



TPCC LAUNCHES STATEWIDE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE ALLEGED VOTE MANIPULATION BY BJP

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud has announced a state-wide signature campaign to highlight alleged vote manipulation and electoral irregularities by the BJP.

PAGE 03



MINISTER PONNAM PRABHAKAR DISTRIBUTES STITCHING MISSIONS TO MINORITY WOMEN IN JUBILEE HILLS

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar led a distribution drive for Kuttu Missions under the Indiramma Minority Women Shakti scheme at the Muhammadiyah Function Hall in Yusufguda, Jubilee Hills, reaffirming the state government's commitment to women empowerment.

PAGE 03



TPCC Media Chief Hits Out at Prashant Kishor, Lauds CM Revanth Reddy's Grassroots Leadership

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Media and Communication Chairman Sama Rammohan Reddy has launched a sharp attack on political strategist Prashant Kishor, calling him a "political prepaid recharge" whose influence is limited to "TV debates and press statements."

PAGE 03



Former minister Ramreddy Damodar Reddy laid to rest with state honours

The state bid a solemn farewell to former Minister and senior Congress leader Ramreddy Damodar Reddy, whose final rites were held on Saturday in his native village of Thungathurthy in Suryapet district. The five-time MLA, who passed away on October 1 due to a kidney-related illness, was remembered for his decades-long service in Telangana politics and his unwavering commitment to the people of his constituency.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Thousands of supporters, well-wishers, and party workers turned up at the funeral to pay their respects, demonstrating the deep affection and regard he commanded across the political spectrum. His mortal remains were first brought to Suryapet, the constituency he represented for several terms, where locals gathered to offer their prayers and tributes. The procession then moved to his hometown, where the funeral rituals were performed with full State honours.

The ceremony witnessed the presence of several senior political figures and dignitaries. Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and Adluri Laxman, along with Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) presi-

dent Mahesh Goud, were among the key attendees. Legislators, members of the Legislative Council, and various local representatives from the combined Nalgonda district also participated in the event, highlighting Reddy's enduring influence in state politics and the respect he commanded among colleagues and peers.

Throughout his political career, Reddy was known for his dedication to public service and his efforts to bring development and welfare initiatives to his constituency. He played a pivotal role in strengthening the Congress party in the region and was widely regarded for his accessibility and commitment to the people. Supporters recalled his tireless efforts to address local issues, ranging from infrastructure devel-

PAGE 02

Authorities release water from Nagarjuna Sagar and Jurala projects amid heavy inflows

The flood situation at major reservoirs in the region continues to demand close monitoring, as authorities manage inflows and releases to ensure safety downstream. At the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, officials have opened 26 gates to release water following heavy flood inflows into the reservoir.



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Currently, the dam is receiving an inflow of 2.70 lakh cusecs, and an equal amount is being discharged downstream to maintain the water balance. Of this, 2.16 lakh cusecs are flowing through the spillway, while 8,193 cusecs are being directed into the left canal for irrigation purposes. Additionally, 33,291 cusecs of water is being supplied to the power station for electricity generation.

The reservoir's full water level (FWL) is 590 feet, while the current water level stands at 587.30 feet. Nagarjuna Sagar has a total storage capacity of

312.04 TMC, of which 305.68 TMC is currently stored. Authorities are closely monitoring the levels to ensure that the storage does not exceed safe limits, given the ongoing heavy inflows.

Meanwhile, the Jurala project is also witnessing substantial flood inflows. The reservoir is currently receiving 2,63,370 cusecs, while the discharge downstream has been maintained at 2,70,754 cusecs to manage the floodwaters. Officials at both projects are co-ordinating closely with downstream authorities to ensure that water release schedules are communicated to affected areas, minimizing the risk of flooding and related

damage.

With the ongoing monsoon and heavy rainfall in the catchment areas, residents along the downstream riverbanks have been advised to remain alert and follow instructions issued by local authorities. Farmers depending on canal irrigation are also monitoring water flows, as controlled releases from both reservoirs are crucial for crop irrigation while maintaining flood safety.

The management of Nagarjuna Sagar and Jurala projects is critical at this time, as both reservoirs play a vital role in irrigation, power generation, and flood control in the region.

PAGE 02

Parties shift gears as Telangana gears up for local body elections

BRS eyes revival | BJP banks on north | Congress pitches welfare

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Telangana is witnessing a surge in political activity as local body elections approach. With the legal uncertainty surrounding the polls now cleared by

the High Court, the Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have all swung into action, preparing for what promises to be a fierce and closely fought contest.

The ruling Congress

has taken an early lead in campaigning, banking on its welfare-driven governance model. The party is highlighting its flagship initiatives — including the loan waiver for farmers, free bus travel for women,

PAGE 02

Telangana High Court acquits man in 2008 rape case

Justice J Sreenivas Rao of the Telangana High Court has set aside the conviction of the petitioner, Mohammed Irfan Khan, in a 2008 rape case, granting him the benefit of doubt.



PAGE 02

‘We must explain our work to the people’: Sridhar Babu rallies Congress cadre

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Minister Sridhar Babu on Saturday chaired a crucial meeting with Congress leaders and workers from Vikarabad and neighboring districts to chalk out strategies for the upcoming local body elections. The meeting was aimed at reinforcing the Congress's welfare message and countering the opposition's criticism.

Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu em-



phasized the need to take the government's welfare initiatives to every doorstep. He urged the cadre to focus on three

major schemes — the free bus travel for women, the farm loan waiver, and the free gas cylinder distribution — and ex-

plain how these initiatives have tangibly benefited the people.

“These schemes are not just promises;

they've improved lives,” the minister said. “Our responsibility is to make sure the public understands what the Congress government has delivered in less than a year.”

Sridhar Babu also called on party workers to expose the corruption and maladministration that marked the BRS's rule. He accused the BRS of colluding with the BJP, alleging that both parties have worked to destabilize the Congress government.

PAGE 02



Telangana High Court acquits man in 2008 rape case

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 03: The appellant had challenged the judgment of the V Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge (Mahila Court), Hyderabad, which on June 17, 2013, found him guilty under

Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. He was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 1,000 for rape, and another Rs 1,000 for intimidation. The case was based on a complaint

lodged on April 3, 2009, at the Bahadurpura police station by the complainant, who alleged that on November 21, 2008, the accused entered her house and sexually assaulted her. She further alleged that the family of the accused refused marriage and intimidat-

ed her into silence. After investigation, a chargesheet was filed against Irfan Khan and another relative, leading to trial before the Mahila Court. The sessions judge had convicted Irfan Khan while acquitting him of the charge under Section

417 IPC (cheating by false promise of marriage). In appeal, Irfan Khan's counsel argued that the complainant had admitted being in a consensual relationship with him for four years, and that the allegations were made only to pressure him into marriage.

The complaint was lodged more than four months after the alleged incident, without explanation for the delay. Counsel further highlighted inconsistencies in the complainant's testimony, particularly the claim that the accused forced a tablet into her

mouth, which surfaced only during trial. Medical evidence also did not support the allegation of recent sexual intercourse. The assistant public prosecutor, however, maintained that the complainant's evidence was sufficient to sustain conviction.

After examining the evidence, Justice Sreenivas Rao held that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt. Consequently, the conviction and sentence imposed by the trial court were set aside, and Irfan Khan was acquitted.

‘We must explain our work to the people’: Sridhar Babu rallies Congress cadre

CONTINUED FROM >>P1

According to party sources, the meeting was also meant to energize grassroots workers and instill confidence ahead of the polls. Leaders from various constituencies assured that extensive door-to-door campaigns were being

organized to strengthen the party's connect with voters. The Congress hopes to leverage its welfare-driven governance model to consolidate support and blunt opposition attacks as the election campaign gathers pace across Telangana.

Authorities release water from Nagarjuna Sagar and Jurala projects amid heavy inflows

CONTINUED FROM >>P1

Officials continue to urge the public to remain cautious and stay updated on water release announcements to ensure safety. Authorities have assured that continuous monitoring

and necessary adjustments in gate operations will be carried out to prevent any untoward incidents while balancing the multiple demands of flood management, irrigation, and power generation.

BJP sets eyes on grassroots ahead of local body elections

With Telangana's local body election notification expected on October 9, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified preparations to strengthen its grassroots machinery and finalize candidates across districts. State BJP president Ramchander Rao has instructed leaders to submit three potential candidates for each position by October 5 to expedite the selection process. The party has decided that the state committee will finalize ZPTC candidates, while district-level core committees will handle MP/MLA selections. Party insiders said the decision aims to ensure greater efficiency and decentralization, while also involving local lead-

ership in key decisions. The BJP's larger goal, they added, is to expand its organizational base and reinforce its presence in local governance structures. With a relatively stronger cadre in northern Telangana, the party is eyeing significant gains in that region while making steady inroads into other districts. "We want to build a strong network at the grassroots that will serve as the foundation for the BJP's future growth in Telangana," a senior party functionary said. By maintaining organizational discipline and giving priority to local leadership, the BJP hopes to project itself as a credible alternative in the state's evolving political environment.

Parties shift gears as Telangana gears up for local body elections

CONTINUED FROM >>P1

and gas cylinder distribution — as proof of its commitment to improving people's lives. Rural voters, especially those from agrarian communities, are expected to play a decisive role in determining the outcome. Congress leaders believe these welfare schemes have created a strong connect with the masses. However, the party is also facing an aggressive counter-campaign, with opposition leaders alleging that public confidence in the Congress has waned since it assumed power. For the ruling party, therefore, the local body elections will serve as a

crucial test to reaffirm its popularity and silence critics. The BRS, though out of power, remains a formidable player owing to its strong organizational structure at the grassroots level. Determined to prove that it continues to be relevant, the BRS leadership is mobilizing its cadres across rural Telangana. For the party, these elections are as much about reclaiming lost ground as they are about signaling to the electorate that it remains a key force in the state's political landscape. The BJP, on the other hand, is focusing its energy on northern Telangana — particularly in

districts like Nizamabad, Adilabad, and Karimnagar — where it enjoys a relatively strong cadre base. Political observers say the BJP's role could be pivotal in these regions, with triangular contests likely to emerge between the Congress, BRS, and BJP. Even if the party doesn't secure outright majorities, its presence could split votes and influence outcomes in several constituencies. In most other parts of Telangana, however, the battle is expected to remain largely between the Congress and the BRS. Despite this, the BJP's presence, even in pockets, could have a

ripple effect on the larger electoral equations. Beyond immediate results, the elections are significant for all three parties. For the Congress, they are a test of its governance and public acceptance. For the BRS, they represent a fight for revival and relevance. For the BJP, the polls are an opportunity to expand its base and assert itself as a credible alternative. As campaigning intensifies, all eyes are on how Telangana's voters will respond. The outcome is expected to reflect the changing political undercurrents of the state and set the tone for future electoral battles.

Former minister Ramreddy Damodar Reddy laid to rest with state honours

CONTINUED FROM >>P1

omponent to social welfare, which earned him the admiration of his constituents. During the funeral, many leaders and party members paid homage to Reddy's legacy, remembering him as a stalwart of the Congress party and a leader who worked selflessly for the betterment of society. Residents and political figures alike expressed their sorrow at his passing and shared memories of his leadership, guidance, and vision. Reddy's death marks a significant loss for Telangana's political

landscape, particularly in Suryapet and the surrounding areas, where he was a prominent and influential figure. While the community mourns his loss, his contributions to the region and the political fraternity are expected to leave a lasting impact. The funeral concluded with prayers and final respects, reflecting the deep reverence held for Ramreddy Damodar Reddy by both the public and political circles. His legacy of dedicated service and commitment to the welfare of his constituents will continue to be remembered for years to come.

