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Vakiti Srihari. The championship will run for four days and involves 22 teams participating from various states across the country. The event was attended by various sports and government officials, including the Chairman of SAAT, the Chairman of the Roads Development Corporation, and members of the Finance Commission and national basketball authorities. Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar extended his congratulations to all the young participants, expressing his hope that they would grow up to become Olympic champions. He highlighted the significant priority the Telangana government, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, places on sports, noting the allocation of ₹480 crores specifically for sports development. The Minister also mentioned the establishment of a Sports University and the introduction of a Sports Policy in Telangana. He encouraged students, especially those from rural areas, to develop their skills and achieve excellence in sports, thereby bringing medals to the country at both national and international levels.



Telangana’s Vision to Become the Aerospace Capital of India

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced Telangana’s clear roadmap to establish itself as the “Aero-space Capital of India.” At a brainstorming session with aerospace leaders and experts at the Secretariat, organized alongside FICCI Telangana Aerospace & Defence Committee, the minister highlighted Hyderabad’s six-decade-long aerospace legacy. Today, the city hosts over 30 OEMs, 1,000 MSMEs, and global majors



such as DRDO, HAL, Tata, Boeing, and Safran. With aerospace exports crossing ₹28,000 crore, Telangana now aims for even greater heights. The government is preparing a Phase-2 Aerospace and Defence Cluster at par with international

standards, along with a dedicated Aerospace MSME Park. Hyderabad is also being planned as a Green Aviation Hub, focusing on drone technology and sustainable aviation fuels. To ensure rapid industrial development, a special task force of

officials, industry leaders, and experts will monitor approvals and remove bottlenecks. The government is encouraging industries to adopt ITIs and Polytechnic Colleges to address the skill gap. Sridhar Babu stressed the vision of transforming Telangana’s youth into globally competitive professionals skilled in avionics, composites, digital twins, and aerospace design. This policy not only aims to attract large-scale investments but also positions Telangana as a global hub for aerospace innovation and employment.

Former Minister Harish Rao Fires at Revanth Sarkar Over Liquor Policy and Financial Mismanagement

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: Former Minister Harish Rao of the BRS party launched a strong attack on the Congress-led government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing the administration of prioritizing liquor revenue over people’s welfare and mismanaging the state’s finances. He questioned the government’s approach, asking, “Will you let liquor flow like a river just to boost revenue?” Harish Rao criticized the Revanth administration for seeking “shortcuts” to increase income and simultaneously imposing the burden of new taxes on the public. He pointed out the hypocrisy, stating that while the government has forgotten about its “420 guarantes,” it has introduced a new policy aimed at doubling liquor revenue. He claimed that the 22 months of Congress rule have brought nothing but cuts to schemes introduced by KCR and heavy tax burdens on the people.

The BRS leader specifically slammed the new liquor policy, noting that the government had



already arbitrarily hiked liquor prices and is now seeking to increase revenue further. He highlighted that the application fee for liquor shops has been dramatically raised from two lakh rupees to three lakh rupees. Harish Rao accused the Congress of using “sweet talk” during elections and engaging in “deceitful actions” after coming to power, citing the imposition of increased RTC bus fares, higher vehicle taxes, and RR taxes. He argued that the government is devising schemes to plunder the earnings of the poor, contrary to its electoral promise of increasing welfare. He pointed out that despite promising to abolish belt shops (illegal liquor shops) in their manifesto, the Congress government has instead allowed liquor to flow freely in every village. He accused Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy of adopting a strategy to “make people drink liquor to fill the state’s treasury,” which includes increasing prices on all types of liquor and pressuring officials to meet sales targets. He cited the controversial issuance of memos to officials for failing to meet liquor sales targets as evidence of the government’s priorities. Harish Rao fiercely questioned the introduction of microbreweries in every village, suggesting it turns Telangana into a state of alcoholics and that playing with public health has become a habit for Revanth Reddy. He accused the Chief Minister of having a “double-tongued approach” regarding debt, guarantee implementation, and liquor sales, branding him a “U-Turn CM.” He also addressed concerns of the Goud com-

munity, claiming that while the government boasted of giving 25% reservation in wine shops, they have failed to even maintain the 15% reservation previously granted by KCR. He accused the government of plotting to shut down the existing Neera shops, despite promising to promote the drink. He criticized the delay in paying ex-gratia to toddy-tappers who died in accidents, despite earlier boasts of compensation within a week, and condemned the alleged filing of illegal cases against Goud brothers. He questioned the reason for allowing the transfer of liquor shops overnight and noted the government’s greater focus on distributing liquor to every village than on providing healthcare. Finally, he alleged that the Congress government has allowed “sub-standard liquor brands” to proliferate to increase revenue, warning that increasing brands indiscriminately is equivalent to playing with people’s lives. He concluded by calling the situation an “outrageous governance” model by Revanth Reddy and demanded an end to the “foolish idea” of microbreweries.



BRS Nominates Maganti Sunitha Gopinath for Jubilee Hills By-Election

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: BRS party President KCR officially announced Smt. Maganti Sunitha Gopinath as the party’s candidate for the upcoming Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election. This decision was made following the recent demise of the sitting MLA, Maganti Gopinath. The party chief prioritized Smt. Sunitha Gopinath, who is the wife of the late MLA, recognizing her status as a senior party leader and her husband’s beloved standing among the Jubilee Hills constituency’s residents. KCR’s de-

cision was described as an act of respect and recognition for the selfless service and commitment rendered by the late Maganti Gopinath to the party and the public. The statement emphasized that the choice to nominate a member of the late Gopinath’s family was made in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Jubilee Hills people. Following the announcement, party leaders and activists in the Jubilee Hills constituency celebrated the decision and pledged to ensure Smt. Sunitha Gopinath wins the by-election with a huge majority.

Telangana Tourism Conclave 2025: Roadmap for Global Tourism Growth

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: The Telangana government is hosting the Tourism Conclave 2025 at Shilparamam, Hyderabad, on World Tourism Day. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the event along

with Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao and other leaders. The government targets ₹15,000 crore investments and 50,000 jobs in the tourism sector. Plans include luxury hotels, yoga and wellness resorts, safari projects, wine tourism, and wedding

destinations. “Film in Telangana” single-window portal will be launched for filmmakers. A Medical Value Tourism portal will promote Hyderabad as a hub for international healthcare. Helicopter tourism, water sports, and sea-plane feasibility stud-

ies are in progress. Double-decker boat “Muchukunda” will be introduced at Hussain Sagar. Telangana cuisine will be promoted globally, including biryani, sarvapindi, and sakinalu. Tourist police strength will be increased from 15 to 90.

Congress Leader Depa Bhaskar Reddy Honors Chakali Ailamma

Senior Congress leader and TPCC Member Depa Bhaskar Reddy (DBR) participated as the chief guest in the 130th birth anniversary celebrations of Veeranari Chakali Ailamma, the Telangana peasant struggle leader. The event was organized by senior Congress leader Pagadala Elaiiah of the RK Puram division at the BJR Bhavan, near Ailamma’s bronze statue. Speaking on the occasion, Depa

Bhaskar Reddy emphasized that the spirit and sacrifice of the brave woman Ailamma in the fight for liberation from forced labor (Vetti Chakiri) are unforgettable. He urged party workers and the public to take inspiration from the selfless leaders like Chakali Ailamma. The program saw the participation of numerous party functionaries, including Youth Congress, NSUI, and Women’s wing leaders.

Telangana Plans for ₹1 Lakh Crore Investments in Aerospace Sector

As part of its aerospace growth strategy, Telangana unveiled an ambitious plan to attract ₹1 lakh crore in new aerospace investments over the next five years. The roadmap aims to generate one lakh direct and 1.5 lakh indirect jobs. The plan includes establishing a dedicated Aerospace MSME Park, creating an international-standard Aerospace & Defence Cluster

(Phase-2), and forming a task force of officials, experts, and industry leaders to ensure smooth project execution. Industries are encouraged to adopt technical institutions to strengthen the local skill ecosystem. This initiative cements Telangana’s vision of becoming India’s premier aerospace hub, driving economic growth while offering global-level opportunities to its youth.

ED Raids Luxury Car Dealer in Gachibowli in Car Smuggling Case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, as part of an investigation into a car smuggling case. The ED team conducted surprise inspections at the residence of Basarat Khan, a luxury car dealer. The action follows the prior arrest of Basarat Khan by the ED officials. The

investigation has led to the registration of a case against him for alleged FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) violations. The raids indicate an intensification of enforcement efforts against illicit trade and financial irregularities within the high-end luxury goods market in the city.

