



BUZZ POINTS



DOUBLE BED-ROOM HOUSING PATTAS DISTRIBUTED IN HYDERABAD CONSTITUENCIES

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, In-charge for Hyderabad, distributed double bed-room housing pattas to eligible beneficiaries from Charminar, Malakpet, Yakutpura, and Chandrayangutta constituencies at Minister Quarters.

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COMPLAINT AGAINST KAVITHA AND KAVYA REDDY UNDER WILDLIFE ACT

Former Wildlife Crime Control Bureau officer Mahesh Agarwal has lodged a complaint against former MP K. Kavitha and Union Minister Kishen Reddy's wife, Gangapuram Kavya Reddy. The complaint alleges that they released the Indian Roller bird (Pala Pitta), a protected species, during Vijayadashami celebrations.

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Ponnam Urges Centre for Defence Land Transfer, Rs 1,000 Cr Dues Clearance in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Telangana Transport Minister and Hyderabad in-charge Ponnam Prabhakar has urged Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to expedite the transfer of defence lands to the state, highlighting their vital role in ongoing infrastructure and mobility projects across Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The appeal, co-signed by GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijaya Lakshmi, Rajya

Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, and Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Ganesh, thanked the Centre for its in-principle approval to release certain defence lands for public use. The Minister emphasized that timely transfer of these lands would help meet the twin cities' growing infrastructure requirements and improve civic amenities for residents. Ponnam also reminded the Defence Ministry that nearly Rs 1,000 crore in user charges from the

Cantonment to the Telangana government remain unsettled, urging prompt clearance to strengthen civic services in these areas. Highlighting delays in Secunderabad Cantonment Board elections, he called for immediate action to reinstate democratic governance and ensure local representation. Expressing hope for a positive response, the Minister stressed that resolving these issues is crucial for Hyderabad's overall development.

Manjeera River Swells Again

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: The Edupayala Vana Durga Bhavani Temple in Papannapet, Medak district, is temporarily closed due to the swelling of the Manjeera River. On October 1, authorities released 1.09 lakh cusecs of water from the Vana Durga Dam, leading to increased water levels near the temple. As a precaution, the temple premises have been closed to devotees. Priests are conducting daily prayers at the Rajagopuram, and the festive idol of Goddess Vana Durga remains installed

there. The temple, located in the middle of the river, has faced similar closures in the past due to flooding. In August, the temple was closed for 28 days following heavy rains and water releases from upstream reservoirs. During that period, the sanctum was submerged, and devotees were advised to avoid the area. Authorities have urged the public to stay away from the river until the water levels recede. The situation remains under close monitoring, and updates will be provided as conditions change.



Alay-Balay Showcases Telangana Spirit, Culture, and Unity

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Dignitaries present included former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Telangana Governor J. K. D. V. Varma, Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar, Kishan Reddy,

Arjun Ram Meghwal, Jayanti Chowdary, Bandi Sanjay, Bhupatiraju Srinivas Varma, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, former Governor Vidyasagar Rao, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, former Chief Justice of India N. V. Ra-

mana, BJP MP Laxman, MLA Sujana Chowdary, TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, CPI leader Narayana, Professor Kodandaram, former MP V. Hanumantha Rao, MRPS founder Mandakrishna Madiga, and Tollywood actors Nagarjuna and Brah-

manandam, among others. The event, initiated by Bandaru Dattatreya during the Telangana movement to foster unity among political leaders, is held annually the day after Dasara. The event highlights

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iBomma App Targets Telangana Police with Fake Phone Links

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Telangana Police have been warned about a fraudulent phone link

circulating on the movie streaming site iBomma. The Telangana government's Fact Check unit verified the report, confirming that a post claiming police

officials were linked to the scam is false. According to the Fact Check, a post has been going viral on social media platforms, alleging that "popular me-

dia stories and posts on social media suggest that iBomma's Cinema Price Site is targeting Telangana police offi

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Telangana Hits Bottom in GST Growth, Shrinks by 5% in September

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Telangana's GST collections for September painted a grim picture for the State's economy, plunging by 5 per cent compared to the same month last year—the lowest growth rate in India. The national average, by contrast, stood at a healthy 7 per cent. Himachal Pradesh, another Congress-ruled State, was the only other region in negative territory at -4 per cent. The decline is stark compared to the previous BRS government, which posted 33 per cent GST growth in September 2023, top-

ping national charts. Under Congress, growth slowed to 1 per cent in September 2024 before slipping further into negative territory this year. Month-wise trends show a downward trajectory: collections rose 12 per cent in April, 6 per cent in May, 8 per cent in June, 10 per cent in July, and 12 per cent in August before the September slump. Officials noted that a new GST tariff, introduced in the last week of September, had minimal impact on revenues. Economists warned that the contraction is particularly alarming for a consumption-driven State like Tel-

angana, signaling declining business confidence and shrinking consumer demand. Reacting sharply, BRS working president KT Rama Rao blamed the Congress government for mishandling the economy. "Two years ago, we led the nation in GST growth; today, we are at the bottom. This decline reflects the chaos and inexperience under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy," he said. Rama Rao added that sectors from agriculture to IT thrived under the BRS regime, whereas under Congress rule, industries from farming to real estate are facing a downturn.

Telangana liquor sales see 7% rise in September

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Telangana's Prohibition and Excise Department reported liquor sales of ₹3,048 crore in September 2025, up 7% from ₹2,838 crore in September 2024. Peak sales were

recorded during Dussehra festivities: ₹278 crore on September 29, ₹333 crore on September 30, and ₹86.23 crore on October 1. Consumption patterns show an increase in Indian Made Liquor (IML), with 29.92 lakh cases

sold compared to 28.81 lakh last year, while beer sales fell from 39.71 lakh cases to 36.46 lakh. Officials noted that festive demand drove the surge, benefiting state revenue, while also stressing the importance of responsible consumption.



TSRTC MD reviews passenger facilities at Hyderabad terminals

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) Managing Director Y. Nagi Reddy,

IPS, inspected Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) and Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) in Hyderabad to assess passenger amenities. The review covered cleanliness, water supply, seating, re-

strooms, safety measures, and charging points for JBM electric buses. Reddy also examined logistics counters and bus interiors, interacting with passengers to gather feedback. Empha-

sizing teamwork, he instructed officials to enhance facilities and ensure smooth commuter experiences. Senior officials, including EDs Muni Sekhar, Venkanna, Khus-

rosha Khan, CTM Sridhar, and Ranga Reddy RM Srilatha, accompanied him. The inspection reflects TSRTC's ongoing commitment to modernization and improved passenger comfort.

Alay-Balay Showcases Telangana Spirit, Culture, and Unity

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gana's rich culture, traditional cuisine, and social practices. This year, it is organized under the "Operation Sindoer" theme.

Bandaru Dattatreya described Alay-Balay as more than a tradition—it embodies the soul of Telangana. He urged citizens to embrace local practices, encouraged farmers to adopt organic agriculture, and em-

phasized the pivotal role of youth in Telangana's development. He also called on the Chief Ministers of Telugu states to work together for mutual progress and cooperation. Union Minister Kishan Reddy highlighted that state bifurcation aimed to improve governance. He called on the people of Telugu states to remain united and noted that youth are increasingly turning towards Sanatana Dharma. Referring to Dasara and the GST festival, he praised Prime Minister Modi for initiatives to curb rising prices. Kishan Reddy added that while political leaders often engage in rivalry, Alay-Balay provides a platform for everyone to come together on a single stage to celebrate unity and collaboration.

iBomma App Targets Telangana Police with Fake Phone Links

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sicals through suspicious phone links." However, investigations reveal that this claim has no basis and is completely false.



Authorities have clarified that the content circulating online is not linked to any official police activity and appears to be an attempt to mis-

lead the public. Citizens are advised to exercise caution and

not fall for such misleading social media posts.

Complaint Against Kavitha and Kavya Reddy Under Wildlife Act



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Former Wildlife Crime Control Bureau officer Mahesh Agarwal has lodged a complaint against former MP K. Kavitha and Union Minister Kishan Reddy's wife, Gangapuram Kavya Red-

dy. The complaint alleges that they released the Indian Roller bird (Pala Pitta), a protected species, during Vijayadashami celebrations. The act reportedly violates Section 9 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Agarwal urged authorities to verify video evi-

dence, record statements, and prosecute under Section 51, which carries penalties of up to three years' imprisonment or ₹25,000 fine. He criticized influential figures for setting a poor example, highlighting the need for strict enforcement of wildlife protection laws.

Arjun Ram Meghwal stresses aligning laws with public interest, calls for lawyer training in Telangana

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to frame laws that reflect the aspirations of the people. Speaking at

the BJP state legal cell meeting in Hyderabad, attended by Union Minister Kishan Reddy, Meghwal highlighted the importance of the Advocate Protection Act and pointed to the growing demand for lawyers and doctors across the country.