Telangana issues stop use notice for Coldrif syrup after reports of child deaths

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: The Drugs Control Administration of Telangana has issued an urgent public alert and stop use notice concerning Coldrif Syrup (Batch No. SR-13), manufactured by Sresan Pharma, following reports of tragic child deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The syrup, which contains Paracetamol, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate, was manufactured in May 2025 and has an expiry date of April 2027. Authorities have indicated that this specific batch has been allegedly adulterated with Diethylene Glycol (DEG), a highly toxic

substance that can cause severe poisoning and death if ingested. Health officials have strongly advised the public to immediately stop using the affected batch of Coldrif Syrup and to return it to pharmacies or health centers for proper disposal. Parents and caregivers are urged to check the batch number carefully and avoid giving this medicine to children under any circumstances. The Drugs Control Administration is coordinating with health departments across states to ensure widespread awareness and prevent further casualties. Hospitals and pediatric clinics have also been instructed to report any cases of suspected poisoning linked to the syrup.

up. Authorities are treating this incident with utmost urgency and are investigating the manufacturing process and distribution chain of Sresan Pharma to determine how the adulteration occurred. Meanwhile, the public is being asked to remain vigilant about any symptoms of poisoning in children who may have consumed medicines from this batch, including nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or unusual drowsiness, and to seek immediate medical attention if any such signs appear. This incident underscores the critical importance of stringent quality control and regulatory oversight in the pharmaceutical sector.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: A petition challenging the High Court orders on backward class (BC) reservations has been filed in the Supreme Court, drawing attention amid the upcoming local body elections in the state. The petitioner, Mr. Vanga Gopal Reddy, has sought a review of the High Court's decisions that allow 42% reservations for BCs, highlighting concerns that cumulative reservations in the state are now exceeding the 50% threshold. In his petition, Reddy requested that the Supreme Court intervene to stop further reservations that push the total beyond the constitutional limit.

The case is scheduled for hearing on October 6 before a bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath. Legal observers are closely watching the proceedings, noting that the timing is particularly sensitive as political parties and voters are gearing up for local body elections. The 42% BC reservation has been a significant policy measure aimed at providing social and educational advantages to backward classes. However, with additional quotas for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other special categories, cumulative reservations in the state are now reportedly exceeding the 50% cap established by earlier Supreme Court rulings.

The petition has already generated widespread attention among political circles and the public. Parties are keenly observing the Supreme Court's response, as any change to the reservation framework could impact electoral strategies and candidate selections for the local body polls. Legal experts expect the Supreme Court to carefully examine the merits of the case, the High Court's reasoning, and the broader implications of altering reservation percentages. The proceedings on October 6 will be closely monitored, as they could have far-reaching consequences for policy, politics, and the balance of social justice in the region.



Tesla meets Dasara tradition in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: In a unique blend of modern technology and age-old tradition, Hyderabad-based laparoscopic surgeon Dr. Praveen Koduru recently performed a customary 'vahan pooja' on his newly purchased Tesla Model Y. The ritual, widely practiced across India whenever a new vehicle is bought, involves invoking blessings for safety and prosperity through ceremonial offerings and prayers. For generations, vehicle owners have driv-

en their new cars to temples or invited priests to their homes to perform the pooja. The rituals typically include breaking a coconut, applying vermilion (kumkum) on the vehicle, and adorning it with garlands. Despite the advent of electric and futuristic vehicles, the practice continues to remain popular, reflecting the enduring importance of tradition in Indian culture. Dr. Koduru, who took delivery of the Ultra Red Tesla Model Y last week, shared pictures of the gleaming car outside a temple, deco-

rated with vibrant garlands. Family members, dressed in festive attire, posed alongside the vehicle as the priest conducted the rituals. Dr. Koduru humorously captioned the post, "No car, including Tesla, can get a five-star safety rating in Indian culture, unless a vahan pooja is done." The post quickly garnered attention on social media, highlighting not only the futuristic design of the Tesla but also the celebratory essence of Indian customs. Tesla officially entered the Indian market in July this year, sparking ex-

citement among electric vehicle enthusiasts. Dr. Koduru's Model Y is reportedly the first of its kind in Hyderabad, marking a milestone for EV adoption in the city. The occasion underscores the growing popularity of electric vehicles in India while highlighting how traditional customs remain interwoven with modern lifestyles. Dr. Koduru's experience has sparked conversations among car enthusiasts and social media users, inspiring others to blend tradition with innovation in their own ways.



TPCC Launches Statewide Signature Campaign to Expose Alleged Vote Manipulation by BJP

Party directs leaders to collect 100 signatures from each village by October 15

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud has announced a statewide signature campaign to highlight alleged vote manipulation and electoral irregularities by

the BJP.

In a Zoom meeting with senior party leaders, Goud alleged that “massive vote theft” enabled the BJP to return to power for the third consecutive term at the Centre. He also accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of acting in favour of the ruling party by ignoring

the “detailed evidence” presented by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

According to the TPCC, Gandhi had documented several instances of voter manipulation, yet no action was taken by the ECI. Goud said the signature drive aims to raise public awareness and document these alleged ir-

regularities to “safeguard democratic processes”.

The campaign, initially delayed due to heavy rains, will now begin immediately in all districts. Goud instructed party leaders to ensure that each village gathers at least 100 signatures, with active participation from all

Congress units. “Every signature is a statement of faith in democracy and a stand against vote theft,” he said.

District Congress presidents, MLAs, and local leaders have been tasked with overseeing the campaign and mobilizing volunteers. AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan urged the

cadre to treat the drive as a “prestigious and high-priority task,” emphasizing that it must reflect the party’s commitment to electoral integrity.

The signatures will be compiled and submitted to the AICC by October 15. TPCC leaders have been directed to ensure that the cam-

paign is comprehensive and well-coordinated.

Congress sources said the drive is not only about raising awareness but also a means to re-energize grassroots workers and strengthen the party’s presence ahead of local elections. Despite the weather disruptions, the leadership remains

determined to execute the campaign on a large scale.

“The people must know how their votes were stolen. We are standing up for democracy and accountability,” Goud said, reiterating the TPCC’s focus on protecting voter rights and fair elections across Telangana.

TPCC Media Chief Hits Out at Prashant Kishor, Lauds CM Revanth Reddy’s Grassroots Leadership

‘Kishor is a political prepaid recharge; Revanth’s rise is people’s mandate,’ says Sama Rammohan Reddy

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Media and Communication Chairman Sama Rammohan Reddy has launched a sharp attack on political strategist Prashant Kishor, calling him a “political prepaid recharge” whose influence is limited to “TV debates and press statements.”

Speaking to reporters, Reddy said Kishor’s political commentary lacked substance and that he had failed to make a tangible difference in governance. “In his 50 years of life, Kishor might have spoken just 15 minutes for Bihar’s welfare. He

works for whoever pays him and vanishes after the campaign,” he remarked.

Reddy claimed that Kishor’s reputation as a poll strategist was “overhyped” and that his success was driven more by marketing than by real results. “He has earned crores, but not credibility,” Reddy said.

Drawing a contrast, Reddy praised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy as a “leader born from the people’s movement,” noting that he rose from a farming family with no political lineage. “Revanth Reddy’s story is the story of people’s faith. His governance reflects courage, fairness, and inclusivity,” he said.

Highlighting Telanga-

na’s inclusive governance, Reddy noted that CM Revanth treats all communities equally, including migrant residents from Bihar and other states. “He holds the people’s aspirations in his heart, not just in manifestos,” Reddy said.

He dismissed Kishor’s comments about the Telangana CM as “a big joke,” saying, “Kishor thrives on airtime; Revanth thrives on public trust.”

Reddy concluded that true leadership is measured not by slogans or strategies but by the positive impact on citizens’ lives. “That is what distinguishes Revanth Reddy from self-styled consultants like Prashant Kishor,” he said.



Sympathy Wave May Carry Maganti Family to Victory in Jubilee Hills By-Poll

Parties struggle to finalize candidates as voters rally behind late MLA Gopinath’s widow

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: The upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election appears increasingly tilted in favour of Maganti Sunitha, wife of the late three-time MLA Maganti Gopinath, as a strong wave of sympathy sweeps the constituency.

Political observers say that Gopinath’s sudden demise has left an emotional void among voters who were deeply connected to him. “The sympathy factor is clearly visible on the ground. The family enjoys goodwill built over decades,” a senior analyst said.

The BJP and Congress are reportedly still undecided about their candidates. Sources said BJP had considered fielding actress Jayasudha, but she is hesitant given the prevailing sentiment in favour of the Maganti family. Both BJP and Congress

have formed committees to finalize their nominees.

Congress, despite facing challenges due to the HYDRABAD controversy and real estate sector slowdown, could benefit from MIM’s support in the constituency. However, analysts say that in a sympathy-driven election, even strategic alliances may not offset emotional appeal.

The late Gopinath’s long service and personal rapport with residents are seen as decisive factors. “For many voters, this by-election is more a tribute than a political choice,” a party insider said.

As campaigning intensifies, all eyes are on whether development issues or emotional attachment will dominate voter sentiment. The outcome is expected to reveal how legacy politics continues to shape urban constituencies like Jubilee Hills.

Minister Ponnampallabharathi Distributes Stitching Missions to Minority Women in Jubilee Hills

Indiramma Women Shakti scheme aims to promote self-employment and inclusive growth

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Minister Ponnampallabharathi led a distribution drive for Kutu Missions under the Indiramma Minority Women Shakti scheme at the Muhammadia Function Hall in Yusufguda, Jubilee Hills, reaffirming the state government’s commitment to women empowerment.

The event was attended by Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Obedulla Kotwal, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, former cricketer Azharuddin, Urdu Academy Chairman Tahir

Bin Hamdan, and other senior leaders.

Minister Ponnampallabharathi said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s government has made women’s economic independence a central focus. “We have created opportunities for women to become entrepreneurs — from owning RTC buses to running canteens and solar units,” he said.

The government has also provided 200 units of free power, gas cylinders, ration cards, and free RTC travel for women to ease household burdens and improve living standards.

Addressing the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election,

Prabhakar urged voters to support the Congress, saying, “Sustained development requires continuity in governance. Real empowerment comes from policies, not sympathy.”

He accused the opposition of exploiting the Maganti family’s tragedy, asserting that “Congress delivers progress, not promises.”

The program underscored the state’s emphasis on inclusive development, combining welfare delivery with direct community engagement to promote women’s participation in economic activities.

Two Maoist Divisions Endorse Politburo Member Sonu’s Call to Suspend Armed Struggle

Factions admit movement’s decline, urge shift to political mobilisation

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: In a significant development, two divisions of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of the CPI (Maoist) — the Gadchiroli and North Bastar units — have backed politburo member Mallojula Venugopal alias Sonu’s call to temporarily suspend armed struggle.

Earlier this month, a six-page statement attributed to Sonu went viral, acknowledging that the Maoist movement had failed to adapt to India’s changing social and political realities. “Our dogmatism and wrong policies weakened the

movement,” the statement said.