BJP Celebrates Chakali Ailamma Jayanti: Dr. K. Laxman Slams Congress on BC Reservations and Historical Suppression

On September 26, 2025, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State Office in Hyderabad hosted grand celebrations to mark the birth anniversary of Veeranari Chakali Ailamma, the iconic figure symbolizing self-respect and women's empowerment in the fight against the Nizam's autocratic rule and the atrocities of the Razakars. The ceremony was headlined by Rajya Sabha member and BJP OBC Morcha National President, Dr. K. Laxman, who garlanded Ailamma's portrait and paid rich tributes. Dr. Laxman's address was a potent mix of historical commendation and contemporary political critique, primarily focused on the welfare and representation of the Backward Classes (BCs). He lauded Chakali Ailamma for her courageous stand against the tyrannical Nizam administration and her direct confrontation with oppressive landlords like Visunuru Ramachandra Reddy over forced tax collection. Dr. Laxman asserted that her struggle was vital in igniting self-confidence among the marginalized, particularly women and the weaker sections, providing them the courage to break the chains of Nizam's slavery. He emphasized that the fruit of her sacrifice is the freedom and independence enjoyed by the people of Telangana today. Dr. Laxman then launched a fierce attack on previous and current non-BJP state

governments for allegedly attempting to suppress Ailamma's history. He criticized the failure to include her valiant story in school textbooks, arguing that this act of denial was driven by the "jealousy" and "selfishness" of rulers with a feudal, bourgeois mindset who are prone to forgetting true history. He listed other heroes like Doddi Komaraiah, Komaram Bheem, and Shoaibullah Khan whose sacrifices collectively paved the way for the state's independence. Shifting focus to the present, Dr. Laxman praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's central government for its unwavering commitment to the welfare of BCs, citing key achievements such as providing constitutional status to the National Commission for BCs, granting cabinet positions to BC leaders, and preserving reservations in education and employment. He specifically highlighted the success of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana in supporting approximately 30 lakh families dependent on traditional professions. He then challenged the sincerity of the current Congress-led state government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of using the BC name merely for political gains without a genuine plan for their upliftment. He questioned the delay and lack of transparency regarding the promised 42% reservation for BCs in local bodies, accusing the government of offering empty verbal promises ("We will issue a GO") without the political will to implement the reservation legally and effectively. Dr. Laxman demanded to know why the state cabinet, educational sector, government jobs, nominated posts, and contract roles do not reflect a 42% share for BCs. He concluded his address by demanding a historical apology from Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party for the decades-long obstruction of BC rights, including the failure to implement the Kaka Kalelkar Commission's recommendations in 1955 and the repeated blocking of the Mandal Commission by Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi in 1978 and 1990, respectively. He urged the Congress to stop treating BCs as a mere vote bank and instead work genuinely for their rights, pointing to PM Modi's success in implementing 33% reservation for women as an inspirational, action-oriented policy.

Telangana Government Celebrates Chakali Ailamma Jayanti: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on BC Welfare and Reservation Stance

The Telangana government officially celebrated the 130th birth anniversary of Veeranari Chakali (Chityala) Ailamma at Ravindra Bharathi, with BC Welfare, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar attending as the chief guest. The event was attended by various dignitaries, including former and current Parliament members, MLAs, and chairmen of various BC-related commissions and corporations. Minister Prabhakar paid homage to Ailamma, recognizing her as a valiant woman who fought against autocratic rule for land liberation and social justice, and who led a revolt when women's honor was threatened. He acknowledged that the government's official tribute 130 years later is a testament to her towering stature as a freedom fighter. Minister Prabhakar stressed the need for communities to prioritize education and uphold the dignity of traditional caste-based professions (Kulavrutthulu), arguing they are not a source of shame and must adapt to changing times to ensure economic prosperity. Addressing the welfare of the Rajaka community, the Minister detailed government actions, including the recent convening of a review meeting on their issues. He announced plans to establish electric dry cleaning centers in all 119 constituencies and confirmed that orders have been issued to ensure a continuous and uninterrupted supply of 250 units of free electricity to the community, with a stern warning that any official creating obstacles would face suspension. He assured the attendees that the Government Order (GO) for the implementation of the free electricity scheme would be issued within three days. Moving to the politically charged issue of BC reservations, Minister Prabhakar defended the government's commitment to social justice, referencing the call for "Jitni Abadi Utna Haq" (Rights proportional to population) championed by Rahul Gandhi. He proudly stated that the Telangana government has pioneered a caste survey, setting a national standard. He then explained the delay in implementing the 42% BC reservation in local bodies, revealing that while the government is fully committed to implementing the 42% reservation (alongside constitutional reservations for SCs and STs), the move has been challenged in court. He reassured the public that a GO on reservations is expected soon and the government intends to proceed with elections on the basis of 42% reservation. He called upon the community to unite and agitate to protect these reservations, clarifying that the government's role is to implement, but the responsibility to safeguard them rests with the people. He made an earnest plea to those pursuing legal challenges not to obstruct the rights of the marginalized, asserting that the government is seeking to implement social and legal entitlements, benchmarked against successful models like Tamil Nadu. He emphasized that the implementation of reservations is a foundation for solving other issues, leading to the installation of statues, the allocation of funds, and the creation of employment.

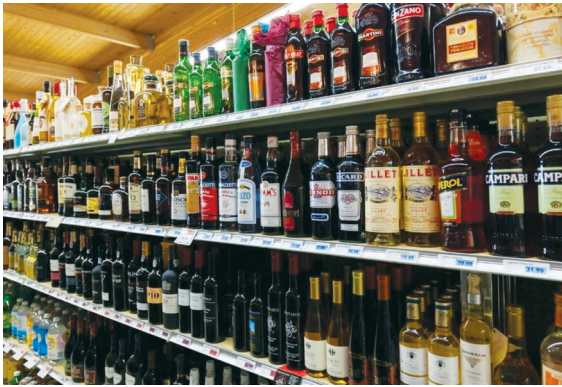


Minister Seethakka Announces Guinness Record Attempt for Bathukamma Festival

Minister Seethakka, addressing the Mahila Congress executive committee meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, extended heartfelt Bathukamma festival greetings to all women. She described Bathukamma as a unique festival where the earth, nature, and the Divine are worshipped through flowers. She announced the state government's ambitious plan to organize a massive Bathukamma event involving 10,000 women at the Saroornagar Stadium on September 29, aiming to secure a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. Minister Seethakka encouraged all women to participate in this major event. She emphasized the importance of preserving the state's traditional cultural heritage, asserting that assets, lineage, and prosperity do not define identity, but festivals like Bathukamma and Bonalu are the true identity of Telangana. She dismissed attempts by previous rulers to claim credit for popularizing the festival, stating that Bathukamma has been an integral part of Telangana since its inception. She also explained the scientific basis of the festival, highlighting that the flowers used, such as Tangedu and Gunugu, possess antibiotic and medicinal properties that cleanse and purify the water bodies (lakes/tanks) into which the Bathukmmas are immersed. The Minister urged participants to stick to the traditional methods of celebrating, which involve clapping and singing, as these activities are beneficial for health and promote unity, while cautioning against adopting new cultural forms like Dandiya imposed by previous administrations.

Telangana Finalizes Liquor Shop Reservations; Application Window Opens

The Telangana government has completed the process of allocating reservations for liquor shops across the state. The reservation process, which applies to a total of 2,620 liquor shops, was finalized through a draw system conducted in the presence of the respective District Collectors. The allocations are as follows: 393 shops have been reserved for the Goud community, 262 shops for SCs (Scheduled Castes), and 131 shops for STs (Scheduled Tribes). Following the completion of the reservation process, the notification for the new liquor shops has been released. The application window is now open, allowing applicants to submit their forms from September 26 to October 18. Applicants are permitted to apply for any number of liquor shops, excluding those designated under the reservation quota. The selection of the liquor shop owners will be conducted through a lottery system (Draw method) on October 23. All applicants, including those applying under the reservation quota, must submit an application fee of ₹3 lakhs via Demand Draft (DD) or challan. The Excise officials have mandated that applicants must also attach three color passport size photographs, along with photocopies of their Aadhaar and PAN cards.



Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy Holds Teleconference on Heavy Rain Preparedness

Minister for Revenue, Housing, and I&PR, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, held a crucial teleconference with District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, and officials from HMDA and GHMC, stressing the need for immediate action in light of the weather department's warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall over the next 24 hours. The Minister emphasized that all departments must remain vigilant to prevent any loss of life and property caused by the heavy rains. The teleconference, held at the direction of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, focused on immediate steps to be taken in districts that received heavy rainfall, particularly Ranga Reddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, and Hyderabad, and on precautionary measures for the areas expecting rain. Minister Srinivas Reddy stressed the necessity of inter-departmental coordination among Irrigation, Transport, Electricity, HMDA, GHMC, and Revenue to ensure that the lives of citizens are not disrupted. He issued specific instructions regarding the upcoming Dussehra festival, urging officials to take precautions to manage traffic and ensure smooth transportation for people traveling from Hyderabad to their native villages. A major concern was the heavy flooding in the Musi River originating from the Vikarabad district. The Minister directed officials to alert and evacuate residents in the Musi catchment areas to safe locations or designated shelter homes as necessary, confirming that 55 residents near the Shivaji Bridge had already been relocated. He ordered continuous monitoring of the Musi River's increasing water levels. Given the heavy inflows into Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar, the Minister directed officials to calculate the inflow and release an equal volume of water downstream as a precaution, with the strict instruction to move low-lying residents to safety beforehand. The Minister also urged Irrigation Department officials to take preemptive measures to prevent breaches in the already full tanks and lakes across the state. Other directives included establishing police pickets at low-level causeways to prevent accidents, discouraging youth from taking selfies near water bodies, and mobilizing NDRF and STRF rescue teams to handle any emergency.



Cyberabad Police Commissioner Inspects Water-Logging Points Amidst Heavy Rains

The Cyberabad Police Commissioner, Avinash Mohanty, conducted an inspection of key areas in Serilingampally, Chandanagar, and Miyapur that were heavily affected by water-logging due to the continuous heavy rains. The Commissioner specifically visited critical spots including the Ganga Ram water-logging point and the My Home Mangala Railway Under Bridge. Given the heavy rainfall and severe water-logging across Cyberabad, the Commissioner issued immediate directives to the traffic police personnel. He instructed them to implement traffic diversions without delay wherever necessary to manage the flow of vehicles. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for close coordination with GHMC and HMDA officials to facilitate swift water removal. The objective of these concerted efforts is to regulate traffic, alleviate congestion, and take all necessary measures to ensure smooth and safe movement across the Cyberabad limits despite the heavy downpour.