Sharing a personal experience, Meghwal expressed concern over delays in insurance compensation despite having private coverage, noting that such cases often reach the Supreme Court. Kishan Reddy urged efforts to strengthen the central govern-

ment's image and stressed that legal arguments should align with national policies. Reddy called for special training programs over the next three years to ensure a robust legal representation of the central government and emphasized collective ef-

forts if the BJP aims to secure power in Telangana. Meghwal's journey from IAS officer to Union Minister was also highlighted as an inspiration. BJP leaders, including MP Laxman and state president Ramachandra Rao, attended the meeting.

Falaknuma Road Over Bridge Inaugurated to Ease Traffic

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar and Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalak-

shmi inaugurated the new Falaknuma Road Over Bridge (ROB), constructed by GHMC at ₹52.03 crore. Built parallel to the old bridge, the four-lane

ROB aims to reduce congestion in Hyderabad's Old City. The old bridge has also been renovated to improve connectivity. The project will streamline traffic between Bar-

kas Junction, Falaknuma Bus Depot, and Charminar. Residents welcomed the initiative as a major relief from daily bottlenecks. Dignitaries including

MP Asaduddin Owaisi, MLCs, MLAs, and GHMC officials attended, reflecting the government's focus on urban mobility and modern infrastructure.

Telangana promotes ethical growth at JITO connect 2025

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Industries and IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu inaugurated JITO Connect 2025 at HITEX and HICC, Hyderabad, alongside Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Kishan

Reddy. The event, organized by Jain International Trade Organization, focused on ethical entrepreneurship and sustainable business practices. Sridhar Babu highlighted Telangana's investor-friendly environment and

encouraged entrepreneurs to balance profit with social impact. The event was attended by Ramdev Baba, BJP leaders, and JITO representatives, reinforcing Telangana's image as a hub for responsible and value-driven industrial growth.

SCR posts record revenue in first half of FY 2025-26

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: South Central Railway (SCR) has recorded its highest-ever revenue for the first half of FY 2025-26, generating Rs 10,143 crore between April and September, surpassing last year's Rs 9,966 crore. Freight loading reached a record 71.14 million tonnes, up 6%

from 67 MTs last year, contributing Rs 6,635 crore. Passenger revenue also grew 2.8% to Rs 2,991 crore, aided by Vande Bharat Express services, special trains, and additional coaches. SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava lauded the achievement and encouraged staff to maintain momentum and set new benchmarks by year-end.

Midnight knife clash sparks panic in Kamareddy

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Panic erupted in the district headquarters last night after a violent knife fight broke out between two groups near the Shastri Durgamata Dandiya event.

Under the influence of alcohol, five youths—Rahul, Maniraj, Manikanta, Kiran, and Balaji—sustained injuries to their arms, abdomen, and other areas. Locals alerted the police, who quickly dispersed the groups.

The injured were hospitalized at Kamareddy Government Hospital. Police have registered a case and are investigating. The violent incident has left residents shaken and concerned about public safety during local events.

BJP Launches Praja Chaitanya Yatra in Karimnagar and Sircilla

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: BJP launches Praja Chaitanya Yatra in Karimnagar and Sircilla. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has stepped up its political outreach in Telangana with the launch of the Praja Chaitanya Yatra in Karimnagar and Sircilla. State BJP president and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy flagged off the yatra in Karimnagar, stressing the party's commitment to offering an alternative to the current political establishment. The campaign aims to strengthen BJP's grassroots presence, mobilize public opinion, and highlight alleged shortcomings of the Congress government. Speaking at the event, Kishan Reddy

underscored key issues including development, employment, irrigation projects, and corruption-free governance. He criticized both previous BRS and current Congress administrations for failing Telangana's people, while projecting BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a model of accountable, people-focused governance. The Sircilla yatra, in the constituency of K.T. Rama Rao, son of former CM KCR, is politically significant and seen as a direct challenge to the ruling party. BJP leaders said the campaign will reach villages and mandals to record local grievances and promise solutions, reflecting the party's ambition to expand beyond traditional strongholds and appeal to new voter groups.



Kavitha appoints Panduranga Reddy as Telangana Jagruti district president

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Former MLC Kavitha Kalvakuntla, daughter of ex-CM KCR, has appointed Panduranga Reddy as the district president of Telangana Jagruthi, BRS's cultural wing, in a bid to energize the party's grass-

roots outreach. Jagruti, dedicated to promoting Telangana's identity, arts, and culture, will now see renewed focus under Reddy, who is recognized for his strong ties to cultural activists. Leaders and cadres welcomed the move as a boost to the party's morale. Kavitha stressed that

Jagruti's mission extends beyond politics to safeguarding traditions, festivals, and cultural heritage while supporting artists and youth. Observers see the appointment as part of BRS's strategy to counter BJP and Congress expansion and reassert itself through cultural mobilization.



Telangana distributes sewing machines to minority women



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: The Telangana government has rolled out the Indiramma Minority Mahila Shakti Scheme to empower women from minority communities. A distribution ceremony at Habib Fatima

Nagar Community Hall in Hyderabad saw Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, Adhuri Laxman Kumar, and Vivek Venkataswamy among attendees, along with Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav and MLC Mirza Rahmat Beg. In the first phase, 10,490 sewing machines were distributed to wid-

ows, divorcees, orphans, and women from economically weaker households. The second phase will see 33,750 more machines, with 3,500 allotted to Hyderabad district. Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar emphasized that the scheme will cover all 119 constituencies, enabling women to

achieve self-reliance through tailoring and small-scale businesses. He contrasted the current Congress government's focus on minority welfare with the alleged neglect by the previous BRS administration. Additional welfare measures highlighted included 200 units of

free electricity, ₹500 LPG cylinders, free bus travel for women, and six kilograms of rice per person. The minister also announced plans to strengthen self-help groups, provide zero-interest loans, and offer opportunities in solar energy, transport services, and fuel stations.

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh Meets Microsoft Executives

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh met senior Microsoft executives to discuss expanding the company's operations in the state and creating new employment opportunities in IT. Lokesh highlighted the state government's commitment to world-class digital infrastructure, youth skill development, and IT-enabled governance, assuring Microsoft of full support in setting up innovation hubs and

new centers. Executives expressed interest in partnerships in cloud computing, AI, cybersecurity solutions, e-governance tools, and digital literacy programs. Lokesh emphasized Andhra Pradesh's skilled workforce and educational strengths, reinforcing the state's vision to generate one lakh IT jobs in the coming years. The meeting underscores Andhra Pradesh's push to position itself as a major technology and innovation hub in South India.



Telangana Congress MLA sparks controversy with remarks on PM Modi

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: Telangana Congress MLA Bhupathi Reddy has drawn widespread criticism for remarks questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's longevity, reportedly made during a program in his Nizamabad Rural constituency. In a video circulated by BJP leaders, Reddy is heard questioning, "If Modi dies, will Rama cease to exist?" and commenting on the PM's age. The remarks were widely

condemned by the BJP as "insensitive" and "anti-Hindu." Telangana BJP spokesperson Rachna Reddy said the incident reflects Congress's frustration and divisive politics. This is not the first controversy involving the MLA, who has previously used abusive language against public figures and warned against criticism of the state government. The BJP has called for public unity against what it describes as Congress's destructive agenda.

Task Force Seizes E-Cigarettes Worth ₹2.5 Lakh in IS Sadan



The Commissioner's Task Force, South-East Zone, Hyderabad, along with IS Sadan Police, arrested a man for procuring and selling banned Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), commonly known as E-cigarettes. On 2 October 2025, Tharif Hussain (30), a two-wheeler dealer from Khalander Nagar, IS Sadan, was caught with 90 flavoured E-cigarettes (ELFBAR 40,000 puffs), a Honda Activa, an iPhone, and ₹2,900 in cash. The total seizure is valued at approximately ₹2.5 lakh. Investigations revealed Hussain sourced the items from a man named Aizaz and sold them at inflated prices for profit. Officials emphasized that E-cigarettes, which contain nicotine, pose serious health risks and are prohibited for public sale. The operation was conducted under inspector S Saidababu's supervision, supported by SIs K Rama Rao, M Madhu, and Task Force staff, in coordination with IS Sadan Police.

17-year-old girl ends life in Kompally after alleged harassment by uncle

A 17-year-old intermediate student ended her life following alleged sexual harassment by her paternal uncle at Kompally in Medchal district, under Pet Basheerabad Police limits. The girl, daughter of a deceased man from Varini, Nizamabad, lived with her widowed mother and younger sister in Kompally. Reports allege her father's elder brother regularly harassed her. Unable to endure the repeated abuse and concerned about her struggling mother, the girl hanged herself at home. Pet Basheerabad Police registered a case based on the mother's complaint and have launched an investigation. The incident has sparked outrage in the local community.