Fresh declarations from the Gadchiroli (Sept 27) and North Bastar (Sept 28) divisions have now echoed Sonu’s position, admitting that decades of armed struggle have not delivered tangible results.

North Bastar spokesperson Suresh Kodopi said, “Thousands of comrades have sacrificed their lives, but people’s lives have not improved. Society wants peace, not violence. Today’s youth are not interested in joining the movement.”

Both divisions urged a transition toward political mobilisation and grassroots engage-

ment. “It is time to rethink our methods and reconnect with the people,” one statement read.

Analysts say the support for Sonu marks a rare internal challenge to the Maoist central committee, which has condemned his remarks as divisive. However, observers believe this could signal an ideological shift within the movement, from armed confrontation to political participation.

If this sentiment spreads, experts say it could reshape the dynamics of left-wing extremism across central India, bringing long-awaited opportunities for dialogue and peace-building in affected areas.





Bus fares hiked to power Hyderabad’s green shift

Commuters to Pay ₹5–₹10 More as Hyderabad Gears Up for 2,800 Electric Buses

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: City commuters will have to pay ₹5 to ₹10 more for bus rides from October 6, as the Telangana government revises fares

to fund its electric bus expansion plan. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) said the hike supports the state’s goal of replacing 2,800 diesel buses with electric ones by 2027

within the Outer Ring Road. Under the new fare structure, passengers traveling up to three stops will pay ₹15 instead of ₹10, while longer trips will cost about ₹20. Metro Express, e-

buses, and Deluxe services will see a ₹5–₹10 increase depending on the distance. Currently, 265 electric buses are operational across six depots in Greater Hyderabad, with another 275 set to

join by year-end. TGSRTC is also developing charging infrastructure at 19 depots and constructing 10 new depots at a cost of ₹392 crore. Officials said the fare revision is essential to

sustain the shift toward electric mobility and improve commuter experience. The corporation urged citizens to support the move as an investment in a cleaner and greener Hyderabad.

Crane mishap averted during Durga idol immersion

Overloaded Crane at Saroor Nagar Lake Raises Safety Concerns



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: A major mishap was narrowly avoided during idol immersion at Saroor Nagar Lake on Saturday when a crane used for lowering idols suddenly rose due to overloading. The incident, which occurred around 6 a.m.,

caused panic among devotees, though no injuries were reported. Officials quickly stabilized the crane and resumed immersion safely. Authorities have ordered a safety review ahead of upcoming festivals, with devotees urging stricter checks on heavy machinery used during public events.

Locals Raise Alarm Over Illegal Migrant Settlements in Balapur

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: Residents and community leaders in Balapur have raised alarm over the growing presence of undocumented migrants — including people identified as Bangladeshi, Rohingya, and others from Myanmar and parts of Africa — who they allege have settled illegally and started small businesses in parts of Greater Hyderabad and along the Outer Ring Road. Locals claim that thousands of migrants entered India through irregular routes and have

since integrated into the area, some overstaying expired visas. Many reportedly run small businesses such as brick and vegetable trading, employ local labour, and in some cases, purchase vehicles to operate as unauthorised passenger rickshaws at night. Residents allege that some migrants have even obtained Aadhaar and voter IDs fraudulently. Though a few such cases have led to arrests, locals complain that enforcement remains sporadic and inadequate. “They should not be able to access civic benefits illegally,” said a resident, requesting anonymity. The issue gained political attention after BJP leader Sreeramulu, who contested from Maheshwaram, visited Balapur and demanded action. Locals handed over suspected vehicles to Meerpet police and urged the authorities to seize unregistered taxis and investigate alleged criminal activity. Some community members have also voiced security concerns, warning that unregulated settlements could be exploited by organised networks. Others said aid groups pro-

viding support to refugees complicate enforcement, underscoring the need to balance humanitarian assistance with rule of law. Police and civic officials have yet to issue a public response. Residents have called on central and state agencies to jointly verify documents, identify genuine refugees, and deport those residing illegally. Balapur locals say they want prompt, transparent action — one that restores order and civic integrity while ensuring humanitarian principles are upheld.

2,800 E-Buses for Hyderabad by 2027

Telangana bets Big on Sustainable Public Transport. Telangana is set to revolutionize public transport in Hyderabad with the rollout of 2,800 electric buses by 2027, replacing diesel vehicles to curb emissions and ease congestion. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has already introduced 265 electric buses and expects 275 more by year-end. To support the shift, 19 depots are being upgraded with charging stations, and 10 new

depots will be built at an estimated cost of ₹392 crore. To finance the move, city bus fares have been revised from October 6, with an additional ₹5 for the first three stages and ₹10 beyond the fourth for all categories, including e-buses and Metro services. Officials said the initiative aims to make Hyderabad a model for eco-friendly urban mobility while offering commuters cleaner, quieter, and more comfortable rides.

Hyderabad couple held for murder of 7-year-old niece

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: In a shocking incident, police arrested a couple for allegedly murdering their seven-year-old niece by throwing her into an overhead water tank in Chawni, Yakutpura.

Police said the couple tied the girl’s hands, gagged her with tape, and threw her into the tank, where she drowned. Her parents had initially reported her missing, prompting a search that ended with the grim discovery.

The accused, Mir Sami Ali (36) and his wife Yasmeen Begum (28), suspected the child’s parents of performing black magic that caused their own daughter’s death months earlier. There were also long-standing property disputes between the families.

The couple later confessed during interrogation. Police assured stringent action and extended support to the bereaved family. The case highlights how superstition and personal enmity can lead to tragic consequences.

Cyberabad police step up vigil for women & children

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: 124 Decoy Ops, 61 Awareness Drives Conducted in a Week

ilies reconcile differences. Meanwhile, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit rescued six victims from a brothel in Madhapur and arrested three accused.

Cyberabad: The Women & Children Safety Wing of Cyberabad Police intensified its operations last week to enhance safety and awareness across its jurisdiction. SHE Teams carried out 124 decoy operations, catching 26 offenders in acts of public harassment. Twelve complaints were received from women victims, and 61 awareness programs were held, along with four counselling sessions. The Family Counselling Centre intervened in 16 domestic disputes, helping families

Night raids in Madhapur, Rajendranagar, Kukatpally, and Jeedimetla led to the detention of eight transgender individuals and two sex workers. Cyberabad Police also conducted awareness drives on issues including trafficking, cyberbullying, and child rights, urging the public to use helplines — 181 (Women), 1098 (Child), and 1930 (Cybercrime) — to seek help. Officials emphasized prevention, counselling, and education as key pillars in ensuring women and children’s safety.

BRS slams Congress over delay in TIMS construction

Harish Rao Warns of Public Backlash if Key Health Projects Stall Further

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 04: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Saturday lashed out at the Congress government for delays in completing the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) at LB Nagar, accusing it of derailing the state’s healthcare infrastructure. During a visit to the construction site, senior BRS MLA and former Health Minister T. Harish Rao said the project — envisioned

as a six-storey super-specialty hospital — has seen little progress, with only five floors completed in two years. “The Congress has no foresight. What KCR planned for a hundred years, this government has undone in months,” Harish Rao said, accusing the administration of neglecting pending tenders, land acquisition, and funds finalised under BRS rule. He recalled that former CM K. Chandrabablu Naidu had planned four TIMS

hospitals around Hyderabad and a 2,000-bed NIMS expansion to ensure affordable healthcare for all. “These hospitals would have been functional by now if the Congress hadn’t stalled them,” he said. Harish Rao also alleged that salaries for Basti Dawakhana staff have been pending for six months, ₹1,400 crore in Aarogyasri bills remain unpaid, and the Kanti Velugu eyecare drive has come to a halt. He urged the government to complete the LB Nagar and Warangal TIMS projects on a war footing.

“Don’t play politics with hospitals that save lives. Deadlines can shift, but work must not stop,” he warned, adding that public outrage is inevitable if delays persist. The inspection team included former minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy, MLAs Sudhir Reddy, K.P. Vivekananda, Kaleru Venkatesh, and MLC Yadav Reddy. The BRS maintained that it would continue to hold the Congress accountable for lapses in the state’s health infrastructure.



Senior Majlis Worker Dies in Road Mishap

Speeding Fortuner Rams Bike; MLA Mubin Visits Hospital

A senior Majlis worker, Abdul Hasnath (63), succumbed to injuries sustained in a road accident on September 30 in the Barkas area under Bandlaguda police limits. Hasnath, a resident of Kalpattar Ali-bag, was riding a two-wheeler with his friend Sajid (55) when a speeding Toyota Fortuner hit them from behind. Hasnath suffered fatal head and body injuries, while Sajid sustained

fractures. Despite treatment, Hasnath passed away on Thursday. Bahadurpura MLA Mohammed Mubin later oversaw formalities and handed over the body to the family. Police identified the Fortuner driver as Rehan Ali Beg Maskati (37) and said investigations are underway. The incident has raised concerns over speeding and poor road discipline in the area.

Congress Highlights Welfare and Development Initiatives in Maheshwaram



Maheshwaram: Congress leaders in Maheshwaram constituency have outlined the various welfare schemes and development projects being implemented by the current government, emphasizing that initiatives left incomplete by the previous BRS administration are now being executed within just two years.

At a special meeting held at the Tukkuguda office with Mandal leaders from Maheshwaram and Kandukur, Maheshwaram in-charge Kichenna Gari Lakshma Reddy detailed key initiatives benefiting the local population. These include free bus travel for women, distribution of ration cards, provision of fine rice (sanna bhiyam), free electricity, one-

time loan waivers, and Indiramma houses for the underprivileged.

Lakshma Reddy stressed that with the development of the “Future City,” Maheshwaram is set to evolve into a major urban hub, offering opportunities in land, employment, and livelihoods for residents. He urged local leaders to ensure that constituents are fully aware of the government’s schemes and the benefits they provide.

“Leaders must explain to people both the programs being implemented and the projects still to be completed. Citizens should understand how these initiatives directly improve their lives,” Lakshma Reddy instructed.

The meeting was attended by Congress leaders, mandal coordina-

tors, in-charges, and observers. Discussions focused on ensuring effective delivery of welfare schemes and raising public awareness about ongoing development efforts.

Lakshma Reddy highlighted the importance of closely monitoring projects and actively involving local leaders to ensure timely implementation. He stressed that these efforts aim to bridge gaps left by previous administrations and accelerate socio-economic growth in the constituency.

Concluding the session, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to inclusive development, equitable access to welfare measures, and improving infrastructure, employment, and housing opportunities across Maheshwaram.



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Praises Khammam’s Pallavi for National-Level Achievement in AI

Khammam: Khammam district is celebrating as Talluri Pallavi, a young talent from Arempula village in Khammam Rural mandal, has showcased her exceptional skills in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the national level. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka personally lauded Pallavi’s achievement, noting that her success brings immense pride to the district and serves as an inspiration for the youth.

Pallavi excelled in the Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant category, emerging as a national topper. Her dedication and hard work earned her recognition at the prestigious Kaushal Deekshant Ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, where she received the award from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. The Deputy CM expressed his happiness, saying that Pallavi’s accomplishment is a matter of pride for Khammam and the entire state.

Highlighting the sig-

nificance of her achievement, Deputy CM Vikramarka encouraged young people in the district to follow Pallavi’s example, emphasizing that rural students can reach national and even international levels of success with determination and proper guidance. He stated that Pallavi’s accomplishment underscores the growing potential of youth in emerging technological fields, particularly in AI, science, and technology.