Grand Bathukamma Celebrations by Arya Vysya Mahasabha in Vikarabad



The Telangana State Arya Vysya Mahasabha Women's Wing organized a magnificent Bathukamma celebration in Vikarabad. The event was held in a vibrant and traditional atmosphere at the Harikar Cricket Box. The program was chaired by the Mahasabha President, Yaski Shireesha. Dignitaries in attendance included the Chief Guest, Telangana State Arya Vysya

Sangham Women's Wing President Uppala Sharada, General Secretary Kuncham Sushma, Additional Secretary Samrajyalakshmi, former Vikarabad Municipal Chairman Chigullapalli Manjula Ramesh, and Telangana State Arya Vysya Mahasabha Vice President Tallapalli Baleshwar Gupta, among others. Women and young girls participated in large numbers, enchanting the Bathu-

kamma formations with traditional dances and songs. The participants expressed great joy and appreciation for the organizers for hosting the grand celebration. Following the cultural program, prizes were distributed to the participating women. The awards included three silver gifts for the first prize winners and nine sarees for the second prize winners, concluding the event on a cheerful note.



Central Minister Bandi Sanjay Pays Tribute to Chakali Ailamma as a Symbol of Bahujan Self-Respect

Central Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, paid rich tributes to the Telangana freedom fighter Chakali Ailamma on the occasion of her birth anniversary. In Karimnagar today, the Minister garlanded her portrait before releasing a statement to the media. Minister Sanjay described Chakali Ailamma as the "inspiration for the self-respect and equality struggle of the Bahu-

jan people of Telangana." He characterized her fight as being about much more than just land rights; it was a fierce rebellion against the endless discrimination faced by women, farmers, and the Bahujan communities under the Nizam's oppressive rule. He lauded her as a "Veeranari" (brave woman) who refused to bow to the Nizam's slavery, continuing her fight alongside farmers for their rights over the land they cultivated, de-

spite facing arrests and imprisonment. Minister Sanjay asserted that celebrating the birth anniversary of Chakali Ailamma is an essential way to educate future generations about the powerful self-respect struggle of the Telangana peasantry, Bahujuans, and women. He emphasized that her legacy stands as a strong reminder of the resistance against autocratic power and a continuing source of inspiration for social justice

and equality in the region. **Man Murdered Near Erra Cheruvu in Pahadi Shareef Area** A brutal murder occurred near the Erra Cheruvu (Red Lake) in Sriram Colony, Jalpally Municipality, falling under the jurisdiction of the Pahadi Shareef Police Station. The victim, identified as Tiwari (35), an employee at a local company, was

reportedly beaten to death with rods by his friend Imran and his associates. The police reported that the tragic incident stemmed from a minor argument between the two friends, Tiwari and Imran, which quickly escalated into the fatal attack. Pahadi Shareef police officials immediately reached the crime scene upon receiving the information and have launched an investigation into the murder.

BRS Spokesperson Seeks Withdrawal of Eviction Orders Against Temples in Cantonment Area



BRS Spokesperson Manne Krishank met with Defence Estate Officer Dinesh Reddy (IDES) to advocate for the withdrawal of Eviction Orders that have been issued by the Es-

tate Officer. These orders target five temples located in the Cantonment area of Hyderabad. Krishank pointed out that these temples are not recent constructions but were originally built approx-

imately 40 years ago. His request was aimed at protecting the long-established places of worship and securing the religious sentiments of the community residing in the Cantonment area.

GHMC Evacuates Residents as Heavy Rains Cause Musi River Flow to Increase

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 26: Heavy rainfall in Hyderabad has led to a major increase in the water flow of the Musi River, prompting immediate action from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The

surge in water levels was attributed to the opening of the gates of both the Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar reservoirs as a precautionary measure against the heavy inflows. In response, GHMC officials swiftly evacuated 55 residents living in low-lying areas near the Bhoolak-

shmi Temple beneath the Shivaji Bridge, relocating them to a community hall in the Gode-ki-Khabar area. GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan is maintaining continuous oversight of the situation and regularly reviewing field reports with officials. The Commissioner issued

a public appeal, urging people residing in the Musi River catchment areas to exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant due to the rising water levels. Furthermore, Commissioner Karnan directed all field officers across Greater Hyderabad to remain on high alert in anticipa-

tion of continued rainfall. The situation underscored the serious impact of the heavy monsoon on the city's infrastructure and the need for proactive disaster management measures to protect the lives of citizens living in vulnerable areas along the riverbanks.

Grand Opening of 17th HFI Mini Handball Competition in Hyderabad

The 17th National HFI Mini Handball Championship for Boys and Girls (Under 12) commenced in a grand manner today at the Nizam College Ground in Hyderabad. The tournament is scheduled to run until the 29th of the month. The opening ceremony was graced by several key dignitaries, including the Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Shri Ponnampallam Prabhakar, the Minister for Sports, Shri Vakati Srihari, the Sports Authority Chairman, Shri Sivsen Reddy, and the TGRDC Chairman and President of the Telangana Handball Association, Shri Malreddy

Ramreddy, all of whom inaugurated the competitions. Also participating in the ceremony were Finance Commissioner Shri Sankeppally Sudheer Reddy, Nizam College Principal Dr. Rajasekhara, HFI Technical Committee Chairman Khurshid Khan, Handball Federation of India General Secretary Pritpal Singh, HFI Referees Board Chairman Ramashankar Sharma, Telangana Handball General Secretary Shri Pawan Kumar, Treasurer Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Retired Handball Coach Shri Devender, and various district handball association representatives. In their addresses, the

leaders emphasized several key points for the youth. They advised young people to build their self-confidence by excelling not only in education but also in sports, highlighting that sports significantly contribute to both mental and physical development. A critical note was struck against the previous government, which was criticized for having neglected sports, allegedly leading youth to fall prey to bad habits. In contrast, the leaders championed the current Congress government, led by Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy, for prioritizing sports development and allocating a significant sum of ₹460

crores towards the sector. They explained that innovative programs are being undertaken to steer youth away from negative vices and encourage them to pursue sports actively. They declared that Telangana is setting a "Telangana Model for the country in sports." The organizers assured the participants and teams from the 22 states that all necessary arrangements have been made to ensure they face no difficulties during their stay and participation in the competition. The event was also attended by several political leaders and directors, underscoring the political and community support for the championship.



Bihar’s Gender Divide: Jobs, Prohibition, and Male Discontent



In Bihar, the narrative of women’s overwhelming support for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is more nuanced than media reports suggest. While women’s backing is highlighted in TV debates and op-eds, a large segment of men strongly opposes the state government’s policies on prohibition and the 35% reservation for women in government jobs. Recently, male aspirants for sub-inspector and constable positions have frequently been lathi-charged by police while protesting for the filling of thousands of vacancies or an end to contractual employment. On September 15, sub-inspector and constable aspirants marching to the CM’s residence were brutally beaten. Many continue to stage protests outside the Bihar BJP office, highlighting widespread discontent among men.

The perception of women’s unwavering support for Nitish is exaggerated. The Janata Dal (United) won only 43 of the 115 constituencies it contested in 2020,

reflecting that women’s votes are not monolithic. Additionally, male Bihari migrants, numbering over five million, often stay away from the state for work or education, reducing their participation in elections. Empowerment initiatives for women have deep roots; organizations like Adithi, led by Viji Srinivasan, and Nari Gunjan, founded by Sister Sudha Varghese, have worked among rural and tribal women in Bihar for decades, long before Nitish’s tenure.

Recent government schemes, such as the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, offering ₹10,000 initially and up to ₹200,000 for business improvement, aim to woo women voters. Meanwhile, men’s livelihoods are affected by extensive construction projects, including flyovers and metro development in Patna, causing displacement and the closure of many businesses. Infrastructure development often benefits the powerful while ignoring weaker sections, adding

to male frustration.

The 35% reservation for women in state jobs has also fueled resentment among men. Many positions, particularly teaching jobs, were filled by women from other states, sidelining qualified male candidates. Unlike earlier local-body quotas, where men could influence outcomes behind the scenes, government jobs leave no room for such intervention, intensifying discontent. Similarly, the prohibition policy is divisive: men view it as a failure that has spawned a new mafia and criminalized youth, while women’s support for a “dry Bihar” persists, reflecting a clear gender divide.

The combination of job quotas, prohibition policies, and disruptive infrastructure projects has created a simmering tension in Bihar. Understanding this gendered political landscape is essential to grasp the real undercurrents shaping the state’s social and electoral dynamics.



GST 2.0 – Should States be compensated?

The 56th GST Council meeting on September 3, 2025, will be remembered as a turning point in India’s tax history. By adopting a two-rate structure — 5% and 18%, along with a 40% de-merit rate for select goods — the Council has moved decisively toward a simpler, more citizen-friendly framework. Effective from September 22, 2025, the reform covers 546 goods, with more than 80% seeing rate reductions. This rationalisation reduces compliance burdens, ensures predictability for businesses, and aligns India with global best practices seen in countries like Australia and Canada.