Double bedroom housing pattas distributed in Hyderabad constituencies

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, In-charge for Hyderabad, distributed double bedroom housing pattas to eligible beneficiaries from Charminar, Malakpet, Yakutpura, and Chandrayangutta constituencies at Minister Quarters. The programme was attended by GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLAs, and other key leaders. As part of GHMC's flagship welfare scheme, the initiative also includes house



construction in Mankal village, Maheshwaram mandal, Rangareddy district. The collector released a list of 1,730 beneficiaries, allotting homes at Mankal Phase-II. Of 1,024 local constituency beneficiaries, 75 pattas were handed over personally by the Minister. The remaining will be distributed through local MRO offices.

Congress leader's son arrested after fatal road mishap

Rehan Masqati, son of businessman and Congress leader Ali Masqati, was taken into custody by Bandlaguda police on Friday, October 3, following a road accident that claimed the life of a 63-year-old man, Abdul Hasnath. Another individual, 55-year-old Sajeed, sustained injuries in the incident. The police registered a case under Sections 106 (1) and 125 (a) for causing death by negligence and endangering life. The car involved in the accident has been seized. According to the FIR accessed by Siasat.com, the accident took place on September 30 near Alhamdulillah Hotel, close to Al

Jubail Colony, on Falaknuma Fly-over bridge. The victims were traveling on a two-wheeler when a Fortuner car hit them from behind, causing them to fall. Abdul Hasnath suffered head, knee, and abdominal injuries, while Sajeed was injured in his left leg. Both injured men were initially taken to Asra Hospital, where Abdul Hasnath succumbed to his injuries. Sajeed has been shifted to Bhagwandevi Hospital at Gulzarhouse. A relative of the deceased told local media that while the accused's family sent Rs 70,000-80,000 for hospital expenses, they have insisted that Rehan Masqati meet them personally.



Excise STF raids Uppuguda, seizes 13 bottles of foreign liquor

The Excise Special Task Force (STF) conducted a raid in Uppuguda, seizing 13 bottles of foreign liquor following reports of illegal possession. Three individuals—Golkonda Uday Kumar, Bharat Bhushan, and Deepak (from Delhi)—were identified and booked for violating excise laws. STF team leader Anjireddy confirmed the seizure and warned of strict action against those smuggling or selling liquor illegally in residential areas.

RPF hero at Charlapalli station pulls woman to safety from moving train

Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable's quick reflexes saved a woman passenger from a potentially fatal accident at Charlapalli railway station on Thursday. The incident occurred when the woman, who had stepped off the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) Express to buy food at a stall on Platform No. 4, hurried back to the departing train. In her rush, she slipped and was about to fall into the gap between the train and the platform. Constable P Vijaya noticed her plight and immediately sprang into action, pulling her to safety and preventing what could have been a serious accident. Senior RPF officials praised the constable for his bravery and assured him a reward for his prompt and courageous action.



Nehru Zoo kicks off 71st wildlife week with art & awareness

The 71st World Wildlife Week began on 2 October 2025 at Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park, featuring a series of awareness programmes. On Day 1, nearly 500 children participated in a drawing and painting competition, illustrating wild animals in their natural habitats. Visitors appreciated the initiative blending education with conservation. On Day 2 (3rd October), a snake awareness programme at the Reptile House Amphitheatre drew over 3,000 visitors. Live demonstrations showcased venomous and non-venomous snakes, their ecological roles, and habitats. The weeklong schedule includes: Day 3 (Oct 4): Plantation drive & animal keepers' talk; Day 4 (Oct 5): Elephant feeding & expert lecture; Day 5 (Oct 6): Zoo Day celebrations; Day 6 (Oct 7): Wildlife yoga sessions; Day 7 (Oct 8): Zoo run & wildlife parade with staff and visitors. Sports events for zoo employees, including cricket, badminton, chess, carroms, and kabaddi are also ongoing.



The event symbolized inclusivity and compassion, marking Dussehra with meaningful social impact and reinforcing the value of cultural traditions and community participation.

India-Pak Asia Cup Row: War, Minus The Shooting

Cricket, often celebrated as a “gentleman’s game,” has once again revealed its sharp political undercurrents. Last month’s Asia Cup in Dubai reignited nationalistic tensions between India and Pakistan, raising questions about whether George Orwell’s famed phrase—“sport is war minus the shooting”—still holds true, or if it has evolved into something far more aggressive.

Orwell’s 1945 essay on the sporting spirit warned that international sports often fuel national rivalries and stir up aggression rather than goodwill. His cautionary words feel eerily relevant today, especially after fiery public commentary linked India’s Asia Cup victory to the military’s Operation Sindoor, carried out in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. The lines between sport, nationalism, and political

messaging seem to blur more with each tournament.

In Dubai, symbolic gestures on the field mirrored this tension. Visuals of Pakistani players mimicking rifle stances with their bats, Indian players refusing handshakes, and the trophy snub involving Pakistan’s Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi sparked outrage and debate. While cricket should unite, it appeared to deepen divides—ironically, even as the tournament was held under the banner of the Asian Cricket Council.

Yet history offers more complex narratives. In 1965, amid a real war between India and Pakistan, cricket legends Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi and Hanif Mohammad played together in a “Rest of the World” team, even co-signing an appeal to end the conflict. Similarly, the 1996 World Cup, co-hosted by India,

Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, briefly felt like a post-partition reconciliation.

The deeper point, as Caribbean-born historian C.L.R. James once asked: “What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?” Cricket, like all sport, is never just about the game—it reflects social, political, and historical tensions. The West Indies’ rise in the 1970s, captured in the documentary Fire in Babylon, showcased how former colonies beat their ex-rulers at their own game, turning cricket into a symbol of resistance.

As right-wing nationalism rises globally, cricket is caught between being a sport of fair play and a proxy battleground for unresolved rivalries. Perhaps Orwell wasn’t entirely wrong—but maybe, just maybe, cricket can still surprise us and remain a metaphor for unity, not division.



RSS Marks 100 Years of Nation-Building Through Character-Building

This Vijayadashami, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) completes a century of its existence. Founded in 1925 by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the RSS began its journey in a deeply colonised Bharat, determined to revive the nation’s cultural and spiritual identity through the transformation of individual citizens. Inspired by Swami Vivekananda, Dr. Hedgewar envisioned an organisation that would go beyond political independence, aiming for intellectual and spiritual regeneration of the nation.

From its inception in Nagpur to its nationwide presence today, the RSS has steadily expanded through grassroots initiatives such as daily shakhas, disaster relief, and character development. Its message found resonance even in conflict-prone areas like Kannur, Kerala, where its influence among youth reportedly led to increased discipline and social responsibility—drawing both praise and



violent opposition from political rivals.

In 1981, a young police officer posted in Tellicherry (Kannur) witnessed first-hand the violent backlash against RSS sympathisers and the organisation’s clash with CPM cadres. Political tensions escalated when large caches of explosives were discovered in the homes of political leaders, prompting accusations against the officer and culminating in the dismissal of the Kerala government under President’s Rule.

The organisation’s footprint in the North-East was equally significant. In areas afflicted by

insurgency and ethnic militancy, RSS pracharaks quietly worked alongside locals, learning their languages and customs, offering education, medical help, and emotional support—often at great personal risk. The 1999 killing of four pracharaks in Tripura highlighted the dangers they faced from militant groups and evangelical hostility.

One of the RSS’s most impactful initiatives was the Students Experience in Interstate Living (SEIL) programme, launched in 1965. It built cultural bridges between North-East students and host

families across India, fostering long-lasting bonds and national integration. Many of these students later became top civil servants, military officers, and administrators.

Now marking 100 years, the RSS continues to be a transformative socio-cultural force, promoting national pride and unity across communities. As it steps into its second century, tributes pour in for its founder Dr. Hedgewar, his successors, and lakhs of volunteers who have contributed selflessly to the vision of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

AI-Generated Islamophobic Content Surged in India Since Mid-2024

A sharp rise in Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated Islamophobic content has been observed in India since mid-2024, according to a new report by the Centre for the Study of Organised Hate (CSOH), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit think tank. The report, titled “AI-generated Imagery and the New Frontier of Islamophobia in India”, tracks how AI technology is increasingly being used to amplify hate speech and bigotry, particularly against the Muslim community.

The study analysed 1,326 AI-generated images and videos posted between May 2023 and May 2025, across 297 social media accounts on X, Facebook, and Instagram. While such content was “minimal” throughout 2023 and the early part of 2024, a dramatic increase began around June 2024, with two notable peaks in September 2024 and March 2025.