During the event, Vikramarka also per-

sonally congratulated Pallavi’s parents, Talluri Ravi and Ajita, for nurturing her talent and supporting her journey. He urged the younger generation to take inspiration from her success and dedicate themselves to developing skills that are critical for the modern, technology-driven world.

Pallavi’s recognition not only highlights her individual brilliance but also emphasizes the importance of skill development programs and encouragement for students in rural areas.

The Deputy CM reiterated that such achievements enhance Khammam’s reputation as a hub of budding talent in science and technology. He expressed hope that more students will follow Pallavi’s path, bringing national recognition to the district and contributing to the country’s technological advancement.

Pallavi’s national award is a testament to her hard work, talent, and determination, and serves as a beacon of inspiration for students across Khammam and Telangana.

MEPMA Bags Four Prestigious State-Level Awards at Swachh Andhra Awards

Vijayawada: The Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), which works towards urban poverty alleviation, has achieved a remarkable milestone by winning four state-level awards at the recently announced Swachh Andhra Awards.

Among 19 government departments participating in the competition organized by the Swachh Andhra Corporation, MEPMA was recognized with the Best Social Media Management Award. The award acknowledged MEPMA’s outstanding performance in content quality, creative campaigns, regular postings, public engagement through likes and shares, and effective promotion of Swachh Andhra initiatives.

In addition, MEPMA’s Slum Level Federations (SLFs) from Prakasam, Srikakulam, and Visakhapatnam districts received recognition for their innovative initiatives in Terrace Garden and Home Compost categories. These awards highlight MEPMA’s tangible impact on grassroots urban environmental programs, reinforcing its commitment to sus-

tainable living and community engagement.

The awards will be formally presented on Monday, 6th of this month, at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram, Vijayawada. The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu, will personally present the Best Social Media Management Award to MEPMA Mission Director, Sri N. Tej Bharath, IAS.

Mission Director Sri N. Tej Bharath expressed his gratitude, emphasizing that these accolades reflect the guidance of Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Sri P. Narayana, and the supervision of Principal Secretary to Government, Sri S. Suresh Kumar, IAS. He dedicated this achievement to the entire MEPMA team and the Urban Self-Help Groups for their continuous dedication and tireless efforts in improving urban living conditions.

These awards reinforce MEPMA’s role as a pioneer in community-driven urban initiatives and underscore its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and public engagement in Andhra Pradesh.

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha Confident of Congress Sweep in Joint Mahbubnagar Local Body Elections

Hyderabad: Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha expressed confidence that the Congress Party is set to achieve a resounding victory in the upcoming local body elections across joint Mahbubnagar district. He stated that public sentiment remains strongly favorable toward the party and the government, reflecting the positive impact of developmental initiatives and welfare schemes.

On Saturday evening, Minister Rajanarsimha hosted a strategic meeting at his residence in Banjara Hills, convening MLAs and key party leaders from the district to chart election strategies. Ministers Jupli Krishnarao, Vakiti Srihari, and MLAs Veerlapalli Shankarayya, Parnikareddy, Rajesh Reddy, Gavinolla Madhusudan Reddy, Megha Reddy, Yenam Srinivas Reddy, and Kasireddy Narayana Reddy participated in the session.

The meeting focused on key aspects of election management, including candidate selection, campaign strategies, outreach of government schemes to



constituents, and countering opposition narratives. Ministers and MLAs discussed addressing false claims spread on social media while ensuring accurate information reaches the public.

Minister Rajanarsimha emphasized the importance of prioritizing hardworking party workers and leaders in ticket allocations. He advised that the opinions of grassroots workers and local leaders be considered during this process to ensure fairness and maintain unity. Special attention was urged to avoid any coordination gaps among leaders, which could impact election outcomes.

The minister also in-

structed party members to strengthen connections with the electorate, actively showcase the government’s welfare programs and development initiatives, and make sure these benefits reach every household. Party workers were advised to counter misinformation effectively while communicating the truth of government achievements to citizens.

The session concluded with Minister Rajanarsimha urging all party members to work in unison to ensure Congress maintains its stronghold in joint Mahbubnagar and continues delivering governance-focused development to the people.



Sardar Mahal Restoration to Complete by March Next Year, Set to Become Major Tourist Hub

Hyderabad: The restoration of the iconic Sardar Mahal in the Old City is expected to be completed within the next six months, with officials hopeful of opening it to the public by March next year, just in time for the summer vacation tourist season.

The restoration work on this heritage structure, initiated in 2022, had faced temporary halts due to fund shortages. After intervention by local public representatives, the work resumed and is now progressing steadily. “The majority of the restoration has been completed. Only minor works remain, and we are optimistic about finishing them by March,” said an official

from the Quli Qutb Shah Urban Development Authority (QQSUDA), which is overseeing the project, with a private agency entrusted for the restoration.

Once completed, the State government plans to convert Sardar Mahal into a vibrant tourist hub featuring an art gallery, cultural centre, heritage accommodation, and a small café, modelled along the lines of Rajasthan’s Neemrana Fort Palace. The project is being executed at a cost of Rs. 30 crores. Two months ago, GHMC Commissioner R V Karnan inspected the site along with local public representatives to review progress.

Historically, Sardar Mahal was built in 1900

in European architectural style by Nizam VI Mir Mahboob Ali Khan for his consort Sardar Begum. However, Sardar Begum refused to inhabit the palace as it did not meet her expectations. Despite remaining unoccupied, the building retained her name. The Mahal was later declared a heritage building by the Heritage Conservation Committee and INTACH, and the GHMC took it over in 1965 due to pending property taxes.

Upon completion, Sardar Mahal is set to emerge as one of Hyderabad’s key heritage and cultural attractions, drawing tourists from across the country and enhancing the city’s Old City tourism landscape.

Mahesh Kumar Goud - Downtrodden Hope In Congress



- Sagar Vanaparthi, Political Analyst

Mahesh Kumar Goud - a hope for the downtrodden in the Congress - stands for the party's promise to give voice and power to those who have been left behind. Rahul Gandhi, who has spoken strongly for OBC rights and the poor, has worked to bring attention to the needs of marginalised communities. As part of that effort, Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud was chosen to lead the Telangana Congress. At the national level, the party gave the all-India leadership to Mallikarjun Kharge, a leader from the SC community. These choices show the party's clear commitment to weaker and depressed sections of society. Mahesh Kumar Goud's rise is a story of steady work and

service. He began as a simple party worker and rose through the ranks because of his dedication and close contact with the people. In September 2024 he became the first Backward Class leader to head the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee. That moment sent a strong message: the party values social justice and wants leaders who understand life at the grassroots. Working under the guidance of senior leaders and with the support of AICC officials, Mr. Goud has also worked closely with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, and state ministers to keep the party united and active. A good leader brings

people together and earns their trust, but a great leader does something more: a great leader helps people find confidence in themselves. This idea fits Mahesh Kumar Goud's approach. He does not only ask people to trust him; he tries to make them feel strong and capable. He has made it a point that party leaders and public representatives meet people directly. Through programmes like 'Andubaatulo Prajaprathinidhulu', ministers, MLAs and MPs meet citizens at Gandhi Bhavan to listen and respond. This simple habit of listening has helped restore faith in public service and made governance more open. Leadership also means showing the way by example: knowing the right path, walking it, and guiding others along it. Mr. Mahesh Kumar Goud has shown this by linking government work with party outreach. He has worked to ensure that welfare schemes reach the people who need them most - schemes such as free bus travel for women, AarogyaSri health cover up to ₹10 lakh, 200 units of free electricity, subsidised LPG cylinders at ₹500, farmer loan waivers, and the Indiramma Housing Scheme. He has pushed party workers to ensure that promises are converted into real benefits in villages and towns, not just announcements on paper. Sometimes a leader must choose what is right even if it is not easy or popular. As one saying goes, "a man

who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd." Mahesh Kumar Goud has shown that kind of courage when he took bold steps for social justice and public mobilisation. His Janahita Padayatra, inspired by Gandhian service, brought him close to ordinary people. Students and youth joined him in the march and in voluntary work, showing that his leadership is not distant but shared. At the national level he stood with campaigns that defended the constitution and democratic values, and supported movements that asked for fair electoral rights. A key achievement during his time has been the strong focus on the rights of backward communi-

ties. His work on the BC Declaration and the role he played around the caste census helped lead to the expansion of BC reservations to 42% — a change many see as a major step toward fairness in Telangana. By pushing for such measures and by ensuring welfare schemes run properly, he has become a figure who stands for both rights and results. The rise of Mahesh Kumar Goud from a grassroots worker to the state party chief sends a clear message: people from marginalised communities can reach top posts through honesty, hard work, and service. His journey encourages BCs, women, youth, farmers, and other weaker sections to believe that change is possible. With the Congress working on its long-term vision of 'Telangana Rising 2047', Mr. Goud is important for building party strength and keeping close ties with the people, while the government works on development and service delivery. As he completes a year in office, Mahesh Kumar Goud is seen not only as an organiser but also as a teacher for young leaders and a fighter for social justice. His life shows that leadership is more than power; it is about inspiring confidence in others, leading by example, and standing firm for what is right. When politics is rooted in service, fairness, and openness, it can change lives — and Mahesh Kumar Goud's journey is one such example of that change.



Pause Before You Share: The True Meaning of Digital Literacy

In an era where smartphones place the world at our fingertips, the challenge isn't access to information — it's how we process and use it. With every swipe and click, we are flooded with headlines, videos, and viral messages. But as researcher and social commentator Anjali Akolkar notes, true digital literacy is not about technological skill alone. It's about discernment — knowing when to trust, when to question, and when to stay silent. Take a familiar scenario: a forwarded message on WhatsApp claims a school holiday due to unforeseen circumstances.

Meera forwards it to multiple groups without checking, while Rohan verifies it through the school's website and helpline, only to find it's false. Their difference? Not age or education — but digital literacy. Akolkar emphasizes that the ability to post a photo or use an app doesn't make someone digitally literate. Real literacy lies in understanding context, questioning sources, and recognizing emotional manipulation in digital content. It's about the pause — a few seconds that can prevent the spread of misinformation and confusion. Digital users today

are not just consumers of information, but also its distributors. A single forwarded video can reach hundreds in minutes, making each person a micro-publisher. This power, Akolkar argues, comes with responsibility. Before sharing any message, one should ask:

- Source: Where did this originate?
- Verification: Has it been confirmed by a credible platform?
- Impact: Could this cause panic or harm?

If these answers aren't clear, restraint is wiser than reaction. Akolkar also calls for a cultural shift toward conscious

digital use. Homes, schools, and offices must instill habits like fact-checking, verifying publication dates, and using reverse image searches. These small acts can significantly curb the wildfire of misinformation. In a world where AI can fake voices and images with unsettling accuracy, the ability to discern truth is more critical than ever. Digital literacy, Akolkar argues, must move us from passive scrolling to active responsibility. Because in the digital age, it's not just about how fast we can share — it's about whether we should.