The announcement of the GST Appellate Tribunal’s (GSTAT) rollout by year-end further promises faster dispute resolution and greater trust in the system

Healthcare and agriculture are major beneficiaries. Essential drugs and devices for rare and chronic conditions have been exempted or reduced, lowering household medical costs. Fertilizers and key farm inputs such as sulphuric acid and ammonia now fall under the 5% slab, correcting inverted duty structures and reducing cultivation costs. Labour-intensive industries such

as textiles, handi-crafts, and leather goods also benefit from reduced rates. The GST on cement has been cut from 28% to 18%, a move with multiplier effects on housing and infrastructure growth

For micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which employ over 110 million people, GST 2.0 simplifies compliance and encourages formalisation, unlocking productivity and widening participation in the economy. However, challenges persist. Opposition-led States fear potential revenue losses of 15-20% and have demanded a

five-year compensation package. The Finance Minister, while optimistic that higher consumption will offset the projected Rs 48,000 crore shortfall, acknowledges that risks remain. States may be forced to increase borrowing or cut expenditure, which could hamper real growth. Analysts point to global practices where compensation is funded directly from GST revenues or consolidated funds, a model India may need to replicate to ensure fairness

The bigger picture lies in balancing fiscal needs with growth imperatives. By addressing revenue

imbalances, strengthening digital infrastructure, and plugging leakages, States can expand their tax base and attract fresh investments. While short-term losses may occur, long-term revenue gains are expected as compliance improves and consumption accelerates. GST 2.0 transforms India’s tax system into more than just a revenue mechanism — it is now a proactive tool for economic stimulus and inclusive growth. This reform not only strengthens India’s fiscal foundation but also pushes the country closer to its vision of Viksit Bharat 2047



‘I Love Muhammad’ Marches and the Debate on Weaponising Faith

In recent weeks, Indian cities and towns have witnessed hundreds of Muslims marching with banners reading “I Love Muhammad.” While participants describe these parades as expressions of devotion and solidarity, the mobilisation has sparked intense debate. Local administrations in many places halted the processions, detaining organisers and even charging some with inciting communal passions. This crack-down has triggered criticism, particularly from Muslim political leaders like Omar Abdullah and Asaduddin Owaisi, who cite the Indian Constitution’s guarantee of religious freedom. They argue that peaceful religious expression, no matter the form, should not be

curtailed by the state. From their perspective, the parades provide reassurance, visibility, and a sense of community belonging for participants.

Yet, the marches have also unsettled some sections of society. Critics question whether the mobilisation is purely an act of piety or a symbolic assertion of supremacy. They point to the timing — coinciding with Dasara festivities that begin with the Navratras, a period of deep religious significance in the Hindu calendar. This overlap has raised suspicions that the processions may reflect competitive religiosity rather than simple devotion. The parallel drawn here is with earlier Hindu mobilisation under the ‘Jai Shri Ram’ slogan,

which too was accused of political overtones. Ironically, those defending the current parades on constitutional grounds were once the strongest critics of similar Hindu gatherings.

The core question is whether such public displays of faith become tools of religious one-upmanship. While the Constitution safeguards the right to practise and propagate religion, when these acts are deliberately timed or framed to coincide with another community’s celebrations, the line between devotion and provocation blurs. The state, in attempting to maintain order, risks accusations of selective bias — either for allowing the marches or for cracking down on them.

India’s pluralist fabric thrives when religious expressions coexist without being weaponised. If one group’s mobilisation is perceived as asserting dominance, it inevitably triggers counter-mobilisations, escalating tensions. The challenge lies in ensuring that expressions of faith do not transform into contests of identity.

The “I Love Muhammad” marches have opened a wider conversation: are we nurturing genuine devotion or sliding into competitive religiosity? The answer may depend less on the slogans chanted and more on the intent behind the mobilisation — whether it is to unite communities in faith or to assert superiority in the public square.

ABVP’s Historic Win at Panjab University: A Shift in Student Politics

On a rain-soaked afternoon in Chandigarh, the Panjab University campus transformed into a ground of jubilation and charged slogans. Gaurav Veer Sohal, a 27-year-old law research scholar, stood drenched but radiant, clutching a laddoo in celebration. Around him, hundreds of students cheered “zindabad” and pledged their loyalty to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). For the first time since 1977, the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) secured the presidency of the Panjab University Campus Students’ Council (PUCSC), a victory carrying symbolic and political weight

The triumph is not just about reclaiming a university post after nearly five decades; it

also reflects the undercurrents of change sweeping through student politics in India. For years, Panjab University has witnessed the dominance of independent groups and regional student outfits, often backed by local political ideologies. The ABVP, though present, had not been able to command widespread support. This year, however, the situation shifted dramatically. Gaurav Veer Sohal’s candidacy tapped into growing sentiments of nationalism, a desire for organizational discipline, and disillusionment with traditional leadership styles that failed to connect with younger generations

The rains on counting day did little to dampen spirits. Supporters

paraded across the campus, saffron flags waving alongside cries of victory, signaling a broader assertion of ABVP’s ideological narrative. For many observers, the win underscores the growing influence of the RSS-affiliated body among urban youth who are increasingly drawn to themes of cultural pride, national identity, and strong governance models. The ABVP’s win at Panjab University is being read as part of a larger trend of the organization making inroads into universities that have traditionally remained outside its fold

At the same time, the result has sparked debates. Critics argue that the growing footprint of national organizations like

ABVP could overshadow independent, issue-based student activism, narrowing the scope for pluralistic politics on campuses. Yet, for ABVP supporters, this is nothing short of a watershed moment. The laddoo in Sohal’s hand symbolized more than a personal victory; it was an emblem of resurgence, a revival of an ideological presence that had been dormant for nearly half a century. As student politics once again becomes a mirror of the country’s larger ideological battles, Panjab University’s 2025 election will likely be remembered as a turning point shaping the future direction of campus movements across India



India Refutes NATO Chief’s Claim, Defends Energy Imports From Russia



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India on Friday firmly rejected comments made by NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had telephoned Russian President Vladimir Putin to seek clarity on Moscow’s Ukraine war strategy. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) dismissed the statement as “factually incorrect and entirely

baseless.” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified that no such conversation had ever taken place, stressing that India expects responsible communication from global institutions. “We expect the leadership of an important institution like NATO to exercise greater responsibility and accuracy in public statements. Speculative or careless remarks that misrepresent the Prime Minister’s engagements are unac-

ceptable,” he said. Rutte had told CNN on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York that Trump’s tariffs on India were impacting trade dynamics and had led to New Delhi pressuring Moscow. He claimed Modi had asked Putin to explain his Ukraine strategy as India was “being hit with tariffs.” The MEA categorically denied this version, reinforcing that India’s diplomatic engagements were b e i n g

misrepresented. On the issue of energy imports from Russia, Jaiswal underlined India’s stance that purchases were guided purely by national interest. “India’s energy imports are meant to ensure predictable and affordable energy costs to the Indian consumer. India will continue taking all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security,” he stated. India has faced sustained Western pres-

sure over its continued import of discounted Russian crude despite the Ukraine war. However, New Delhi has consistently defended its position, pointing to the country’s energy needs and economic priorities. The MEA’s strong rebuttal underscores India’s message that while it values its global partnerships, it will not compromise on energy security or independent foreign policy decisions amid geopolitical tensions.

“Bihar’s Women Have 2 Brothers, Nitish And Modi”: PM At Women’s Scheme Launch



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana in Bihar through a virtual address from Delhi, while sharply criticizing the RJD for its past governance in the state. Under the new scheme, 75 lakh women in Bihar will receive Rs 10,000 each for livelihood initiatives, along with training to enhance entrepreneurial skills, and an additional Rs 2 lakh to support business development.

PM Modi stated that women of Bihar had endured significant hardships under the Lalu Prasad-led RJD, citing lack of infrastructure, poor law and order, and unsafe conditions. He emphasized that the current Nitish Kumar-led NDA government has restored law and order, ensuring women feel secure and empowered. Modi urged women to prevent the RJD and its allies from returning to power in the state. Highlighting the government’s focus on women’s empowerment, the Prime Minister projected Bihar as soon to have the highest number of ‘Lakhpati Didis’ in the country. He described Nitish Kumar and himself as “two brothers” committed to improving the lives of women in Bihar. PM Modi also referenced key central schemes such as the Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and free ration distribution to 8.5 crore residents, noting their role in enhancing

social welfare in the state. The timing of the scheme’s launch is politically significant, as Bihar’s assembly elections are scheduled later this year, and women constitute a substantial portion of the electorate. By focusing on women-centric welfare initiatives and infrastructure development, the NDA aims to consolidate support among female voters while highlighting past governance failures under the RJD. With the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, the government intends to boost women’s financial independence, improve entrepreneurial capacities, and strengthen socio-economic empowerment across Bihar ahead of the elections.

BJP Slams Siddaramaiah After Wipro Declines Road Access Request



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The BJP on Friday targeted Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, following Wipro founder Azim Premji’s refusal to allow public vehicular movement through the company’s Sarjapur campus to ease Bengaluru traffic congestion. The opposition party likened the government’s appeal to a “begging bowl”, accusing the Congress leadership of seeking external aid due to an empty treasury. Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council, Chaluvadi Narayanaswamy, criticized Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, stating, “They need alms to cover the potholes. Instead of cooperating with citizens, they are troubling them.” He also acknowledged

Wipro’s contributions in providing school meals and other social initiatives, urging the government to take note. Earlier, Siddaramaiah had approached Mr. Premji to allow traffic through Wipro’s Sarjapur campus, citing severe congestion along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) at Iblur junction. In response, Premji emphasized that the campus is a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) with strict access controls to meet contractual obligations with global clients. He also cited legal, governance, and statutory challenges, explaining that public vehicular movement through private property would not provide a sustainable long-term solution. Premji further recommended that the government commission a scientific, expert-led study to address ORR congestion comprehensively,

rather than seeking piecemeal fixes. He reaffirmed Wipro’s commitment to collaborate with authorities on mobility challenges while adhering to compliance norms and operational restrictions. The issue highlights Bengaluru’s ongoing struggle with traffic management, inadequate infrastructure, and the challenges of balancing corporate property rights with urban mobility needs. The BJP’s criticism underscores political tensions surrounding the state government’s efforts to tackle civic issues through external interventions, while raising questions on governance and city planning strategies in India’s IT capital. The debate is expected to continue as authorities explore data-driven, long-term solutions for Bengaluru’s chronic traffic problems.