The September surge aligned with the spread of the “Rail Jihad” conspiracy theory, while March’s spike coincided with the viral trend of Ghibli Art, which was manipulated to include hate-filled visuals. The report noted that none of the 187 reported posts—which violated platform guidelines—were taken down, pointing to a serious failure of content moderation by social media platforms.

The hateful AI-generated content focused on

four main themes:

1. Sexualisation of Muslim women – the most engaged-with content, reaching 6.7 million views. These AI-generated images often depicted Muslim women in burqas, surrounded by men, with captions suggesting incestuous ties.
2. Conspiratorial narratives – including tropes like Love Jihad, Population Jihad, and Rail Jihad, falsely linking Muslims to national threats.
3. Dehumanising rhetoric – posts depicting Muslims as animals or threats to public order, which made up 23.4% of the dataset.
4. Aestheticised violence – images normalising or glorifying violence against

Muslims.

The content drew total engagement of 27.3 million across platforms. X led with the highest volume and reach—509 posts, 24.1 million views, and over 5.6 lakh likes. Instagram followed with 462 posts, and Facebook had 355 posts.

The report also named Hindu nationalist media platforms like OpIndia, Sudarshan News, and Panchjanya as key amplifiers of synthetic hate, embedding AI-generated Islamophobia into mainstream narratives.

The findings underscore a troubling trend: the fusion of AI tools with ideological propaganda, pushing Islamophobic hate deeper into India’s digital and political discourse.



Tamil Nadu Pushes Innovation Frontier with Global Startup Summit 2025



Tamil Nadu is charting a bold new course in its journey toward becoming the “Innovation Capital” of India, as it gears up for the Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit 2025. The State’s startup strategy, blending government support with inclusive innovation, is entering a transformative new phase.

At the recent TN Rising Investment Conclave in Hosur, a symbolic moment captured this transition. A young founder from Torus Robotics, a homegrown startup, took the stage to sign a ₹100-crore investment Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu

government. Their journey—from a government-supported incubator to becoming an investor and strategic collaborator—highlights the success of Tamil Nadu’s startup ecosystem.

“This is exactly the system we envisioned,” said Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. “A startup that begins with seed support and mentoring from the State must eventually grow into a partner in development, contributing back to the economy and society.”

This approach marks a deliberate policy shift from seeing startups merely as beneficiaries of government schemes to recognising them as key

stakeholders in economic growth. Over the past few years, the government has launched and scaled a range of initiatives to enable this—from incubation centres, innovation grants, and startup missions, to targeted support for underrepresented entrepreneurs, including women, rural innovators, and socially marginalised groups.

The StartupTN Mission, a flagship programme, has facilitated over 7,000 startups in the State, connecting them with global markets, investors, and mentorship networks. In the process, Tamil Nadu has emerged as one of the fastest-growing startup

hubs in the country.

The upcoming Global Startup Summit 2025 is expected to be a landmark event, bringing together investors, global thought leaders, and startup founders to showcase Tamil Nadu’s innovation capacity. With themes focused on sustainability, deep tech, healthtech, and inclusive innovation, the summit will serve as both a platform for collaboration and a statement of the State’s long-term vision.

Tamil Nadu’s goal is clear: to not just host startups, but to co-create the future with them—turning young ventures into pillars of the State’s economic and social development.



Pakistan lost several fighter jets in Operation Sindoor: IAF chief



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh on Friday revealed that India dealt significant blows to Pakistan's air assets, including U.S.-made F-16s and Chinese-supplied JF-17 fighter jets, during the recently concluded Operation Sindoor.

Addressing a press conference as part of the 93rd Indian Air Force Day celebrations at the Air Force Auditorium in Delhi, the IAF chief provided rare operational insights into the high-intensity mission. "The operation successfully neutralised key Pakistani air assets, degrading their offensive capabilities," Singh stated, adding that damage assessments confirmed hits on several front-line aircraft.

The disclosure marks the first official confirmation of the extent of damage inflicted on Pakistan's Air Force during the operation, which had remained under wraps due to diplomatic sensitivities. Operation Sindoor was carried out in response to escalating cross-border threats and intelligence inputs regarding imminent aerial aggression.

In addition to the operational highlights, Air Chief Marshal Singh laid out the Air Force's long-term vision under Roadmap 2047, which includes fleet modernization, enhanced joint operations capabilities, and greater reliance on indigenous defence technologies.

A major highlight of the roadmap is the proposed Sudarshan Chakra Air Defence System, a domestically developed integrated air shield aimed at countering both manned and unmanned aerial threats. Singh said the system is in advanced conceptual stages and will serve as India's first fully indigenous multi-tiered air defence network.



PM Modi to Launch ₹62,000-Cr Youth Empowerment Initiatives

TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to unveil a comprehensive package of youth-focused initiatives worth over ₹62,000 crore on Saturday (October 4), aimed at transforming education, skill development, and entrepreneurship across India.

The centrepiece of the launch will be PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skill-ing and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a ₹60,000 crore scheme to upgrade 1,000 government ITIs. The initiative follows a hub-and-spoke model, managed by industry partners with support from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The first phase will prioritize ITIs in Patna and Darbhanga.

PM Modi will also inaugurate the Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme: Offers interest-free education loans up to ₹4 lakh. Additionally, Modi will inaugurate the Bihar Yuva Ayog, a statutory youth commission, and the Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University. He will also lay foundation stones for infrastructure in four Bihar universities under PM-USHA, and dedicate the NIT Patna Bihta campus, which includes a 5G lab, ISRO-backed space centre, and startup incubator.

MK Stalin Slams BJP For “No Genuine Concern” Over Karur Stampede



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday accused the BJP-led Centre of showing "no genuine concern" over the Karur stampede tragedy and instead attempting to politicise the incident ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Speaking at a government function in Ramanathapuram, Stalin questioned the urgency behind dispatching a delegation of NDA MPs to Karur, where a stampede at a political rally claimed 41 lives. He contrasted this with the Centre's inaction during other national tragedies, such as the Manipur violence, Morbi bridge collapse, and Kumbh Mela stampede.

"It's not out of concern. It's a political move aimed at gaining mileage ahead of the 2026 elections," Stalin said. He called the BJP a "parasite" trying to exploit the tragedy for political gain and reiterated that Tamil Nadu remains out of the BJP's reach, despite efforts to co-opt local figures.

Stalin also criticised Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for her swift visit to Karur while allegedly ignoring Tamil Nadu during three major natural disasters. He further took aim at the AIADMK, accusing it of betraying Tamil Nadu's interests by aligning with the BJP.

The CM also invoked history, alleging that the RSS had once plotted an attack on former CM K. Kamaraj, vowing to continue protecting Tamil Nadu under the "Dravidian Model 2.0." He also blamed the Centre for failing to prevent attacks on Tamil fishermen by the Sri Lankan coast guard and emphasized that retrieving Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka is vital to resolving the ongoing issue.

Taliban ‘Foreign Minister’ Amir Khan Muttaqi to Visit India Next Week



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant diplomatic development, Taliban administration's 'Foreign Minister' Amir Khan Muttaqi is scheduled to visit India next week, officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Thursday (October 2). This will mark the first high-level visit by a Taliban official to India since the group seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021.

According to MEA sources, the visit will focus on developmental co-operation, particularly India's assistance in addressing critical shortages of essential medicines and agricultural products in Afghanistan. The war-torn country has been grappling with a humanitarian crisis following the international withdrawal and the imposition of sanctions after the Taliban takeover.

The visit has been in the works for several months, but was delayed due to concerns over Muttaqi's status under international sanctions. Like many senior Taliban leaders, he remains listed under United Nations and U.S. sanctions related to the group's past violent actions during the war against U.S. and NATO forces since 2001.



Air India to Shift 60 Domestic Flights to Delhi Airport's Terminal 2 from October 26

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Air India has announced the relocation of 60 domestic flights to Terminal 2 (T2) of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport from October 26, 2025, due to ongoing expansion works at Terminal 3 (T3).

Air India Express will also move all its domestic operations to the newly upgraded Terminal 1 (T1), the airline said in a statement. The changes come as Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) undertakes terminal expansion at T3 to boost international passenger capacity.