India's Clean Energy Boom Faces Climate Finance Roadblock

India is rapidly emerging as a global clean energy leader, but its ambitious transition risks stalling without significant expansion in climate finance. According to the 2025 Climate Report by the United Nations Secretary-General, India, along with China and Brazil, is at the forefront of scaling solar and wind energy among developing nations. In 2024 alone, India added 24.5 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity, placing it third globally, after China and the United States. India's strides are not just about energy; they are reshaping the economy. The renewable energy sector contributed to 5% of

the country's GDP growth in 2023 and employed over a million people. Off-grid solar solutions alone accounted for more than 80,000 jobs in 2021. India's international leadership, including its key role in establishing the International Solar Alliance (ISA), underscores its commitment to a sustainable energy future. However, behind this progress lies a significant challenge — the widening climate finance gap. Experts argue that without adequate and sustained financial support from both domestic and international sources, India may struggle to

meet its climate targets. Climate finance is critical not just for building infrastructure, but for supporting innovation, capacity building, and enabling a just transition that includes vulnerable communities. Despite various government schemes and increased private sector interest, funding remains inadequate to meet India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The need for transparent, predictable, and accessible finance is urgent. International financial institutions and developed countries have a crucial role to play, especially in delivering on their climate finance commitments. The stakes are high. As artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, and battery storage technologies evolve, India's potential to lead the next phase of the clean energy revolution depends on its ability to mobilize climate finance effectively. If India's green momentum is to be sustained, policy reforms, global cooperation, and targeted investment must go hand in hand. Without closing the climate finance gap, the country's clean energy promise may remain just that — a promise.



India Sees 29% Drop in Violent Crimes Over Decade: NCRB Data



TPN Correspondent |
Delhi

India has witnessed a sharp decline in violent crimes over the last decade, according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). From 1.45 lakh cases in 2014, violent crime incidents dropped to 1.02 lakh in 2023—a 29% decrease, signaling significant progress in law enforcement and public safety. The data, covering key

categories such as rape, dowry deaths, riots, and murders, also shows 2023 figures falling below the 2004 level of 1.18 lakh cases, suggesting consistent long-term improvement.

Crimes Against Women Decline

One of the most notable reductions has been in crimes against women. Rape cases, which had surged from 2004 to 2014, declined 19%, from 36,735 in 2014 to 29,670 in

2023. Dowry deaths also dropped significantly, from 8,455 to 6,156 cases, marking a 27% fall, the sharpest among all categories.

Murder and Riots Cases Also Down

Violent crimes like murders and riots also showed steady decline. Murder cases fell by 18%—from 33,981 in 2014 to 27,721 in 2023. Riots, which were a major concern during incidents like the 2020 Northeast

Delhi violence, saw a 40% reduction, from 66,042 to 39,260 cases.

Reforms and Technology Behind the Drop

Officials attribute this positive trend to focused reforms in policing and internal security. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) now links 17,712 police stations and gives access to over 35 crore crime records nationwide.

Under the Police Modernisation Scheme, the government allocated Rs 4,846 crore since 2021 to enhance communication tools, surveillance systems, and weapons infrastructure, helping police forces respond more efficiently.

This data marks a major turnaround in India's fight against violent crime and reflects the impact of sustained reform in the criminal justice system.



Bihar Polls: PM Modi To Announce Rs 1,000 Monthly Aid For 5 Lakh Graduates

TPN Bureau | New
Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a series of ambitious youth-focused initiatives worth over ₹62,000 crore, aimed at transforming education, skill development, and employment opportunities across India, with a special focus on Bihar.

Speaking at Vigyan Bhawan, the Prime Minister inaugurated PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a ₹60,000 crore centrally-sponsored scheme. It will modernise 1,000 government ITIs nationwide through a hub-and-spoke model, integrating advanced infrastructure, digital learning, and industry partnerships. The

World Bank and ADB are co-financing the initiative, with pilot focus areas including Patna and Darbhanga.

The event also hosted the Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh, honouring 46 All-India Toppers from Industrial Training Institutes. Additionally, 1,200 Vocational Skill Labs were launched in Navodaya Vidyalayas and Eklavya Model Schools, empowering students in tribal and remote regions with training in 12 high-demand sectors.

In a major push for Bihar's youth, PM Modi relaunched the Mukhyamantri Nishchay Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana, offering ₹1,000 monthly stipends and free skill training for graduates. He also unveiled the redesigned Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme, providing inter-

est-free education loans up to ₹4 lakh.

PM Modi inaugurated the Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University and laid foundation stones for new academic facilities in four Bihar universities under the PM-USHA scheme, benefiting over 27,000 students. The Bihta campus of NIT Patna was also dedicated, featuring cutting-edge tech labs and incubation centres.

Finally, over 4,000 appointment letters were distributed, and ₹450 crore in scholarships transferred to 25 lakh students under the state's Balak/Balika Scholarship Scheme.

These initiatives mark a major step towards positioning Bihar as a hub for skilled manpower and empowering India's youth for a competitive global future.

Indian Dental Student, Working Part-Time At US Gas Station, Shot Dead



TPN Correspondent |
Delhi

In a tragic incident, 27-year-old Indian student Chandrashekar Pole from Hyderabad was shot dead at a gas station in Dallas, United States, late Friday night. The gunman, still unidentified, reportedly opened fire while Pole was working his part-time shift. Local authorities are investigating the incident, but no arrests have been made yet.

Chandrashekar had moved to the US in 2023 for higher studies after completing a bachelor's degree in dental surgery in Hyderabad. He had recently earned his master's degree six

months ago and was working part-time while searching for a full-time job in his field.

The news of his death has left his family devastated. His parents, based in Hyderabad, have appealed to the Indian government for help in bringing back their son's body for final rites.

Senior BRS leaders, including MLA Sudhir Reddy and former minister T Harish Rao, visited the family on Saturday to offer condolences. Rao described the killing as "heart-wrenching" and called for swift action.

"The pain that the parents are going through, knowing that their son, who they believed would

reach great heights, is no more, is unbearable," Harish Rao said in a post on social media.

He urged the Telangana state government and the Ministry of External Affairs to coordinate with US officials and the Indian Embassy to ensure Pole's mortal remains are brought home without delay.

The incident has sparked fresh concerns among Indian families about the safety of students and workers abroad. The Indian consulate in Houston is reportedly in touch with local authorities and the victim's family.

Further details on the investigation and possible motives behind the shooting are awaited.



“Will Bring Out Full Truth”: MK Stalin On Vijay’s Karur Rally Stampede

TPN Correspondent |
Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday expressed deep sorrow and resolve following the tragic stampede in Karur that claimed 41 lives during a public rally organised by actor-politician Vijay's Tamizhaga Vetttri Kazhagam (TVK).

In a statement on social media, Stalin said the government is treating the High Court's observations with utmost seriousness, adding, "We are all deeply shaken. I feel great anguish for every family suffering the loss of a loved one and share in their tears and pain."

Stalin confirmed that a Special Investigation Team (SIT), ordered by the Madras High Court and led by Inspector-General of Police Asra Garg, will begin a comprehensive inquiry. "This investigation will bring out the full truth. Accountability will be ensured at every level," Stalin affirmed.

The stampede on Sep-

tember 27 occurred in the Velusamy area of Karur, allegedly due to poor crowd management at a TVK rally. The tragedy has drawn criticism over the party's handling of the event. The High Court has since banned political rallies and roadshows along highways in the state until Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are put in place.

Stalin said Tamil Nadu will lead the way in drafting SOPs to prevent future stampedes, involving input from experts, political parties, activists, and the general public.

Meanwhile, anticipatory bail pleas by top TVK leaders—including General Secretary Anand, Joint Secretary CTR Nirmal Kumar, and District Secretary N Sathish Kumar—have been dismissed by the Madurai Bench of the High Court, citing unruly crowd behaviour and damage to public property.

Stalin appealed for unity, urging all political groups to avoid blame games and instead contribute to lasting solutions.

PM Modi Would Be the Perfect ‘Showstopper’: Says Kangana



TPN Correspondent |
New Delhi

Actor-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut has declared Prime Minister Narendra Modi as her ideal pick to walk the fashion ramp, calling him the perfect "showstopper" with "great style and presence."

Speaking to ANI at a fashion event in Delhi, Kangana smiled and said, "Our Prime Minister. He can definitely [walk the ramp]. He's got great style." She elaborated that it's not just his wardrobe that makes him stylish, but his overall persona, awareness, and dedication to Indian industries

and people. "And he's very aware. Not just politically, but socially. And he cares a great deal about Indian industries and Indian people. Making India his baby. So, I think he would be a great showstopper," she added.

Kangana herself was the showstopper at the event for designer Raabta by Rahul, presenting a bridal jewellery collection titled "Saltanat." She wore an intricately embroidered ivory saree paired with emerald-gold jewellery and a floral bun, drawing admiration for her elegant appearance.

The actor has a history of walking the ramp for top designers. In 2022, she made headlines walking for Khadi India

at Lakme Fashion Week and later for designer Varun Chakkilam in a richly embroidered lehenga.

On the work front, Kangana is set to debut in Hollywood with a horror drama titled "Blessed Be the Evil," co-starring Tyler Posey and Scarlet Rose Stallone. She was last seen in "Emergency," a film she directed and headlined, portraying former PM Indira Gandhi.

Despite her film commitments, Kangana remains active in politics and public discourse, often voicing strong opinions on national issues. Her comments about PM Modi add yet another note of admiration in her consistent public support for the leader.

Japan Set to Elect First Female PM After Takaichi Wins LDP Leadership Race

TPN Correspondent | El Segundo

Sanae Takaichi is on track to become Japan's first female prime minister after clinching victory in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership race on Saturday.

In a runoff between the top two candidates, Takaichi secured 185 votes against Shinjiro Koizumi's 156, signaling strong support within party ranks. Earlier rounds already showed her dominance among party members.

With the LDP holding significant influence in Japan's parliament, Takaichi is expected to win the formal parliamentary vote later this month and officially assume the role of prime minister.

Challenges Ahead

Takaichi inherits a deeply fragmented LDP. The party has lost its majority in both houses of parliament, making coalition-building essential to passing legislation and budgets.

She will also face the task of winning back public trust, especially among younger voters who have turned toward smaller populist parties amid rising cost-of-living pressures and demographic change.

Despite breaking gender barriers, it is unclear if her leadership will translate into progress on women's issues. Known for her conservative views, Takaichi may focus less on social reforms and more on economic revival.

Policy Outlook & Diplomacy

Analysts predict Takaichi's victory could swing Japan toward more stimulative fiscal

policies. Bloomberg Economics notes her pro-stimulus leanings may slow the pace of rate hikes by the Bank of Japan and influence broader markets.

In foreign policy, she may quickly face tests. The United States-Japan tariff deal is nearing completion, and pressures over defense spending from allies will demand delicate diplomacy. Takaichi has also expressed interest in visiting the controversial Yasukuni Shrine, which could stir tensions with China.

Addressing lawmakers immediately after her win, she echoed the challenges ahead: "There is a mountain of things that we must accomplish together." As Japan gears up for this historic shift, many will watch not just whether she wins, but how she leads in turbulent times.



PM Modi Praises Trump as Hamas Signals Support for Gaza Peace Deal

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the leadership of former US President Donald Trump after Hamas signaled acceptance of a US-brokered peace plan aimed at ending the ongoing Gaza conflict.

In a significant diplomatic development, Hamas has agreed in principle to release all Israeli hostages, contingent upon the fulfillment of "field conditions" for the exchange. The group expressed readiness to enter immediate negotiations with international mediators to finalise the terms.

The announcement came just hours before the expiry of Trump's self-imposed deadline, which he described as a "last chance" for Hamas to agree to the peace framework.