MiG-21 Fighter Jets Retire After Six Decades of Service in IAF

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Indian Air Force (IAF) bid farewell to its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets on Friday, marking the end of a historic era in Indian military aviation. After serving for over six decades, the aircraft, popularly known as the “backbone of the IAF” during its peak, was officially retired with a ceremonial flypast. In a fitting tribute, fighter pilots flew MiG-21s in the three-aircraft Badal formation and the four-aircraft Panther formation, giving aviation enthusiasts and veterans one last glimpse of the legendary jet. The ceremony took place against the backdrop of emotional farewells from officers who had trained, fought, and flown in these aircraft over the years. Inducted in the 1960s from the Soviet Union, the MiG-21 played a decisive role in strengthening India’s air power. It saw extensive action during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, contributing signifi-

cantly to India’s victory, and continued to serve in multiple operations thereafter. Despite its celebrated history, the aircraft has faced criticism in recent decades due to frequent crashes, often earning the grim moniker of “flying coffin.” The retirement decision reflects the IAF’s push toward modernization, with newer aircraft like the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Rafale, and upcoming Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) set to lead India’s air defense in the future. Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, who oversaw the farewell ceremony, lauded the MiG-21’s unmatched contribution, calling it “a true workhorse that served the nation with distinction.” As the MiG-21 takes its final bow, its legacy remains deeply etched in the IAF’s history. The aircraft not only defended India’s skies for generations but also trained countless fighter pilots, leaving behind a proud chapter in India’s military aviation journey.

Madras High Court Issues Notice To Actor Vijay Over TVK Party Flag



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Madras High Court on Friday issued notice to actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader Vijay in an appeal challenging the use of the TVK party flag. The appeal was filed by the Chennai-based trust Thondai Mandala Saandror Dharma Paribalana Sabai, which had earlier approached the court alleging trademark and copyright infringement. The matter was heard by a division bench comprising Justices G Jayachandran and M Sudheer Kumar, who have posted the case for further hearing after six weeks. The appeal comes after a single judge, on August 18, 2025, had declined to restrain TVK from using its party flag,

prompting the trust to seek a higher judicial review. In its application, the Thondai Mandala Saandror Dharma Paribalana Sabai argued that the TVK’s use of the flag violates intellectual property rights and creates confusion due to similarities with the Sabai’s own registered symbols. The trust sought a court order to prevent TVK from displaying or using the flag in political events or public communications. The single judge had previously ruled in favor of TVK, stating that there was insufficient ground to restrain the party from using its flag. Dissatisfied with this decision, the Sabai filed the current appeal, urging the division bench to examine the matter afresh and protect its claimed rights.

This development has drawn attention to the intersection of politics, intellectual property, and celebrity influence, as Vijay continues to hold a prominent position in Tamil Nadu’s political and cultural landscape. The case is expected to attract media and public scrutiny, especially given the actor’s high profile and the political significance of TVK’s branding. The bench’s notice to Vijay marks the first step in hearing the appeal, and the outcome could have wider implications for political parties and use of copyrighted or trademarked symbols in India. The next hearing is scheduled in six weeks, where both parties will present their arguments before the court decides on the legitimacy of the flag’s usage.



Trump Announces 100% Tariff on Branded Pharma Imports

India Faces Potential Impact

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump on Thursday announced tariffs of up to 100 per cent on imports of branded and patented pharmaceutical drugs, effective October 1, 2025. The move, aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing, exempts companies that are “building” pharmaceutical plants in the US, defined as having “broken ground” or being “under construction.” Trump outlined the announcement on his so-

cial media platform, Truth Social, emphasizing that the tariffs are justified for “National Security and other reasons.” The tariff blitz also extends to other goods, including 50 per cent duties on kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities, 30 per cent on upholstered furniture, and 25 per cent on heavy trucks. While the legal basis remains unclear, the move signals Trump’s continued focus on using trade measures to strengthen domestic production and reduce budget deficits.

India, whose pharmaceutical sector heavily

relies on exports to the US, could face significant disruption. In FY24, India exported \$8.7 billion worth of pharmaceuticals to the US, accounting for 31 per cent of total pharma exports. Indian firms supply over 45 per cent of generic drugs and 15 per cent of biosimilars used in the American market. Major players like Dr Reddy’s, Sun Pharma, Aurobindo Pharma, and Gland Pharma derive 30-50 per cent of revenues from US sales.

Although the tariffs primarily target branded and patented drugs dominated by multinational companies, uncertainty exists over whether complex generics and specialty

medicines will be affected. Higher duties could increase costs for US consumers, potentially causing inflation and shortages of essential medicines. Indian manufacturers, operating on thin margins, may struggle to absorb the tariffs and may have to pass costs onto American buyers or insurers.

With India’s pharmaceutical sector being a critical supplier of affordable medicines to the US, the new tariffs could have far-reaching implications for trade, pricing, and access to essential healthcare, highlighting the vulnerabilities of global supply chains in the face of sudden policy shifts.

‘Global Workforce A Reality’: Jaishankar’s Remark Amid H-1B Visa Row

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

In what appeared to be a subtle critique of US President Donald Trump’s new H-1B visa policy, India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the growing significance of a global workforce in meeting labour demands that local populations cannot fulfil. His remarks came during the ‘At the Heart of Development: Aid, Trade, and Technology’ event hosted by the Observer Research Foundation on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

Trump recently im-

posed a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas, citing systemic abuse of the programme, claiming it replaces American workers with lower-paid foreign labour and poses a “national security risk.” The move directly affects Indian professionals, who constitute the majority of H-1B beneficiaries in the US. Jaishankar noted that while political debates may arise over where this workforce is located, the reality is that many countries cannot meet their labour needs solely from domestic demographics.

“Demands cannot be met in many countries purely out of national demographics. This is a

reality. So how do we create a more acceptable, contemporary, efficient model of a global workforce, distributed across countries? This is a very big question for the international economy today,” Jaishankar said. He highlighted that technology, trade, and connectivity are transforming the workplace rapidly, and large countries must build capacities to become more self-reliant, a priority India is actively pursuing.

India remains the world’s largest source of emigrants, with approximately 2.5 million leaving annually and a total overseas population of around 35.4 million. In-

dian professionals dominate the US H-1B programme, making up over 70 per cent of recipients. Indian-origin executives lead top US firms like Google, Microsoft, and IBM, while nearly 6 per cent of American doctors are of Indian origin.

Jaishankar’s statements underscore India’s push for global workforce engagement while highlighting the potential challenges posed by the steep H-1B visa fee, which may make skilled migration costly and less feasible for both employers and applicants, particularly from lower-income backgrounds.



Slovenia Bars Israeli PM Netanyahu Over ICC Arrest Warrant

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Slovenia on Thursday, September 25, 2025, announced that it is banning Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from entering the country, citing an arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The move underscores Slovenia’s firm stance on defending international law, according to Neva Grasic, a Foreign Ministry official, as reported by the STA news agency.

The small European nation, home to around two million people, has consistently voiced criticism of Israeli actions in Gaza and recognized Palestine as a state last year. Slovenia’s latest decision follows similar measures against Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Fi-

nance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who were previously barred from entering the country. Additionally, Slovenia has imposed an arms embargo on Israel.

“All countries bound by the ICC, including Slovenia, must not recognise the situation resulting from Israel’s illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, and must not offer any support in maintaining this situation,” the Foreign Ministry official added. The government emphasized that its decision reflects a broader commitment to uphold international law, human rights, and principal foreign policy.

Slovenia took to X (formerly Twitter) to clarify that barring Netanyahu sends a “clear message to the state of Israel that Slovenia expects consistent respect for the decisions of international courts and international

humanitarian law.” The country reiterated that adherence to these norms is central to its foreign policy and international obligations.

This decision positions Slovenia among a growing list of European nations taking concrete steps in response to the ICC’s legal actions against Israeli officials, while continuing to support Palestinian statehood. Analysts note that the move is both symbolic and practical, reflecting the tensions between national diplomacy, international legal mandates, and ongoing Middle East conflicts.

By taking this step, Slovenia reinforces its dedication to human rights and international justice, sending a strong diplomatic signal to Israel regarding compliance with ICC rulings and the broader principles of international law.



UK PM Keir Starmer Unveils Digital ID Plan to Curb Illegal Immigration

TPN Correspondent | UK

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Friday announced a landmark initiative to introduce a free digital ID for both British nationals and residents, aimed at curbing illegal immigration while simplifying access to government services. The digital ID will be stored on individuals’ smartphones, eliminating the need to carry physical identification or produce it routinely. However, it will be mandatory as a means of proving the right to work, ensuring that those without legal status cannot secure employment in the UK.

According to the government, the scheme is designed to streamline applications for driving licences, childcare, welfare benefits, and tax records, offering a more efficient way for citizens to interact with public services. Starmer emphasized that the digital ID will also target the so-called “pull factors” that attract illegal migrants by restricting their ability to earn money through unauthorized work.

“This will stop those with no right to be here from being able to find work, curbing their prospect of earning money, one of the key factors for

people who come to the UK illegally,” the government stated.

The announcement comes ahead of the Labour Party’s annual conference, where Starmer faces intense scrutiny over immigration policy. Speaking on the initiative, Starmer highlighted its potential benefits for ordinary citizens, describing the digital ID as “an enormous opportunity for the UK” that can create a fairer and more streamlined system.

Historically, the UK has resisted identity card schemes, citing privacy concerns and public opposition. However, recent polling indicates growing support for measures that balance security with convenience. The digital ID plan represents a significant step in modernizing public services while addressing immigration challenges, reflecting the government’s efforts to implement practical solutions in a politically sensitive area.

Starmer framed the initiative as part of a broader mission to deliver tangible change, aiming for a system that benefits citizens without fostering division.

The government will provide further details on implementation timelines and technical frameworks in the coming months, as it prepares to launch the pilot phase of the program.