Trump Embraces Project 2025, Pushes Federal Cuts Amid Shutdown

TPN Bureau | Washington

President Donald Trump has officially embraced Project 2025, a hardline conservative blueprint for restructuring the U.S. federal government, reversing his previous disavowals during the 2024 election campaign. In a Truth Social post Thursday, Trump announced a meeting with budget chief Russ Vought, a key architect of the plan, to discuss cutting what he called “Democrat Agencies,” some of which could face permanent

closure. The move comes as the government shutdown drags on, with the Trump administration using the budget standoff to accelerate mass federal layoffs and cancel funding for Democrat-backed programs. Already, \$8 billion in green energy projects and \$18 billion for New York transportation initiatives have been scrapped. Project 2025, authored by The Heritage Foundation and many Trump allies, outlines sweeping changes to centralize executive power, cut the federal workforce, curb immigration, and dis-

mantle regulatory agencies. While Trump denied any association with the plan during his 2024 campaign, several of its authors—including Vought, Stephen Miller, and John Ratcliffe—now hold key roles in his administration. Democrats, including former Biden OMB Director Shalanda Young, expressed outrage. “I guess Democrats were right, but that doesn’t make me feel better,” she said. “This is happening after we were told Project 2025 was off the table.” The shutdown, once seen as a political liability,

is now being used by Trump to push his executive agenda. According to House Speaker Mike Johnson, the deadlock has handed Trump control to decide which agencies and employees are “essential.” Critics warn that Trump’s embrace of Project 2025 signals a shift toward authoritarian governance, bypassing legislative checks. Still, Trump allies insist the plan is the key to achieving lasting conservative reforms. “We’re watching the blueprint come to life,” said former Project 2025 director Paul Dans.

Massive Fire Erupts at Chevron Refinery Near Los Angeles

TPN Correspondent | El Segundo

A massive fire broke out late Thursday night (October 2) at the Chevron oil refinery in El Segundo, sending flames and thick smoke billowing into the sky, visible from miles away. The blaze prompted local authorities to urge residents to stay indoors as a precaution, though no evacuations were ordered. By early Friday morning (October 3), the City of El Segundo confirmed that the fire had been contained and there was no immediate threat to public safety. Chevron confirmed the incident and stated that its emergency response teams had acted swiftly to bring the fire under control. The company also reported that no injuries were sus-

tained during the incident. California Governor Gavin Newsom’s office said it was closely monitoring the situation and was in touch with state and local emergency services to ensure the protection of nearby communities. “State and local authorities are coordinating closely to assess air quality and ensure safety protocols are being followed,” the Governor’s office said in a brief statement. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. El Segundo is home to one of Chevron’s largest refineries, processing over 270,000 barrels of crude oil per day, making it a critical component of the region’s fuel supply. While the immediate danger has passed, environmental officials are expected to conduct air quality checks and in-

spect for any possible chemical leaks or contamination in the surrounding area. Videos shared on social media showed towering flames lighting up the night sky, sparking concern among residents in nearby communities. The fire marks one of the most significant industrial incidents in the area this year. Further updates are expected following the investigation. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) added, “It’s midnight in DC... Republicans don’t even want to TALK about how to stop your premiums from doubling. This is a R E P U B L I C A N SHUTDOWN.” Without resolution in sight, Democrats say they will continue to push for healthcare protections while warning of long-term harm if the standoff continues.



Indonesia School Collapse: 8 Dead, 50 Students Still Missing in Sidoarjo Tragedy

TPN Correspondent | Indonesia

The death toll from the collapse of the Al-Khoziny Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo, East Java, has risen to eight, with three more bodies recovered from the debris early Friday. Over 50 students remain missing, and 105 others have been injured, many suffering head injuries and broken bones, authorities confirmed. The building, part of a century-old religious school, collapsed on

Monday while hundreds of students were gathered in the prayer hall. Rescue crews have been working around the clock, initially using bare hands and basic tools, but switched to heavy excavators on Thursday after signs of life beneath the rubble diminished. Officials said the collapsed structure was a two-storey building that was undergoing unauthorised construction of two additional concrete floors. The weakened foundation failed during a concrete pour, triggering the disaster. Police

investigations are underway. Most of the victims were male students aged between 12 and 19, from classes VII to XII. Female students, who were praying in a separate section, managed to escape unharmed, according to survivors. Suharyanto, head of Indonesia’s National Disaster Mitigation Agency, reported that two bodies were found in the prayer area and one near an exit—suggesting he had been trying to flee. “We’re racing against time and the heat,” he said,

adding that the recovery efforts are expected to be completed by Saturday. As excavators tore through collapsed slabs of concrete in Friday’s scorching heat, the stench of decomposing bodies signalled the grim reality beneath the wreckage. School authorities have not issued a statement yet. This tragedy raises urgent questions about building safety and regulation enforcement in religious and educational institutions across Indonesia.



Sarah Mullally Named First Female Archbishop of Canterbury

Historic appointment marks new era for Church of England

TPN Correspondent | CANTERBURY

In a historic move, Sarah Mullally, the current Bishop of London, has been appointed as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, making her the first woman to lead the Church of England in its 1,400-year history. The announcement was made on Friday (October 3), ending an 11-month leadership vacuum following the resignation of former Archbishop Justin Welby in November 2024. Welby stepped down amid a major scandal involving the cover-up of child abuse within the Church, which had shaken public confidence and prompted calls for institutional reform.

Mullally’s elevation to the Church’s highest office marks a significant milestone not only for the Anglican community in the UK but also for its 85 million global adherents. The Archbishop of Canterbury serves as the ceremonial head of the worldwide Anglican Communion. A former chief nursing officer of England before entering the clergy, Mullally has been widely respected for her pastoral care and administrative leadership. She has also been a strong advocate for inclusivity and transparency within the Church. “I am deeply honoured by this calling,” said Archbishop Mullally in a brief statement. “At this pivotal time, the Church must be a beacon of hope, healing, and

justice.” However, her appointment may cause friction with conservative Anglican branches, particularly in parts of Africa and Asia, where theological opposition to female leadership remains strong. Some leaders have already expressed concern that the move could further deepen doctrinal divisions within the Communion. Despite this, Church officials see her appointment as a progressive step forward. “This is a moment of transformation,” said a spokesperson for the Church. “Archbishop Mullally embodies the future of a compassionate, courageous, and inclusive Church.” She will be formally enthroned at Canterbury Cathedral later this year.



Putin Hails PM Modi as “Wise Leader”, Backs India’s Strategic Autonomy

TPN Correspondent | Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a “very wise leader” who always prioritises the interests of his country, during a speech at the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi on Thursday. He emphasised the special and strategic partnership between India and Russia, calling it a relationship built on deep trust and mutual respect. “Prime Minister Modi is a very wise leader who thinks first about his country. India and Russia share a privileged strategic partnership, and people in India have not forgotten this,” said Putin, as reported by Russia Today. Putin’s remarks come amid reports of his upcoming visit to India later this year. Ahead of this, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is expected to travel to New Delhi to prepare for the summit and hold discussions on key bilateral

matters. During his address, Putin also defended India’s continued purchase of Russian oil despite international pressure, particularly from the United States. He warned that any halt in oil imports from Russia could cost India USD 9–10 billion in economic losses. “There is no political aspect here; it’s purely economic. If India stops buying our energy resources, it will incur substantial losses. But if it doesn’t, there could be sanctions. Either way, the impact is the same. So why give in, especially at domestic political cost?” Putin said, expressing confidence in India’s refusal to be “humiliated” by external powers. The statement comes just two weeks after former US President Donald Trump accused India and China of being the “primary funders” of the Ukraine war due to their continued import of Russian oil. Putin’s praise reinforces growing geopolitical cooperation between New Delhi and Moscow, even as global tensions persist.

Maruti Suzuki Becomes First Carmaker to Deliver Cars to Kashmir by Rail

In a historic development, Maruti Suzuki India Limited has become the first automobile manufacturer in India to transport vehicles to Kashmir by rail, with its first shipment arriving at the newly inaugurated Anantnag railway terminal on Friday.

The inaugural consignment included over 100 units of popular Maruti Suzuki models such as the Brezza, Dzire, WagonR, and S-Presso. The vehicles were dispatched from the company's recently launched in-plant railway siding at Manesar, Haryana.

Covering a journey of more than 850 kilometers, the train traversed several key rail corridors and notably crossed the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab river, symbolising the growing reach and capability of India's rail infrastructure.

"This is a significant milestone in our effort to enhance our logistics efficiency while reducing carbon footprint. The use of rail transport for vehicle delivery to Kashmir will not only cut down delivery time but also ensure safer and more sustainable transportation," a Maruti Suzuki spokesperson said.

The use of the railway network to access the Kashmir Valley marks a major shift in automotive logistics, which has traditionally depended on road transport for vehicle movement to the region. The new Anantnag terminal is expected to streamline supply chains for the Northern market and bring down costs and delays due to road blockages, especially during harsh winters.

This initiative aligns with Maruti Suzuki's broader strategy to increase rail-based logistics and improve last-mile delivery. The company has been steadily expanding its rail network reach and aims to ramp up rail dispatches to more destinations across India.