Welcoming the progress, Prime Minister Modi praised Trump's efforts, calling his role "instrumental in moving toward lasting peace in the region." In a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, Modi said, "India supports all diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring

peace and stability in West Asia. President Trump's initiative is a positive step."

The proposed deal, which has not been fully disclosed publicly, reportedly involves phased hostage releases, a ceasefire, and guaranteed humanitarian access to Gaza. It also includes provisions for the reopening of borders and reconstruction under international oversight.

Trump, who has remained actively involved in Middle East diplomacy since leaving office, described Hamas' response as a "critical breakthrough", but warned that the implementation phase would be closely monitored by the US and its allies.

The Indian government has expressed hope that the deal could lead to long-term de-escalation in the region. Officials confirmed that India is in touch with key stakeholders and is prepared to support reconstruction and humanitarian aid efforts.

The international community has cautiously welcomed the development, though experts warn that trust deficits and security concerns could still derail the peace process.

Peace Deal Signed to End Deadly Protests in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

TPN Correspondent | Muzaffarabad

After nearly a week of violent unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the federal government and protest leaders have reached an agreement to end widespread demonstrations that have left at least 10 dead and hundreds injured.

The breakthrough came late Saturday following intense negotiations between Islamabad officials and the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) — a coalition representing civil society, traders, and local rights activists. The agreement aims to restore calm in the region, where tensions have flared over governance failures, economic hard-

ship, and long-standing grievances about neglect by the central government.

The unrest began on September 29 when talks between JKJAAC leaders and local authorities broke down. What started as a peaceful strike soon spiraled into violent confrontations, with clashes between demonstrators and security forces reported in multiple towns including Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, and Mirpur.

Protesters accused the government of ignoring the region's demands for affordable electricity, fair taxation, and greater autonomy in administrative matters. The strike turned violent after videos of alleged police brutality went viral, sparking further outrage.

Saturday's agreement

includes commitments from the government to review energy tariffs, suspend controversial taxes, and initiate a high-level inquiry into police excesses during the protests. The JKJAAC has called off the strike and urged supporters to maintain peace.

Officials have begun withdrawing paramilitary forces from key protest sites, while local leaders have appealed for a return to normalcy. "This is a step toward justice and a voice for the people of PoK," said a J K J A A C spokesperson.

While calm has temporarily returned, analysts caution that long-term stability in PoK will depend on whether the central government honors its promises and begins serious dialogue on the region's political and economic future.



Trump's \$100K H-1B Visa Fee Challenged in Court by Health Workers, Professors

TPN Bureau | Washington

A coalition of health-care providers, university professors, religious groups, and others have filed a federal lawsuit challenging former US President Donald Trump's new \$100,000 fee for H-1B visa applications. The lawsuit, filed in the US District Court in San Francisco, argues that the steep fee is illegal, disruptive, and a major blow to sectors already struggling with skilled labor shortages.

Trump signed a presidential proclamation on

September 19, implementing the fee with just 36 hours' notice, prompting panic among employers who scrambled to bring back H-1B employees to the US. The proclamation claimed the H-1B programme had been "exploited to replace American workers with lower-paid, lower-skilled labour."

The lawsuit claims the fee has "thrown employers, workers, and federal agencies into chaos" and demands immediate relief. According to the plaintiffs — represented by Democracy Forward Foundation and the Justice

Action Center — the move threatens to strip hospitals of medical staff, churches of pastors, and classrooms of educators.

"Trump's order is not just anti-immigrant, it's anti-American," said Todd Wolfson, president of the American Association of University Professors. "It shuts the door on innovation and lifesaving research."

Critics argue the fee is an unconstitutional overreach, bypassing Congress to impose what amounts to a new tax. "Trump cannot unilaterally rewrite immigration law or tax foreign talent," said Skye

Perryman, CEO of Democracy Forward.

The H-1B visa programme, historically filled via lottery, is widely used by tech firms, hospitals, and educational institutions to hire specialized talent. Top recipients include Amazon, Tata Consultancy, Microsoft, Apple, and Google. California remains home to the largest H-1B workforce.

No response has yet been issued by the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, or the State Department, all named in the lawsuit alongside Trump.

"Savage": Zelensky Says Russian Drone Strike On Ukraine Train Station Kills 30

TPN Correspondent | Indonesia

A Russian drone strike on a railway station in northeastern Ukraine's Sumy region killed at least 30 people and injured dozens more, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed on Saturday, calling the attack "savage" and deliberate.

The strike targeted the Shostka train station, located just 50 km from the Russian border. The victims included passengers and railway employees, according to Zelensky, who shared a harrow-

ing video of a burning train carriage with shattered windows and twisted metal. "The Russians could not have been unaware that they were striking civilians," he said, condemning the assault as another brutal blow to Ukraine's infrastructure.

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Russia has frequently targeted Ukraine's railway systems, viewing them as critical supply and transport routes. Saturday's attack adds to the long list of strikes that have devastated Ukrainian transport

hubs and energy facilities.

In a separate overnight assault, Russian forces also launched strikes on the Chernigiv region, cutting power to nearly 50,000 homes. The attack is part of a broader campaign that has increasingly targeted civilian infrastructure, drawing international criticism.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's military claimed responsibility for a retaliatory drone strike on a major oil refinery in Russia's Leningrad region, as part of its ongoing strategy to disrupt Russian energy supplies. Kyiv has vowed

to escalate its long-range drone operations in response to Moscow's continuous aerial bombardment of Ukrainian cities and infrastructure.

The latest developments mark a sharp escalation in the ongoing war, as both nations ramp up cross-border drone warfare. With winter approaching, concerns are rising over the humanitarian impact of repeated attacks on civilian energy and transport networks.

The international community continues to monitor the conflict closely, amid calls for restraint and renewed diplomatic efforts.



NALCO, Tata Steel, Jindal Stainless Lead Gains In Subdued Trade



Metal stocks continued their strong rally on October 3, 2025, bucking the otherwise subdued market sentiment. National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Tata Steel, Jindal Stainless, Hindalco Industries, Vedanta, and other key players led the charge, supported by a blend of domestic and global factors fueling demand and investor confidence.

NALCO emerged as the day's top performer with a robust 4.7% gain, closing at ₹224 per share. Tata Steel, Jindal Stainless, Hindalco Industries, Vedanta, JSW Steel, Hindustan Zinc, and Hindustan Copper followed suit, advancing between 2% and 4%. The strong buying pushed the Nifty Metal Index to a fresh record high of 10,343, marking a 2.5% rise for the day and extending its winning streak to four consecutive sessions.

So far this week, the Nifty Metal Index has surged 4.54%, while October's first three trading sessions alone have seen nearly a 3% gain, reflecting the sector's bullish momentum.

What's Driving the Rally? Several factors have contributed to this upswing. The decline in the US dollar index amid growing expectations of multiple Federal Reserve rate cuts has boosted global commodity demand. Additionally, reports of the European Union considering a 50% steel import tariff hike have increased optimism around domestic steel producers.

The steady rise in base metal prices, especially copper, has also buoyed investor sentiment, reinforcing the bullish case for metal stocks.

Outlook Analysts believe the metal sector's strong performance is likely to continue as global monetary easing supports industrial demand, and protective trade measures favor local producers. However, market watchers caution that volatility in commodity prices and geopolitical developments could impact short-term trends.

Investors are advised to monitor global cues and sector fundamentals closely as metal stocks shine in an otherwise cautious market environment.



Top Gainers, Losers That Moved Nifty & Sensex This Week

As the week wrapped up on October 3, Indian equity markets witnessed notable volatility, influenced by global uncertainties and domestic cues. Here's a snapshot of the top market movers and investment trends that shaped Nifty and Sensex.

Top Market Trends

- Gold prices surged towards an all-time high, nearing \$3,890/oz, driven by Federal Reserve rate cut expectations, US government shutdown, and increased central bank demand globally. In India, gold futures hit ₹1,17,800 per 10 grams, offering strong returns amid global turmoil.
- Anticipation around major upcoming IPOs added to investor buzz:

Top Gainers (NSE Nifty & BSE Sensex)

- L&T: Rose over 6% this week amid optimism around infrastructure growth and government capital expenditure.
- Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL): Gained over 5% as defence stocks remained strong on export momentum.
- Infosys: Up nearly 4% due to positive sentiment around US tech demand recovery.

Top Losers

- Titan: Dropped around 4% due to concerns over discretionary spending amid rising gold prices.
- HDFC Bank: Fell over 3% on weak lending growth expectations.
- JSW Steel: Down 3% as global metal prices corrected and export demand softened.

Mutual Fund Activity

New fund offerings (NFOs) from Motilal Oswal, ICICI Prudential, and Invesco India saw increased retail participation, especially in consumption and conglomerate-focused funds.

As investor sentiment fluctuates with global cues, the markets remain cautiously optimistic heading into the festive season.

Tata Investment Corp Hits Record High, Surges 35% in 5 Days

Shares of Tata Investment Corporation soared nearly 12% on Friday, reaching an all-time high of ₹11,847 on the NSE, amid rising investor excitement ahead of the upcoming Tata Capital IPO. The rally marked the fifth straight session of gains, with the stock jumping 35% since September 26, when Tata Capital officially announced its IPO dates.

The surge reflects bullish sentiment surrounding the IPO, scheduled to open for public subscription from October 6 to October 8, with a price band fixed at ₹310-₹326 per share. Market analysts view Tata Investment Corp as a key beneficiary, given its

significant holding in Tata Capital, making it a proxy play for investors seeking indirect exposure to the IPO.

Stock Split Adds Fuel to Rally Adding to the momentum, Tata Investment Corporation recently announced a stock split in a 1:10 ratio, aimed at boosting liquidity and retail participation. Following the split, the face value of each share will reduce from ₹10 to ₹1, making the high-priced stock more accessible. The record date for the stock split is October 14, further intensifying trading activity in the counter.

Market Outlook The ongoing rally in Tata Investment shares underscores heightened optimism in Tata Group

firms, particularly with a string of IPOs on the horizon. Analysts suggest that the combination of Tata Capital's strong brand equity and Tata Investment's strategic positioning is attracting both institutional and retail investors.

With the IPO buzz and stock split aligned within the same fortnight, the stock may continue to see heightened interest in the near term. However, experts advise cautious optimism, given the sharp short-term gains.

The Tata Capital IPO, along with others like LG Electronics India, is expected to test investor appetite in a volatile market, setting the tone for the upcoming earnings season.



India's Rise as Global Stabiliser Not Accidental, Says FM Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that India's emergence as a stabilising force in the global order is "neither accidental nor transient", asserting that the era of unquestioned dominance by a single hegemon is now under challenge.

Speaking at the Fourth Kautilya Economic Conclave in New Delhi on Friday, Sitharaman pointed to significant shifts in global power dynamics. Without naming the United States directly, she remarked, "The absolute dominance once enjoyed by a hegemon is now contested."

The conclave, jointly hosted by the Ministry of Finance and the Institute of Economic Growth, focused on India's

evolving role in global economic policymaking and strategy.

Highlighting geopolitical tensions, Sitharaman said that sanctions, tariffs, and decoupling strategies are straining traditional alliances and giving rise to new coalitions. "These shifts are testing the resilience of nations. For India, the choices we make today will decide whether our resilience becomes the base for leadership or just a buffer against global uncertainties," she said.