Geography and Politics Blocking Palestinian Statehood

TPN Correspondent | London

The recognition of Palestine by several countries has been hailed as a historic diplomatic step, but the ground reality remains far from settled. The borders that define a Palestinian state are still deeply contested, shaped by decades of war, occupation, and settlement expansion. The 1947 UN partition plan envisioned both Jewish and Arab states with Jerusalem as an international city. However, the 1948 war left Palestinians confined to the West Bank and Gaza, later further fragmented after Israel’s occupation of these territories in 1967. Today, Israeli settlements, illegal under in-

ternational law, have expanded rapidly. A recent study shows that since 2014, settlements have grown by nearly 72%, covering over 151 sq km. Coupled with military checkpoints and restricted roads, the West Bank now resembles a fractured archipelago rather than a viable state. Projects like the E1 settlement threaten to split the West Bank in half, further eroding the possibility of statehood. Research indicates that living close to settlements fuels anger and increases violent resistance, creating a cycle of conflict. Gaza, devastated by war and famine, faces its own leadership vacuum as Hamas loses support and the Palestinian Authority struggles with credibility and corruption. Analysts suggest

only a restructured PA could govern both territories, though leadership succession remains uncertain. While international recognition boosts Palestinian visibility, it risks becoming symbolic unless backed by firm action to halt settlement growth and create real conditions for sovereignty. The core challenge lies in addressing both the geographic fragmentation and political deadlock. Without meaningful negotiations, the dream of an independent Palestinian state will remain distant. The choice is no longer between one-state and two-state models, but between symbolic recognition or a genuine commitment to build a viable state that ensures peace and security for all.



Tata Consumer Signs 2,000-Crore Pact With Ministry Of Food Processing Industries

Tata Consumer Products Ltd. (TCPL) on Friday announced that it has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, committing an investment of up to 2,000 crore over the next five years. The agreement, disclosed through stock exchanges, is part of the investment promotion activity for the upcoming World Food India 2025 event. This move reflects the company's long-term vision of expanding its presence in the food and beverage sector while align-

ing with the government's broader goal of promoting food processing as a key pillar of India's economic growth. The MoU emphasizes investment in areas such as manufacturing, supply chain expansion, and value-added food processing. By strengthening infrastructure and creating opportunities across the sector, the pact is expected to enhance India's standing in the global food market. The government's push through World Food India aims to attract both domestic and foreign investors, boost

exports, and generate employment in allied industries. While Tata Consumer has made it clear that the proposed investment is still subject to financial and business evaluations, the intent marks a significant step in deepening its strategic collaborations with the government. For TCPL, which houses brands like Tata Tea, Tata Salt, and Tata Sampann, the investment would also provide a platform to strengthen innovation, sustainability, and reach into newer product categories. Industry experts view

the announcement as a milestone that signals the increasing role of large consumer companies in India's food processing ecosystem. As India prepares to host World Food India 2025, initiatives like this pact not only reinforce confidence among stakeholders but also highlight the collaborative efforts needed to make India a global hub for food production and processing. The 2,000-crore commitment stands as both a business opportunity and a nation-building exercise, combining growth with long-term impact.



Welspun's Global Order Book Nears 18,000 Crore After Fresh Middle East Deal

Welspun Corp Ltd. announced that its global order book has surged close to 18,000 crore following a fresh inflow of orders worth 1,600 crore from the Middle East. The new orders, which add significant momentum to the company's growth trajectory, are scheduled to be executed over Fiscal 2026 and Fiscal 2027, further strengthening Welspun's international footprint in the oil, gas, and water infrastructure sectors. The Middle East deal underlines Welspun's

strong positioning as a leading global supplier of line pipes and related solutions. The company has been consistently expanding its global presence, catering to critical energy and infrastructure needs across geographies. With this addition, Welspun's order book now reflects a healthy pipeline of projects that will drive revenues and operational performance in the coming years. According to the company, the robust order inflows are not only a testament to its engineering and execution

capabilities but also highlight the growing trust of international clients in its products and services. The new projects align with the rising global demand for energy transportation and water infrastructure, sectors that continue to witness strong capital expenditure across the Middle East. Industry experts believe that the expansion of Welspun's order book to nearly 18,000 crore sets the stage for sustainable growth and positions the company to benefit from long-term opportunities in

global infrastructure development. Execution over the next two fiscal years will also contribute to job creation and supply chain activity within India, reinforcing Welspun's role as a major player in the "Make in India" initiative. With steady demand from international markets and strategic project wins like this one, Welspun Corp is poised to strengthen its financial resilience, enhance shareholder value, and consolidate its leadership in the global pipeline solutions industry.



Sensex, Nifty Slump as Trump's 100% Drug Tariff Triggers Sell-Off in Pharma, IT Stocks

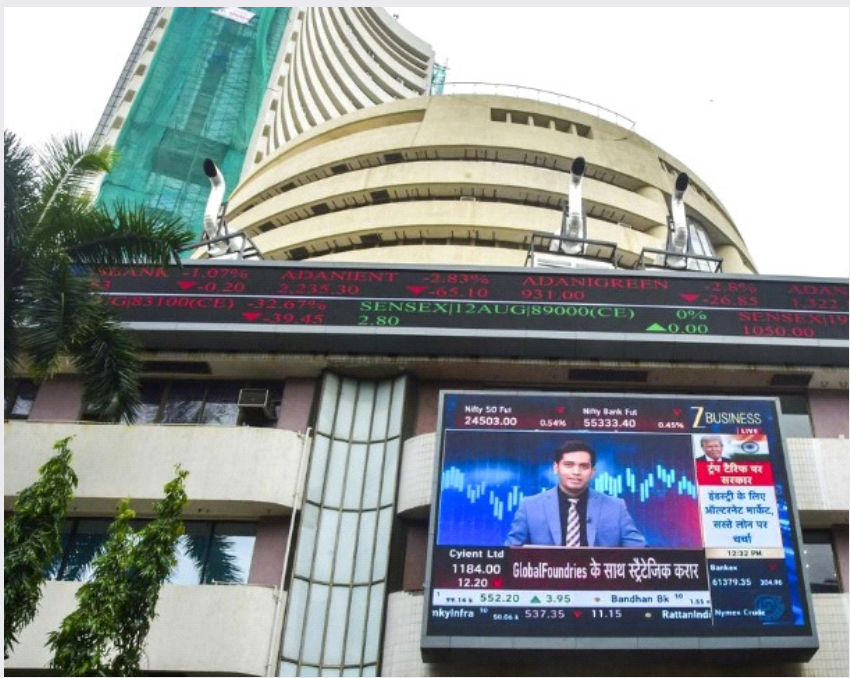
Mumbai witnessed a sharp slide in equity markets on Friday (September 26, 2025), as benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty extended their losing streak to a sixth straight session. Heavy selling in pharma and IT counters dragged the indices nearly 1% lower after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a steep 100% tariff on branded and patented pharmaceutical imports starting October 1.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 733.22 points or 0.90%, closing at 80,426.46. During intra-day trade, it sank by as much as 827 points to touch 80,332.41. The NSE Nifty also dropped 236.15 points or 0.95% to settle at 24,654.70, its lowest in over three weeks. In just six sessions since September 19, the Sensex has shed 2,587 points, while the Nifty has fallen by more than 3%.

Pharma stocks bore the brunt, with Wockhardt plunging 9.4% and the BSE Healthcare index tumbling 2.14%. IT majors Infosys, Tech Mahindra, TCS, and HCL Tech also dragged the indices lower, compounding losses triggered earlier in the week by increased H-1B visa fees. Among Sensex constituents, Sun Pharma, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, and Tata Steel were among the biggest losers. Bucking the trend, Larsen & Tou-

bro, Tata Motors, ITC, and Reliance Industries managed to post gains. The sell-off was fueled by Trump's clarification on Truth Social that only companies "building" pharmaceutical plants in America would be exempt from the tariff. Though generics were spared, uncertainty around exports hit Indian investor sentiment. Pharmexcil Chairman Namit Joshi noted that the immediate impact on India's pharma exports may be limited,

but the long-term implications remain unclear. Foreign Institutional Investors added pressure, offloading equities worth nearly 5,000 crore on Thursday. Asian markets mirrored the weakness, while European stocks traded higher. Brent crude slipped marginally to \$69.23 a barrel, offering little relief to jittery investors. With global headwinds intensifying, analysts caution that volatility in Indian equities may persist in the near term.



Rupee Rebounds From Record Low, Rises 6 Paise to 88.70 Against U.S. Dollar

The Indian rupee recovered slightly on Friday, rising 6 paise to 88.70 against the U.S. dollar in early trade, after closing at an all-time low of 88.76 in the previous session. The rebound came on the back of a weaker dollar index and optimism surrounding progress in ongoing India-U.S. trade negotiations. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.72 and soon climbed to 88.70, supported by hopes of a breakthrough in trade discussions led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New York earlier this week. The delegation engaged with American counterparts on both trade and non-trade issues, raising expectations of an agreement that could ease bilateral tensions and improve investor sentiment. However, gains for the local currency were capped by persistent foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows and a



rise in global crude oil prices. Higher oil prices typically weigh on the rupee, as India is a major importer of crude, thereby increasing the demand for U.S. dollars. According to forex traders, market sentiment remains cautious, with investors closely watching capital flows and geopolitical developments. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's performance

against six major global currencies, slipped 0.17% to 98.38, providing some relief to emerging market currencies like the rupee. Yet, the pressure on the Indian unit remains elevated, given the broader global risk environment and uncertainties over U.S. trade tariffs. Market attention is now focused on the Reserve Bank of India's upcoming Monetary Policy

Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled for October 1. Analysts believe the RBI's stance on interest rates and its measures to curb currency volatility will be crucial in determining the rupee's near-term trajectory. While Friday's recovery offered temporary respite, traders expect fluctuations to continue until there is clarity on global trade dynamics and oil price movements.