The move also reflects growing investment in multi-modal logistics and infrastructure development in Jammu & Kashmir, reinforcing the valley's connectivity with national supply chains.



OpenAI Hits \$500 Billion Valuation After Major Share Sale



OpenAI, the artificial intelligence company behind ChatGPT, has reached a staggering \$500 billion valuation following a large-scale secondary share sale involving current and former employees, a source familiar with the matter confirmed on Thursday.

In the deal, employees sold approximately \$6.6 billion worth of shares to a consortium of global investors, including Thrive Capital, SoftBank, Dragoneer Investment Group, Abu Dhabi's M.G.X., and T. Rowe Price. The transaction marks one of the most significant private tech funding rounds in recent years.

The source, who requested anonymity due to lack of authorisation to speak publicly, said the secondary share sale was part of a larger \$10 billion offering previously authorised by the company. The deal represents a substantial jump from OpenAI's earlier \$300 billion valuation, reflecting strong investor confidence in the company's rapid growth, surging revenue, and dominant position in the AI space.

The new valuation places OpenAI among the top five most valuable private tech companies globally, rivaling the likes of SpaceX and ByteDance. The move also signals robust market interest in generative AI technologies, which have seen explosive adoption across industries from finance to healthcare.

Founded in 2015, OpenAI has seen a meteoric rise since the launch of ChatGPT in late 2022, with its tools becoming central to enterprise productivity, education, and software development. The company now licenses its technology to major firms, while continuing to develop advanced multimodal AI models.

Neither OpenAI nor the listed investors immediately responded to media queries regarding the transaction.

The massive valuation milestone comes amid growing discussions around the future of AI regulation, ethical deployment, and the broader impact of artificial intelligence on global labor markets and innovation.



India anchor of stability in volatile world: RBI Governor

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday reaffirmed that India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong, positioning the country as a pillar of stability in an increasingly volatile global environment.

Speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave 2025 in New Delhi, Malhotra emphasized that India continues to demonstrate economic resilience, backed by low inflation, robust foreign exchange reserves, a manageable current account deficit, and healthy balance sheets across both the banking and corporate sectors.

"India has become an anchor of stability in a turbulent world," said Malhotra, highlighting the country's consistent performance even as many global economies face headwinds from inflation, geopolitical tensions, and slowing growth.

He noted that inflation has remained within the targeted tolerance band, and foreign exchange reserves provide a strong buffer against external shocks. As of the latest figures, India's forex reserves remain comfortably above \$600 billion.

On the banking front, Malhotra said that Indian banks are now better capitalized, more profitable, and are maintaining low levels of non-performing assets (NPAs). He also praised the prudence of corporate India in managing leverage and adapting to shifting global conditions.

The RBI Governor's remarks come amid global economic uncertainty driven by rising interest rates in advanced economies, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical risks, including the prolonged conflict in Eastern Europe and energy market volatility.

Malhotra concluded that maintaining policy discipline, ensuring financial stability, and continuing structural reforms will be key to sustaining India's strong economic position.

The Kautilya Economic Conclave, organized by the Finance Ministry, brings together policymakers, economists, and global experts to discuss India's economic roadmap in a shifting global landscape.

Get smarter responses, upload files and images, and more.

Forex traders noted that the USD/INR pair continues to hover near record lows, pressured by heightened global uncertainties, including trade tensions and geopolitical risks.

"Persistent dollar demand, especially from oil importers, and the broader strength of the U.S. dollar index are weighing on the rupee," said a senior currency analyst. "Additionally, concerns over capital outflows and global risk aversion are putting pressure on emerging market currencies, including the INR."

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened weak and moved within a narrow range during the session. It eventually settled at 88.78 per U.S. dollar, down from the previous close of 88.71.

The rupee's depreciation also reflects the pressure of foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows, as they continue to pull money from Indian equities amid expectations of prolonged high interest rates in advanced economies.

Market participants are closely watching the U.S. Federal Reserve's policy outlook, as hawkish commentary could further dampen sentiment and accelerate capital flight from emerging markets.

Rupee Slides 7 Paise to 88.78 Against Dollar, Near All-Time Low

Despite India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, including healthy forex reserves and robust GDP growth, the rupee remains vulnerable to external shocks, especially given rising crude oil prices and global monetary tightening.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to continue monitoring the currency closely and intervene if necessary to curb excessive volatility, though it has so far maintained a hands-off approach to allow for orderly market-driven adjustments.

Market experts expect the rupee to remain under pressure in the near term unless there is a significant easing in global financial market stress or a reversal in foreign fund outflows.

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Boiled Egg Explodes Like a Bomb: Experts Warn Against Microwave Danger

A viral video has shocked social media users by showing the dangerous outcome of a seemingly harmless kitchen habit—reheating a boiled egg in the microwave. In the clip, a woman takes out a microwaved boiled egg and attempts to slice it open with a knife. Within seconds, the egg explodes violently, releasing hot steam and scalding her face and eyes.

While it may sound like a rare accident, experts warn that this is a real and recurring danger. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, such explosions can lead to serious eye injuries,

including corneal burns, which could potentially impact vision. So why do eggs explode after microwaving? The science behind it is simple but alarming. When a boiled egg is reheated, particularly in a microwave, steam builds up inside the yolk. Since the outer shell or membrane holds the pressure in, slicing or poking the egg causes a sudden release of superheated steam, much like a mini pressure cooker blast. This thermal reaction can be powerful enough to cause burns on the skin and damage to the eyes, as shown in the viral footage. Other videos

have surfaced showing similar incidents, proving this is not an isolated case. Experts strongly advise people not to microwave boiled eggs, especially whole ones, whether shelled or unshelled. Instead, they recommend using safer reheating methods such as cutting the egg into pieces before warming or simply eating it cold. This incident serves as a powerful reminder that even routine kitchen tasks can carry risks. As awareness grows, safety experts hope such warnings will prevent future injuries caused by everyday cooking mistakes.



Apple Halts Vision Pro Revamp to Focus on AI-Powered Smart Glasses

In a strategic shift, Apple has reportedly paused the development of a revamped Vision Pro headset to focus on AI-powered smart glasses, according to a Bloomberg News report citing sources familiar with the matter. The tech giant was working on a lighter and more affordable version of the Vision Pro, code-named N100, with a targeted release in 2027. However, the company has now decided to reallocate resources and staff from the Vision Pro project to accelerate the development of its upcoming smart glasses. Apple is said to be working on at least two types of smart glasses. The first version, internally referred to as N50, will reportedly lack its own display and instead pair with an iPhone, functioning as an AI-assisted wearable. The company is aiming to unveil the device as early as next year, with a full release planned for 2027. Unlike the Vision Pro, which focuses on immer-



sive mixed-reality experiences, Apple's glasses are expected to rely heavily on voice interactions and artificial intelligence, providing users with contextual information, navigation, and assistance through audio and minimal visual cues. This marks a move toward everyday wearable tech, rather than niche high-end headsets. The decision comes amid growing competition in the smart glasses space, particularly from Meta Platforms, which recently launched the

latest version of its Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses powered by AI. With AI becoming the next battleground in consumer tech, Apple's pivot highlights the company's ambition to lead in wearable AI devices. While Vision Pro continues to sell in limited quantities, Apple's long-term focus now appears to be on making AI glasses the next major product category—one that's lightweight, user-friendly, and deeply integrated with the Apple ecosystem.

Wikipedia May Open Its Knowledge Base to AI Models via New Embedding Project

In a significant development for artificial intelligence research, Wikimedia Deutschland has announced a new initiative that could grant AI models direct access to Wikipedia's structured knowledge base. Launched on October 1, the initiative is called the Wikidata Embedding Project and aims to enhance how AI systems understand and utilize factual information. At the core of the project is a vector-based semantic search system, which enables machines to comprehend the meaning and relationships between words and concepts—a critical component for improving Large Language Models (LLMs). The system will allow AI tools to navigate and extract knowledge from over 120 million articles across Wikipedia and its sister sites. Unlike open web crawls like Common Crawl, which gather massive but uncured



data from across the internet, Wikipedia's content is community-edited and better structured, making it more reliable and factual for AI training. While some skepticism exists around Wikipedia's accuracy, experts agree it provides far higher data quality and consistency than most

unfiltered online sources. The potential integration of Wikipedia into AI models could improve the accuracy, transparency, and trustworthiness of machine-generated content. It also opens the door for AI-powered tools to offer better search results, recommendations,

summarizations, and even fact-checking capabilities. However, Wikimedia has not yet confirmed whether this access will be extended to commercial AI developers, or if it will be limited to open-source and research-based use cases. As AI models become increasingly central to

how information is consumed and generated, collaborations like this between knowledge institutions and AI developers could set the standard for building more responsible and informative AI systems. Further details and access frameworks are expected to be released in the coming months.