The minister also noted that Asia's economic narrative is undergoing a transformation, with many countries presenting alternative models of governance and growth. This, she said, is challenging the long-held as-

sumption that Western liberal values are the sole path to economic success.

"India is not only a participant but increasingly a shaper of global outcomes," she added, stressing that the country's assertive and independent policymaking is being recognised worldwide.

The address comes at a time when India is preparing to deepen its global partnerships, even as it maintains strategic autonomy amidst rising US-China rivalry and global economic realignments.

The conclave is expected to see further discussions on global supply chains, India's digital economy, and fiscal sustainability in the coming sessions.



Flipkart, Amazon face Centre probe for charging ₹100 platform fee

The Union Government has launched an investigation into leading e-commerce platforms Flipkart and Amazon following widespread consumer complaints over arbitrary platform charges, including ₹99-₹100 "platform fees" during the ongoing festive season.

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Prahlad Joshi confirmed the probe in a

post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), stating that "dark patterns" are being used by these companies to "mislead and exploit" consumers.

"The Department of Consumer Affairs has received complaints against e-commerce platforms charging extra for Cash-on-Delivery — a practice classified as a dark pattern," Joshi said. He added that a de-

tailed investigation is underway, and strict action will be taken against any violation of consumer rights.

The probe was triggered after hundreds of users took to social media to express outrage over hidden or excessive charges applied at checkout. A viral screenshot shared by the Minister shows Flipkart allegedly charging ₹226 in additional fees, including ₹99 platform fee,

₹48 payment handling fee, and ₹79 "Protect Promise" fee.

Though Joshi did not directly name Amazon or Flipkart in his official statement, the screenshot and timing — during both platforms' festive megasales — point toward these giants being at the center of the controversy.

Consumer advocates have welcomed the move, calling for greater transparency

in pricing. Many argue that these fees are not clearly disclosed up front and may violate consumer protection norms.

With India's e-commerce sector booming, the government's action signals tighter scrutiny over digital marketplaces and their pricing practices. Industry observers say this could prompt a review of fee structures across platforms in the coming months.

‘Alien’ Diamond Created on Earth, Harder Than Natural Diamonds

In a groundbreaking development, Chinese scientists have successfully created a rare form of diamond—known as hexagonal diamond or lonsdaleite—in a laboratory setting, marking a major leap in material science. This ultra-hard crystal is naturally found only in meteorites and is believed to be significantly harder than conventional diamonds.

Published in Nature, the study was led by researchers from the Centre for High-Pressure Science & Technology Advanced Research. They achieved the feat by transforming high-purity graphite into hexagonal diamond under carefully controlled high-pressure, high-temperature, and quasi-hydrostatic conditions. The result: highly ordered, micro-metre-sized diamond samples that could out-



perform traditional diamonds in industrial and electronic applications. Unlike standard cubic diamonds, which can fracture along specific planes, hexagonal diamonds have a more robust atomic structure. Until now, attempts to synthesize them in labs had mostly produced ordinary diamonds due to structural instability during formation.

Lead researcher Yang Liuxiang attributed the success to two key innovations. First, the use of ultra-pure natural graphite as the starting material ensured minimal defects. Second, real-time X-ray imaging allowed researchers to monitor and control the transformation process, avoiding common synthesis errors. “This sets a new methodological founda-

tion for future material breakthroughs,” said Yang. Ho-kwang Mao, a high-pressure science expert and foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, called the breakthrough a “new pathway” to next-generation superhard materials and advanced electronics. With its exceptional hardness and thermal properties, the synthetic hexagonal diamond—produced at the hundred-micron scale—could revolutionize industries requiring ultra-durable materials, from cutting tools to high-performance aerospace semiconductors. The achievement not only advances diamond synthesis but also opens doors to engineering other rare materials found only in extreme cosmic environments.

Eritrea: The Only Country With No Mobile Internet Access

In a world where even the remotest regions are becoming digitally connected, the East African nation of Eritrea stands out as a rare exception—one where mobile internet is virtually non-existent. Located in the Horn of Africa and bordered by Djibouti, Sudan, and Ethiopia, Eritrea remains one of the most isolated and secretive countries on the planet. Despite technological advancements globally, the vast majority of Eritreans have never used mobile data, accessed social media, or made a digital transaction. Asmara, the capital city, reflects the country’s limited digital infrastructure. There are no functional ATMs, and only a few select locations—such as hotels and government build-



ings—have access to fixed-line internet. Even that is heavily monitored and unreliable. For ordinary citizens, connecting to the internet on mobile phones is simply not an option. Eritrea’s extreme digital disconnect is closely tied to its political structure. Often referred to as the “North Korea of Africa,” Eritrea has been

under authoritarian rule since gaining independence from Ethiopia in 1993. The government tightly controls information, restricts freedom of expression, and mandates indefinite national service for its citizens. International organizations and human rights groups have long criticized the regime for its lack of transparency and suppression of basic freedoms. The country ranks among the lowest globally in terms of press freedom and internet accessibility. While the rest of Africa sees growing digital economies and social media revolutions, Eritrea remains cut off—its citizens deprived of the connectivity that powers modern life. For many young Eritreans, the idea of streaming a video, checking messages, or browsing the web is not a daily habit—it’s an unimaginable luxury. In an age defined by digital transformation, Eritrea remains one of the few countries still living largely offline.

NHAI to Install QR Code Signboards on Highways for Emergency and Utility Info



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced a new initiative to install QR code-enabled signboards across the national highway network, aimed at improving road safety, transparency, and commuter convenience. This move, revealed in a press release by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, will allow travellers to instantly access critical information by scanning QR codes while on the move. The vertical signboards will feature project-specific details such as the national highway number, chainage, project length, and timelines for construction and maintenance. More importantly, they will pro-

vide quick access to emergency helpline numbers, including 1033, as well as contact details of key officials like highway patrol officers, toll managers, project managers, resident engineers, and NHAI field offices. Additionally, the QR codes will offer digital access to nearby essential services such as hospitals, petrol pumps, toilets, police stations, restaurants, vehicle repair shops, truck lay-byes, toll plazas, and electric vehicle charging stations. This will help travellers locate emergency and utility services quickly, making journeys safer and smoother. To maximize impact, NHAI plans to place these QR code sign-

boards at strategic locations such as toll plazas, rest areas, wayside amenities, truck lay-byes, and at the start and end points of highway stretches. The Ministry emphasized that beyond providing project information, these signboards will enhance road safety by improving access to emergency services and boost user experience by increasing awareness about the national highways. This initiative represents a significant step towards leveraging technology for safer, more informed travel on India’s highways, reflecting NHAI’s commitment to enhancing commuter convenience and transparency in infrastructure projects.

Is Coconut Safe for Diabetics? Experts Weigh In on Health Benefits and Risks

Coconut is a staple in Indian households, used in everything from curries to chutneys. But for the millions living with diabetes, the question remains: Is coconut safe to consume regularly? Health experts suggest that coconut can be included in a diabetic-friendly diet—but in moderation. The white flesh of the coconut, though slightly sweet, contains relatively low net carbohydrates due to its high fibre content. This fibre slows down digestion and reduces the risk of sudden spikes in blood sugar, making it a better alternative to many refined carbohydrate foods. A study published in the British Journal of Nutrition supports this claim, stating that coconut flour and other fibre-rich foods are associated with a lower glycemic index in both healthy individuals and those with diabetes. This means co-



conut-based foods may have a gentler effect on blood sugar levels. However, the story doesn’t end there. Coconut is also high in calories and saturated fat. This makes it a double-edged sword, especially for diabetics who already face an increased risk of cardio-

vascular issues. Overconsumption could lead to weight gain and heart-related complications, negating the benefits of its fibre content. Nutritionists advise strict portion control. A few tablespoons of grated coconut or a small amount of coco-

nut milk in cooking is generally considered safe for most diabetics. However, regularly consuming large quantities—especially in sweets or fried dishes—could be harmful. In conclusion, coconut is not off-limits for diabetics, but it must be consumed mindfully. Diabetic individuals should consult their doctors or dietitians before making coconut a regular part of their diet, especially in high-fat forms like coconut oil or cream. Moderation is key—coconut can be part of a healthy diabetic diet when used wisely.

Indian Engineer Sparks Debate Over 100-Hour Work Weeks

An Indian software engineer at AI startup Mercor has ignited online debate after revealing he works 72 to 100 hours a week. Pranav Mehta, a former Microsoft employee, described the intense schedule as a “worthwhile trade-off” for rapid personal and professional growth. Mehta’s comments followed a post by Mercor CEO Brendan Foody, who announced the company had grown from a \$1 million to a \$500 million revenue run rate in just 17 months, calling it the

“fastest growing company of all time.” Mercor is now aiming for a \$10 billion valuation. Acknowledging that such long hours may appear “daunting,” Mehta highlighted the unmatched learning opportunities at the firm. “A comfy 40-hour week won’t offer the same upside,” he wrote on X (formerly Twitter), defending the demanding work schedule as part of the startup’s high-growth culture. His remarks, however, quickly sparked backlash. Many social media users criticised the glorification of extreme

work hours, raising concerns about burnout, mental health, and toxic workplace culture. One user questioned the mindset behind such schedules, asking, “Why do you guys try to flaunt toxic work culture as hustle culture?” Another sarcastically noted, “Dada, you don’t have mental issues,” pointing to the potential mental toll of such intense routines. Some offered a more optimistic perspective. A user suggested that the “working environment must be lit and hyped up all the time,” implying that the ener-

getic atmosphere might justify the high level of commitment. The discussion reflects ongoing tensions in India’s tech sector, where startups often push employees to extreme limits for rapid growth, sparking debates over the balance between ambition and employee well-being. Pranav Mehta’s post has reignited conversations about whether the drive for professional advancement is worth the personal cost, highlighting the growing scrutiny of “hustle culture” in the country’s booming tech industry.





Shubman Gill Replaces Rohit Sharma as ODI Captain for Australia Series



In a significant leadership shift, the BCCI has appointed Shubman Gill as India's ODI captain for the upcoming three-match series against Australia, beginning October 19 in Perth. Shreyas Iyer has been named the vice-captain, marking a generational transition in India's white-ball leadership.

The move sees Rohit Sharma, India's long-standing limited-overs skipper, stepping aside from the role, although he remains part of the squad. Virat Kohli also returns to the ODI setup, ensuring experience is not lost amidst the leadership change.

Announcing the decision in Ahmedabad, BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar said the change was made with a long-term vision for the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

"It's practically impossible to have three different captains for three formats. We want consistency and a clear road-

map toward the next ODI World Cup," Agarkar stated.

The ODI squad for the Australia tour includes a blend of youth and experience: Shubman Gill (C), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (VC), KL Rahul (WK), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, and Dhruv Jurel (WK).

Meanwhile, Suryakumar Yadav will lead the T20I side, with Gill serving as vice-captain, as India continues to groom future leaders in all formats. Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the ODI series, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya misses out due to injury.

The upcoming Australia tour marks the beginning of India's next ODI cycle and a new chapter in leadership under Gill, who is already captain in Tests. With seasoned players like Rohit and Kohli still around, the transition appears calculated and gradual, rather than abrupt.