Supreme Court Defers Vodafone Idea Plea on Additional AGR Demand to October 6

The Supreme Court on Friday (September 26, 2025) deferred hearing Vodafone Idea's plea against an additional Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) demand of over 5,000 crore raised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). A Bench led by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai agreed to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's oral request to list the matter after the Dussehra break, scheduling it for October 6 when the court reopens. The case relates to AGR dues for the financial year 2016-17. Vodafone Idea (VI) has argued that its liabilities had already been calculated and settled, and that the DoT's fresh demand amounts to a retrospective revision. The company has sought the apex court's intervention to quash the additional claim and order a comprehensive reconciliation of dues up to FY



2016-17. This fresh litigation comes against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's earlier rulings that tightened the screws on telecom operators. In May this year, the court dismissed petitions by Bharti Airtel, VI, and Tata Teleservices that sought relief from paying interest, penalties, and interest on penalties. The court had termed those pleas "misconceived." In September 2024, the

apex court had also rejected a curative petition filed by telcos against its 2019 judgment, which upheld the DoT's move to recover nearly 92,000 crore in AGR dues from operators. For Vodafone Idea, the stakes remain high. The company continues to battle financial stress, and any additional burden could affect its survival strategy, even after receiving government lifelines in the form of equity con-

version of dues. The Chief Justice has repeatedly stressed the need for finality in the AGR dispute, which has dragged on for years and impacted the sector's financial stability. The court's decision on October 6 will be closely watched, as it could set a precedent on whether AGR demands, once calculated and settled, can be reopened by the DoT.



plementation in real-world robotics applications. By combining advanced reasoning, vision, and motor capabilities, Google DeepMind's Gemini Robotics 1.5 models aim to redefine how AI-driven robots interact with and navigate the physical world, setting a new benchmark for embodied intelligence.



“Championship-Chasing Marc Marquez Third-Fastest in Japan MotoGP Practice”

Marc Marquez, chasing his first MotoGP world title since 2019, clocked the third-fastest time in an action-packed practice session for the Japan Grand Prix on Friday. Riding his Ducati, Marquez recorded a best lap of 1 minute 43.36 seconds in warm Motegi conditions, where track temperatures hovered around 30°C. His time was just 0.167 seconds slower than Aprilia’s Marco Bezzecchi, who led the session despite crashing twice in the morning. The Spaniard is aiming for his seventh world championship, having already dominated the season with 11 Grand Prix victories. Marquez can seal the title

in Japan if he finishes the weekend with at least three points more than his brother and nearest rival, Alex Marquez. Alex, however, faced difficulties in practice, finishing 15th-fastest and missing a direct spot in the second qualifying session. It was the first time this season the Gresini rider ended practice outside the top 10. The practice session was highly eventful, with multiple riders facing crashes. Defending champion Jorge Martin, Jack Miller, Franco Morbidelli, and Bezzecchi all crashed twice, while KTM’s Pedro Acosta suffered a heavy crash just after setting the second-fastest time, severely damaging his bike.

Francesco Bagnaia led the morning session, with Marquez close behind in third. In MotoGP, the top 10 fastest riders from practice automatically advance to Saturday’s second qualifying session, which determines the first four rows of the grid. They are joined by the two fastest riders from the first qualifying session. The qualifying results set the stage for both the sprint race on Saturday and the main Grand Prix event on Sunday, where a maximum of 37 points are up for grabs. With 512 championship points already in hand—a single-season record—Marc Marquez continues to push toward cementing a historic title.

“Jannik Sinner Responds to Federer’s Claim on Grand Slam Court Manipulation”

Tennis fans are witnessing a fascinating duopoly at the top of men’s tennis, with World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz and World No. 2 Jannik Sinner dominating the sport. The two have contested the last three Grand Slam finals, winning eight consecutive major singles titles between them, creating one of the sport’s most high-profile rivalries. Amidst this dominance, tennis legend Roger Federer recently suggested that Grand Slam tournament directors

manipulate court conditions to favor the top players, ensuring finals often feature Alcaraz or Sinner. Speaking on Andy Roddick’s Served Media, Federer explained, “I understand the safety net tournament directors see in making the surface slower. For the weaker player, he has to hit extra amazing shots to beat Sinner. Whereas if it’s quick, he can only maybe blast a few at the right time and he gets past. That’s why tournament directors like having Sinner and Alcaraz in the finals, it kind of works for the game.” Sinner has now responded to these remarks ahead of his first match at the China Open, clarifying his perspective. “The hard courts, they are at times very similar. At times, there are some small changes, a couple of changes. One tournament that comes up a bit is Indian Wells because the ball bounces very high. It’s a bit different how the ball reacts with the court,” he said. He added, “But yeah, if not, we have more or



“India Beat Nepal 3-0 to Enter SAFF U-17 Final, Set Up Bangladesh Clash”

India stormed into the final of the SAFF Under-17 Championship 2025 with a commanding 3-0 victory over Nepal at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo on Thursday night. Goals from Wangkheirakpam Gunleiba, Azlaan Shah, and Diamond Singh sealed a dominant win for the defending champions, who will now face Bangladesh in the title clash. Despite a goalless first half, India completely dictated the tempo of the game, displaying composure, maturity, and creativity on the ball. Midfield control and disciplined defending restricted Nepal to long-range efforts, one of which forced goalkeeper Manashjyoti Baruah into a superb full-stretch

save. Up front, however, India’s attackers were guilty of missing chances, with Dallalmuon Gange and Kamgouhao Doungel coming close before the break. The breakthrough finally came in the 61st minute. A low cross from Denny Singh Wangkhem was cleverly dummied by Gange, leaving the Nepal defence wrong-footed. Gunleiba made no mistake, calmly slotting the ball home to put India ahead. The second goal arrived in the 80th minute through a stunning counter-attack. Substitute Azlaan Shah sprinted down the left, cut inside with pace, and unleashed a thunderous strike that left the Nepal keeper helpless. India sealed the result

deep into stoppage time when Gunleiba’s cross found another substitute, Diamond Singh Thokchom, who tapped in from close range to make it 3-0. With this victory, India notched up their fourth consecutive win of the tournament and underlined their credentials as firm favorites. Head coach Bibiano Fernandes praised his young side’s discipline and attacking intent as they now gear up for a highly anticipated final against Bangladesh, who defeated Pakistan 2-0 in the other semifinal. The stage is set for an exciting summit clash as India chase back-to-back SAFF U-17 titles.



“Mohun Bagan vs East Bengal Set for Super Cup”

The iconic Kolkata Derby is set to headline the group stage of the Super Cup after arch-rivals Mohun Bagan and East Bengal were drawn together in Group A. The two giants of Indian football will face each other for the third time in less than six months, reigniting one of the most intense rivalries in the country. The derby is likely to be held at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao on October 31, promising a high-voltage encounter for fans. Group A also features Chennaiyin FC and Real Kashmir FC, with action kicking off on October 25. East Bengal will open their campaign against Real Kashmir, while Mohun Bagan take on Chennaiyin FC. Mohun Bagan’s three group matches are scheduled for October 25, 28, and 31, with the derby concluding their group-stage campaign. The Super Cup this season features 16 teams divided into four groups of four. Group B consists of FC Goa, Jamshedpur FC, NorthEast United FC, and Inter Kashi. Group C includes Bengaluru FC, Mohammedan Sporting, Punjab FC,

and Gokulam Kerala FC, while Group D has Mumbai City FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Hyderabad FC, and Rajasthan United FC. The tournament will be staged across Goa, with Fatorda Stadium hosting both the opening match and the final, while remaining games will be held at Bambolim and Tilak Maidan. The group stage will feature 24 matches from October 25 to November 6, before a break for the FIFA International Window, when India face Bangladesh in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers on November 18. The top teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals, with dates to be announced later. Earlier this season, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal met in the Calcutta Football League Premier Division and the Durand Cup, with East Bengal winning both encounters. Traditionally the final domestic tournament of the season, the Super Cup will this time kick off the Indian football calendar, with the winners earning a berth in the AFC Champions League 2 qualifiers for 2026-27.

“Pakistan Beat Bangladesh to Set Up Asia Cup Final Against India”

In a thrilling clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Pakistan defeated Bangladesh by 11 runs to set up their first-ever Asia Cup final against archrivals India. Bangladesh, chasing 136, faltered under pressure, falling short despite being in contention with 39 runs required from 20 balls. The Tigers’ hopes rested on left-hander Shamim Hossain, who perished attempting a risky reverse scoop off Shaheen Shah Afridi, effectively ending Bangladesh’s challenge. Pakistan’s bowlers dominated throughout, with Afridi taking crucial early wickets, dismissing Parvez Hossain Emon and Towhid Hridoy in the PowerPlay. Haris Rauf’s pace proved deadly as he removed key batter Saif Hassan, keeping Bangladesh on the back foot. The Tigers’ middle order struggled against spin, allowing Mohammad Nawaz and Saim Ayub to capitalize with three wickets between them. Earlier, Pakistan’s lower order had to rebuild after early setbacks. A crucial 38-run partnership for the seventh wicket between Mohammad Haris and Nawaz stabilized the innings. Afridi, promoted to No. 7, entertained with a 13-ball 19 that included two massive sixes but was eventually caught by wicketkeeper Jaker Ali after a spirited midwicket chase. Bangladesh’s Rishad Amin was impressive in

the field, taking four catches, including dismissals of Sahibzada Farhan, Fakhar Zaman, Saim, and Hussain Talat. Pakistan captain Salman Agha struggled against Mustafizur Rahman’s cutters, leaving his side at 49 for five, but a resilient lower-order effort turned the match in Pakistan’s favor. The final scores read: Pakistan 135/8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Haris 31, Mohammad Nawaz 25; Taskin Ahmed 3/28) defeated Bangladesh 124/9 in 20 overs (Shamim Hossain 30; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3/17, Haris Rauf 3/33). With this victory, Pakistan now faces India in a much-anticipated Asia Cup final, promising another high-voltage encounter.