Why We Cry: How Tears Help the Body Relieve Stress

Tears are more than just a sign of sadness—they may also play a vital role in managing stress and emotional balance, according to recent scientific insights. While humans shed tears for many reasons, emotional crying is unique and deeply connected to how our brain processes grief, pain, or despair. Unlike reflex tears, which protect the eyes from dust, smoke, or onion vapours, emotional tears are linked to activity in the brain's hypothalamus—a region that connects feelings to physical responses. When intense emotions like sorrow or frustration overwhelm a person, the hypothalamus signals the lacrimal glands to release tears. These tears are believed to carry



more than just water and salt—they may also contain stress-related hormones. One leading explanation suggests that crying is a built-in stress relief mechanism. Studies have found that emotional tears can help flush out hormones like cortisol, which are associated with physical stress. This process may help restore internal balance, offering the

body a subtle way to regulate intense emotional states. Crying also activates the parasympathetic nervous system, which plays a role in calming the body after a stressful event. As a result, people often report feeling calmer or lighter after a good cry. The slowing of the heart rate and the body's shift into a more relaxed state can be part

of why crying is often followed by a sense of relief. Though still being researched, these findings highlight that crying is not just an emotional reaction, but possibly a biological coping tool designed to help the body handle psychological stress. So the next time tears flow, they might just be your body's way of healing from the inside out.

Instagram Testing Reels as Default Tab in Major App Update

In what could be a game-changing move, Meta is testing a new feature that would make Reels the default tab when users open Instagram. The announcement was made by Instagram head Adam Mosseri in a recent post on Threads, confirming that the test is currently limited and opt-in, with India among the first markets to experience it. This test marks one of the biggest potential updates to the platform's user interface in recent years. Traditionally, Instagram opens to the Home feed, showing posts from followed accounts. But with the massive popularity of short-form video, Meta appears to be shifting its focus to Reels to boost engagement. Reels, Instagram's answer to TikTok, has played a major role in the platform's growth. Instagram recently surpassed three billion



monthly active users, with executives crediting Reels and DMs as the key drivers of that milestone. Earlier this year, Instagram also extended Reels' maximum length to three minutes, giving creators more flexibility. While the test is still in its early stages, reactions have been mixed. Some users welcome the change, especially those

who primarily use Instagram for video content. Others, however, worry that it might reduce the visibility of photo posts and updates from friends and family. Meta has not confirmed whether this change will roll out globally or remain a regional experiment. However, such tests usually hint at broader strategic shifts. If successful, the Reels

default experience could become the new normal on Instagram. As the social media landscape continues to evolve, this move highlights Meta's commitment to making Reels central to the Instagram experience—both for creators and everyday users. More details on the update and possible wider rollout are expected in the coming weeks.



Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver at World Weightlifting Championships 2025

Indian weightlifting star Mirabai Chanu added another silver to her illustrious career, finishing second in the 48kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships 2025 held in Forde, Norway.

Chanu, a former world champion (2017) and Tokyo Olympic silver medalist, lifted a combined 199kg — 84kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk — to secure the silver medal. This marks her third

podium finish at the World Championships, after gold in 2017 and silver in 2022. Returning to the 48kg weight class after competing in the 49kg division for years, Chanu appeared slightly rusty in the snatch segment, failing twice at 87kg and managing only 84kg. However, she staged a strong comeback in the clean and jerk, successfully lifting 109kg, 112kg, and finally 115kg, equaling her personal best from

the Tokyo Olympics 2021. The gold medal went to North Korea's Ri Song Gum, who delivered a record-breaking total of 213kg (91kg in snatch and 122kg in clean and jerk). She set two new world records with her final lifts in clean and jerk and total. Thailand's Thanyathorn Sukcharoen claimed the bronze with a 198kg total (88kg + 110kg). India's chief coach

Vijay Sharma had earlier stated that the aim at this championship was to cross the 200kg mark and prepare Chanu to return to her top form in the lighter weight category. While Chanu narrowly missed that target, her silver medal performance signals strong progress ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic cycle, reinforcing her status as one of India's most consistent weightlifting champions.

Djokovic Unfazed by Losses to Alcaraz, Sinner Ahead of Shanghai Masters

As he begins his campaign at the Shanghai Masters 2025, tennis legend Novak Djokovic has made it clear that he's not discouraged by his recent string of high-profile losses to Carlos Alcaraz and Jan-nik Sinner, the top two players in the world.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion, now 38, has faced a two-year Grand Slam title drought, with Alcaraz and Sinner increasingly getting the better of him

on the biggest stages. Djokovic lost to Alcaraz in back-to-back Wimbledon finals in 2023 and 2024, and most recently at the US Open 2025 semi-final. Meanwhile, Sinner has beaten Djokovic in their last five encounters, including at Roland Garros and Wimbledon 2025 semi-finals. Despite these setbacks, Djokovic remains focused. "I'm not discouraged. I'm still working as hard as I possibly can to challenge these guys—or

challenge myself, really," Djokovic said, as quoted by the ATP. He emphasized his preference for best-of-three-set tournaments, saying they provide a better opportunity for strong performances at this stage in his career. Djokovic opens his Shanghai campaign against Marin Cilic, with a potential semi-final clash against world No. 2 Sinner looming. Although he trails the Italian 4-6 in head-to-head, Djokovic



Hyderabad to Host India's First-Ever FIP Silver Padel Tournament



In a historic move for Indian racquet sports, Hyderabad will host the country's first-ever FIP Silver Padel tournament, titled FIP Silver Hyderabad 2025, from October 12 to 15. Organised by the Indian Padel Federation (IPF), the tournament marks India's official entry onto the International Padel Federation (FIP) tour. The event will be held at the KPGBA complex in Hyderabad, which features three world-class MejorSet courts—a globally recognised standard in padel infrastructure. With a record prize pool of ₹15 lakh, the tournament promises intense action across both Men's and Women's categories, featuring a mix of top international stars and emerging Indian talent. IPF President Sneha Abraham Sehgal called the tournament a "watershed moment" for padel in India. "With world-class infrastructure, top-ranked players, and the highest-ever prize pool, this sets a new benchmark. It is not just a competition but

the beginning of India's journey as a global padel destination," she said. **Key Participating Teams:** **Men's Category:** • #56 Denis Tomas Perino (ITA) / #56 Ignacio Piotto Alborno (ARG) • #42 Agustin Torre (ARG) / #75 Mario Ortega (ESP) • #115 Rodrigo Coello Manso (ESP) / #91 Boris Castro Garcia (ESP) • India's top-ranked: #1216 Shashank Narde / #1272 Manav Sreekumar **Women's Category:** • #52 Letizia Maria Manquillo Alarza (ESP) / #57 Laura Lujan Rodriguez (ESP) • #80 Marcella Koek (NED) / #93 Victoria Kurz (GER) • India's top-ranked: #1111 Vaibhavi Deshmukh / #373 Sayaka Yoshimoto (JPN) The tournament marks a significant step in India's effort to popularise padel, one of the fastest-growing sports globally.

Bangladesh Thrash Pakistan by 7 Wickets in Women's World Cup Opener

Bangladesh began their ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 campaign in style with a dominant seven-wicket win over Pakistan in Colombo on Thursday. Chasing a modest target of 130, Bangladesh cruised home with 113 balls to spare, thanks to a composed unbeaten 54 from opener Rubya Haider and a steady 24 not out from Sobhana Mostary. Rubya anchored the innings confidently, facing 77 balls and hitting four boundaries, while Sobhana provided perfect support in the middle overs to ensure a smooth chase after a strong start. Their unbroken 63-run stand for the fourth wicket sealed

the win in just 30.5 overs, handing Bangladesh a significant net run rate boost early in the tournament. Earlier, Bangladesh's bowlers laid the foundation for victory by bundling out Pakistan for just 129 in 40.2 overs. Pakistan's batters struggled to build partnerships on a slow surface, with only Sidra Amin (35) and Nida Dar (27) offering resistance. The Bangladeshi bowling unit operated with discipline, led by Salma Khatun, who took 3 for 21, while Nahida Akter chipped in with 2 for 28. Fielding was sharp, with Bangladesh affecting two crucial run-outs to keep Pakistan under pressure throughout.

This win marks a strong start for Bangladesh, who will now look to carry this momentum into their upcoming group-stage fixtures. For Pakistan, it's a disappointing start as they failed to capitalise on the conditions after winning the toss and batting first. Bangladesh next face South Africa, while Pakistan will seek redemption in their second match against Sri Lanka. **Score Summary:** Pakistan: 129 all out in 40.2 overs (Sidra Amin 35; Salma Khatun 3/21) Bangladesh: 133/3 in 30.5 overs (Rubya Haider 54*, Sobhana Mostary 24*) **Result:** Bangladesh won by 7 wickets.