Shubman Gill Named India's New ODI Captain for Australia Tour

In a significant leadership transition, Shubman Gill has been appointed as India's ODI captain for the upcoming series against Australia, with Shreyas Iyer named his deputy. The decision marks a clear step by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) towards building a squad for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Veteran stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma return to the ODI setup, though Rohit has now officially been relieved of captaincy duties. BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar confirmed that Rohit was informed in advance, and the move aligns with the board's long-term strategic planning.

In a related develop-

ment, Suryakumar Yadav has been handed the reins of the T20I squad, with Gill serving as his vice-captain. Notably, Hardik Pandya misses out due to injury, while Nitish Kumar Reddy finds a spot in both formats.

Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the ODI series but will feature in the T20Is. Yashasvi Jaiswal also makes his comeback to the ODI squad, while KL Rahul and Dhruv Jurel will handle wicketkeeping duties.

India's ODI Squad vs Australia:

Shubman Gill (C), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (VC), Axar Patel, KL Rahul (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kul-

deep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Yashasvi Jaiswal.

India's T20I Squad vs Australia:

Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (VC), Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Varun Chakaravorthy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

The ODI series promises to be a crucial test for India's new leadership core, while the T20Is will continue to shape the squad ahead of future global tournaments.



England Crushes South Africa by 10 Wickets in World Cup Opener

England launched their ICC Women's World Cup 2025 campaign with a commanding 10-wicket win over South Africa at the ACA Stadium, Barsapara, sending a strong message to other contenders.

Electing to bowl first, England's bowlers tore through South Africa's batting line-up, bundling them out for a paltry 69 runs in just 20.4 overs. Only wicketkeeper-batter Sinalo Jafta (22) managed to reach double figures, as the rest of the batters collapsed under relentless pressure.

Captain Nat Sciver-Brunt, leading from the front, was exceptional

both as a captain and with the ball, marshaling her resources well. The English bowling unit, featuring the likes of Sophie Ecclestone, Kate Cross, and Lauren Bell, maintained a tight grip, not allowing the Proteas any breathing space.

In reply, England's openers Tammy Beaumont and Danni Wyatt made light work of the chase. The duo calmly knocked off the target in just 14.1 overs, finishing unbeaten and ensuring a perfect start to their World Cup journey.

This dominant performance not only gave England a bonus-point win but also significant-

ly boosted their net run rate early in the tournament. It was a clinical display in all departments — sharp bowling, disciplined fielding, and composed batting — highlighting England's intent to reclaim the World Cup crown.

For South Africa, the defeat raises serious concerns about their batting depth and composure under pressure. They will need a quick turnaround to stay competitive in the tournament.

As the tournament unfolds, England's emphatic win stands as an early warning to rivals, signaling that the 2017 champions are back in business and hungry for glory.



Jadeja, Siraj Power India to Innings Win Over West Indies in 1st Test

India registered a commanding innings and 140-run victory over the West Indies on the third day of the first Test in Ahmedabad, taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. After declaring overnight at 448/5, India's bowlers, led by Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Siraj, dismantled the Windies for just 146 in their second innings.

The visitors had earlier folded for 162 in the first innings, and

failed to put up any resistance in their second outing. Jadeja (4/54) and Siraj (3/31) were the architects of India's dominant performance with the ball. Siraj finished with a seven-wicket haul in the match, underlining his status as India's pace spearhead in home conditions.

West Indies batters once again struggled against India's relentless attack. Alick Athanaze top-scored with 38, while Justin

Greaves added 25, but the rest of the lineup failed to cross 20, collapsing in just 45.1 overs.

India's declaration at 448 was built on solid performances from the top order on day two, including centuries from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, and a brisk knock by Rishabh Pant on return. The hosts opted not to bat further on day three, instead focusing on wrapping up the game quickly — a strategy that paid off.

This win marks a strong start for India under the leadership of Shubman Gill, who has taken over Test captaincy. The all-round dominance with bat and ball highlights India's continued home supremacy and depth in both departments.

The second and final Test will now be a chance for the West Indies to regroup, while India will aim to seal the series with another convincing performance.

Prannoy, Lakshya, Ponnappa Inspire Indian Squad

Ahead of World Junior Badminton Championships

With the BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2025 set to kick off in Guwahati from October 6 to 19, Indian badminton stars HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen, and Ashwini Ponnappa have come forward to motivate the 25-member Indian squad.

India is hosting the prestigious tournament after 17 years, the last being in Pune in 2008 — a year etched in memory when Saina Nehwal clinched gold, and RMV Gurusai Dutt won

bronze, marking India's best-ever performance at the junior level.

Calling it a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," HS Prannoy, who won bronze at the 2010 edition, reminded the young shuttlers about the importance of the tournament. "It's the first stepping stone into the world stage. From here, you start understanding what senior-level badminton demands," said Prannoy, who is now one of India's top-ranked singles players.

Lakshya Sen, who has earned medals at both junior and senior world championships, advised players to leverage home conditions and crowd support. "This is your home turf. Use it. Stay disciplined and focused — these matches define your growth," said the 24-year-old from Almor.

Veteran women's doubles player Ashwini Ponnappa encouraged the team to trust their training, enjoy the game, and aim for medals. "Your

preparation matters the most. Go out there, stay confident, and give it your all," she said.

Most of the Indian contingent is currently training at the National Centre of Excellence (NCE), fine-tuning their skills ahead of the global competition.

India has so far won 11 medals at the World Junior Championships — one gold, four silver, and six bronze — and with home advantage, hopes are high for a strong showing in Guwahati.





Star heroine in talks for Kalki 2?

In a surprising development, Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone has reportedly exited the sequel to Kalki 2898 AD, the much-anticipated mythological sci-fi epic starring Prabhas. The sudden departure of one of the lead actors has not only shocked fans but also caused delays in the film's production

schedule. Directed by Nag Ashwin, Kalki 2898 AD had created massive buzz with its unique blend of mythology and science fiction. While the first part is still awaiting its release, pre-production for the sequel had already begun. However, with Deepika's exit, the team is now in search of a new leading lady.

Recent reports in Tollywood suggest that Nag Ashwin is in talks with actress Sai Pallavi to step into the role vacated by Deepika. Initially, speculation was rife that Ashwin was planning a separate, female-centric film with Sai Pallavi. But insiders now claim that the director is seriously considering her as the new female lead in Kalki 2.

While there is no official confirmation yet, the news of this potential casting has already gone viral on social media. Sai Pallavi, known for her strong screen presence and acting prowess, could bring a fresh dynamic to the film. Fans of Prabhas are keenly awaiting updates, hoping that the produc-

tion will resume soon. However, industry sources indicate that the sequel may not go on floors this year due to the ongoing changes in the casting and scheduling. With the project facing unexpected hurdles, all eyes are now on Nag Ashwin to steer the magnum opus back on track and make an official announcement soon.



Sreeleela To Replace Kiara Advani In Hindi Biggie?

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.

Blockbuster 'Mirai' to Stream on Jio Hotstar from October 10

The fantasy adventure blockbuster Mirai, starring Teja Sajja and Manchu Manoj, is all set to make its grand OTT debut. The film will begin streaming on Jio Hotstar from October 10, in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, bringing the pan-Indian cinematic experience to home viewers. Directed by Karthik Ghattamaneni, Mirai made a strong impact at the box office, earning over ₹150 crores in its theatrical run. It stands as one of the highest-grossing Tollywood films of 2025, marking another major success for lead actor Teja Sajja after his previous hit ventures. Mirai blends mythology, mysticism, and modern storytelling, offering a unique narrative rarely explored in Indian cinema.

Set against the backdrop of the Emperor Ashoka era, the story revolves around the battle between divine powers, the nine sacred scriptures, their protectors, and the ever-present threat of human greed. This blend of ancient legend and high-concept fantasy has resonated with audiences across demographics. A major draw of the film is its spectacular visual effects, intense action sequences, and an evocative background score, all of which contributed to its theatrical success. Karthik Ghattamaneni's direction has been praised for its visionary storytelling and technical finesse, while the performances of Teja Sajja and Manchu Manoj brought emotional depth and energy to the screen. The OTT release on Jio

Hotstar is expected to draw massive viewership, especially from those who missed it in theaters or wish to revisit the grand visuals in the comfort of their homes. Fans across South India, in particular, are excited for the film's availability in multiple languages, making it more accessible than ever. The announcement was made via a post on 'X' (formerly Twitter) by the streaming platform, confirming the release date and language options. As the countdown begins for its digital release, Mirai is poised to continue its blockbuster journey online. For fantasy film lovers and mythological fiction enthusiasts, Mirai promises an immersive experience — now just a click away.



Vijay Deverakonda & Rashmika Mandanna Engaged?

Reportedly Engaged in Private Ceremony

In a development that has taken fans by surprise, popular actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna have reportedly gotten engaged. According to the latest media reports, the couple exchanged rings earlier today in a private ceremony held at Vijay's residence, attended only by close friends and family. Though the news is yet to be officially confirmed by either actor, social media is already abuzz with congratulatory messages and excitement. For years, rumors of a romantic relationship between Vijay and Rashmika have been circulating,

especially after their successful on-screen pairings in Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade. However, both stars have consistently denied the relationship claims, maintaining that they were just close friends. Sources reveal that the duo grew closer during the filming of Dear Comrade, and have since remained in each other's inner circles. While fans have long speculated about their relationship status, today's reported engagement has come as a pleasant surprise for many who have admired their chemistry both on and off the screen. Despite the strong

buzz, neither Vijay nor Rashmika has made an official announcement or posted anything on their social media accounts regarding the engagement. This has left fans eagerly waiting for confirmation from the couple. Adding to the excitement, reports suggest that the wedding is being planned for February 2026. If true, it will be one of the most high-profile celebrity weddings in the Telugu film industry in recent years. Until an official statement is made, fans and media alike remain glued to their screens, hoping for a glimpse or word from the beloved stars.



Jana Nayagan Song Launch Delayed Following Karur Stampede Tragedy



In the wake of the recent tragic stampede in Karur, the makers of Jana Nayagan, Thalapa Vijay's much-awaited final theatrical film, have decided to postpone the launch of the film's first song. Originally scheduled for the first week of October, the promotional activity has been temporarily put on hold out of respect for the victims and their families. Directed by H. Vinoth, Jana Nayagan is an action-packed drama inspired by the Balakrishna starrer Bhagavanth Kesari. The film is slated for a grand theatrical release on January 9, 2026, just in time for the Pongal festival. With this being Vijay's final film before his full-time entry into poli-

tics, anticipation around Jana Nayagan is at an all-time high. The film's music is composed by Anirudh Ravichander, who has collaborated with Vijay on several chart-topping albums. The team had planned to kickstart promotions with the release of the first single, but the sudden tragedy in Karur led to a change in plans. Sources close to the production say the decision was made in solidarity with the grieving families and to maintain sensitivity during this difficult time. Pooja Hegde stars as the female lead, and the film boasts a stellar ensemble cast including Mamitha Baiju, Bobby Deol, Prakash Raj, Priyamani, and Gautham Vasudev

Menon. The movie is being produced on a grand scale by KVN Productions, a prominent Sandalwood banner, marking one of their biggest pan-India ventures. With the film promising a mix of high-octane action, emotional depth, and political undertones, Jana Nayagan is expected to be a fitting farewell for Vijay's film career. The delay in promotions, though unfortunate, has been widely appreciated by fans who praised the team's empathy and sensitivity. The updated schedule for the music launch and promotional activities is expected to be announced soon, as the team continues to work towards a grand Pongal release.