“Opening Day Sensation: OG Collects 154 Cr+ Globally”

Pawan Kalyan’s much-awaited pan-Indian action entertainer OG hit the screens yesterday in multiple languages, and the response has been nothing short of phenomenal. Even before the official release, the film generated huge excitement with its Wednesday night premieres, setting the stage for a record-breaking opening day. Audiences across all regions flocked to theatres, making the first-day box office collections a major talking point among fans and trade analysts alike. The makers confirmed the collections on social media, proudly announcing, “Idhi Pawan Kalyan Cinema..... #OG Erases History Worldwide Day 1 Gross – 154 Cr+ .” This remarkable

figure not only reflects the superstar’s immense popularity but also the massive anticipation surrounding the film. The movie has garnered highly positive reviews across languages, including Hindi, Tamil, and others, proving its appeal to a wide, pan-Indian audience. With Sujeeth at the helm as director and DVV Danayya producing under the DVV Entertainments banner, the film’s technical finesse, star-studded cast, and high-octane action sequences have contributed to its early success. Audiences praised the performances, storytelling, and grandeur, making it one of the biggest openings in recent times. The timing of the release, coinciding with

the weekend and upcoming holiday season, further works in the film’s favor. Industry insiders believe that if the momentum continues, OG has the potential to join the coveted 1000 Cr club, although it is too early to predict definitively. Fans are already celebrating the blockbuster start, and the box office is expected to see sustained growth in the coming days. OG is currently setting benchmarks for pan-Indian cinema, reinforcing Pawan Kalyan’s status as a mass hero capable of delivering record-breaking performances not only in Telugu but across multiple languages, making Day 1 a sensational success story for the actor, the makers, and the fans alike.

“Anaganaga Oka Raju: Naveen Polishetty Brings Laughter and Romance”

Naveen Polishetty is back with his new film Anaganaga Oka Raju, and true to his style, he is promoting it in a uniquely hilarious way. The Sankranthi teaser has just been released and it immediately caught everyone’s attention with its quirky and entertaining approach. The teaser begins like a regular jewellery advertisement, with Meenakshi Chaudhary showcasing beautiful ornaments. Just when the audience thinks it’s a standard ad, Naveen suddenly appears, wearing the jewellery himself, turning the scene into a rib-tickling spoof. His timing, expressions, and chemistry with Meenakshi make the teaser extremely funny and en-



gaging. This blend of comedy and charm sets the tone for what fans can expect from the film. Packed with colorful sets, romance, high-energy mass moments, and Naveen’s trademark humor, the teaser promises

a complete family entertainer, perfect for the Sankranthi festival. Fans have already started sharing it widely on social media, praising the freshness and fun factor of the promo.

Known for thinking outside the box in his promotions, Naveen once again surprises audiences with a campaign that is far from routine. His unique style of connecting with fans adds an extra layer of excitement to the film even be-

fore its release. Anaganaga Oka Raju is produced by Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, directed by Mari, and features music by Mickey J Meyer. Naveen himself contributed to the script, making this project even more special for his fans. With a combination of humor, romance, and mass appeal, the film is poised to be a festive hit. The makers have scheduled the release for January 14, 2026, giving fans a perfect Sankranthi treat. With Naveen Polishetty leading the way, Anaganaga Oka Raju promises laughter, entertainment, and memorable moments, making it one of the most anticipated family films for the season.

“Excitement Builds for Puri-Sethupathi Teaser and Title Launch”

Excitement is building as director Puri Jagannadh gears up for his next pan-Indian venture, starring the versatile Makkal Selvan Vijay Sethupathi. The film, currently tentatively titled Puri-Sethupathi, has already captured the attention of fans and industry insiders alike. Today, the makers offered an intriguing update, revealing plans to officially unveil the movie’s title and teaser on a very special day.



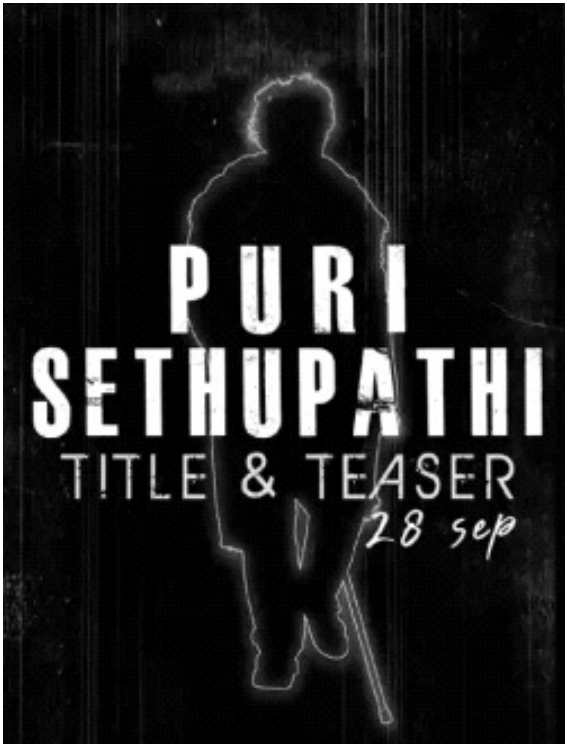
will resonate with audiences across languages.

The team has chosen September 28, 2025, which also happens to be Puri Jagannadh’s birthday, for this grand announcement. Alongside the teaser reveal, the makers shared a captivating first-look poster, hinting at the style and scale of the project. Fans are now buzzing with speculation, eagerly guessing what the final title of this highly anticipated film will be. The poster has already sparked conversations across social media, adding to the excitement surrounding the film.

Produced jointly by Puri Connects and JB Motion Pictures, the film also features a musical score by Mahati Swara Sagar, whose compositions are expected to complement the film’s high-energy sequences and emotional moments. With Puri Jagannadh’s trademark style of storytelling and Vijay Sethupathi’s pan-Indian appeal, the movie is shaping up to be a major cinematic event.

The movie promises a stellar ensemble cast, with Samyuktha, Tabu, Duniya Vijay, Brahmaji, VTV Ganesh, and others in pivotal roles, adding depth and diversity to the narrative. Each actor brings their own unique flair, promising memorable performances that

As the countdown begins for the title and teaser reveal on Puri Jagannadh’s birthday, fans are eagerly awaiting what promises to be a visual spectacle full of action, drama, and style. The combination of a powerhouse director, a talented cast, and a dedicated production team makes Puri-Sethupathi one of the most anticipated films of the year, setting the stage for a memorable cinematic experience.



“Avatar: Fire and Ash Trailer Hints at Bigger Stakes”



The wait for James Cameron’s Avatar: Fire and Ash is heating up as 20th Century Studios has released a brand-new trailer for the highly anticipated third installment of the epic sci-fi franchise. The movie is scheduled to hit theaters on December 19, 2025, promising audiences a return to the breathtaking world of Pandora.

The trailer plunges viewers back into the vibrant landscapes of Pandora, where Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), now a respected Na’vi leader, and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), along with their family, are still coping with the loss of their eldest son, Neteyam. As tensions rise, a new and formidable Na’vi tribe—the Ash People—emerges under the leadership of Varang, portrayed by Oona Chaplin. This introduces fresh challenges and higher stakes for the Sully family and their allies.

One of the intriguing revelations from the trailer is that humans can now survive in Pandora’s world without masks, raising the stakes even further and expanding the possibilities of the narrative. James Cameron, known for his visual mastery, once again promises a stunning cinematic experience, combining groundbreaking visuals with deep emotional storytelling. The trailer also teases new characters, intense conflicts, and spectacular action sequences that will push the franchise to new heights.

With Avatar: The Way of Water having grossed approximately \$2.3 bil-

lion globally, fans are eager to see if Fire and Ash can surpass its predecessor. The star-studded ensemble cast includes Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Cliff Curtis, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Edie Falco, David Thewlis, Jemaine Clement, Giovanni Ribisi, Britain Dalton, Jamie Flatters, Trinity Jo-Li Bliss, Jack Champion, Brendan Cowell, Bailey Bass, Filip Geljo, Duane Evans Jr., and Kate Winslet. With its promise of visual spectacle, emotional depth, and thrilling adventure, Avatar: Fire and Ash is shaping up to be the ultimate cinematic event of the year.

Sivakarthikeyan’s ‘Madharaasi’ OTT Release Date Confirmed



Sivakarthikeyan’s action drama Madharaasi, directed by AR Murugadoss, is all set for its OTT debut. Produced by NV Prasad under Sri Lakshmi Movies, the film features Rukmini Vasanth as the female lead, with Vidyut Jammwal, Shabeer, Biju Menon, and others in pivotal roles. Anirudh Ravichander has composed the film’s soundtrack, adding to the excitement surrounding the release.

After a successful theatrical run, where it grossed over Rs. 100 crore, Amazon Prime Video has announced that Madharaasi will start streaming from October 1, 2025, across all major Indian languages, including Telugu. This marks a short four-week gap between the theatrical and OTT release, giving fans a quick opportunity to catch the film online.

While the Tamil version of Madharaasi was well received by audiences, the film didn’t meet

With its high-octane action sequences, gripping storyline, and a star-studded cast, Madharaasi’s streaming release is expected to generate renewed buzz. Amazon Prime Video subscribers across India will now have the chance to enjoy the film from the comfort of their homes, making it accessible to a broader audience and giving fans another opportunity to experience

expectations in the Telugu states. The OTT release could offer a second chance for wider appreciation, potentially reaching audiences who missed the theatrical experience. The OTT launch also comes at a time when Tamil and Telugu cinema are increasingly bridging theatrical and digital platforms, offering fans faster access to popular releases. Madharaasi’s quick digital debut highlights the growing trend of shorter windows between cinema and streaming platforms, ensuring films remain relevant in both arenas. Fans and cinephiles alike are eagerly awaiting the October 1 release to see if Madharaasi can replicate its box office success and find new life on OTT.