TRIONDA Unveiled as Official Match Ball for FIFA World Cup 2026

With just nine months to go before the FIFA World Cup 2026 kicks off, the tournament's official match ball — TRIONDA — has been unveiled by FIFA and adidas. The ball's name, TRIONDA, is derived from Spanish and means "three waves", symbolising the historic co-hosting of the tournament by Canada, Mexico, and the United States — the first time three countries are uniting to host a FIFA World Cup. In a statement, FIFA said, "The countdown to the game-changing FIFA World Cup 26 has reached its latest significant milestone with the launch of the adidas TRIONDA." The

new ball incorporates innovative design features while celebrating unity, diversity, and shared passion across North America. FIFA President Gianni Infantino called the TRIONDA "a beauty", praising adidas for crafting "another iconic FIFA World Cup ball". He added, "The design embodies the unity and passion of next year's host nations... I can't wait to see this beautiful ball hitting the back of the net." **The unveiling of TRIONDA follows a series of landmark announcements in recent months, including:**

- The official mascots for the 2026

Pawan Kalyan Confirms OG Prequel, Urges Fans to Avoid Fan Wars



Powerstar Pawan Kalyan has officially confirmed that a prequel to OG is in the works. The announcement came during the grand success meet of OG, held in Hyderabad, celebrating the film's massive box office performance—nearing ₹300 crores worldwide just a week after its release.

Directed by Sujeeth and produced by DVV Danayya under DVV Entertainment, OG released on September 25 and has been lauded for its stylish action, visual appeal, and unique storytelling. At the event, Pawan Kalyan spoke candidly about the film, his journey, and future plans.

Revealing that Sujeeth initially pitched the story to him in just five minutes—with elements like a samurai sword, gangsters, and minimal dialogues—Pawan said he was immediately drawn to the vision. “Sujeeth showed me how fans wanted to see me on screen,” he noted.

Pawan also reflected on his earlier film Johnny, saying he carried guilt over it for years. “I see OG as a chance to redeem that,” he said. He praised Sujeeth’s ability to balance action with deep emotional storytelling, calling him a “great director.”

On the possibility of more OG films, Pawan stated: “I promised Sujeeth I would do a sequel or prequel. But there will be conditions. Film-making takes a toll, and I know the helplessness that comes when a film fails.”

He emotionally acknowledged music director Thaman, saying the film’s core father-son theme deeply resonated with him. He also appreciated co-stars Priyanka Mohan, Arjun Das, and Prakash Raj, calling the latter a “brilliant actor.”

Finally, Pawan urged fans to avoid toxic fan wars and instead support the team effort behind cinema. “Team spirit matters more than anything,” he concluded.

Raju Gari Gadhi 4 Announced After 6 Years: A Divine Horror Returns

The chilling Telugu horror franchise Raju Gari Gadhi is set to return with its fourth installment, titled Raju Gari Gadhi 4: Srichakram. Directed once again by anchor-director Omkar, this new chapter comes after a gap of six years, and promises a fresh wave of supernatural suspense and divine terror.

Backed by People Media Factory, the film’s first-look poster has already stirred excitement among fans. The poster features a powerful visual — Goddess Kali in a fierce form, radiating divine energy, while a mysterious woman draped in a red saree walks towards her. This imagery strongly hints at a blend of mythological mysticism and horror, a new direction for the franchise.

The tagline on the poster, “A Divine Horror Begins,” suggests that the narrative will delve into spiritual or tantric themes, possibly exploring the power of the Srichakram, a sacred mystical diagram associated with the goddess. This marks a shift from the franchise’s previous ghost and spirit-based horror stories, potentially offering a richer and more layered experience for audiences. The Raju Gari Gadhi series has been a trendsetter in the Telugu horror genre, with its earlier films combining scares, emotion, and social themes. The return of Omkar at the helm has raised expectations, as fans hope he will recapture the eerie magic that made the first installment a hit.

While the cast and release date are yet to be announced, the early buzz suggests Raju Gari Gadhi 4 will be one of the most anticipated Telugu horror films in the coming months. With its divine twist, the film seems poised to offer something both spiritually intense and spine-chilling.

Akhanda 2 Release Date Locked for December 5

The wait is finally over for fans of Nandamuri Balakrishna as the makers of the much-anticipated film Akhanda 2 have officially announced the release date. On the occasion of Dussehra, a powerful new poster was unveiled, confirming that the film will hit theatres on December 5, 2025. This announcement puts an end to months of speculation and brings immense joy to Balayya fans across the globe.

Directed by Boyapati Srinu, Akhanda 2 is a sequel to the 2021 blockbuster Akhanda, which left a lasting impression with its intense action, spiritual theme, and Balayya’s iconic performance. The sequel promises to elevate the scale further with a powerful blend of Sanatana Dharma, mass action, and devotion. The film was initially planned for a September 25 release but was postponed due to heavy competition. Now, with all production and post-production work wrapped up, the makers are confident about a grand December release.

Akhanda 2 is also special as it marks Balakrishna’s first pan-India release, with the Hindi dubbing already completed. In the sequel, Balakrishna will be seen in dual shades, combining intense mass appeal with a deeper philosophical character. Actress Samyuktha Menon stars as the female lead, while Aadi Pinisetty plays the antagonist. Music is composed by Thaman S, whose background score was a highlight in the first part.

The teaser, which released earlier, has already garnered a strong response. With the trailer and songs set to release soon, the buzz around Akhanda 2 is only growing stronger. Fans can expect a divine action feast when Balayya returns to the big screen on December 5.



Ravi Teja’s Mass Jatara Gets New Release Date

After multiple delays, the much-awaited Ravi Teja starrer Mass Jatara finally has a confirmed release date. The makers officially announced on Wednesday that the film will hit theatres on October 31, ending the suspense that had been building up among fans.

To mark the announcement, a new poster and video were released, showcasing Ravi Teja in a powerful avatar as Police Officer Laxman Bheri. The film promises a mix of high-octane action, vintage Ravi Teja-style entertainment, and a touch of nostalgic mass appeal that the star is known for.

Directed by Bhanu Bhogavarapu, Mass Jatara is said to carry a strong comedy and mass entertainment quotient, with the makers stating that the film blends Ravi Teja’s signature humor with a retro vibe. They added that the promotional material released so far has received an overwhelming response from fans, building solid momentum ahead of release.

Sreeleela plays the female lead opposite Ravi Teja, and her pairing with the Mass Maharaja is expected to be a highlight of the film. The music, composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, is also generating buzz, with fans eagerly awaiting the soundtrack and dance numbers typical of Ravi Teja’s commercial films.

Produced under the banners of Sithara Entertainment and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film is bankrolled by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya. With all elements now in place, Mass Jatara is gearing up for a festive release at the end of October, aiming to deliver a full-on entertainer that appeals to both mass and family audiences. Expectations are high as Ravi Teja returns to his classic energetic form in this police drama.

Nayanthara’s Divine Look Unveiled in Mookuthi Amman



Fans of Lady Superstar Nayanthara have received a festive treat this Dussehra with the official release of her first look from the highly anticipated film Mookuthi Amman 2. In this spiritual sequel to the 2020 blockbuster Mookuthi Amman (released in Telugu as Ammoru Thalli), Nayanthara once again steps into the divine avatar of a goddess.

In the newly released poster, Nayanthara exudes grace and serenity, seen holding a trident and seated peacefully on temple steps. The caption, “May her divine grace prevail,” adds a devotional tone to the image, captivating fans and igniting curiosity about the film’s storyline. A second look, revealed by actor Shankar Varaprasad, showcases Nayanthara as Shashirekha, dressed in a bright yellow saree, smiling gracefully under an umbrella—symbolizing peace and divine charm.

The Telugu ver-

sion of Mookuthi Amman 2 is officially titled Mahashakti, aiming to resonate with regional audiences. The film is directed by veteran filmmaker Sundar C., and features a star-studded cast including Regina Cassandra, Yogi Babu, Duniya Vijay, Urvaashi, and Abhinaya.

Backed by a massive budget of ₹100 crores, Mookuthi Amman 2 is jointly produced by Wales Film International, Rowdy Pictures, AvaniCinemax, IVY Entertainment, and B4U Motion Pictures, with renowned producer Dr. Ishari Ganesh overseeing the project.

Following her recent Bollywood success in Jawan, Nayanthara’s return as a divine figure has heightened anticipation for Mahashakti. With its spiritual theme, high production value, and star power, the film is expected to be a major attraction this festive season. An official announcement regarding the film’s release date is expected soon.